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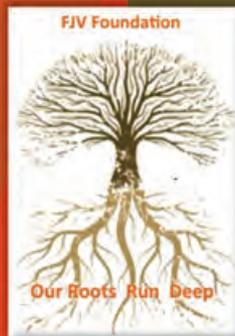
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FJV Foundation's founder, Tonia Granger, continues to thank her parents, Frank and Betty Granger, for their unconditional love and support.

Serving Our Community

Founder, Tonia Granger, recognized an additional need for various services in her community and decided it was time to stop talking and take action! FJV Foundation is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization and their mission is to support senior citizens, children and families in the community during economic hardships and continue work towards a greater good.

In the beginning, the organization focused on seniors (60 years and older) who were homebound and in need of additional services. Later, the organization began to offer youth outreach programs created to reach at-risk children and teens through leadership training and nutrition/health programs. Tonia Granger stated, "Children in the underprivileged neighborhoods we assist do not always see a future bright with options. Their scope can be limited to what they see immediately around them — such as poverty, unemployment, drugs and alcohol. FJV Foundation seeks to widen those horizons through a variety of hands-on relationship-building methods."

FJV Foundation recently had volunteers from Kohl's come out and volunteer at their facility and your organization can too!

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Founder of FJV shown with her son (Franklin Valsin) and Kohl's volunteers



FJV Foundation 2012 educational scholarship award recipient. Brianna h'Elan Jackson graduate from DeSoto High School with a 4.2 GPA has been accepted and will attend Texas Southern University in the fall 2012.

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On The Cover



Imogene Gideon's commitment to quality education reaches around the world.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 477-0990 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

How was your summer? I know, I know – summer doesn't officially end until next month, but August always seemed like it should be the end of the lazy, freewheeling days of cookouts, outdoor activities and taking a dip in the pool. Soon, the kids will head back to school, the nights will get shorter (though not always cooler), and we'll start to take things more seriously.

We won't give up our summer fun without a fight though! Did you know August has two days that encourage summer eating? August 3 is National Watermelon Day, while the 10th is National S'Mores Day. So grab these tasty treats on their designated days and just enjoy. Let the juice dribble down your chin! Spit some seeds! Savor the ooey goodness of marshmallow and chocolate. You'll be glad you did.

School starts August 27. Watch out for kids on their way to school!

Jeremy

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Showing Teachers THE WAY

— By Jeremy Agor

Educator. Missionary. Leader. Each of these words can be used to describe Imogene Gideon. In a career that has taken her around the globe, she has made a difference through her actions and left her mark on the Mansfield Independent School District.

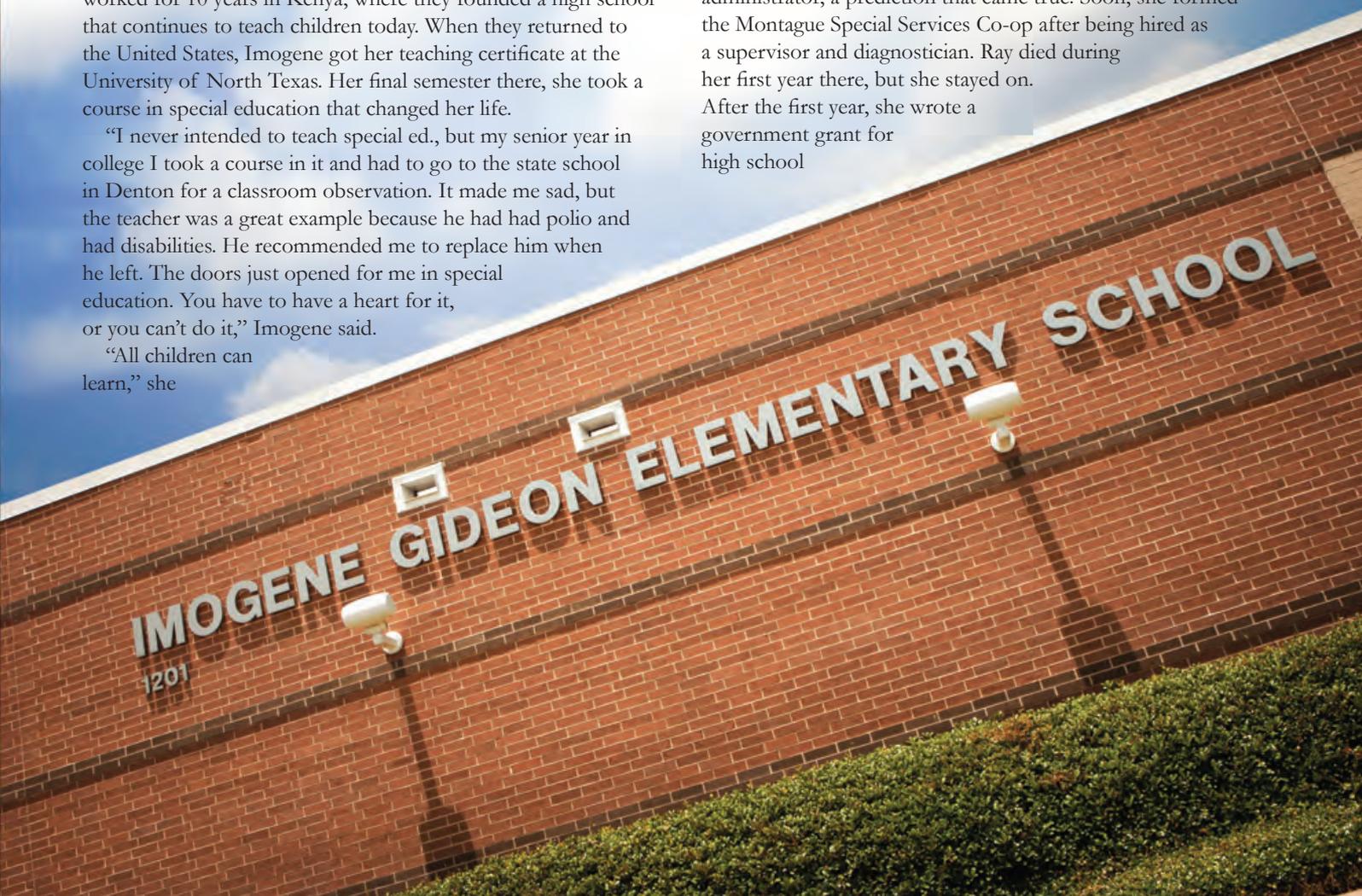
Imogene and her first husband, Ray Milligan, lived and worked for 10 years in Kenya, where they founded a high school that continues to teach children today. When they returned to the United States, Imogene got her teaching certificate at the University of North Texas. Her final semester there, she took a course in special education that changed her life.

“I never intended to teach special ed., but my senior year in college I took a course in it and had to go to the state school in Denton for a classroom observation. It made me sad, but the teacher was a great example because he had had polio and had disabilities. He recommended me to replace him when he left. The doors just opened for me in special education. You have to have a heart for it, or you can’t do it,” Imogene said.

“All children can learn,” she

continued, “but some learn at a different rate, and you have to understand that. You have to expect children to learn, because they all can do something. Sometimes you just have to look. Just as you develop a gifted child, you have to develop a child with special needs, too.”

After graduating from college, she took a job teaching special education, where she excelled. An auditor for the Texas Education Association told her during that year that she would not be in the classroom for long but would instead become an administrator, a prediction that came true. Soon, she formed the Montague Special Services Co-op after being hired as a supervisor and diagnostician. Ray died during her first year there, but she stayed on. After the first year, she wrote a government grant for high school

A photograph of the exterior of Imogene Gideon Elementary School. The building is constructed of red brick and features the school's name in large, white, raised letters. To the left of the name, the number '1201' is visible. The building is set against a blue sky with light clouds. In the foreground, there is a green hedge and a portion of a lawn.

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“WHAT I FOUND WAS THAT GOOD TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR GIFTED EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION ARE THE SAME. GOOD TEACHING IS GOOD TEACHING.”

teacher training. The grant allowed her to hire relief teachers to go into classrooms for two weeks while the regular teachers came to training to help them be successful. She became director of special education a few years later. When her new husband, Dr. Virtus Gideon, became a professor at Southwestern



Seminary and her daughter graduated high school and enrolled at Dallas Baptist University, Imogene decided they should move to Mansfield to cut down on commuting. Soon, she had a job in the Mansfield ISD.

“Lee Pennington, the superintendent, announced one day in a meeting that I would lead the gifted program for the district, and he told Vernon Newsom that he should help me. Of course, he hadn’t asked either of us prior to the meeting, but we had to do it,” Imogene chuckled. “What I found was that good teaching strategies for gifted education and special education are the same. Good teaching is good teaching.” She wrote grants which were funded, then started the program in grades three, four and five while still teaching special education. As the school district kept growing, the program followed suit. Imogene told the superintendent she could not do both and wanted remain with special education. Then, in 1995, she received a phone call out of the blue that led her down a different path.

It was 9:00 p.m., and the caller from Morrison Christian Academy in Taiwan

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asked her if she would consider moving there to teach. She let the call go, but then a teacher with whom she had not spoken in 20 years wrote a letter to ask again, and the school's superintendent followed up with another phone call to ask her to come and start a special education program in Taiwan. "I told them I couldn't leave in the middle of the year, so I resigned in November of 1995 and left for Taiwan in January to help develop the special education program. I stayed six months before I came back to the states," Imogene said.

Imogene's adventure got off to a slow start when her flight was diverted and did not arrive in Taipei until 2:00 a.m. Her luggage was lost, and the woman who was to pick her up was nowhere to be found in the deserted airport. To make matters worse, none of the taxi drivers spoke English, and Imogene did not speak Chinese. Finally, her ride was summoned from the local hotel and came to get her. "I managed. I lived a mile from the village, and I learned there are a lot of ways to do things. I'd go to the store and couldn't read the labels, so I'd sniff things and point and eventually come out with what I wanted," she said.

Upon returning to the U.S., Imogene worked at the Educational Service Center for Region 11 in Fort Worth. She has been a teacher advisor for the Education Career Alternatives Program (ECAP) since 1996, and it is a job she loves.

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ECAP is a privately owned, alternative teacher-certification program. "I see everything: the children, good teachers and bad, administrators, the school atmosphere. It's just a fun job, and the people I work with have such integrity. When we go into a classroom, I can see the training the teacher has received because I see them doing it. They have the skills to manage a classroom. They learn to keep kids on task and how to get their attention," Imogene said.

Imogene's contributions to the Mansfield ISD were recognized in 2001. Vernon called her one day to tell her that a new elementary school was to be named in her honor. The school, located on Mansfield-Webb Road, had opened its doors that year, and Imogene was very appreciative of the honor. "It was very rewarding and very humbling that they would name a school after me. When Vernon called me it was a total surprise. He told me where it was, so that day I drove out and found it," Imogene recalled.

A sewing center in India also bears her name. She struck up a conversation with a man from India at a Sunday School Christmas party at her church and asked what people needed most. He told her sewing machines would allow people to make clothes they could wear to jobs and also enable people to start a sewing business. Imogene bought several sewing machines for the center to help it get off the ground.

"It's been such a privilege to have some of the experiences I've had," said Imogene. "To be able to do all the things I've done, I'm very blessed." **NOW**



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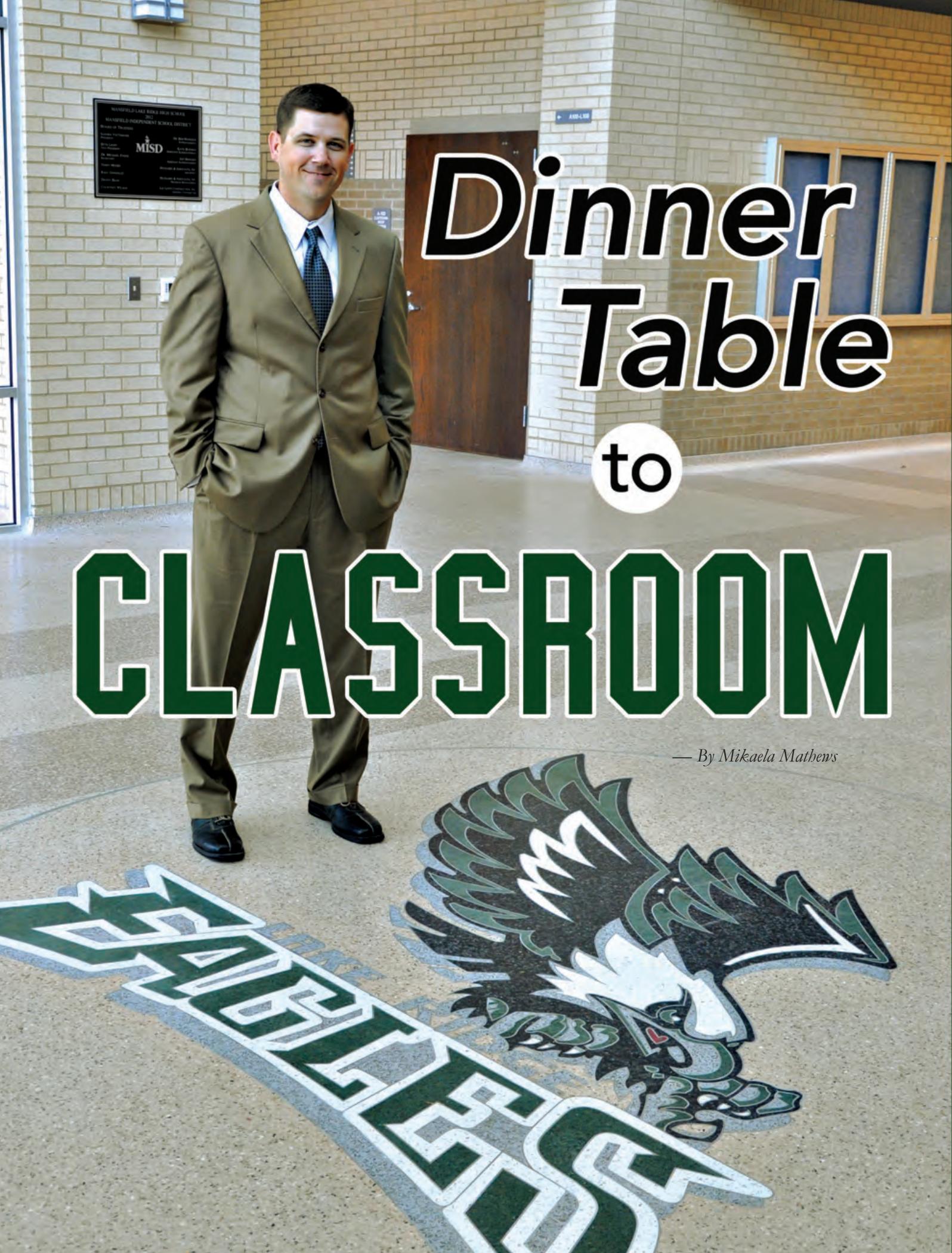


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Dinner Table

to

CLASSROOM

— By *Mikaela Mathews*

Education runs through the genes of Dr. Sean Scott, Lake Ridge High School's new principal. Nearly everyone in his extended family is a teacher. Growing up, he had a number of opportunities to foster a passion for learning, and he is forging ahead with these lessons into Lake Ridge's first year.

"I think we're going to have an opportunity to have a great school culture because of the diversity of our student population and our staff."

"My job as principal is to provide support, training, encouragement and opportunity [for the teachers]," he stated. "That's where most of the real learning comes from." Dr. Scott recalls sitting at a dinner table with his family at a young age, listening in on their conversations about teaching. His family taught him that teachers always can be learning how to help others learn.

Besides his mom and dad, his grandfather was one of Dr. Scott's biggest influences. Dr. Scott always wanted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. As he grew older, he continued to develop a passion for teaching. His small church in Burleson encouraged

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students to be proactive early in life. "They involved kids at a very young age to be a lay leader or an usher," he explained. "In our youth group, if we wanted to go on a ski trip, our youth sponsors would tell us that we had to call the charter bus company, and we would have to raise funds."

Because of this environment, Dr. Scott felt comfortable taking similar opportunities in middle school. Brenda Johns, one of his middle school teachers, encouraged all of her students to put forth the effort at learning so that they would truly understand the material. With dynamic energy, she created opportunities for students to learn by teaching. "In eighth and ninth grade, I was starting to teach algebra and geometry," he said. "I fell in love with that process." He acknowledged that he had many great teachers growing up, but Ms. Johns was the most influential.

Ultimately, when the time came to decide a career choice, Dr. Scott followed the same path as so many before him. "I come from an educational background," he said. "I felt like I had the proper respect for what a teacher does." He attended Texas Christian University (TCU) and earned his bachelor's



degree in history and master's degree in education simultaneously. Later, he continued his education by earning a Master of Business Administration and a doctorate in education, also from TCU.

Dr. Scott began his career in 2001 as both a teacher and head baseball coach. He taught history and government for Eastern Hills High School for four years. There, he established relationships with his "baseball boys" that continue today. One student in particular gripped Dr. Scott's attention. "I was very young and looking to make a difference," he said. His student came from a rough background and just wanted someone to believe in him. "When he came to our school, he didn't have a whole lot of people, except his grandmother, who believed in him."

Dr. Scott and other teachers encouraged him to pursue his dreams. With his encouragement, the student was able to accomplish great things. He has recently been discharged from the Navy SEALs and is getting settled back into civilian life. "He is an incredibly brave and resilient person," Sean said. "God put us there together."

After four years at Eastern Hills High School, Dr. Scott made a transition to

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the administrative side of education. "I loved every minute of teaching and coaching. I just felt like I could have a broader impact [in administration]." After two years as an assistant principal in Burleson, he became the principal of Frazier Elementary and later, of Hughes Middle School.

With this experience under his belt, Dr. Scott walked into a new adventure as the principal of Lake Ridge High School, which will be dedicated on August 19. During the summer months, Lake Ridge worked on moving all equipment and materials for a fully operational school into the new building. "The people of Mansfield believe in education, and they voted to spend a great deal of money, providing us with the proper materials and facilities to help our students be successful," Dr. Scott stated. "We have to be a good steward of that." The supplies were moved from the district's facilities and vendors' warehouses to the school throughout the summer, just in time for the first day of school.

Dr. Scott looks forward to developing a unique school personality in a brand new school. "I think we're going to have an opportunity to have a great school culture because of the diversity of our student population and our staff," he said. He hopes this culture encourages unity and respect. In fact, it is the diverse culture of Mansfield ISD that makes him excited for his oldest daughter to enter Cora Spencer Elementary this fall. He and his wife, Courtney, have two daughters: Emma, 5, and Abby, 2.

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Dr. Scott hopes to create healthy discussions about what progressive integrity means in the new school culture. “Integrity is about doing things for the long haul and doing things the right way,” he explained. “The best thing is we don’t have a definition for it. People start talking about it together, and that’s the important part — the conversation about what it means.”

One of the ways Dr. Scott hopes to promote integrity is through a Mansfield ISD Education Foundation grant to fund the implementation of Rachel’s Challenge. The program encourages students to create a positive culture in their schools. He hopes it will bring student organizations together by promoting tolerance and acceptance among the student body through service to the community.

This, however, will be one of the few programs Dr. Scott will introduce. “I’m not a programs guy. I’m a people development guy,” he said. He will ensure his teachers are doing three things — knowing their students, knowing their curricula and measuring progress. “They should know what they should be teaching and the best way to teach it to our kids. Then, they are able to use their talents. That’s where the art of teaching comes in,” he stated. These are all lessons he learned from his family. “We are here to learn,” he continued. “I’m not as concerned with what is being taught as with what is being learned.” **NOW**

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Skeeter and Lisa Pressley's brick and stucco home is a mix of elegance and laid-back comfort. From the moment guests enter, they feel at home. The bright, airy spaces and comfortable furniture give off a "take off your shoes and stay awhile" vibe.

The home is a reflection of the Pressleys, who are both friendly and obviously comfortable with who they are. They first met more than 20 years ago when Skeeter was friends with Lisa's older brother, Dewayne. She had a crush on him then and left notes and a stuffed bear for him to find when he came to work on the midnight shift as a dispatcher for the Mansfield Police Department. Although Skeeter got the notes and the bear,

At Home With Skeeter & Lisa Pressley

"It was a beautiful home with a lot of nice extras. It accommodated all my needs then, and it still does."

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Stay Awhile

— By *Jeremy Agor*

he was dating someone else at the time and a relationship with Lisa never panned out. But two years ago, while in the Tetco convenience store where he stops daily, he heard a voice behind him calling his name.

“I was talking to the manager, and I heard a voice say, ‘Skeeter Pressley,’ and I turned around to see who it was and didn’t recognize her. I was afraid I’d met her somewhere and forgotten to call her or something. She reminded me who she was, and we started talking, and we’ve been together ever since,” Skeeter laughed.

Skeeter has lived in their home for eight years. It was custom built by local builder Larry Williford for a couple who wanted to be close to their daughter and her family, who lived across the

street. However, six months after they moved in, the daughter was transferred away from Mansfield, and her parents followed her. Skeeter ended up buying the nearly brand-new home, drawn to it because of its openness inside. “It was a beautiful home with a lot of nice extras. It accommodated all my needs then, and it still does,” he said. “Also, it’s in the Mansfield school district, and it was important for me that my son could graduate from the same school my brother and I did.”

Entertaining is important to the Pressleys, and their home is perfect for it. The living room has walls up to the ceiling on the second floor, overlooked by a railing upstairs. A fireplace adds a focal point, as does a dark accent wall in chocolate brown that extends into the kitchen, which is large with lots of counter





Off the kitchen is a butler's pantry with cupboards with glass doors. The pantry connects the kitchen to the formal dining room. A glass-topped table with upholstered chairs and gold accent pieces sits in the middle of the room, which is

Cowboys clothing," Skeeter grumbled.

Another prized possession in his office is a commendation from the police department for meritorious service. He was the first nonofficer to earn the commendation from the department.

Skeeter and Lisa's master suite is off the living room, but it feels secluded

space and a small island that allows guests to mingle across the two spaces. Comfortable leather couches and a large television make it the perfect place to sit and talk or watch a ballgame.

"We throw parties and do lots of entertaining during the holidays. The open setup works because you can have food and drinks in the kitchen and living room, or use the formal dining room," Lisa said. "I like to cook, and I especially like trying new things and making recipes from scratch. In the mornings, I sit in the breakfast area and watch the birds in the backyard while I drink my coffee."

tastefully painted in an elegant plum color up to the wainscoting, with tan above and white trim.

Across the entryway from the dining room is Skeeter's office, which is a shrine to his favorite NFL football team, the Oakland Raiders. There are pennants, posters and clocks adorned in the silver and black colors of the team. However, one photo stands out among the others: One of him and a friend decked out in Dallas Cowboys gear.

"I lost a bet and had to attend a game wearing Cowboys gear. I had to borrow my neighbor's jersey! I don't have any



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Before



After

from the rest of the house. The room is finished in chocolate brown and tan with high ceilings. The master bath has a garden tub and a separate shower, complete with a bench Skeeter had custom built for Lisa.

On the wall halfway up the staircase to the second floor is a 5-foot-tall painting of a water nymph, which has been in Skeeter's family since the late 1960s or early 1970s. The picture was painted by artist L. Pehig in 1899 and originally hung in a castle in England. It was hanging in a brothel in London. When the business



was shut down, it became available at auction, where Skeeter's father bought it. It hung in Skeeter's mother's jewelry store for years until she redecorated. Then, it finally found its way to its current location.

The second floor of the home is the domain of the couple's children. At the top of the stairs, the hallway overlooks the living room. Shelby's room is painted the same plum color as the dining room and is very grown-up for a 12-year-old young lady, especially the lamp hanging over her desk. Thirteen-year-old Brandon's room is dedicated with soccer, The University of Texas Longhorns and



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video games. It is very bright because of the large window facing the street. "He gets a kick out of waving to his buddies out the window," Skeeter laughed. Finally, daughters Kayla, 10, and Carly, 2, share a room. Kayla loves sports, and Carly is a happy toddler.



The garage is a place that really reflects the Pressleys' outgoing personalities. It is full of odds and ends, and the door is wide open. There is a television, a stereo, workout equipment and a refrigerator stocked with drinks for the family's friends.

"Everybody loves my garage. People just come and hang out, and my neighbors come and borrow tools," Skeeter said.

The garage is also used for its intended purpose, providing shelter for Lisa's blue Harley-Davidson motorcycle and Skeeter's 1923 T-bucket Ford Roadster. "My mother always rode motorcycles, and I rode with her. I bought one, and I love to ride. It's very relaxing," Lisa explained.

The roadster has been in a Hooter's Restaurant calendar and has won numerous competitions. "I saw the red T-bucket in the movie *Smokey and the Bandit* and had always wanted one.

I finally got enough money to have one built," Skeeter said.

Skeeter and Lisa have put together a home that is welcoming to family and friends and reflects their tastes and their personalities. The home draws people in, and they would not have it any other way. **NOW**



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FROM BELIZE

with love

— By Rick Hope

Visualize 12 preteens and teenagers, 10 adults and a praying pelican on spring break. According to Lucas Randall, when paired together you get a most amazing mission trip.

Lucas, student pastor at Mansfield Bible Church, has a specific strategy in mind when it comes to promoting Christian missions to the students under his charge. “I want them to experience all facets of missions,” he states. His first year at the church, Lucas took members of the youth group on a mission trip to south Texas. The second year, the mission trip took place in Springfield, Missouri. “The idea is to get them to understand missions on a local, national and international level,” Lucas explained. “I also want to break them out of the American Evangelical bubble. I want them to know there is more to the world than Mansfield, Texas.”

To accomplish the international facet, Lucas prayerfully decided to partner with an organization called Praying Pelican (www.prayingpelicanmissions.org). The organization, according to their Web site, has “a heart and

vision to impact the world for Christ — one country, one city and one community at a time.” Not only that, but they desire to do it through local churches. They help organize mission trips in communities throughout Belize, Jamaica, Mexico and Haiti. Soon after Lucas contacted them, things were set in motion for a spring break mission trip to Belize.

Naturally, there was much planning prior to going. First, there was an application process. “Nobody was turned away. Everyone who wanted to go got to go,” he said. Once the team was in place, they began working together on planning and training for the excursion.

The team had to raise \$32,000 to bring the trip to fruition. They accomplished this feat through support letters, a chili cook-off that included a dessert auction, a silent auction and a 5K Family Fun Run at Rose Park. The fundraising ended up being quite successful. “Very little came out of the participants’ pockets,” Lucas shared. “About 75 percent of our team did not have to use any personal funds. The support was really overwhelming.”

On the day of departure, another snag was soon discovered. The airline had actually oversold the flight and five of his team members were not allowed to board. Lucas ended up standing on a table, and appealing to all the passengers by explaining the mission trip and the quandary that the team found themselves in before they even boarded the plane. Five people gave up their seats so that

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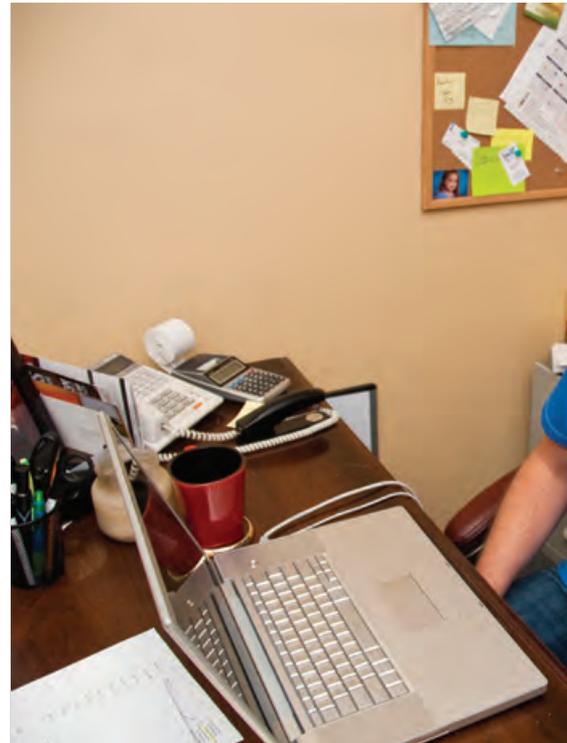
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the team could travel to Belize together. The entire team was off to the Central American town of Corozal.

Once there, the group mostly worked at the Spanish Nazarene Church, which was mostly bilingual. They spent most of the time meeting physical needs with the hopes of sharing their faith along the way. This included completing the remodeling of a home for one of the church's more needy members named Yolanda.

"At one church service, she stood up and showed her gratitude." Lucas confessed. "It was amazing!"

In Belize, the schools operate out of the local church with a staff paid for by the government. Therefore, it was easy for the group (which was partnered with a Lutheran church from South Dakota) to gain access into the school system.





Behind the church there was a park, and each day, the team would host a sports camp that reached approximately 100 people. Every night, the people of the church would come forward with great stories of how the team had impacted lives through their efforts.

The lives of the team members were certainly changed as well. "I learned to be



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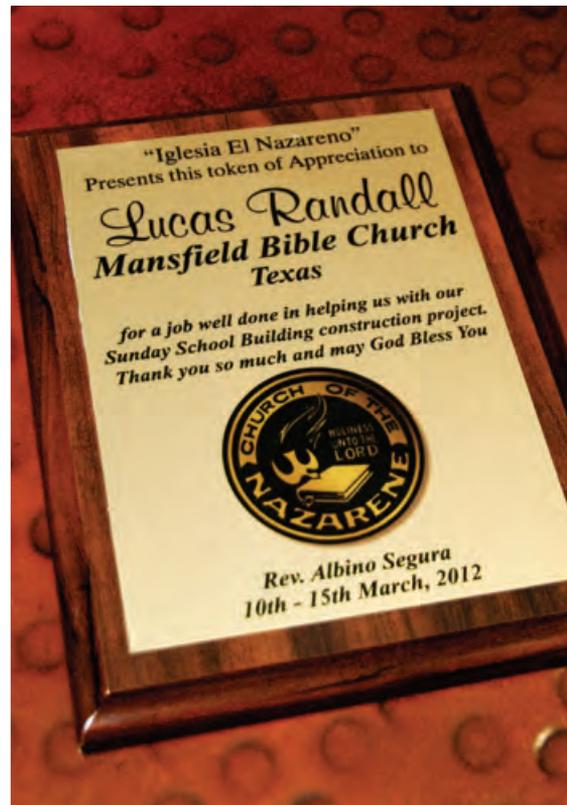
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thankful for everything I have, because some kids don't have anything close to what we have in America," said student Blair Burke. "We brought little cross erasers and Christian bracelets to give away as a little token prize, and the kids were very happy to get them. For something so little they were sincerely grateful."

Blair was not expecting the level of poverty she saw. "I knew that it was a poorer country, but until I got there, I didn't know how poor they really were. Some of the houses were falling apart, and families were living in the worst conditions. It made me sad for all those families who had so little."

The best memory Blair took back from Belize was the kids. "Seeing the kids' happy faces whenever we returned," she explained. "They didn't even know us that well, but they were glad that we were there. I made friends with the kids in Belize. They were so grateful for everything they had, even though to us it seemed like nothing."

Student Dayton Beal also came back with a new perspective. "I learned that you don't have to have luxury items to be happy. Your relationship with God and trying to help others is real happiness," he admitted. Dayton particularly enjoyed

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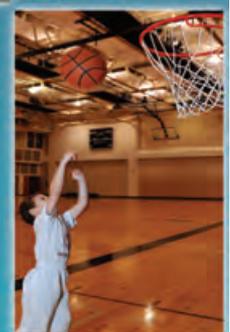
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helping with the music ministry with both the adults and children. Just like Blair, he felt that the excitement of the children was one of the most heartwarming parts of the trip.

Overall, the experience has led Dayton to decide that missions do not have to be a once a year thing. "Since my return, I am looking forward to many opportunities in the future to not only help those in other countries, but to get involved more in helping those who are local as well," he explained.

Libby Owens, another student who was changed, agreed with Dayton and Blair when it came to the children. In fact, that seemed to be a recurring theme in all testimonies about the spring break project. "My best experience was the kids. They were sweet and welcoming, and they made me feel at home," Libby said. "But what surprised me most was how happy they were, they had practically nothing but they were still thankful for what they did have." Just like her fellow students, Libby looks at the things around her a little differently after her return from Belize. "I feel like I'm more thankful for everything we have," she added.

And like the others, Libby feels like her relationship with God changed for the better as a result of her participation in this trip. In fact, her final comment may be the best proof that Lucas achieved the goals he felt led to set for the trip concerning broadening their outlook on missions, life and their Creator. "I learned how to follow God and do what He asks you to do," Libby said, "even if you don't want to or feel like you can't." **NOW**

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No Fear, Know Freedom

— By Rick Hope

Like every parent and child, they have their similarities and their differences. The mother is random and spontaneous. The daughter is more organized and reserved. But when it comes to art, they share a common interest, and together they are using their talent to communicate a message.

Elaine Johnson never thought of herself as much of an artist until about eight years ago. “For some crazy reason, it’s always been hard to call myself an artist. In fact, saying it makes me cringe a little,” Elaine said. “I think I took one art class in high school. I don’t even remember having the desire



to. I have always, however, had the desire to express myself and my feelings.”

In college, Elaine began making framed collages of words for a few special loves in her life. That progressed into creating greeting cards and other small means of communicating friendship or love. “I think it was about six years ago that I decided to take a watercolor painting class. It was an absolutely intimidating experience,” Elaine said. “As we went around the room introducing ourselves, each person mentioned their art experience. I remember an ex-Hallmark illustrator and a few experienced art teachers. Every single person there had some degree of an impressive background. And there was me. I didn’t have anything to claim.” Still something in her just wanted to try. “I wanted to tell fear where to go, and move on in freedom.”

Most recently, she was inspired by something she saw on the Internet about an artist who had created 100 paintings in 100 days. “Shaun and I have never met, but when I came across his blog one day and saw what he had done, I knew right then that we were kindred spirits. I actually asked permission to ‘copycat’ him because I didn’t want to steal his thunder,” Elaine said in her blog, “Around My World In 80 Days.” After that post, Elaine set out to produce 80 paintings in 80 days.

Her 15-year-old daughter, Alison, has



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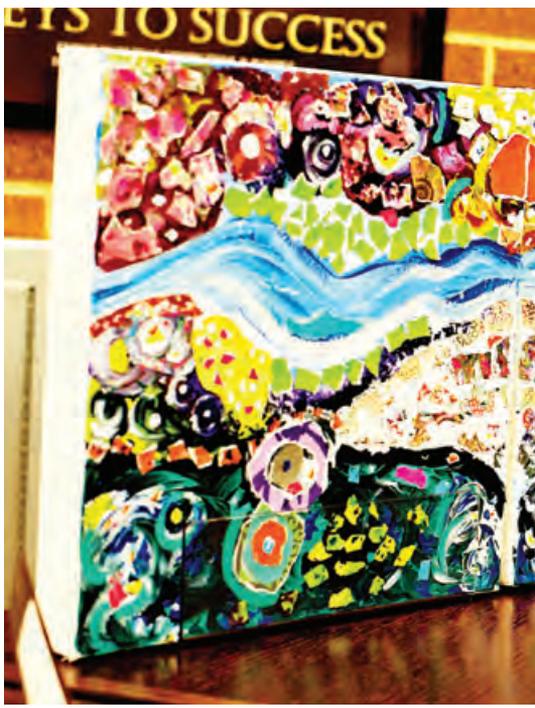
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been described by others as easygoing and a peacemaker. She is also a musician, a writer and photographer, whose art is phenomenal and beyond her young age. Alison, unlike her mom, has always been

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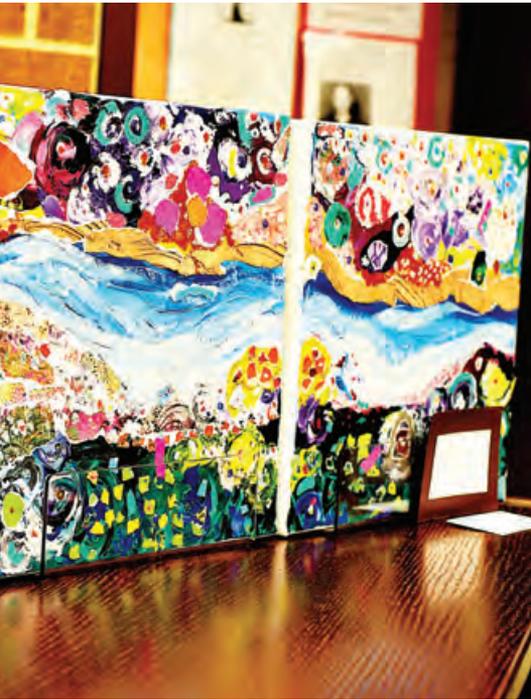
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artistic. However, she admits that she got some inspiration to do more with her talents from watching her mother. "Mom is more technical in her art than I am," Alison said. "She will decide one day to work with colors or the next day to work with lines. I am more random and sporadic when I paint."

Both find this amusing, since the way they do art is a direct opposite of their personality traits. "Alison has to be inspired when she paints. I take a more of a 'try,



fail, try again' approach," Elaine shared. In her blog, Elaine told a story that illustrates to a degree exactly how much of a difference there is between mother and daughter. Elaine was trying to catch an inspiration for her thirteenth painting. She was stressed beyond belief because of different circumstances around the house and some personal issues that were

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going on at the time. Alison came in the room to paint with her. "I like to work alone," Elaine told her. Finally finding inspiration, Elaine began to work on her project. "Just as I was getting started, Alison started shaking the table as she was doing some cool texture technique on her painting" Elaine explained. "Right then and there, I thought I was going to flip



*"I ask God for
inspiration and scripture
every time I paint."*

out." In the end, everything turned out well and the two have worked together in the same place several times since.

Recently, Elaine was talking to a co-worker, Suzanne Moncuse, who is a librarian at Mansfield High School. In past conversations, they had discovered they both had a love for art and would often share with each other about different projects they were undertaking. Suzanne also told Elaine that she had often pondered the idea of having a faculty art show in the library. But in this particular conversation, she had a different idea. "She wanted me to have my own show in the school library," Elaine recalled.

At first, Elaine had loved the idea. It was a way of expressing her deep faith. In her blog, Elaine described the day when she realized she could go deeper and further in her relationship with Jesus, and He would reciprocate. It was also a way in which she could inspire others to get over their fears and to explore their talents. To do an art show that showcased her work exclusively was, to her, a phenomenal opportunity.

But then, she thought about Alison.

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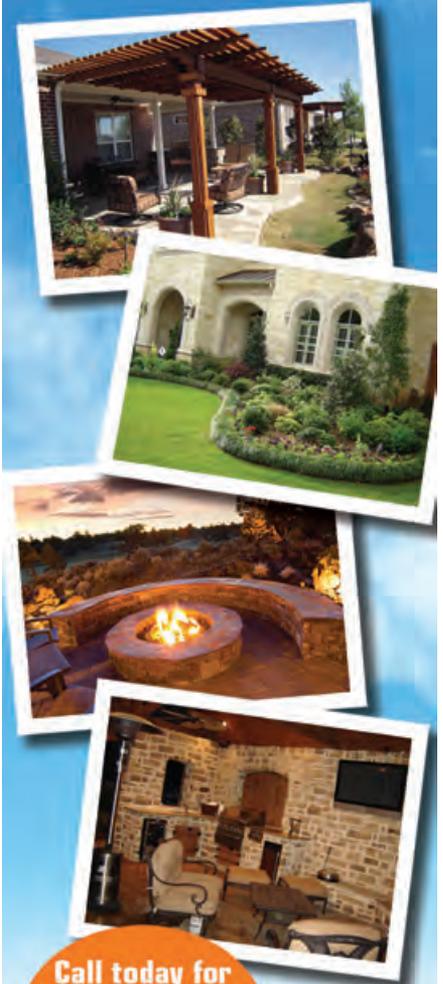
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“You want your ceiling to be your children’s floor,” Elaine said. “I just felt inspired by God that the show should display work from both Alison and myself.” That work was on display in the Mansfield High School library from April 11 through May 11, 2012.

Elaine draws on her deep faith in God when she paints and hopes that hers and Alison’s art is used to draw others to Him. “I ask God for inspiration and scripture every time I paint,” she confessed. “It’s my hope that even though a painting can’t speak, it might still motivate others to think about Him.”



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Painting is not the only thing the Elaine and Alison enjoy together. They both love spending time with their family. Elaine is married to Terry, and in addition to Alison they have two other children, Mallory, 11, and Taylor, 19. Terry and Elaine are both active members of Heritage Family Church in Southlake. Elaine loves to cook, travel and do anything in the outdoors. Alison, a student at Legacy High School, also loves traveling and enjoys photography. “I’d love to do art full time, but I will probably pursue a career in photography,” Alison said. “There are just more jobs available.”

The name of the art show that displayed the Johnsons’ art was “No Fear, Know Freedom.” The theme reflects the contrast between two artists, so similar in heart, mind and style, yet so different in approach. There is definitely something else they hope others glean from their show: “Don’t let fear limit you. At least try. In trying you find great freedom.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Elaine’s blog can be found at www.artbyelaine.wordpress.com.

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Gabe Ramirez, owner of The Taco Spot, is proud of his authentic Fresh-Mex food, especially the fish tacos.

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— By Jeremy Agor

Gabe Ramirez experienced culinary culture shock when he moved to Texas after living in California all his life. He came to Mansfield because the cost of living in his home state was too high and he had family here nagging him to come to Texas. He was not prepared for the lack of authentic Mexican food, however.

“When I came here I couldn’t get used to Tex-Mex food. I was used to what they call Fresh-Mex in California, where everything from salsas to tacos is made fresh. I wanted to have a nice place for people to go. That’s why I opened The Taco Spot. I wanted to bring that culture and food here,” he said.

Gabe opened the first Taco Spot in Arlington in April 2011

and followed with the Mansfield store in December 2011 because of demand from his customers, many of whom lived in Mansfield. He went to great lengths to make the interior pleasant so that people would feel good going there. All of the food is made fresh and there is a wide variety to choose from. “We started as just street tacos, but we’ve added enchiladas, burritos, tortas, chile rellenos and nachos. We have pineapple and horchata aguas frescas. We also serve breakfast tacos and burritos all day. Everything we have is made-to-order, not on an assembly line,” Gabe said.

The Taco Spot’s specialties are al pastor tacos, made with pork, steak and bacon and marinated in a homemade rub;

Business **NOW**

and fish tacos, which have been the restaurant's best seller since he began serving them. "We brought a lady in from Mexico City to make the rub for the al pastor. She made 35-40 gallons of it. I got the recipe for fish tacos from a friend who lives in Baja California. When you go through that kind of effort it shows. People always comment on how true to Mexico our food is," Gabe said.

Gabe worked for the restaurant industry for all of his life before opening his own restaurant, and he took a piece of every company he ever worked for and has applied it to his current venture. He says that a lot of people think that

"I wanted to bring that culture and food here."

The Taco Spot is a franchise, but it is really a mom-and-pop operation. "We relate with our customers. We are on a first-name basis with a lot of them. I don't ever want to lose that because then we're just another face on the block," he explained.

In addition to normal Mexican fare, The Taco Spot has soy-based products and can cater to people with special diets. "We can make a gluten-free diet work. We can make anything the way you want it. We can tailor our food to any choice," Gabe said.

Gabe and his staff constantly work to improve their food. They just added chicken adobo to the menu and he proudly calls it their best chicken ever. It uses grilled chicken with the rub normally used on al pastor tacos and makes the chicken "100-percent better," he said.

With all the available options it may be difficult to choose what to eat, but Gabe recommends the fish tacos. "If you like fish tacos, you'll love these. If you've never had one or are thinking of trying one, do it. We'll make a believer out of you," he said. **NOW**

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Plan for the Expected – but Prepare for the Unexpected

To enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle, you'll need to have adequate financial resources in place. And that means you must plan for the expected — but prepare for the unexpected.

In planning for the “expected” aspects of your retirement, consider these factors:

- *Your vision of your retirement lifestyle* — What do you want to do during your retirement years? Spend more time with your family? Volunteer? Open your own business? Your expectations of your retirement lifestyle will dictate, to a large extent, your savings and investment strategies.
- *Your expenses* — Once you've established a vision for your retirement lifestyle, you can begin to estimate the expenses you expect to incur during your retirement years.
- *Your income* — You can expect to receive income from a variety of sources: Social Security, pensions, part-time employment and investments, such as your IRA, 401(k) and any taxable investment accounts you may have. You'll need to estimate about how much income all these sources could provide.
- *Your withdrawal rate* — If your investments are going to provide a significant part of your retirement income, you need to carefully manage annual withdrawals from your portfolio. Your withdrawal rate is key in helping to ensure your portfolio provides for your needs as long as you need it.
- *Your portfolio reliance rate* — Related to your portfolio withdrawal rate is your portfolio reliance rate — how much you rely on your portfolio to provide income. For instance, if you will need \$50,000 per year in retirement, and \$30,000 will come from your portfolio, your reliance rate will be 60 percent (\$30,000 divided by \$50,000). Your reliance rate will help determine how sensitive your strategy might be to outside events, such as market fluctuations.

While you need to be familiar with these expected elements of your retirement, you also must be prepared for the unexpected aspects, such as these:

- *Living longer than you expect* — How long you can expect to live is somewhat of a mystery. If you were to live longer than you anticipate, would you be financially prepared? To help make sure your money lasts throughout your lifetime, you may need to consider investments that can provide you with a lifetime income stream. And your longevity will obviously also affect your annual portfolio withdrawal rate.
 - *Inflation* — At an average inflation rate of three percent, your cost of living will double in about 24 years. That's why, even in retirement, you will need some growth-oriented investments, such as quality stocks to ensure you can maintain your desired retirement lifestyle. But if the unexpected happens, and inflation takes off at a much higher than average level, you may need to consider a greater amount of investments that offer the potential for rising income.
 - *Health care* — Even after you're on Medicare, which won't cover everything, you need to prepare for the unexpected, such as a lengthy illness or the need for some type of long-term care. You may also wish to “self-insure” to a certain extent by setting aside funds in a liquid, stable account.
- By positioning your investment portfolio for both the expected and the unexpected, you can go a long way toward enjoying the retirement lifestyle you seek. So plan ahead — and make the necessary adjustments as time goes by. **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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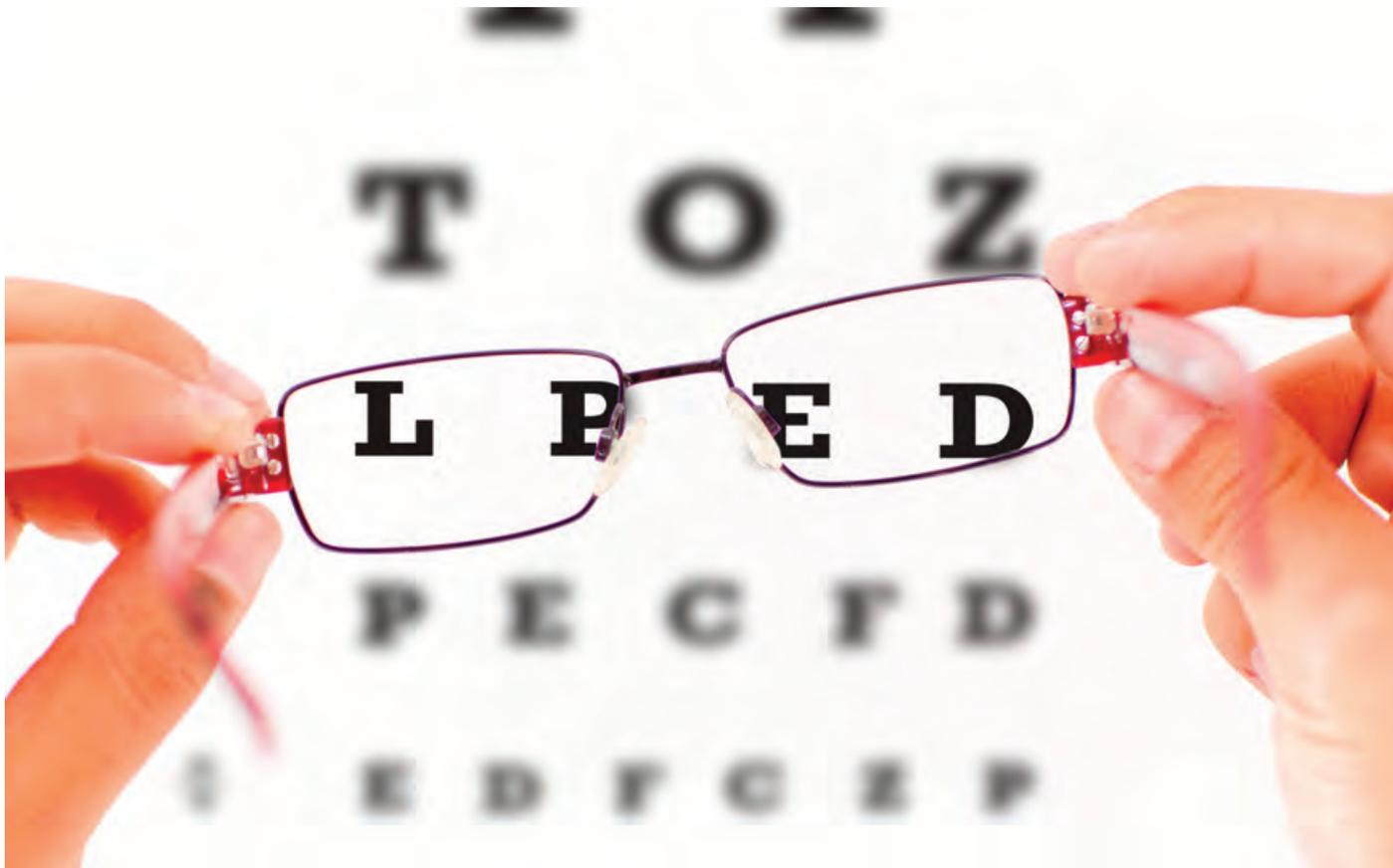
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Eyes Wide Open

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

If your child can see, you might take it for granted that everything related to their vision is perfect. It might not be. The American Optometric Association recommends children have their first comprehensive eye exam at 6 months of age, another one at age 3 and again right before beginning school. If problems are detected, the time table will change according to the specialist's recommendations.

It is important to have a child's vision tested at an early age. The earlier problems are discovered, the more responsive they will be to treatment. It also gives a child the opportunity to see the world as it really is. If a child has always had vision problems, they think what they see is the way the world is supposed to look. What a tremendous opportunity to give them the gift of true sight.

The benefits to a child entering school with normal vision are obvious and vital. Here are a few specific vision skills crucial to your child's success in school.

1. Visual acuity is how clear or sharp a person's vision is in the distance and up close. This can be measured with the Snellen test that will show if your child's visual acuity is normal. This is a test where the individual is positioned 20 feet from a Snellen eye chart and asked to read letters or symbols on different lines as accurately as possible. A normal reading yields the result of 20/20 vision.

2. Eye focus is important when a child must look up at the teacher or the board and then back at their paper or book. Their eyes must be able to handle this transition smoothly without having to squint or blink or struggle to bring shapes into alignment.

3. Eye/hand coordination is mentioned frequently in our culture. It is the ability of the eyes to receive information and direct or delegate which action the hands are to perform. When catching a ball or playing a video game, the eyes make the first determination of whether this task can be completed.

There are some signs parents can watch for if they suspect a problem with their child's vision. Sitting too close to the television, squinting at the computer, frequent rubbing of the eyes and blinking excessively are symptoms of possible eye problems. The bottom line is if your child does not get their vision screened, you do not know if they have problems or not. Getting their vision checked is just another step in ensuring they have the best future possible. **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.



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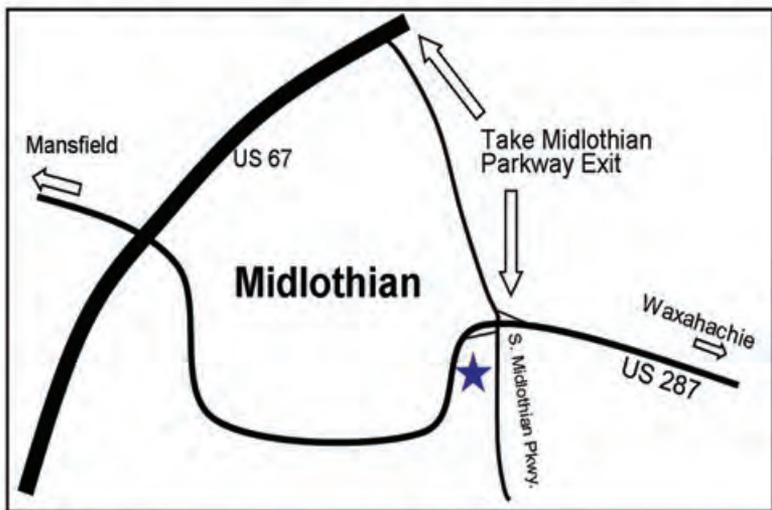


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Help Is Just a Click Away

— By Nancy Fenton

Late summer is a great time to spot trouble in your garden or lawn and get some answers. Spotting trouble can be done during the heat of the day, contrary to a lot of other gardening chores! To help with this task, the Master Gardeners use a lot of varied Web sites, including the Texas A&M one at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>. Texas has a special site for plants that do well in our areas. You can find it at <http://plantsfortexas.com>. Dave's Garden, <http://davesgarden.com>, and www.monrovia.com both have great images, as well as information.

More specific sites include: www.johnscheepers.com for bulb lovers, www.lilypons.com for hints and plants for ponds and www.petesherbs.com for herb information. Sick plants can perhaps be helped by checking out Urban Plant Pathology at <http://sickplants.tamu.edu/>. For help with soils and water problems as well as Texas-tested plants, try the Texas A&M site <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>. This site even has a section where you can enter your ZIP code plus the color, size and other specifics about the plant you want, and

they will give you a list of plants that will not only meet your needs, but survive your area extremes! Aggie Horticulture also has sections on vegetables, lawn, fruit trees and pests. It's all there and is just a matter of moving through the site. Have patience!

Information on organic gardening and pest control is also available at <http://organicgardeningtx.com/>. When in doubt, Google it, but remember most of the large search engines will put paying customers at the top of their search list. Be sure and check several pages. Lots of state universities have great sites, but temper your choices with knowledge of the differences in climate across the United States. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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Western Hospitality – Amarillo Style

Amarillo, the big city that tops the Texas Panhandle, has been welcoming travelers since the first Conestoga wagons rolled across the Texas Panhandle in the 1870s. Today's visitors still find rugged beauty, vast starry skies and great things to see and do while receiving the same warm Western hospitality.

One way to feel like you are still on those early wagons is a trip to Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This 30,000-acre park about 25 miles south of Amarillo is one of Texas' natural crown jewels and appears to the visitor much as it did when the first Anglo settlers came to the area. Hike, bike, camp, ride horses, view the canyon's wildlife or cool your feet in a stream, it's all easy to do in the canyon.

In the summer, you won't want to miss the outdoor musical drama *TEXAS*, an epic stage play about the settling of the Texas panhandle performed in the Pioneer Amphitheater with Palo Duro Canyon's walls as the backdrop. Or stay in town to enjoy our newly revamped downtown entertainment district and catch a show or sporting event at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts or the Amarillo Civic Center. Choose from a wide array of restaurants along or near Polk St. One of Amarillo's newest hotel properties, the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown in the historic Fisk Building along Polk St., is open and ready.

People always get a kick out of Historic Route 66 along Sixth Avenue between Georgia and Western. Lots of restaurants, shops and boutiques line this stretch of the highway that passed

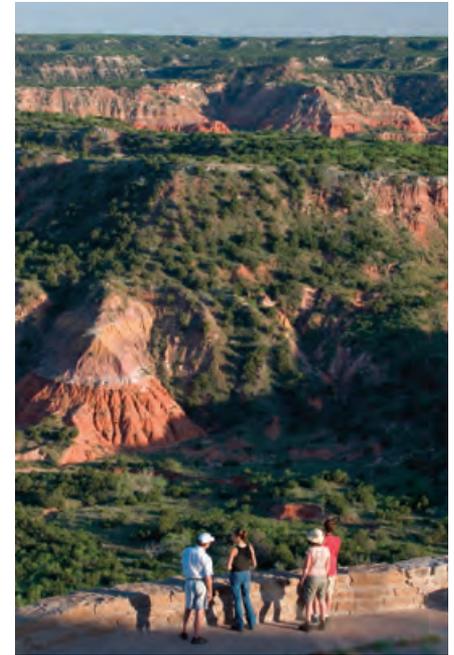
through Amarillo. Shopping for new cowboy boots and a hat? Check out all the Western items at outlets throughout the city.

Amarillo has a great assortment of family-friendly museums. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is like the Smithsonian, but with a Texas accent. The American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum tells the story of the horse that won the West. The Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian has a collection of Native American art and artifacts and offers performances by the Kwahadi Indian Dancers. Looking for hands-on science and a great education experience for the whole family? Visit the Don Harrington Discovery Center. Finally, the Amarillo Museum of Art hosts eclectic exhibits from throughout the art world.

New last summer were a \$52 million passenger terminal at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport and a new full service hotel, the Holiday Inn West.

And we've barely mentioned the world-famous Big Texan Steak Ranch (now with a microbrewery), Splash Amarillo (the area's only water park), the World Championship Ranch Rodeo (held each November), the quirky and popular Cadillac Ranch, minor league baseball, hockey and indoor football and motor sports at Route 66 Motor Speedway and Amarillo Dragway. **NOW**

For more information, go to our Web site: www.visitamarillotx.com. Photos and text courtesy of the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council.



August 4

Wendy Colonna: 8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$15-\$20. A multi-award-winning talent who sings Southern soul, Wendy was voted Austin's Best Singer Songwriter and received Grand Prize at the Famecast International Talent Competition. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (817) 453-1700 or visit www.farrbest.com.

Workshop: Silent Epidemic of Youth Suicide: 11:45 a.m.-12:40 p.m., Tarrant County College Southeast Campus, ESEC Building, 2100 Southeast Pkwy., Arlington. This workshop will help you understand the facts, risk factors and warning signs associated with youth suicide. Call (817) 515-3468.

August 6

Summer Wildflower and Bird Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., The Indian Trail Master Naturalists will lead summer wildflower and bird walks at Mockingbird Nature Park. Bring water to drink, bug spray and sun screen and binoculars. Daily walks are subject to weather conditions. Mockingbird Nature Park is located just north of Mockingbird on Onward Road, Midlothian.

August 9

Mansfield Diabetes Education Group Eating Healthy Class: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 E. Broad St., Classroom C. What am I supposed to eat when I have diabetes? How do I know if it belongs in my meal plan? What information should I look at on a food label? Get great information on planning your meals and learn about healthy food options at this free class.

August 10

Live music by Scott & Steve, Steven's Bar and Grill, 223 Depot Street. House band Scott & Steve play a variety of music: Bluegrass, Blues, Classic Rock, Country, Easy Listening and more. For more information, call (817) 473-8733.

August 18

Fun with Mrs. Fields: The first day of school will be here before you know it. Send your student over to create a gift for their teacher and learn to make some yummy after-school snacks. For more information on the Back to School Cooking & Crafting session, contact Mrs. Fields at (940) 300-0191. Cost: \$35. Visit www.facebook.com/funwithmrsfields.

August 22

Convocation for all Mansfield ISD employees: 9:00 a.m., Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Lane. For more information, visit <http://www.mansfieldisd.org/center/index.htm>.

August 23

Mansfield ISD School Board meeting: 7:00 p.m., 605 E. Broad Street, Mansfield. See agendas at <http://mansfieldpublic.novusagenda.com>. Call Julie Moye at (817) 299-6382.

August 25

Live music by Don Hyrkas, Steven's Bar and Grill, 223 Depot Street. Don Hyrkas sings all the greats: Tony Bennett, Hank Williams, Bobby Vinton, John Denver, Frank Sinatra, Willie and the like! Call (817) 473-8733.

August 26

Dedication of Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Lane. Visit <http://www.mansfieldisd.org/center/index.htm>.

August 27

First day of school for Mansfield ISD. Visit www.mansfieldisd.org.

September 22

Revvin' for the Ribbon: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Tarrant County College, Southeast Campus. A motorcycle rally and benefit concert for breast cancer surgery patients. To learn more or to participate, call (682) 422-3973 or log on to www.revvinfortheribbon.com.

September 29

Garden Tea Tour: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Five Gardens in Ellis County on tour benefiting The Green Garden Club. Guests will enjoy the beautiful gardens and a complimentary progressive tea throughout the tour. Tickets are available online at www.greengardenclub.org. Call Carolyn Mixon at (214) 914-6030.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Kiwanis Afternoon Club meetings: Noon, Spring Creek Barbeque, 1724 N. Highway 287. Visit www.kanmansfield.org.

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th Street, Midlothian. This is a program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery program.

First and Third Mondays

Planning and Zoning Commission meetings: 6:30 p.m. City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. Visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/bcc/commissions/pz/>.

Second and Fourth Mondays

City Council meetings: 7:00 p.m., City Hall,

1200 E. Broad St. To view meeting details and agendas, log on to <http://mansfield.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Kiwanis Mansfield Afternoon Club meetings: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fat Daddy's on Debbie Lane. Call Cheryl Litke at (817) 453-5106.

First Tuesdays

Mansfield Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) meetings: 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. For more information, visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/bcc/boards/medc>.

First Wednesdays

Zoning Board of Adjustments meetings: 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. For more information, visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/bcc/boards/zba>.

Second Wednesdays

Library Advisory Board meetings: 6:00 p.m., Mansfield Public Library Community Room, 104 S. Wisteria St. Visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/bcc/boards/mplab/>.

Thursdays

Mansfield Sunrise Rotary meetings: 7:00-9:00 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. Call Robert Putman at (817) 453-1616.

Open mike night at Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th Street, Midlothian. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. Start time: 7:00 p.m. Anyone can come and play as long as it is family-friendly.

Third Thursdays

Mansfield Park Facilities Development Corporation meetings: 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. Visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/bcc/boards/mpfdc> for more information.

Fridays

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meetings: 7:00 a.m., Fire Mountain Restaurant, Hwy. 287 South near the Walnut Creek service road. For more information, contact Darryl Haynes at (817) 822-4210 or haynes.darryl@sbcglobal.net.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to jeremy.agor@nowmagazines.com.



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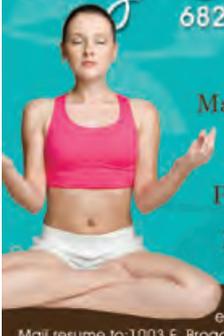


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In The Kitchen With Phyllice Holly

— *By Jeremy Agor*

Phyllice Holly grew up 30 minutes north of New Orleans. Her children are Creole and that is how she cooks. “I have fond memories of food and our entire family enjoying Sunday meals. My culinary awakening came from my many travels to Europe, where I decided to become a ‘foodie,’” she said.

Phyllice also learned to cook better by dining at some of the world’s finest restaurants. She has eaten with famous chefs Emeril Legasse, John Besh and Paul Prudhomme. “I learned from John Besh to get the freshest local vegetables in season at a co-op. “I’m proud that I have catered a dinner for 200 for the executive pastors at the Potter’s House and cooked for NFL administrators during the Super Bowl,” said Phyllice. **NOW**

Red Beans

- 1 lb. dried kidney beans**
- 1 ham bone or leftover ham**
- 6 cups water**
- 2 lbs. link sausage cut in 1-inch pieces**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. hot pepper sauce**
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 tsp. onion powder**
- 1 bay leaf**
- 3 cups cooked rice**

1. Soak beans overnight. Drain.

2. In a large Dutch oven or kettle, add all ingredients (except rice) and bring to a boil, stirring frequently to prevent sticking. Reduce heat to low; cook slowly for several hours, stirring occasionally. If necessary, add more water. Serve over rice. Serves 6.

Seafood Pie

- 1 9-inch pie shell**
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine**
- 1/4 cup green pepper, chopped**
- 1/4 cup green onions, chopped**
- 1/4 cup celery, chopped**

- 1 3-oz. can mushrooms**
- 1/2 lb. lump crabmeat**
- 1/2 lb. shrimp, boiled and peeled**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated**
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese, grated**
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice**
- 1/8 tsp. Tabasco sauce**
- 1 egg, beaten**
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise**
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds**

- 1.** Bake pie shell partially at 400 F for 5 to 7 minutes.
- 2.** Melt butter in large skillet; sauté green pepper, green onions, celery and mushrooms.
- 3.** Add crabmeat, shrimp, 3/4 cup cheddar cheese, parmesan cheese, lemon juice, Tabasco sauce, egg and mayonnaise. Stir well to combine. This mixture should be moist but not runny, so drain off excess liquid. Spoon into pie shell.
- 4.** Bake at 350 F for about 20 minutes. Add almonds and remaining cheddar cheese.
- 5.** Bake 10 minutes longer. Baking time can be shortened slightly by heating combined filling ingredients before spooning into pie shell. If fresh seafood is not available, canned seafood can be effectively substituted.

Serves 6.

Oven-fried Fish Fillets

- 1 stick margarine**
- Fish fillets**
- Vegetable oil**
- Salt and pepper**
- Italian bread crumbs**

Basting Sauce

- 1 stick margarine, melted**
- Juice of 1 lemon**

- 1.** Melt margarine in baking pan in a 400 F oven.
- 2.** Dry fish; using hands, cover fish well with oil.
- 3.** Season with salt and pepper and roll in bread crumbs. Place in pan with margarine, skin side down. Bake uncovered for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Do not turn.
- 4.** Combine sauce ingredients; baste. Serve remaining sauce with meal.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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