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MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER

Midlothian Downtown Business Association builds on progress.

Photo by Kobbi R. Blair.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy tears through the years ...

I'm that sap who sits and bawls her eyes out when total strangers get the golden ticket or make a judge's chair turn. If you're an *American Idol* or *The Voice* fan, you know exactly what I mean. I still cry when the final contestant on *Survivor* outwits, outplays, outlasts; or as someone sneaks up to acknowledge the big winner is no longer *Alone*. Hand me the whole box of Kleenex when couples see their renovated home on *Fixer Upper*. And when *The Home Edit* turns chaos into clarity? Just mop me off the freshly uncovered floor.

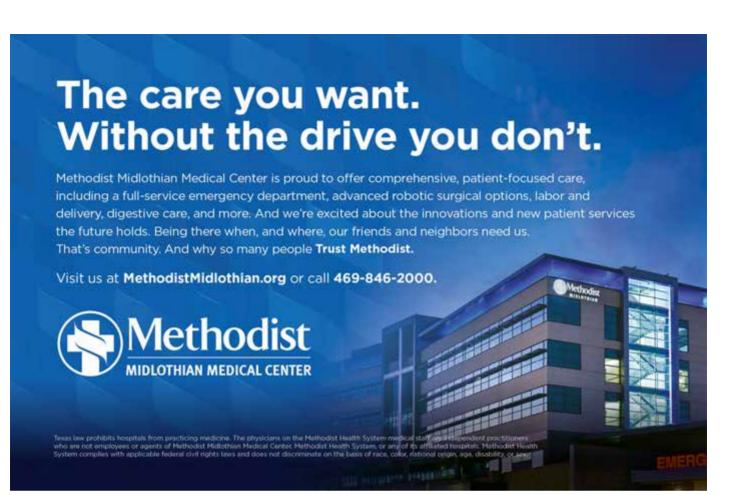
As scripted as some "reality" TV may be, I still buy into stories of ordinary folks working toward their goals. Watching an entrepreneur's idea funded or a struggling business restored, well, restores my own motivation toward not giving up or giving in. Hearing about the everyman's hardships makes their accomplishments that much sweeter. I don't know them, but I am so glad for them.

Especially as one gets older, following your heart can be tough. It's easy — and probably natural — to forget our dreams and instead help our children find theirs. It's so often a necessity to backburner our wishes when there are bills to pay and dinners to plan. Our plans of action shift from chasing fantasies to managing reality. Which may be why reality TV has so much appeal ... where we celebrate those rare few who meld real-life with daydreams.

This 20th season of *American Idol*, showcased an adult daughter of a former finalist getting sent to Hollywood, underscoring that children tend to mimic what they see. Let them see you keep reaching for the stars.

I'll be here crying for you!









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When a community wants to remember its past but prepare for the future, it relies on people with roots in the town. For Midlothian Downtown Business Association, that meant naming Jenny Sanders as its president earlier this year. "I have been a part of Midlothian's downtown business community literally since birth, so it was only natural for me to get involved with MDBA," she said.

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Jenny's grandparents, E.L. "Erdie" and Margie Webb moved to Midlothian in 1942. In 1950, they opened the Western Auto/Webb True Value hardware store and spent the next five decades building friendships and serving the community in business, civic and school organizations.

In a proclamation made upon her grandfather's death, former State Representative Jim Pitts said, "Those individuals who give of themselves to better their communities are deserving of the admiration of every Texan, and the enduring influence [he had] on his hometown cannot be overstated."

Jenny's father, Tony Sanders, followed suit, opening a real estate business downtown and serving as mayor from 1975-1977. Jenny's mother, Linda Webb Sanders, and brother, James "Jimmy" Webb, took over the Western Auto/Webb True Value.

"My mom was a 1959 graduate of MHS and was active in the community. She died in 2015," Jenny noted. "In addition to operating businesses downtown, my father, my sister and my nephew have all served positions on Midlothian City Council and boards and commissions over the years."

Meanwhile, Jenny went into business with her father at Tony Sanders Real Estate in downtown Midlothian. In 2006, MDBA formed, to promote and improve the city's downtown.

"A group of us saw how historic downtown areas in other communities were dying and wanted to keep Midlothian's downtown vibrant and alive," said Renee Cook, owner of Soyokaza Spa and an early MDBA member.

Since then, the purpose of MDBA hasn't changed much. "We've branched out to help draw people to downtown with activities and events, such as the Annual Scarecrow Festival, the Annual Christmas window display contest and our biggest event, which started last year, Heritage Day," Jenny outlined.

From April through November, MDBA hosts Downtown Market at Heritage Park, and it annually creates a historic Midlothian-themed Christmas ornament. MDBA also partners with the city of Midlothian in all its downtown events, including Downtown Trick-or-Treat and the Southern Star Christmas Celebration.









"Our members helped develop and support the vision for the city's Downtown Plan, stated as: 'Downtown Midlothian is a safe, walkable and vibrant destination with diverse opportunities for entertainment, socializing, employment, residential living and culture. It is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, and functions as the heart of the community," Jenny explained.

Thanks in part to that mission, downtown Midlothian today offers mom-and-pop options for traditional American home-cooking, Italian, Mexican and Chinese food, not to mention a popular burger restaurant. and a gourmet take-out business. After attending a work-out session at downtown studios for Pilates, yoga or dance exercise, folks can enjoy a smoothie or frozen yogurt. Others may stop for a glass of wine at the new neighborhood market.

"There are also several gift and clothing boutiques — some tucked inside our two flower shops and our upscale hair salons. Of course, officebased businesses like realties, title and insurance companies, financial advisers, attorneys and even an advertising agency are well-represented downtown," Jenny reported.

This success has attracted new business, including the redevelopment of what are known as the Lawson buildings. "Plans are to re-create the existing structure into a mixture of restaurants, commercial and retail space. along with parking," Jenny described.

MDBA members, Stephen Hidlebaugh and Logan Gaddis of Leasing Impressions, masterminded nearby Founders Row, a development of historic homes being re-imagined into restaurants and shops.

Founding MDBA member Steve Crowe of Crowe Real Estate, saw

development trending toward mixed-use buildings. He and his wife, co-owner Leisha, moved their 8th Street agency upstairs, making room for a trendy new tap house downstairs.

Three city parks near downtown - Kimmel Park, Heritage Park and Margie Webb Park (named for lenny's grandmother) — provide places to take a stroll, while a new community library/city hall will eventually serve as the cultural heart of downtown. In the meantime, the Second Annual Heritage Day is set for September 10, 2022. The free event honors the city's past with old-fashioned, community-centered entertainment. Local musicians perform, school organizations raise funds and nonprofits showcase their programs. An estimated crowd of 3,000 last year came out for the family-friendly fun.

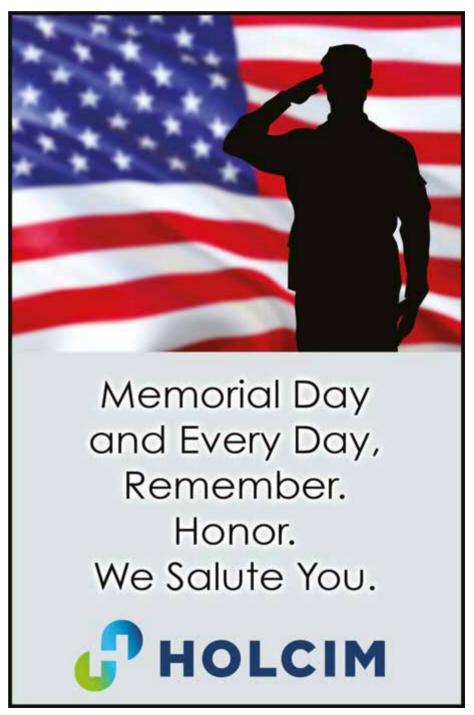
"It's been an honor being part of the association not only as board member but this year being president. It says a lot that this year's board includes requested returning members as well as new members who reached out to the association to serve," Jenny noted. "The support this association receives from board members and the community is amazing.

"In recent years, the association updated its website, marketing and social media sites with the help of DH Advertising, owned by board member Deborah Hayes. Hilary Sheridan Silvers has been a significant support not only as treasurer (past and current) for the association but as someone who helped make each MDBA event a success."

MDBA itself is a nonprofit, with membership including building owners, tenants, corporations, organizations and supporters of the downtown area. "This association is laser focused on improving the experience citizens have when they visit downtown. It is our goal to continue to attract the Midlothian community as well as others outside our city," Jenny promised. "MDBA will continue to partner with the city of Midlothian to bring the Downtown Plan vision to fruition, and strive to keep intact the history, small-town atmosphere and culture that downtown embodies." NOW

Editor's Note: For more information or to become a member, visit www.midlothiantxdba.com.





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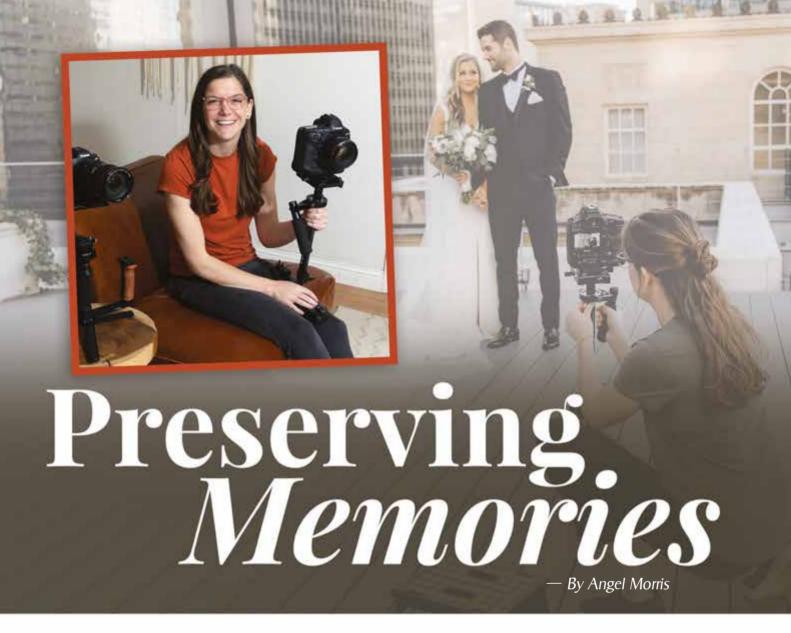
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After surgery as a teen curtailed her career plans, Midlothian resident Mika Mitchell believes she found her true calling. "Growing up, I spent most evenings outside shooting hoops and playing on select basketball teams in the summer. I loved it and wanted to share that knowledge of the game with others," Mika recalled. "I ended up having open heart surgery at the age of 18, so my plans to play college basketball and my dream of being a basketball coach dissolved."

Mika focused on a new career, crediting her church youth minister and his wife, who had comforted her after the loss of her mother to cancer. "I wanted to give back to kids the way they helped me, so I initially went to Dallas Baptist University to become a youth minister," she explained.

A bit of reflection had Mika considering her oldest interests,

however. "As a kid, I was fascinated with filming. I would get my dad's recorder and film my pets outside or my stepbrother skateboarding. I edited on the classic Windows Movie Maker and spliced together clips of him landing his jumps and tricks," she remembered.

Later in life, Mika had attended a Christian family camp in the Rocky Mountains called Horn Creek. "I was asked to put together a photo slideshow for families to enjoy. By the end of the summer, those photos began to be mostly videos because I loved how mannerisms and audio of families laughing together could be captured," Mika described.

After that summer, Mika returned to DBU and changed her major from biblical studies to broadcast communications. "I began filming anything and everything. I would film silly skits of my friends or my family reunions, etcetera," she noted.

Mika became the athletic video producer for DBU while completing her Master of Arts in Communications, and began filming side jobs like weddings, events and mini documentaries. "I had the honor of going with a family to film their son's adoption in India. The imagery of this little boy getting adopted into a loving family was something I'll always cherish."

Mika began to pursue videography full time in 2017, with

jobs taking her to China and Hawaii for weddings, to Ethiopia on a mission trip partnering with an orphanage and Switzerland for a travel film. "It has been such a joy to meet all kinds of people and experience various cultures in all parts of the world. I've also worked with the Texas Baptist Men for disaster relief projects, taking me to Louisiana, Colorado and Lubbock to film with their teams."

In addition to travel opportunities. Mika enjoys the spontaneity of videography. "My day-to-day schedule looks different every week. I sit down Sunday afternoon and look at my most pressing tasks and schedule them. Much of the time I'm editing, and then a few times a month, I'm out filming," Mika outlined.

But what she appreciates most about this art is preserving memories. "When I film weddings, I'm often looking for moments that would normally get glossed over. For example, if a grandmother is quietly smiling at her granddaughter in the hustle and bustle of her wedding day, I want to capture that smile for the granddaughter to look back on one day when the grandmother is no longer here on earth," Mika relayed. "I want to ensure moments are captured that can take them back to that special day when the memories might get a little foggy — not just to capture a film in a way that is trendy."

The sensitivity found in Mika Ellen Films comes in part, from Mika's own loss, "I cherish the home videos I have of my mom. Seeing her mannerisms and hearing her voice through old videos is such a treasure."

Mika considers being part of special events a treasure, too. "It is a privilege to get to be invited into some of the best moments of people's lives, and I take that very seriously. On a wedding day, I get to see the most intimate and vulnerable moments of a dad getting to see his daughter in her wedding dress for the first time or see the bride tearing up in a room by herself reading a letter that her soon to be husband has written her," Mika noted. "I try to be a fly on the wall so as not to distract from a moment as I preserve that memory forever." NOW

Editor's Note: View more of Mika's work at mikamitchell.com and mikaellenfilms.com.







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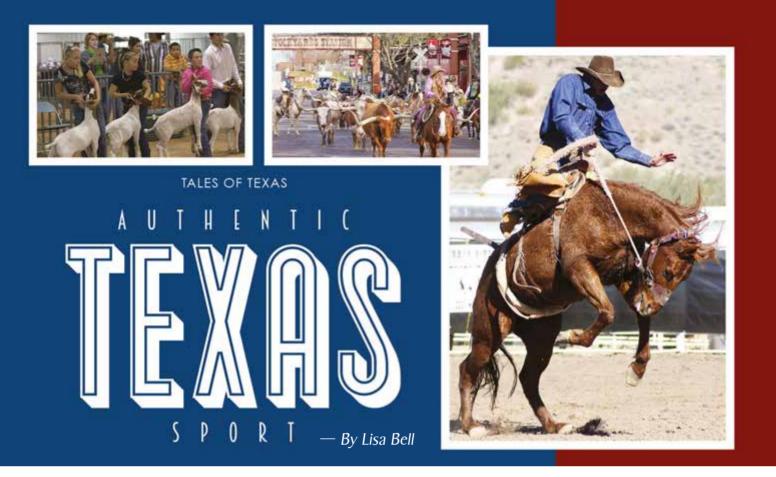
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While Texans adore Friday night lights and other sports across the state, there is nothing guite like a rodeo. In the smallest counties across Texas, communities gather for both annual and regular events. That shouldn't surprise us, considering the Lone Star State took a leadership role at the beginning of this beloved sport.

Rodeos grew from the cattle industry, though no one knows for certain where or when the new sport began. Several towns inundated with cows claim the first rodeo. Santa Fe, New Mexico, claims they held the first one in 1847. Deer Trail, Colorado, boasts an event in 1869. But Pecos, Texas, declares an authentic rodeo in 1883 — the first that offered prizes.

Rebuilding from war, large ranches and cattle drives ushered in a golden era of cowboys, attracting young men seeking adventure. As young men do, they showed off skills through competitions, often inviting cowboys from other ranches to claim bragging rights or money.

As the industry flourished in the Southwest, West Texas and areas in the Panhandle of Texas established large ranches. John S. Chisum, Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight became wellknown names, smaller ranches popping up beside them.

When fencing arrived in the late 1880s, however, the range cowboy experienced confinement. With communities building near ranches, holidays became social events and a perfect environment for cowboys to shine with abilities of roping, riding and wrangling. Some even honed their singing talents.

The railroad expanded, changing the way cowboys worked. During the off-season, many joined shows and rodeos, exhibiting ranch life skills. Rodeos became annual events in various places, enticing cowboys to follow. While some held only small contests, the first two rodeos on record consisted of the 1883 one in Pecos, Texas, and one held in 1888 in Prescott, Arizona, which was the first rodeo to charge admission. The first indoor rodeo took place in Fort Worth, Texas, during 1917.

According to World Atlas, more than in any other professional sport, residents of Texas played major roles in the development and leadership of rodeos. Texas boasts more hall of fame honorees than any other state, with more than 50 on record. And the Lone Star State quickly became the focal point of the professional sport native to the Southwest.

Then in 1997, the state legislature voted rodeo as the official state sport of Texas. Only two other states, Wyoming and South Dakota, share that designation for rodeo. In 1993, Mesquite, Texas, received a legislative declaration as Official Rodeo Capital of Texas because the city hosts more rodeo events than any other in the state.

Today, rodeo participation includes far more than the lonely range cowboy. The Women's Professional Rodeo Association will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023. Once thought of as a choice between glam or grit, most women who ride professionally maintain both. They work and ride as hard as any man, looking beautiful doing it. Once considered a shameful

display for women, professional female rodeo riders now command respect. admiration and wide publicity. Women compete, enjoying wonderful careers. Many use their fame for good causes.

Children, both boys and girls, also get involved at young ages. Many compete in mutton busting while between 35 and 55 pounds. Mini-bull riding events also bring in competitive kids, geared to their size and skill-levels. State requirements protect these junior rodeo lovers, especially their heads and faces. Like men and women of rodeo, the youngsters simply love the competitive aspect.

Throughout the years, Texas continued supporting the rise of rodeos. There are many organizations, like the Texas Senior Pro Rodeo Association, created in 1978, Texas Youth Rodeo Association, which caters to families, Texas Junior and Texas Junior High Rodeo Associations, and more. Anyone interested can find support and information. Many colleges in Texas also offer rodeo teams.

Often coupled with stock shows in Texas, the love of rodeo continues growing. The events provide an opportunity for families to experience something they may never live. A long way from the initial days of cowboys competing on the open range, Texans — both native and transplanted have the chance to experience the thrill of animals and riders doing what they love.

While the sport of rodeo changed over the years, the spirit of competition remained the same. Everyone involved wants to do their best, ride away with bragging rights and perhaps with a little money in their wallets. NOW

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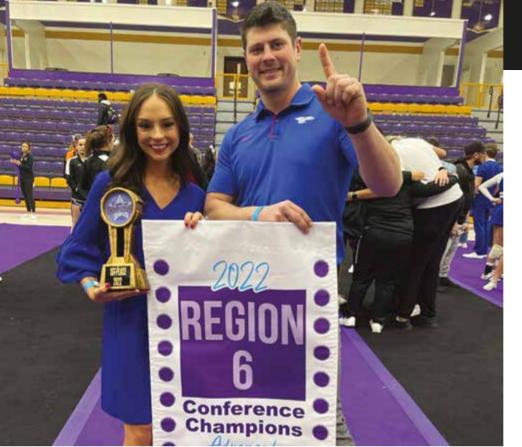
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Zoomed In: Sami Bell

Head Coach Sami Bell and Assistant Coach Bryant Patry showcase the 2022 Region 6 Conference Champion trophy after Hutchinson Community College cheer squad earned first place. Sami graduated from Midlothian High School in 2014 and went to HCC on full scholarship before being named head coach. "I've coached for different competitive programs and a high school in California before returning to Hutch. Being an alum is the perfect fit. I want to lead them to many years of success."

Sami is a fifth-generation Midlothian graduate, who began cheering at age 5. "When you're an athlete, you focus on your one job, but as a coach, you're overseeing everyone. When your squad doesn't do well it hurts, but when they do their best your heart overflows!"

The Midlothian ISD Education Foundation and Methodist Midlothian Medical Center representatives present one of four Innovative Teaching Grants totaling more than \$55,000.

Around Town



Jaclyn Lawless and her mom, Julie Fields, display Lawless Crafts at the Stonegate Women's Ministry conference.



MHS Student Council reps mark Panthers at Work Week with several activities benefiting HopeKids, an organization that engages families of children with a life-threatening illness in joyful activities.



Addison and Justin Coffman enjoy the addition of cornhole boards at Heritage Park, where more fun activities are planned soon.

By Angel Morris



Dieterich Middle Schooler Kaiden Day places first in an area half marathon.



Renee Cook and Sheri Mathis represent the Class of 1983 at the Jean Coleman Elementary beam signing event.



Five-year old Easton Zett was among more than 1,000 children who scrambled for 40,000 eggs at Midlothian's Annual Egg Hunt.













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Julie and Allan were high school sweethearts who raised their

sons in Midlothian and felt drawn to the heart of the city for their offices. "Living here offered great schools, sports programs for our boys and now our grandchildren and a variety of worship choices for our family," Julie noted. "Today, we feel blessed by the consistent business we've received from having our offices downtown and new referrals from our past client base."

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting fallout caused significant hardships on the real estate industry. "First-time buyer ability was greatly diminished because home prices increased faster than incomes in the 50 major U.S. cities. A simple reason is there are not enough places to live or purchase in Ellis County for the amount of people wanting to live here. We're here to help those struggling to get a home to overcome those hurdles," Julie explained.

The McKeever Team uses their different skill sets to complement one another. Julie negotiates contracts, prepares listing presentations — and new homes are her specialty.

Allan sells existing homes and builds new custom homes and commercial buildings. Keri is a sales associate selling new and used homes with 38 years of experience, along with being a property manager for many homes in the area.

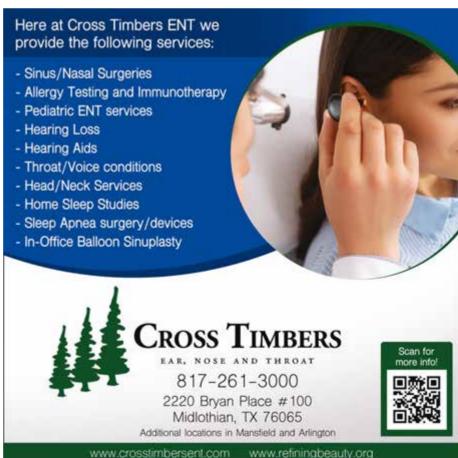
Allan handles technical questions about inspections and building costs that may arise during the home inspection phase of a contract. He holds a Graduate Builders designation and a New Homes Sales Professional designate from the National Association of Builders, while Julie received her Brokers License in 2015. "On a typical day, I prepare listing presentations and provide home staging and prep work getting clients' homes ready to sell quickly, while Keri comes from a real estate family with many years of experience helping clients," Julie noted.

The McKeever Team walks clients through the entire process, from that first phone call or email to the closing table. They are active in community events such as the downtown art festival, wine walks and trick or treat night, along with being the primary sponsor for past annual family street dances and assisting Heroes Foundation in Midlothian. "We take every opportunity to give back to the community we grew up in by participating in charitable donations, including toward Manna House, and assisting those needing housing or employment," Allan promised.

With their mantra of being "the Ellis County experts," the McKeever Team knows local subdivisions, costs of each area and upcoming city changes through attending planning and zoning workshops and city meetings. Not only can they assist buyers and sellers, but they offer property management for rentals, including duplex and commercial spaces. "Our monthly fees are typically lower than most franchise companies, and property owners can get inspections and repairs processed quickly as we use our employees for faster, more cost-effective solutions," Allan stated.

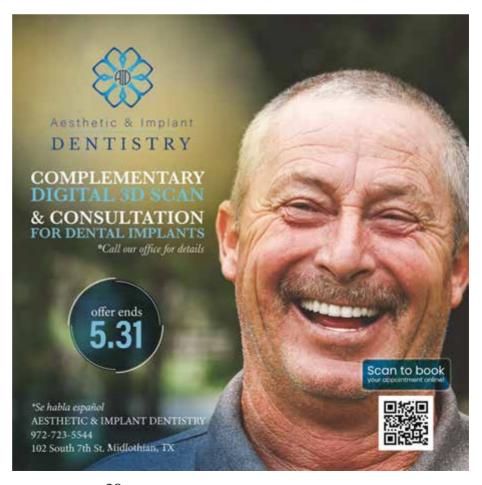
Julie continued, "We love it when our clients say, 'We did not know you could do that,' and we say, 'Sure, we'd be glad to!' Helping families get into a home creating new friendships and making that transaction as smooth as possible is a joy for us to be part of." NOW













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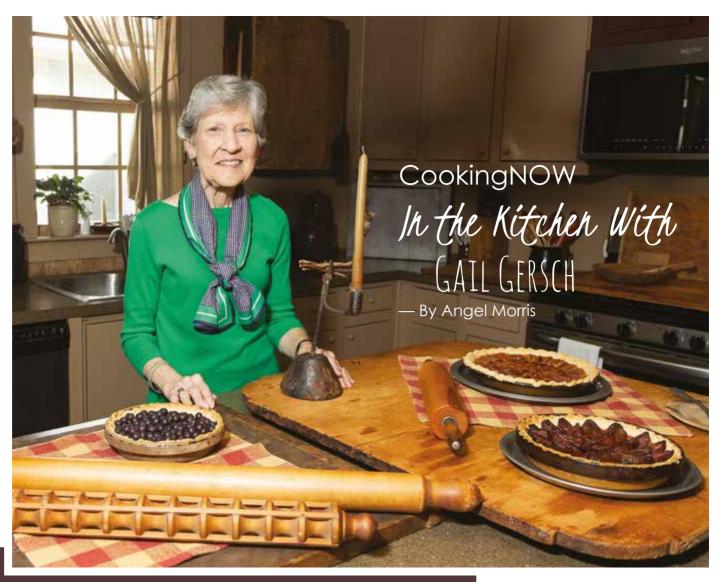
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Gail Gersch calls celebrating holidays and birthdays with family and delicious foods a blessing of her childhood. "I treasured my German grandmother's sauerbraten, kartoffelkloesse, rouladen and plum pie and my Italian grandfather's risotto, ravioli, chicken cacciatore and polenta. Thankfully, my mom gave me these recipes when I married, as did Fred's mom with her German coffee cake. I've made them for over 50 years, hopefully creating memories for our children and grandchildren," Gail said.

Gail enjoys preparing foods from scratch using fresh ingredients, including herbs from her garden. "Pies are my favorite to make with Grandma's rolling pin, as well as cookies for my grandsons and neighborhood children. Sharing recipes with my daughter and hearth cooking with my husband also contribute to my joy of cooking." Now

Grandpa's Risotto

I whole chicken Water, enough for boiling the chicken I small onion, plus additional to taste, chopped (divided use) Celery, to taste Carrots, to taste
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
1/4 lb. butter
I cup sliced fresh mushrooms
I lb. arborio rice
I qt. chicken broth (divided use)

1/4 tsp. saffron1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated, or to tasteGrandpa's Marinara Sauce, to taste

Grandpa's Marinara Sauce, to taste (See recipe in this article.)

- **1.** To a pot, add the whole chicken, water, onions to taste, celery, carrots, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. When done, reserve 1 gt. of the broth.
- **2.** Sauté 1 small onion in butter. Add the mushrooms and rice. When the rice begins to cook, add a cup of the reserved chicken broth. Stir constantly; continue adding broth to avoid the rice sticking.
- **3.** Add saffron dissolved in a little broth. When the rice is almost cooked, add Parmesan to taste.
- **4.** Serve with marinara sauce, extra Parmesan and pieces of chicken.

Grandpa's Marinara Sauce

1 small onion, diced 1/2 stick butter

1/4 cup olive oil

2 cloves garlic, pressed

1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced

1 29-oz. can tomato puree

1 29-oz. can tomato sauce

1 cup beef bouillon

1 Tbsp. oregano

1 Tbsp. parsley

I tsp. basil

2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

1 Tbsp. sugar

1. Sauté the onions in melted butter and olive oil. Add the garlic and mushrooms.

2. Add the tomato puree and tomato sauce. Add the bouillon and seasonings. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Grandma's Plum Pie

Piecrust:

1 1/2 cups flour 1/4 tsp. baking powder 1/2 cup butter, softened 1 egg 1/3 cup sugar Pinch of salt

Pie Filling:

16-18 prune plums Powdered sugar, to taste

1. For crust: Sift the flour and baking powder together 3 times. Cut in the butter.

2. In a separate bowl, beat the egg until frothy. Add the sugar and salt to the egg; beat until creamy. Add to the flour mixture. Pat into a greased 9-inch pie plate.

3. For filling: Cut the fresh prune plums (available in late August and September) in quarters; place them in circles to fill the crust. Bake at 400 F for I5 minutes; lower to 350 F and bake 45 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

4. *Variation:* Instead of plums, use 3-4 cups of fresh blueberries.

Seth and Ryan's Apple Flan

Makes 8-10 servings.

1/2 cup butter

1 cup flour

2 Tbsp. sugar

1/4 tsp. salt

1 Tbsp. vinegar

5-6 cooking apples, peeled and cored

3/4 cup sugar, or less to taste

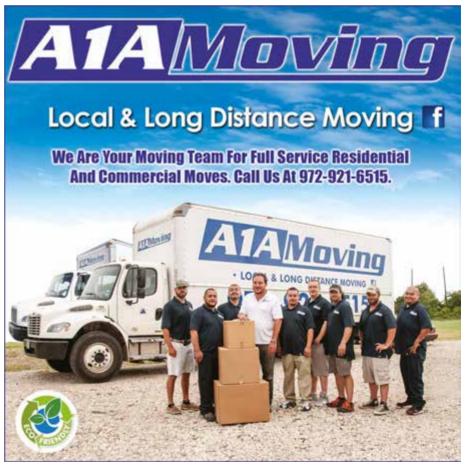
2 Tbsp. flour

1 tsp. cinnamon

Powdered sugar (optional)

Whipped cream (optional)





1. Cut the butter into 1/2-inch pieces. Add the butter, flour, sugar and salt to a food processor fitted with the knife blade attachment. Process until it resembles coarse meal. While running, add the vinegar through a chute. Process until the dough forms a ball.

2. Press the dough on the bottom and 1 inch up the sides of a 9 1/2-inch springform pan.

3. Cut the apples into quarters. Put a shredding blade in the food processor. Shred the apples; combine them with the sugar, flour and cinnamon. Spoon the mixture over the dough. Bake for 45 minutes at 400 F. Serve with powdered sugar or whipped cream, if desired.

Fred's Birthday Pecan Pie

1/4 cup butter

1/3 cup sugar

3 eggs

I tsp. vanilla

1 cup white Karo

1/4 tsp. salt

I unbaked piecrust

Pecan halves, to completely cover top of pie

I. Cream together the butter and sugar. Add the next 4 ingredients. Pour the mixture into a 9-inch unbaked crust. Place the pecan



halves in a circular pattern to cover the filling. **2.** Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes.

Peach Custard Pie

1 egg

2 Tbsp. flour

2/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup melted butter

9 peaches, peeled and sliced

I unbaked piecrust

1. Combine the first 4 ingredients; add the peaches.

2. Pour the mixture into a 9-inch unbaked piecrust. Bake for 15 minutes at 400 F. Reduce heat to 300 F. Bake for an additional 50 minutes.

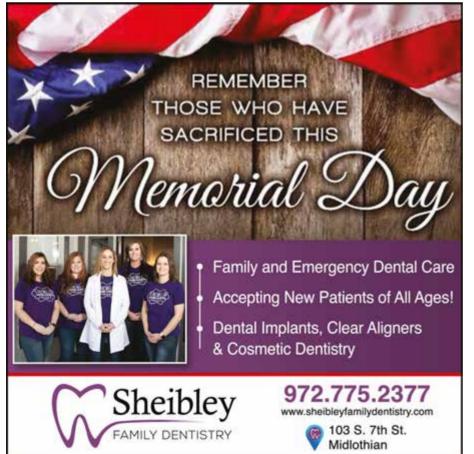
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Barbara M., Burleson, TX

I am a 58-year-old grandma and wife. I have tried most every diet, and after time, the weight came right back on!

Over the past four years I have been trying to get weight off and nothing worked because I have thyroid disease and fibromyalgia. It just wasn't happening, and with my acid reflux I threw up all the time, and I had to stop eating by 5pm so I wouldn't get sick.

I saw a DSC ad on Facebook, and I did some checking on them for about a month. I messaged them and told them about my thyroid disease and fibromyalgia health problem. They said they never had had anyone with the fibromyalgia, but it did great on thyroid disease. So I went in and said my main goal was not the weight loss as much as I was wanting the pain to get better, and if I lost weight that would be great!

Immediately after I got on the program, the pain in my body got much better and in the first week I lost 7 lbs. What a surprise! I have lost 47 pounds of the 50 pounds and I have NOT cheated at all and I have felt absolutely GREAT. DSC has made losing weight so easy for me!

This has changed my whole life. Thank you, DCS and sweet staff.



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Small Town, Big Advent

If you are looking for a weekend getaway that's packed with adventure and full of small-town charm, look no further than Denison, Texas. Just 75 miles north from the heart of Dallas, you'll be in town and checked in before you know it with plenty of time left to explore!

Known as the gateway city, Denison was founded in 1872 in conjunction with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad and was the entry point of the first non-Texas-based railroad. The historic Katy Depot still stands today and can be reserved for private events and weddings. You can also visit the Red River Railroad Museum one block away at 124 W. Main Street.

Denison is the birthplace of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was the only one of David and Ida Eisenhower's seven children born in Texas. David brought his wife and their two young sons, Arthur and Edgar, from Hope, Kansas, in 1889 to pursue a new life in Texas, working on the railroad. His home has been restored and is open to the public for tours.

The home of T.V. Munson, who saved the French Wine Industry from devastation in the 1800s, Denison is rich with craft beverages that you cannot get at home. Take a stroll through the vineyards at Hidden Hangar Vineyards and Winery. From 1928 until the 1950s, the land the vineyard sits on served as a training airport for "wanna-be" pilots and a fuel stop for those traveling between Oklahoma City and Dallas. The tasting room is open Thursday-Sunday from 12:00-6:00 p.m., where you can sip on varietals such as Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Syrah.

For whiskey lovers, Ironroot Republic Distillery is a must. The name "Ironroot" pays tribute to T.V. Munson and the "iron" roots that helped save the French wine industry. The distillery is family-owned and -operated by the Likarish brothers (Robert and Jonathan) along with their mother Marcia, and everything is mashed, fermented, distilled, barrel-aged and bottled on-site in Denison. The spirits are made using high-quality heirloom and non-GMO corn from local farms to capture the authentic flavor of North Texas. The distillery is open for tours every Saturday at noon and 2:00 p.m.

If you like farm-fresh ingredients, check out the Downtown Denison Farmers Market. From farm-fresh eggs, meat, produce and even canned goods, purchase something locally grown and get to know our farmers! You can catch the market Saturdays on the 700 block of Main Street from the beginning of May through October.

After you've hit up the Farmers Market, take a stroll down Main Street, where you will find antique shops, boutiques, breweries, wineries and restaurants. Peruse the public art displays, galleries and studios and even create a masterpiece of your own to take with you. And in the summer, you can enjoy Music On Main, the 10-week free summer concert series on Friday nights.

For the outdoor lovers, Denison is surrounded by picturesque parks, trails and natural beauty. From biking around Waterloo Lake, to camping at Eisenhower State Park or striper fishing on Lake Texoma, you're sure to relax, unplug and unwind.

Rebecca Robinson
Marketing & Tourism Coordinator
Denison, Texas
Photos courtesy of the city of Denison, Texas.

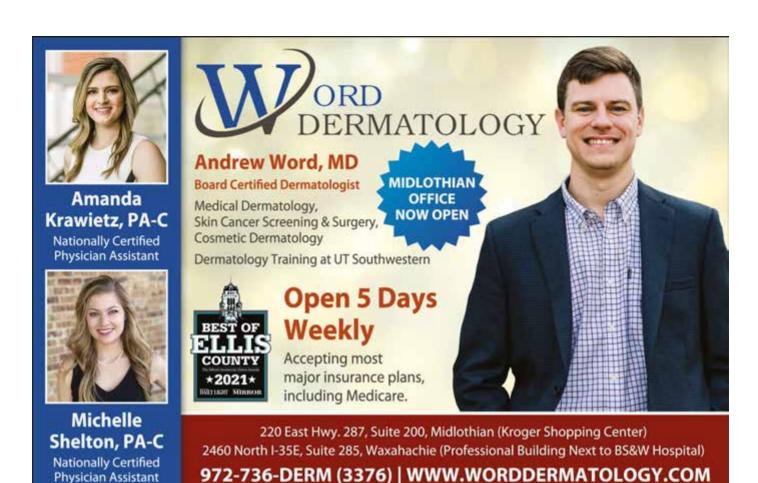


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Eventually, it happens to the nicest concrete sidewalks and driveways. Cracks appear. The cause of the cracks can be temperature change, ground shifts or water damage. The hairline cracks that are common can most likely be ignored, but wider cracks should be filled and sealed, not only to improve the appearance, but also for safety and to prevent further damage from water entering the cracks.

For small cracks, begin the repair by removing all loose debris. This can be accomplished with a screwdriver to lift the larger loose debris, and then either vacuum the crack with a shop vac or blow the loose material from the crack with an air compressor. If you have a wire brush attachment for a drill or grinder, you may use it to further remove dirt and debris, as the cleaner you are able to make the crack, the better your repair will be.

Depending on the depth of the crack, backer rod may need to be inserted into the crack. Backer rod is round foam that can be cut to length and pushed into the crack with a screwdriver. It comes in various widths. Using the backer rod can make filling the crack more economical, as less of the more expensive liquid filler will be required. The backer rod should be pressed down to at least half-an-inch below the surface of the concrete.

Backer rod may not be necessary for shallow cracks, so the backer rod step may be skipped. However, the next step, which is to fill the crack with a pre-mixed patching compound — available from your local hardware store — is the same, regardless of the depth of the crack. Follow the label directions,

as some compounds may or may not require the floor to be dampened for proper adhesion.

You will want to slightly overfill the crack to allow for some settling, then smooth the surface with a trowel. If desired, further smoothening can be done with an electric grinder after the filler is fully cured.

If there is not enough surface area in the crack for your patching compound to adhere, it may be necessary to widen the crack and create a "v" shape in the crack to hold the compound in place. If the crack is not too long, you can use a cold chisel and a 3-pound sledgehammer to work along each side of the crack. For longer cracks, there are specialty "crack chasing blades" that fit on an angle grinder that will do the job. These blades may not be readily available at your local store, so you may have to search for them online or have your local merchant order them for you.

Regardless of which method you use to widen the crack, more debris is going to be generated, so be sure and





By Bill Smith

clean the crack well before moving on with the repair so your patching compound will adhere properly. Using the grinder will also produce a lot of dust, so it is recommended that some form of dust collection system and a mask be used. After the crack has been widened, follow the previous steps to fill the crack.

Many modern patching compounds are flexible and self-leveling, and some short and narrow cracks may only require cleaning the crack with a broom or vacuum and installing the sealant with a caulking gun. Regardless of what cracks you have in your concrete, getting them repaired quickly should be a priority to possibly prevent further damage. If the cracks have progressed to the point that the concrete sections are no longer level, it is probably time to seek professional assistance. Now



Sources:

- 1. MrFixItDIY.com
- 2. homedepot.com



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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3				4	5	6		
7	\vdash	T	8		9		1	T	10	11
12	T	t	T		13	T	1	T	T	1
14	1	1	H	15		T		16	t	t
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		35	1	+		į.		36	+	-

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Across

- 1 "--- in 'Sierra"
- 4 Turn in a horizontal plane
- 7 European peaks
- 9 Duelist's assistant
- 12 Suffer from the heat
- 13 Wonder Woman's General, Steven -
- 14 This crowd controller's a real weepie
- 16 First of her kind
- 17 Iroquoian word for "beautiful water"
- 18 Scientific truth
- 19 "I --- be sedated" (Ramones)
- 21 Jayhawk state
- 24 Got agitated
- 28 Lawyers' league
- 29 Merry
- 30 Alamo commander
- 32 Travail
- 33 Cat shy about floaters
- 34 Took --- loan
- 35 Tire inflation measure
- 36 Enunciate

Down

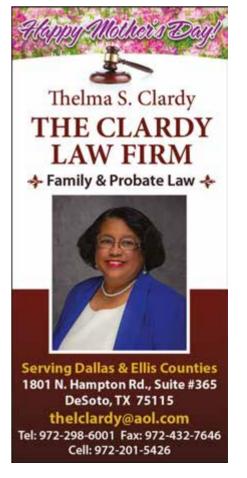
- 1 Looked after
- 2 Unfamiliar
- 3 Bug's last sound
- 4 Public faces
- 5 Poker bullet
- 6 Original
- 8 No-one wants the short one
- 9 Durable type of steel
- 10 Old Chevy model
- 11 Pulled a gun
- 15 Tagger's art
- 20 "I shall not find myself so --- die": (Antony, "Julius Caesar")
- 21 Houston suburb
- 22 Start of an incantation
- 23 Civil rights org. since 1909
- 25 Religious
- 26 Short-lived Argentinian First Lady
- 27 Holdup
- 31 Old tape letters

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Solutions on page 52



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5/2

Ticket Sales for Daddy Daughter Dance:

Sales open for **June 17** event. Space is limited. To buy tickets, call (972) 775-7125.

5/12

ROSE Award Luncheon and Silent Auction:

Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps recognizes community servants. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Firefly Gardens, 5410 US Hwy. 287. Call (972) 937-6620 for more details. Tickets may be purchased at www.elliscwic.life.

Big Hearts on the Road Concert:

Tenille Townes performs benefiting Manna House. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lone Star Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak. Tickets are \$40 at https://bit.ly/3LY7mPV.

5/14

8th Street Dance:

Annual event featuring Le Freak Disco Band. Free. 7:00-10:00 p.m., Downtown Midlothian. 5/21

10th Annual Heroes of Midlothian 5K Race:

Run, jog or walk that stroller. Proceeds support this allvolunteer, local charity. 8:00 a.m., Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. For more information, visit

For more information, visit www.heroesofmidlothian.org/herosrun.

Wildflower Walk:

9:00-10:00 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. (In the event of rain, walk will be cancelled.)

Mental Health Awareness Walk and Vendor Fair:

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. Learn more at pawsforreflectionranch.org.

6/4

Pancake Breakfast & Fly-In:

8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. For details, call (972) 923-0080.

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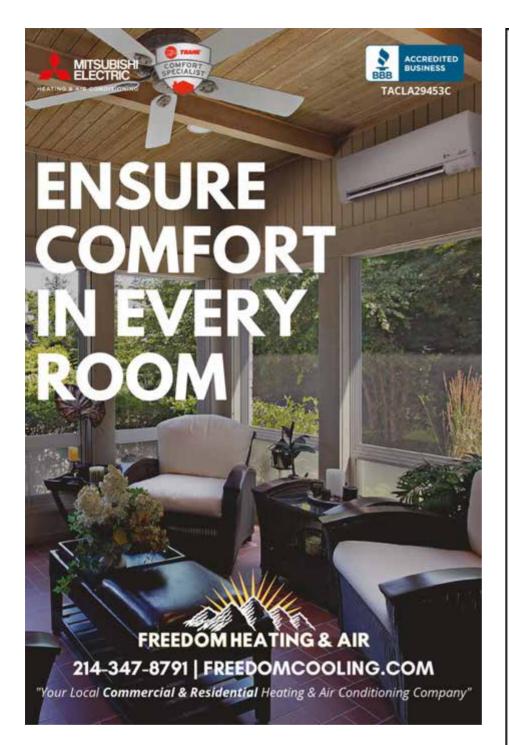
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Easy

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

Medium

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

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