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Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong
Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith
Writer, Zachary R. Urquhart
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony
Shannon Pfaff

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen
Martha Macias . Brande Morgan
Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographers, Hannah Chartrand
Amy Ramirez

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ON THE COVER



Miranda Wright shows a commitment to help others.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Welcome to summer!

Thanks to my daughter, I have a mental picture that replays in my mind. During a time of caring for her brother's 14-month-old son along with her 15-month-old daughter, she took a photo of them being completely captivated by the super star on TV — Mickey Mouse. That isn't what held my attention. It was their position

on the sofa. My granddaughter was resting her head in my grandson's lap, and he had his arm around her. While looking at that photo, I thought, *May they always love and care for each other.*

Kindness. I love it when I see it in action. When the days grow too warm for outdoor pleasures, many will turn to social media. Kindness must have a place. Rubel Shelly, educator and author said, "If criticism is mistaken or mean-spirited, rise above it. Maintain the high ground when you're under fire. No victory is worth winning at the expense of picking up the mud that has been slung at you and throwing it back."

In this example, perhaps a little child can lead us.

Betty

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THE BEAUT INSIDE

— By Betty Tryon

Eight-year-old Miranda Wright is no ordinary beauty queen. Her reign as Ellis County Queen of Hearts and South Texas Queen of Hearts attests more to her beautiful heart than her charming face. The Miss Heart of The USA is not determined by looks but by whomever donates the most items to local charities. Miranda chose Manna House of Midlothian.

It all began over a year ago when Miranda noticed a lady digging in the trash. She watched as the woman found a cheese and cracker combination container. “There wasn’t much left in it, but she scraped and scraped until she got all of the cheese,” Miranda remembered.



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“Ever since then she has been wanting to help,” Amy Wright, Miranda’s mother, shared. “When we first started this she was 6, and I don’t think she really understood what places like Manna House really did. But in October when they had a food drive, Miranda was there waiting to unload the items into Manna House, and she got to hear Norma Belcher, administrative assistant at Manna House, tell about what they did and how they help people in the community. Then she understood and said, ‘Oh, these are people who live near us that need help!’” It was then that Miranda realized there were kids right in her school who might need the food.

For her very first pageant with Miss Heart of The USA when she became Ellis County Queen of Hearts, Miranda donated over 1,000 items to Manna House. She went door to door gathering food items to donate. “My 6-year-old daughter worked so hard to be able to



donate as much as possible,” Amy said. “As soon as she got out of school, she would ask for me to please take her around the block. She wanted to get donations. She went to local businesses and churches also. She was able to collect all those items to donate to Manna House here in Midlothian. She kept telling me, ‘Momma, it’s OK if I don’t win. Just look at all the people I am able to help feed.’”

Miranda also volunteers at her church, One Way Church. They have a Necessity Closet for things that are hard for people to get because they don’t have enough money and can’t get them from places like Manna House, which focuses on food items. The Necessity Closet gathers things, such as toilet paper, deodorant, paper towels and cleaning products. “She works hard at collecting those things,” Amy stated. “Sometimes her church will say they need paper towels or tissue that month and Miranda will go and get donations of that specific item.” The Miss Heart of The USA pageant’s emphasis is on food items, but Miranda received an exception from the state director for her non-food items to the Necessity Closet and those items are included in her total tally.

Although the whole focus of the pageant is community service and donations, they still have a beauty section. During the Ellis County Queen of Hearts pageant, she won Little Miss, which is the beauty aspect of the pageant. She also won Ellis County Cover Miss.

Miranda went to the state pageant in San Antonio last August. Again, the way to get crowned for the state of Texas was to get the most donations for local charities. She won state by donating over 6,000 items. One of her fundraisers was Pack the Playpen. Miranda and

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her mom were thinking of how to get more donations, and they noticed that the box they had was not large enough. So Miranda chimed in with the idea of filling up a playpen with donated items. She received permission from the manager at Brookshire's and was able to set her playpen up in front of the store. Shoppers there were very generous, and the playpen was filled.

Another idea Miranda had involved her school, J.R. Irvin Elementary. At school, they have Genius Hour where students get to choose what they want to do during that time. Her idea was to take a box to school and get donations for the homeless. J.R. Irvin's gym coach, Mrs. Hargrove, spoke to Amy and generously offered her time to aid in the donation aspect, and wanted to do a food drive schoolwide to help. "So we decided that whichever class raised the most food would have a popcorn party. We provided the popcorn and juice for the winning class," Amy said with a smile.

Because competition requires a big time commitment, it helps when all family members are supportive. At one of the pageants, the participants received T-shirts given them by the pageants for Miss Fashionista. The purpose was to get the families involved in decorating the shirts. "My dad, my grandma and mom decorated my shirt for me," Miranda shared. While the girls were at a pajama party hosted by the pageant, the family decorated the T-shirts. Miranda's dad, Ruben Wright glued tiny rhinestones, one by one, all around her shirt. He's very proud of his daughter.

Miranda's competition for the Texas Queen of Hearts netted her two state titles — Little Miss South Texas and

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South Texas Queen of Hearts. She went on to Florida to compete in nationals. Although she didn't win, she served the needs of many in the community when she turned in a total of 10,157 donated items to Manna House.

Miranda has now begun the process of trying to win nationals all over again. The Ellis County pageant this year was held in February, and Miranda once again won Ellis County Queen of Hearts and Little Miss. Her major sponsor is TopGun of Texas Carpet Cleaning in Midlothian.

Miranda's giving heart does not begin and end with her pageant quest. She also has a heart for the homeless in Dallas and has traveled to that area several times with her mom and Amanda Bradshaw, the pageant's director, and others. The homeless now recognizes Amanda's truck with little girls wearing pageant crowns in the back, and they run up to it when they see it.

"The last time we went in 2016 was to downtown Dallas around Christmastime," Amy explained. "We had made 75 sack lunches for the homeless. We were swamped by people and ran out of food. We had snacks stored in ice chests for the girls who were helping hand out the lunches, and the girls themselves said, 'They can have our snacks.' We gave everything away."

Miranda further clarified, "We were in the back of the director's truck, and we gave them blankets and jackets and had to give them our food." It is easy for Miranda to want to do these things. Quite simply she said, "It helps the homeless, and it's fun to do."

Miranda's big heart made her wins all the more impressive. However, her mom's dedication to helping makes two queen of hearts in their home. **NOW**

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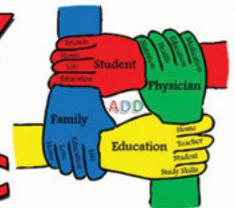
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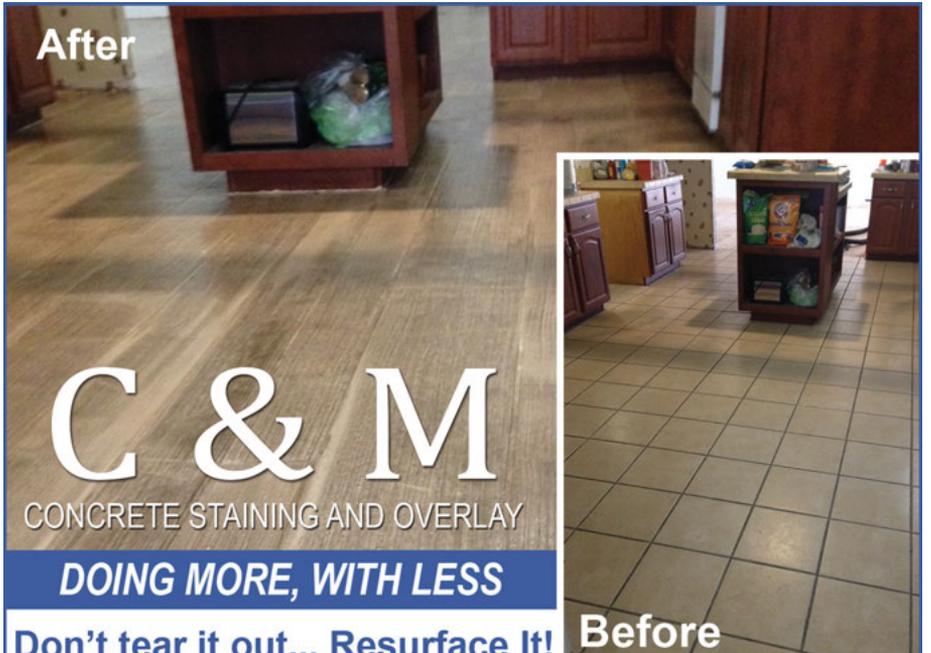
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DEBATE FOR LIFE

— By Betty Tryon

James Renfroe, a senior at Midlothian High School looked the room over and thought all hope was lost when he did not get sixth place in Region 10, 5A District Congressional Debate. His teacher and debate coach, Kristi Bogy, didn't hold out much expectation for anything higher. They had analyzed the room and thought that perhaps James would be in fifth or sixth place. By the time the judges called the winner for third place, James and Mrs. Bogy thought once again their debate team didn't place. To their shocked amazement, when first place was announced, it solidified James' place in Midlothian High School debate history as the first person to win the district and eventually region in Congressional Debate. His win qualified him for the state tournament. "It's a pretty big deal," he admitted. "Every time we went in the past, it was kind of a joke because we were not all that great at it. But, I went to finals and won the whole thing."





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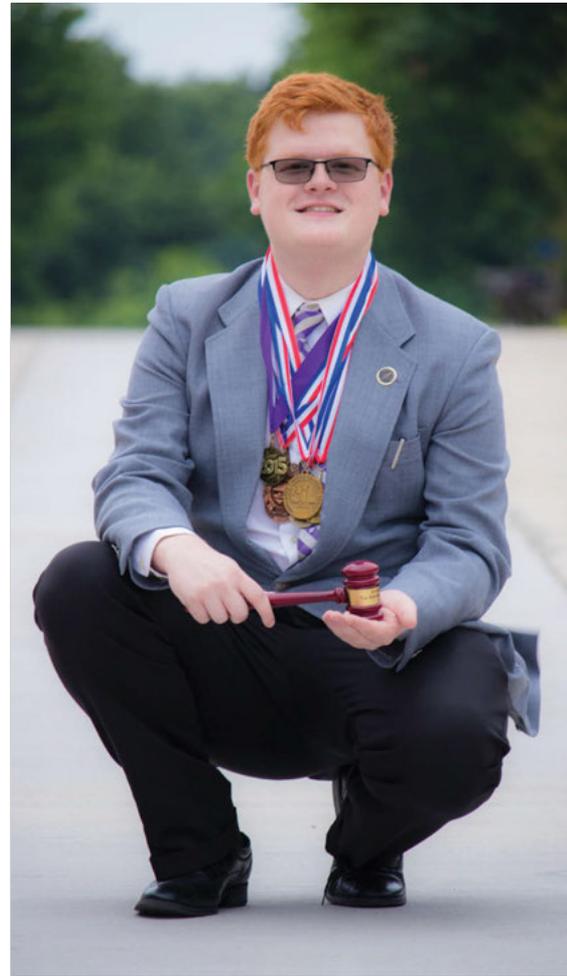
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James has participated in debate most of his high school years. He described his introduction to debate in a typical pro/con manner. "It was funny, but sad. I was cut from the soccer team and decided to do speech, since I had to have a speech credit. Mrs. Bogy teaches speech and debate, and when she heard me give a speech, she wrote down on her grading sheet, 'You need to join debate. Come see me, and we'll talk about it.' She worked hard to get me to join, and ever since then, I've just become immersed in it and want to do it more and more."

He has competed in Congressional Debate for the last two years. This debate is offered by University Interscholastic League. The high school students speak on different pieces of legislation, just as members of the U.S. Congress do when debating bills. James' eventual win was a progression over a three-year span. "In my sophomore year I didn't compete, just watched the debate. When I competed in my junior year, I didn't do very well. As a senior, I won!" In the Congressional Debate, usually the room will have 20 to

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30 people in it. There is a set docket of different topics that the students explore. The topics come from schools within the different regions in Texas. The students don't know which item they will debate, so they must create a pro and a con side of every single argument on the docket, just in case. The students only get a month to study the different topics of legislation. They don't debate another person, but give a persuasive speech to the room.

James' winning topic was a heady piece of legislation regarding nuclear energy and how America should invest into a nuclear plant in the United States. He discussed the pros and cons of how other countries would view that. "I think what won me the district was everyone was talking about nuclear energy vs. clean energy, but I came up, stood there, looked at the judges and said, 'What we're talking about is the environmental impact. What we have neglected to talk about in this entire round is how that would affect other countries' perceptions of us. If we're putting a lot of money in nuclear development, what's the first thing they are going to think? They'll think we are building a nuclear arsenal.' That changed the entire topic, and they stopped talking about energy and started talking about diplomatic relations. Since I was able to shift the focus, it got me a lot of points in the round. It completely changed how we were viewing the topic."

James is not the only student who has made their mark on the Midlothian Debate Team. Others have, too, including Joy Sandoval, his partner in Policy Debate or CX Debate, which stands for cross-examine, where they became district champions. The students get a topic and have a year to work on it. They actually get to debate another person. "In the debate program, we usually win CX district," James explained, "but every time we go to state, we wind up going 2-2. Our last time, we ended up fifth in Texas, which was super exciting because we'd never made it to the top 16 teams before. The fact that Joy and I did was really cool." These two also partnered in Public Forum Debate, which is a national tournament. They secured another victory for the team in winning state, and they will be going to nationals this month in Birmingham, Alabama.



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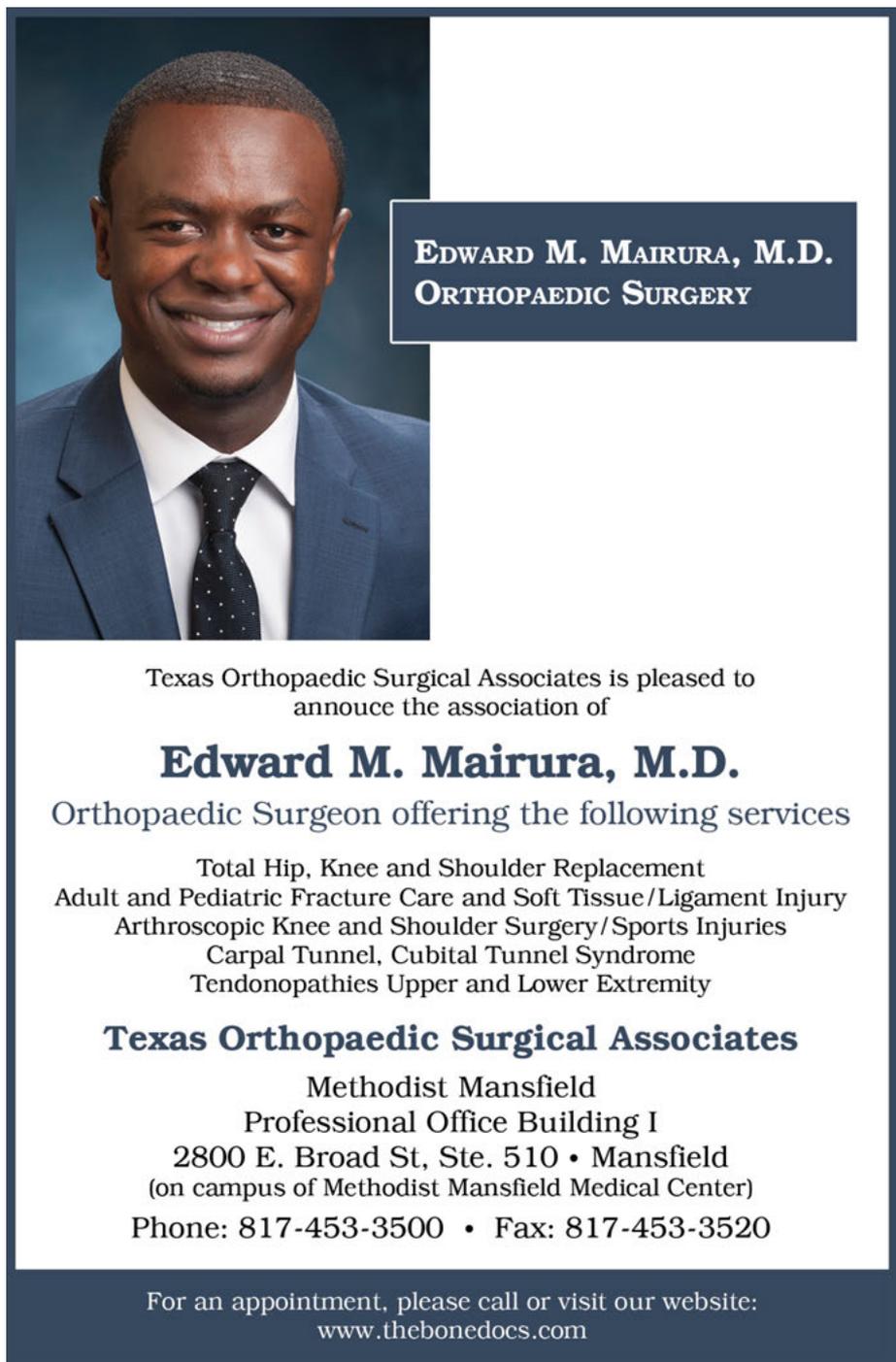
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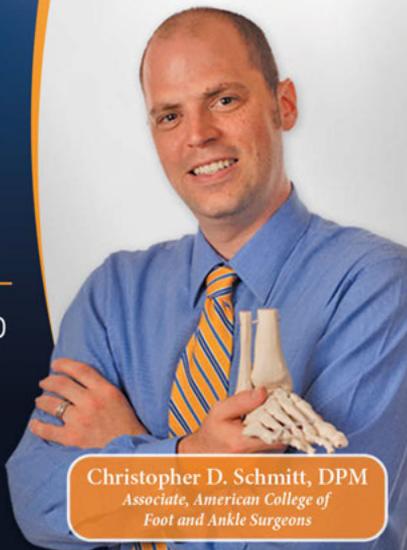
The students must create a pro and con side of every single argument on the docket.

Wanting new membership, the debate team sent out recruitment letters to everyone who was in a pre-AP class. They hope to get a few dedicated people to join them. "I feel like people don't see the true benefit of debate," James declared. "Debate is the greatest thing to happen. I love debate! It's the ability to make your point heard. In debate you get a topic, and you can go anywhere with it. I think it's so cool that I get to tell you why my reason is better than yours and why my way is the right way. If I lose, then I know I didn't do something right. I go home and fix my case, so I win the next one. We always get some type of feedback."

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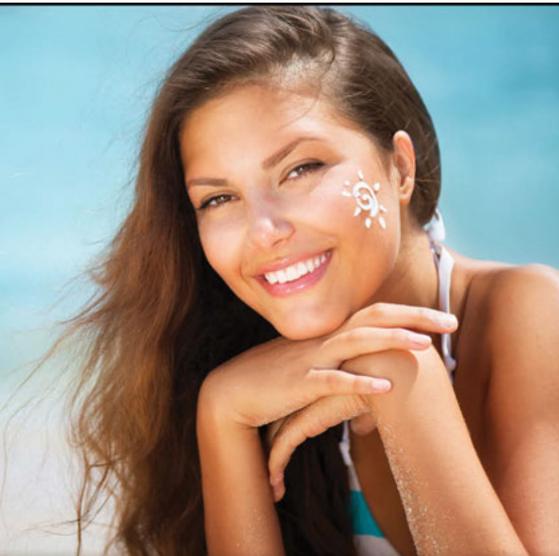


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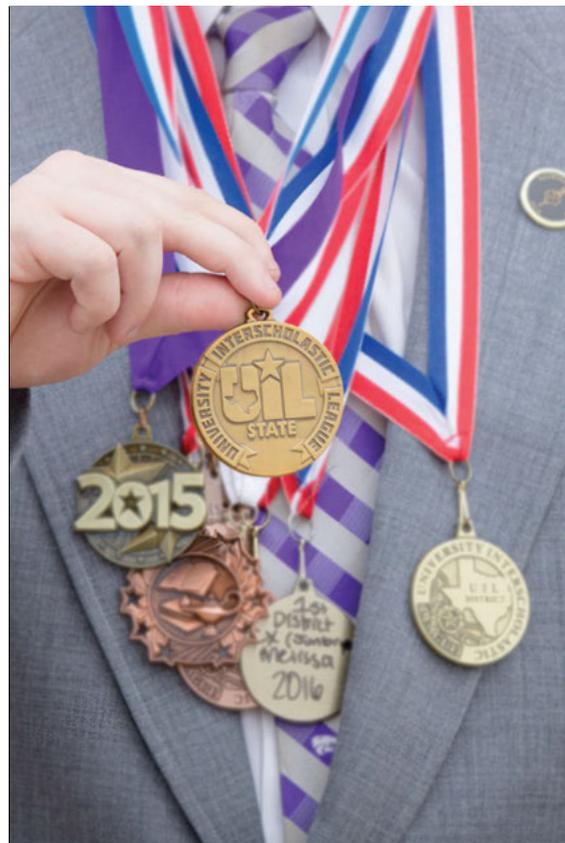


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Debate is something that fits James' personality perfectly as he readily admits he's an argumentative person. However, "I never argue with my parents," he said smiling. His future plans are going to UNT to study computer science. "I like computers," he said. "I hope to get into Harvard in the future because I truly can't see myself doing anything else but debating the rest of my life. Debating just becomes a part of you. Becoming a lawyer is something that seems to fit me so well. If I don't go to law school, computers are a good back-up plan."

James' passion for debate carries into his message to others who might like to join their team. He touts communication skills and life skills that will always benefit you. "Debate will impact your life forever. With debate you'll learn how to truly research something and get an in-depth view on different things. With Public Forum Debate you have real-life scenarios. In analyzing them, you not only research a topic, you understand current events. You learn how to communicate your ideas to other people and to explain why it's a good idea. Debate can essentially make you into a leader and into someone who can help society later on in life. Plus, with the debate team, the teacher is awesome!" **NOW**

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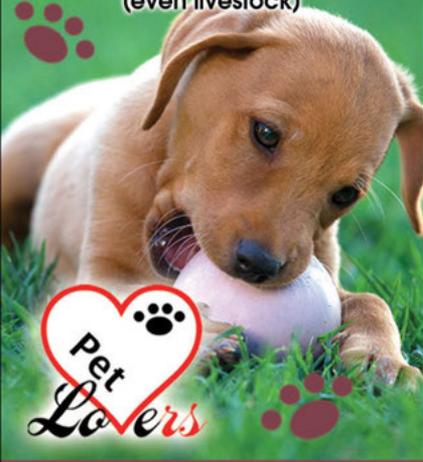
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— By Zachary R Urquhart



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Stuart grew up in Duncanville, and he headed to trade school after graduating. “I went to IIT Technical Institute, and then I worked in pretty much any kind of customer service industry you can think of,” he said. “I went from restaurants to Circuit City to working at a bank.” After countless jobs with different types of sales, he went to work for Mike Houston selling starter homes to young families. “Now, I’m selling custom homes to the people I sold a first home to years ago,” he said.

Mallory grew up in Midlothian and earned a business degree at Northwood University after high school. “I graduated right when the recession was at its worst,” she said. “I wanted to go into the home finance industry, doing loan origination, but that was hard to do at the time.” She ended up going to work for a major financier, but on the repossession side of the business. “It was not a lot of fun stuff. Stu was selling homes, and I was taking them away,” she admitted. After taking a few years off to stay at home with the kids, Mallory has recently gone back to work for a local Realtor,





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“She has the hard job,” Stuart joked. “I have someone who does what Mallory does, so I know. They do the work, and I just show up and show off the homes.” Ironically, Stuart and Mallory met working together in a different field years ago. “We worked at a restaurant together, and we hung out for a long time before we ever started dating,” he detailed. “I had to work hard to get her to go out with me.” Eventually, his persistence paid off, and Stuart and Mallory now have a beautiful family complete with two sons.

“Our oldest, Stuart IV, is at Midlothian High School, and it’s cool having him at the same school I graduated from,” she said. Stuart turns 15 this summer, and loves doing filming and production projects for The Oaks Church. Landon is 9, plays soccer and is the family’s social butterfly. They also have three dogs: Spot, Copper and Duke.

Stuart and Mallory have built several homes in Midlothian, a side effect of his job. “When you work in the industry, you’re always thinking about your next house,” Stuart joked. After living in a starter home in town, they built in

Rosebud several years ago. “The house was great, but we wanted more land, so we started looking again. We had an architect draw up plans in a new neighborhood, but Mallory thought we should check out Country South.”

“We looked at a bunch of plans around town, and I really liked some ranch-style homes down here,” Mallory detailed. “But Stu wasn’t sure. Finally, he said, ‘If there’s one down by the lake, I guess we’ll do it,’” she added. Sure enough, they found the perfect house with a view of the community lake. It was already framed, so the floorplan



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was set, but they got to pick out all the features and decorative items.

The result is a beautiful home sitting on the side of a small hill with great space in the back. Stuart had good insight for what to include even on the exterior of the home. “We decided on distressed mortar to get a unique look,” he said. The front uses a lattice-style brick layout, along with elegant porch lights to accentuate the neutral tones, set off by dots of green shrubbery that are well-maintained throughout the year. The backyard is huge, with trees and an elevation change enclosed by a beautifully stained fence.

Inside, Mallory used her decorative touch to pick themed accoutrement and fixtures for each room. “The entryway light is my favorite in the house,” she said. “And we included a small stone section to tie in with the kitchen.” The kitchen further shows the extent of the home’s customization with uppers for decor pieces, and a massive island that is perfect for entertaining. The kitchen also serves as the third point of an angled flow from the dining area to the den.



The living room combines cozy cloth seating with leather accent chairs, and a cool, distressed side table is set against the wall to give the room a bigger feel. The fireplace, again, has a small section that ties into the foyer, and smooth trim complements the walls and windows. “Having seen lots of options, we went with the French Country feel on the trim, adding some modern looks in a few spots,” Stuart described. They also opted for rounded edges on all of the walls throughout the home. “It is pretty simple

to do when they are building, and it really keeps the smooth feel throughout the house,” he added.

The style in the boys’ rooms is a blend of typical kid and slight sophistication. “I repainted a desk for Stuart and a dresser for Landon to give both of them customized pieces,” Mallory said. Stuart’s room is orange and blue, with a rustic, but sporty feel. Landon’s room has a nautical theme, with painted stripes that almost add a race car motif, as well. There is a single room upstairs where the kids spend much of their time. “We like to say we have a one-and-one-half story,” Mallory mused.



The master bedroom uses gray and white walls, furniture and bedding to achieve a soft and fresh feel. The lone splash of color is the television stand, which makes it pop against the neutral tones in the room. “Mallory spent weeks going anywhere and everywhere to get all the pieces just right in here,” Stuart depicted. The best part of the room is the barn door they had installed in front of the bathroom. “We had Nathan Daves do it, and he used wood from an old working barn in Texas,” Stuart detailed. “He actually built it with his dad, who has since passed away, so it makes this door pretty special.”

The master bathroom is big, with plenty of space across split sinks, and the lighting company they used surprised Stuart and Mallory with a custom-made chandelier. “We’ve worked hard, but the way things came together, we know we’ve been blessed to be able to keep moving up,” he concluded. Looking past their beautifully decorated home at a great view of the lake, it is easy to see why they feel that way. **NOW**



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Road Trip

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Here in Texas, summertime usually means road trips! With miles as expansive as these, it will not be long before you are traveling like a true highwayman. Whether a seasoned pro or a first timer, here are some tips to make sure your trip does not sputter from the start.





MAKE SURE YOUR CAR IS READY

• *Have the tires rotated and inspected.* Tires should be rotated every 6,000-8,000 miles. While this is a simple enough job for you to do on your own, it might be worth giving the tire shop a turn, so they can thoroughly check for depth and even wear patterns before you trust your car's shoes for hundreds of miles. It is relatively inexpensive, and some shops will rotate and balance free, after installation. Be sure also to inflate the tires to the car's recommended pressure, which keeps you safe and improves gas mileage.

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- *Oil changes are important.* While the old model of changing your oil every 3,000 miles or three months is often outdated, you do need to make sure to maintain your vehicle's standards. But before you run to an oil shop just before a trip, know that gaskets on oil pans and filters can be faulty, so you want to make the change at least a few days before your trip. That way, you will avoid getting stranded on the highway with a blown engine.

- *A clean car is a happy car.* Washing your car helps with more than just aesthetics. Regularly washing and waxing will protect your car's paint. And if your trip takes you to the sandy beaches of the Gulf or the red dirt near Oklahoma, you will want to make sure to give the car a thorough cleaning after your trip, as sand and grit can hurt both your car's exterior and its inner workings, if left over time.

PLAN FOR THE WORST

- *A little preparation goes a long way.* While no one wants to break down or be in a wreck, ending up stuck on the highway is sometimes an inevitability. While you cannot prepare for every situation, having an emergency kit is a simple step to take. You want to include



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things like foam tire sealant, jumper cables and duct tape that may allow you to fix minor problems until you can get into a proper shop. You should also have road flares or reflective triangles, as well as a fire extinguisher and flashlight to keep yourself safe and protected.

- *Have more than just tools.* In addition to roadside safety items, you should always travel with food and certain clothing items. It is smart to throw bottles of water and nonperishable snacks in the car for a long trip, in case you are stranded for a long period. Gloves will come in handy when changing a tire or lifting the hood to check for leaking fluids. And even though it is summer, you want to be sure you have blankets and a poncho, as changing a tire in the rain is no fun at all.

- *Information is key.* You should always have an up-to-date insurance card with you, but especially before embarking on a long trip. Additionally, know where your various roadside assistance numbers are located. All Texas driver's licenses have a number on the back, as do toll tags and insurance cards, if that is part of your coverage. And if you are a member of a group like AAA, you have ample options for getting help when your car is stranded.



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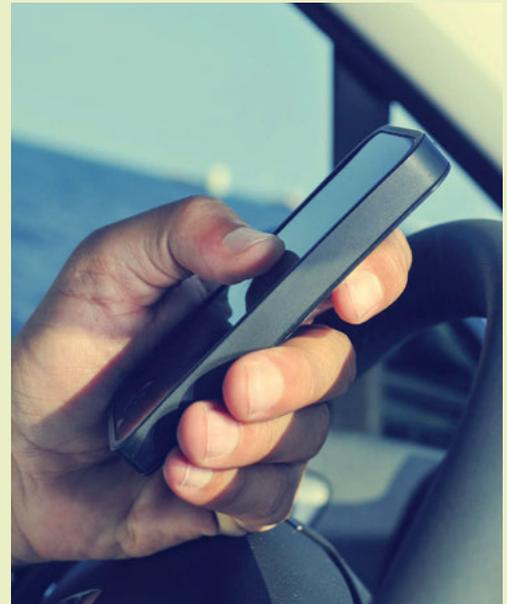
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DRIVE SAFELY

• *Don't be distracted.* Drivers sometimes think that long stretches of highways are less dangerous, but trying to text or otherwise letting yourself be distracted is dangerous. Playing road trip games or singing along is great, as long as the driver stays focused on the road.

• *Speed kills.* "Young drivers, especially, often think the open road is an open invitation to see how fast they can go, but that is a huge mistake. Other than being distracted, the biggest problem is driving too fast and following too close," an officer with the DeSoto Police Department said. "Make sure you keep at least three car lengths between you and the next driver in town — more on the highway."

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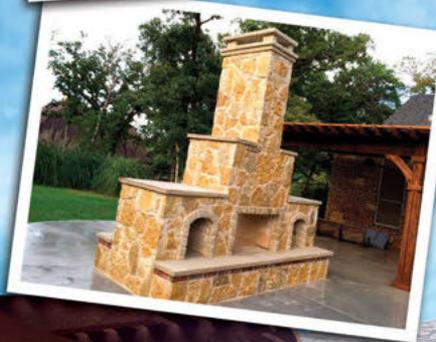
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WORST CASE SCENARIOS

- *Don't make it worse.* If you end up having an accident, the first thing you need to do is get yourself in a safe place. "If the car can drive, slowly move it off the road," the officer continued. "If the car cannot drive, just leave it where it is and stand in safety away from the road." Before worrying about insurance, fault or repairs, you need to be in a safe place.

- *Make the call.* When you are in a wreck, the first call you make needs to be to the police. "If it's a teen driver, they should call the police first, then call their parents," the officer detailed. "Then, call your insurance company." If a tow truck is needed, you or your insurance should call it in. State troopers calling a wrecker often leads to higher costs.

- *You should see the other guy.* Only when both drivers are safe, exchange insurance and contact information. If you are hit and the other car flees the scene, do not try to track them down. "The best advice is to get the color, the plate and any description of the driver you can," the officer stated.

No one wants to break down or be in a car wreck. But, by being prepared and knowing how to handle the worst situations, your summer can be full of open roads and new destinations. **NOW**



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CARPETS AND MORE

Jerry's J&W Carpets has 45 years of experience helping customers choose the right materials for their flooring needs. — By Betty Tryon

Everyone wants to have a beautiful home, and part of that quest includes attractive flooring. Even better is to be able to select quality affordable flooring near to home. “Our motto is drive a little, save a lot,” said Patsy and Jerry Massey, owners of Jerry’s J&W Carpets. With the business beginning in Midlothian 45 years ago, the city and the company have both grown and prospered. It is no coincidence the Massey family chose Midlothian for their business. Jerry’s family has been here for three generations.

“Midlothian is a great place to live and raise your family,” Patsy stated.

“Ellis County has been really good for our business, as well as Dallas, Mansfield and Ft. Worth. We draw from numerous areas. We have one of the largest selections of flooring in this area of

any flooring business around. We sell wood, carpet, vinyl, tile, laminate, plank, marble and porcelain. We sell everything!” The company has had the privilege of doing jobs, such as Billy Bob’s Texas and also worked for Lady Bird Johnson in Austin and Johnson City. Jerry’s J&W Carpets installs flooring in hospitals, schools, other businesses and commercial work, as well as in residences. They not only service many in Midlothian and the surrounding area, they have taken their trade as far as New York City for installations. Although large projects are part of their business, they greatly appreciate the residential customers. “We try to treat each person as special and appreciate the little jobs, as well as the big ones. No job is too small. We have quite a following. We appreciate the business and the repeat business.”

When you’re ready for new flooring, there is no charge for

them to come out and measure your area. "We move furniture and take up the flooring that's there," Patsy offered. "What we take up, we take off." That is a big assistance for anyone having new flooring put down. They offer financing and run sales periodically, including any sales the flooring manufacturer may offer. "Our prices are comparable if not better than most in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. We don't like to be underbid. We try hard to please everyone and to satisfy everyone and are most appreciative of those who come in our store. We have a lot of friends who come back over and over. Our customers have become our friends because we've been dealing with many of them for so many years."

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One of the reasons Jerry's J&W Carpets runs so smoothly is their staff. "There is a total of 40 to 50 years of experience in our staff," Patsy noted. "They have been in the business most of their adult lives. We have even had people leave for different reasons and then come back."

The Masseys also give major credit for their success to the people in Midlothian who have supported them for 45 years. "We love Midlothian," Patsy shared, "and hope it continues to grow and everyone prospers. It is a good town to raise your family. It's a good town to live in." **NOW**

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Kris Garrison, Brookshire store director, presents a \$2,000 check to Manna House.



Jory McDaniel and family participate in the Heritage Heroes 5K Fun Run.



Midlothian Theater students perform One Act Play and take it to regionals for the first time in 20 years.



Jeannie Benner, owner of Eye Candy Boutique & Color Bar, cuts her ribbon at the Midlothian Chamber celebration.



Miller's Destination Imagination Team (3rd graders) compete in a state competition and advance to globals!



Tom Kowatch, with The Reach Council, shares health facts on tobacco use.



A Holcim Grant and the PTO from LaRue Miller Elementary build The Greenery raised garden beds.



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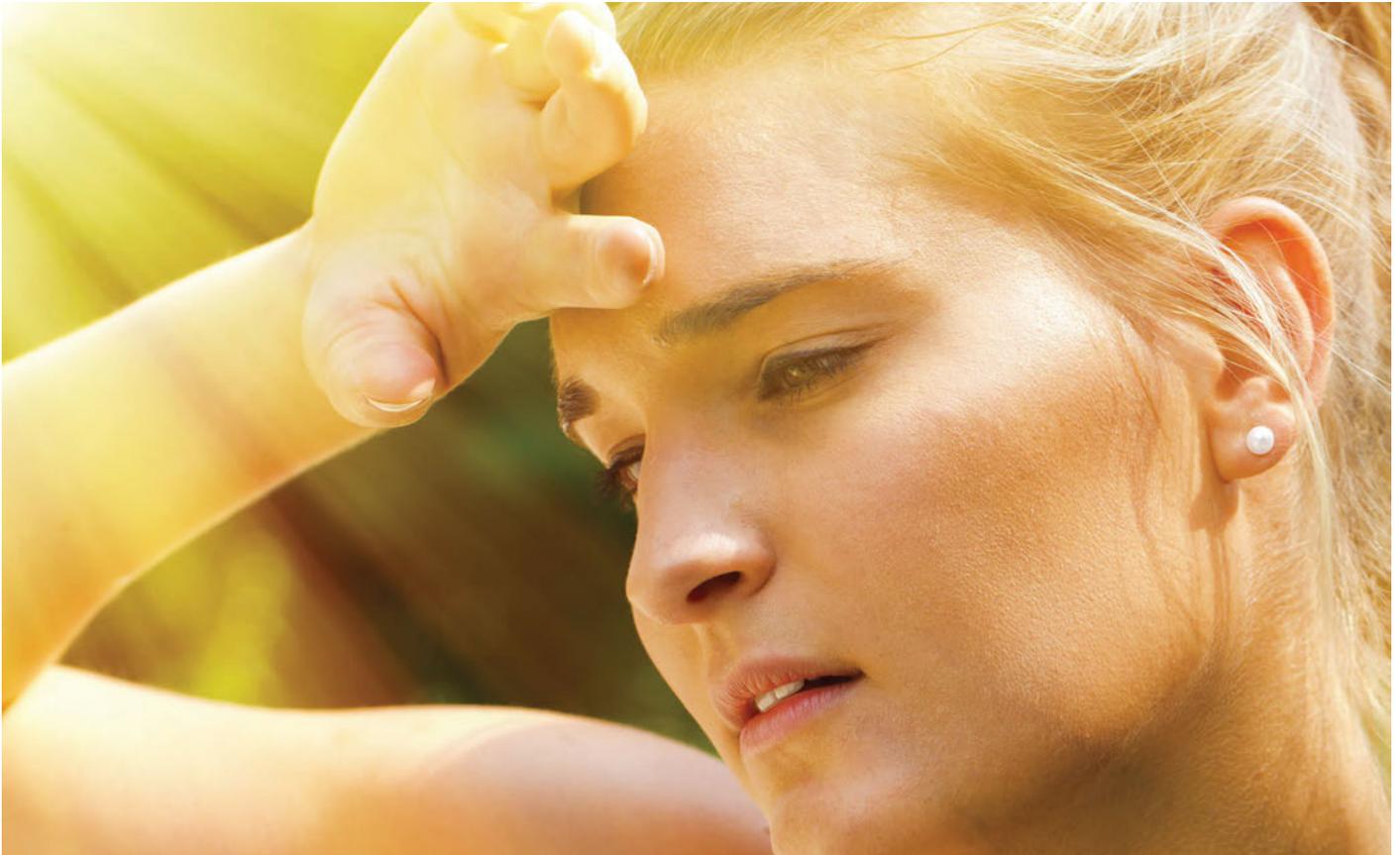
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A Body Heat Wave

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

As the sun heats up, the incidences of heat-related illnesses will rise. It's important to know what you are dealing with and what to do. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are sometimes used synonymously, as if they are the same. That is understandable, considering they are heat illnesses with their genesis in very high temperatures, but they are different medical conditions. Both are serious and require immediate medical attention, but heat stroke can be fatal.

Some of heat exhaustion's symptoms are: heavy, drenching sweating; feeling weak; having a weak but rapid pulse; fainting; cold and clammy skin; experiencing nausea; headache; and muscle cramping. If any of these symptoms occur, the person should be removed from the heat to a preferably air-conditioned location. Give them non-caffeinated liquid to drink. Avoid sugar and alcoholic drinks while rehydrating. Loosen clothing and elevate legs above the heart. Use cool, wet cloths or shower to bring the body temperature down. If the person is not better within an hour, do not delay in seeking medical treatment. Forcing the body to continue an activity when it is in heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke, if not treated. It is important to note that heat stroke can develop without the accompanying symptoms of heat exhaustion.

If experiencing heat stroke, the body loses the ability to regulate its temperature. The heartbeat speeds up, as it tries to cool the

body down. The skin feels hot and dry and is unable to sweat to bring down the temperature. One may experience nausea and vomiting. The temperature spikes to 104 degrees or higher. Confusion, delirium, dizziness, seizures, loss of consciousness and even coma can occur. If not treated quickly, organ failure and death can result.

In order to prevent these heat illnesses that can have such a devastating result on the body, it makes sense to try to prevent the problem from happening. If one has been indoors, acclimate yourself slowly to outdoor heat. Keep hydrated with water. Avoid outdoor activities during the intense heat of the day. When outside in the sun, protect your head with a wide-brimmed hat or cap. Wear sunglasses for eye protection. Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn, which interferes with your body's mechanism for ridding itself of heat. When in a heated location, whether it's outside or in a non-air-conditioned gym, it's important for you to watch others for heat illness and for someone to watch out for you and respond appropriately. Call 911 immediately at the first sign of heat stroke, and you just might save a life. **NOW**

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

June 2

Relay for Life Midlothian: 6:00 p.m., Civic Center Park, 224 S. 11th St.

June 3, 17

Midlothian Market: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. Various vendors, including crafts and food in open air market.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children over the age of 8. Children under 8 are \$3. Parking is free. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit www.mid-wayregional.com.

June 10

2017 Movies in the Park summer schedule, *SING*: all movies shown at dusk, Hawkins Spring Park.

June 13

A.H. Meadows Library Summer Reading Program: 11:00 a.m., Midlothian High School, 923 S. 9th St. There will be distribution of goody bags for children up to age 12. Corporal Keeling from the Midlothian Police Department will bring his K-9 partner, Officer Halo, for a demonstration.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Chapter 1191: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., covering Ellis, Navarro and surrounding counties, rotating between Ryan's Buffet in Waxahachie, Sirloin Stockade in Corsicana and the Grand Ennis Buffet in Ennis. Email rjcarey1@gmail.com or call (972) 775-2463 for more info.

June 16

Daddy Daughter Dance: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Cost: \$30 per couple - \$10 each for additional daughter(s), dinner, dancing, games, DJ music and magic. Call for tickets. For more information, call (972) 775-7125.

June 17

Presentation series from the Indian Trail Chapter of the Ellis County Master Naturalists: 10:30 a.m., A.H. Meadows Library. Patty Ozga will provide information about the benefit of butterflies in the environment. This presentation is suitable for children and adults.

June 19

Midlothian Library will begin accepting donations of nonperishable pet supplies (bedding, towels, grooming items, food, etc.) to be presented to the Midlothian Animal Shelter in July. The donations are part of

the "Forgive a Fine" Program at the A.H. Meadows Library.

June 26

Indian Trail Master Naturalists: 7:00-9:00 p.m., First United Methodist, Waxahachie. Free educational program. For more information, call Don Haupt at (469) 309-9871.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group meeting: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Hwy 287 Bypass and 77, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 for more information.

Second and Fourth Mondays

Rag-Tag Readers Book Club: 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Join lively discussions of books chosen by the club members. This is a club intended for readers 50 and older. For more information, call Sandy at (972) 775-3417.

Third Mondays

School Board meeting: 6:00 p.m., MISD Administration Building.

Fourth Mondays

The Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 624 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. Visit www.elliscountyquilters.com for more information.

Tuesdays

City Council meeting: 6:00 p.m., 104 W. Ave. E. Call (972) 775-3481 for more information.

Midlothian Rotary Club meeting: Noon, Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. Call (972) 775-7118 for more information.

First Tuesdays

Midlothian Area Historical Society meeting: 7:00 p.m., Community Room of CNB, 310 N. 9th. For more information, contact Edwin Bateman (972) 743-2379.

Second Tuesdays

Evening Book Club: 6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Open to all readers who would like an evening option. For more information, call (972) 775-3417.

Third Tuesdays

Relaxing Coloring: 6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows

Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Need a time to relieve stress? Join us as we unwind to relaxing music and creative coloring. Color sheets and pencils provided or bring your own. Open to adults 18 and older. For more information, call (972) 775-3417.

Community Computer Class: 1:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Hands-on help with computer basics. Open to the public. For more information, call (972) 775-3417.

Wednesdays

DivorceCare: 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 800 S. 9th St. For more information, call (972) 723-3993.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting: 11:30a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. Vouchers for mothers requiring childcare are available. This is a very positive, uplifting and refreshing time for women and includes a delicious lunch and featured guest speaker each month. For reservations, women can contact Margaret at (972) 825-3559.

Third Thursdays

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center (County Farm), 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. Talk-in on the 145.410 machines. All are welcome. For more information, visit wd5ddh.org.

Fridays

Preschool Storytime: 11:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Story, craft and snack provided. For more information, call (972) 775-3417.

Third Saturday

Midlothian Opry Country Music Show: Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. Old Country and gospel music with Goodtimers Band, \$5 admission. Call Davonna at (214) 676-1706 or go to Facebook Midlothian Opry.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com.



In the Kitchen With Vivienne Kamp

— By Betty Tryon

The Mediterranean influence on Vivienne Kamp’s cooking came by way of birth on a small island in the country of Malta. Her dad, who is a cook also, inspired her traditional Maltese dishes. “As a child, every Saturday I would help my mother in baking fresh bread, pies and pastizzi (Maltese pastry),” she said.

As a vegan and certified health coach, all of Vivienne’s favorite dishes are plant-based and organic. “I love to share recipes and help people make healthy choices,” she said. “I also cook to accommodate my four non-vegan daughters and my husband. I find new recipes from cookbooks and online and adapt it to my style of cooking using organic products.” **NOW**

Maltese Pizza

Dough:

- 1 2.5-oz. pkg. yeast**
- 1/2 cup warm water**
- 1 tsp. sugar**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 1/2 cups flour**

Topping:

- 4 medium potatoes, thinly sliced**
- 5 black olives, sliced**
- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced**
- Handful of capers**
- 1 large onion, sliced**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. For dough: Stir the yeast and warm water in a bowl. Add sugar, and leave to sit for

about 5 minutes until the mixture is a bit bubbly.

- 2.** Stir in olive oil. Mix salt with flour in a large bowl. Add the yeast mixture, and knead on a clean, floured surface until a smooth and elastic dough is formed.
- 3.** Return the dough to the bowl and coat lightly with a drizzle of olive oil. Let it rise for about an hour until it has doubled in size. Punch dough down and roll out to preferred size and thickness.
- 4.** For topping: Place potatoes to cover the dough. Arrange all other toppings on top. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for 25 minutes at 400 F, or until potatoes are soft.

Pastizzi (Maltese pastry)

- 6 oz. dried green split peas**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**

- 1 small onion, finely chopped**
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed**
- 2 tsp. mild curry powder**
- 1/4 cup cold water**
- 4 sheets frozen puff pastry, partially thawed**
- 1 egg, lightly beaten**

- 1.** Place peas in a saucepan. Cover with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium. Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes, or until peas are tender; drain.
- 2.** Heat oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Cook onion and garlic for 5 minutes, or until softened. Add curry powder; stir for 30 seconds, or until fragrant. Add peas and 1/4 cup cold water. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until liquid has evaporated. Set aside to cool completely.
- 3.** Preheat oven to 400 F. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Use a 4-inch round cutter and cut rounds from each pastry sheet. Brush edge of rounds with egg; spoon 1 level Tbsp. mixture onto the center of each round. Spread to form a 2-inch log. Fold up 2 sides of pastry to enclose log. Pinch to seal. Twist ends to form points. Place on prepared trays. Brush with remaining egg.
- 4.** Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until puffed and golden. Let stand for 4 minutes before serving.
- 5.** A very popular variation of the pastizzi is cheese pastizzi made with ricotta cheese.

Creamy Garlic Mashed Potatoes

- 8 to 10 medium russet potatoes, peeled and quartered**
- 2 Tbsp. butter**
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 1 pkg. Boursin cheese**
- 1/4 cup milk**

- 1.** Place potatoes in a large saucepan; add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and boil gently until potatoes break apart easily when pierced with fork; drain well.
- 2.** Transfer potatoes to a baking dish. Mash until no lumps remain. Add butter, garlic, salt, pepper and Boursin cheese; continue mashing while gradually adding enough milk to make potatoes smooth and creamy. Put in oven at 225 F for 10 minutes.
- 3.** For vegan version: Omit the Boursin cheese, butter and milk and use 2 Tbsp. olive oil, 1/4 cup Vegan Butter, 1/2 cup scallions and 1/4 cup parsley.

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