

# LUCAS *Estate Life*

March 2018

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LUCAS



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**  
ISD News: LCA HOCO  
History of Lucas: Part 4  
Plus More!

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Family**



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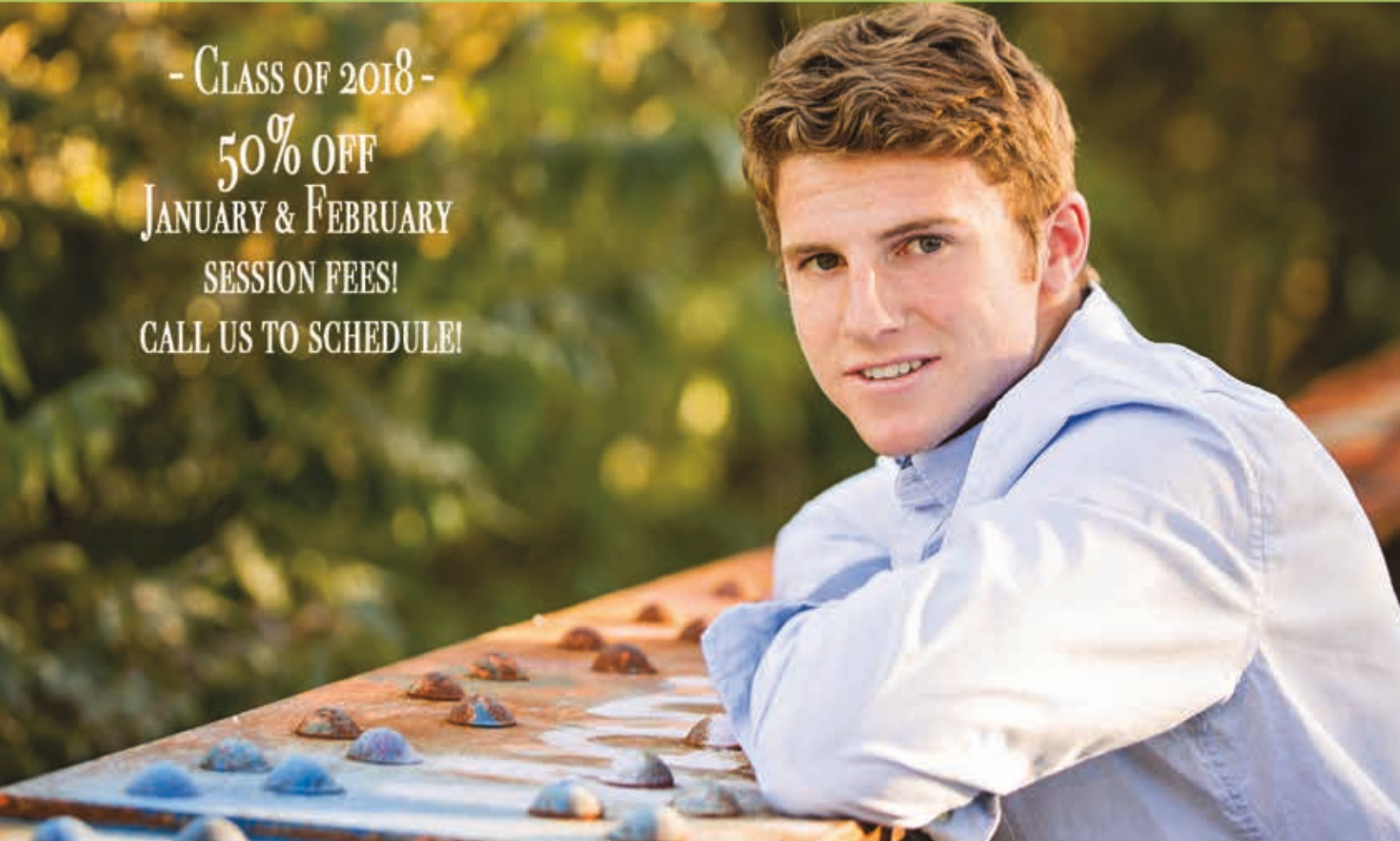
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editor's note

# MARCH-ING

## ALONG WITH TIME...

**It's hard to believe that we are already in the month of March. The past several issues of *Estate Life Lucas* have really whistled by, but I hope you were able to catch the great stories that your fellow Lucas-ites shared.**

In this issue, we highlight several incredible student writers as well as community pieces with some local flavor. The **ISD News** section switches perspective to hear from the folks at Lucas Christian Academy. Back in 2017, I saw a Facebook post with a photo of LCA students in crazy fun costumes. I reached out to LCA and found some fantastic student talent. Rosalyn Larson really brings the HoCo experience to life by giving us a tour.

Hannah Ortega, a student from Lovejoy High School, wrote a special story just for *Estate Life Lucas* that shines a spotlight on the award-winning broadcast team at LHS. These students really fit the **Young Achievers** section by setting the bar for new students coming up.

The issue also includes an **In the Garden** section to get aspiring gardeners started this spring and the next installment in the **History of Lucas** series. This month's issue is packed with stories and news from the community. Hopefully you are able to get to know some new people and find out what makes them tick. Happy reading!



*Shelly Brink*

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# Denim & Diamonds GALA

By **Cindy Booker**, Executive Director, Foundation for Lovejoy Schools

The Foundation for Lovejoy Schools will host their 12th annual Denim and Diamonds Gala and Auction on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center in Plano. This year's theme is Lone Starry Night. Chair Carrie McClure and Co-Chair Aimee Peay welcome you to a night featuring dinner, entertainment and live auctions.

Tickets for the Gala went on sale Friday, February 9, 2018, for \$135 each. The ticket price increases to \$150 beginning Friday, March 9, 2018. For more information, visit [FoundationForLovejoySchools.org](http://FoundationForLovejoySchools.org) or contact Cindy Booker at [cindy\\_booker@lovejoyisd.net](mailto:cindy_booker@lovejoyisd.net) or at **469-742-8043**.



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# Meet the BEHYMERS

**I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT TO MYSELF, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPACE TO TELL THIS FAMILY'S STORY. FOR THE BEHYMERS, THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE. I NEED A PODCAST SO THEIR MESSAGE DOES NOT GET LOST IN MY TRANSLATION. THEIR STORY MAY IMPACT YOU OR, DARE I SAY, EVEN SAVE YOUR LIFE.**

Roger and Angela Behymer aren't all that different than the many other great families we've featured in recent months. They both grew up just north of us, in Oklahoma.

Roger is an entrepreneur. He's a former tech/startup guy, turned financial planner currently running his own financial planning firm, Affinity Financial Services, from his home-based office in Lucas. Angela, a former elementary school teacher for more than 15 years, is now Affinity Financial Services office manager, helping Roger with daily duties.

They have two kids, Garrett, 11, fifth grade, and Kinsley, 7, first grade. Garrett attends Sloan Creek Intermediate, and Kinsley attends Hart Elementary in Lovejoy ISD. Kinsley loves playing with dolls. She is "into" gymnastics, cheerleading, basketball and skiing. Garrett loves to play the guitar. When he's not strumming the strings, you'll likely find him programming on the computer or somewhere in the neighborhood outside with his friends.

All seems like another typical Lucas family and their story, right?

What most don't know about the Behymers is that Roger is a colorectal cancer survivor. They hope their story might help others avoid some of the troubles they faced.

Roger, an active, healthy, middle-aged male, led a very normal life. He worked. He cycled 20-plus miles each time he jumped on his road bike. He coached his son's hockey team. He attended his daughter's gymnastics classes.

By all accounts, perfectly normal. So normal in fact, early warning signs were quickly dismissed. While this doesn't make for great dinner conversation, we'd be remiss if we didn't share. One of the very early symptoms was when Roger first noticed blood in his stool. He thought it was a byproduct of how much he cycled. For those of you who cycle, hemorrhoids are very common. Hard seat, prolonged periods of time on the bike, etc. It's something cyclists get used to.

But Roger soon knew something was not right. He was losing weight. His energy levels were declining. He was unable to go on those 20-mile bike rides because of lack of stamina and the pain associated with sitting on the bike for very long.



Angela knew it, too. After watching Roger live with the symptoms for way too long, she encouraged him to call his primary care doctor, schedule an appointment, and start the process. His primary care physician ordered Roger to have a colonoscopy. It seemed reasonable, given Roger's symptoms.

But here's where it gets tricky. Roger's first colonoscopy came back showing a small benign tumor that was dismissed by the doctor. Most people would just move on after this; but Roger and Angela weren't satisfied. They went for a second opinion. The second doctor recommended another biopsy, which also came back benign. If you're a numbers guy/gal, as the financial planning Behymers are, you'd quickly conclude with two docs, two benign biopsies, let's move on from the C word.

Not so fast. Still knowing that something wasn't right, Roger pursued it further. He ultimately had two colonoscopies from two different doctors. It wasn't until after many CT, MRI, and PET scans that it actually showed Roger had colorectal cancer that had already starting spreading to his lymph nodes.

He started chemo and radiation treatments and then had the necessary surgery to remove the mass. While chemo and radiation alone would have probably worked, doctors wanted to remove this area to be certain the cancer would be resolved.

So, just when you think WOW, that's a lot to deal with ... at least there's a happy ending, there is more to the story. There was a surgical complication. As a direct result of the procedure to restructure Roger's "plumbing" as he likes to say, a very large infection began. For over nine months, nobody knew the extent of what was happening. Doctors thought it was just an infection and prescribed antibiotics. The Behymers weren't buying this. At one point, the doctors even thought the cancer was coming back.

Through patience, prayer, persistence, perseverance ... and Google, Angela learned about something called an Anastomotic Leak. It statistically affects only 2.6 percent of those who undergo colonic anastomosis, but, as Roger shared, "I drew the small straw."

With the help of fantastic doctors and nurses, Roger underwent a third major surgery to fix this problem, is now cancer-free and his "plumbing" works properly.

The Behymers' story is truly amazing. While it would have been easy to point the finger or even take legal action, the Behymers chose neither. Instead, they are thankful that Roger is here, alive, doing well, able to enjoy life and watch Garrett and Kinsley grow up. They are even more thankful for the incredible support they received from the Lucas community, friends and neighbors. They share the story to provide awareness and express gratitude for such a special community.

**Call To Action:** In February 2000, President Clinton officially dedicated March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. For more information, please visit [www.ccalliance.org/awareness-month](http://www.ccalliance.org/awareness-month).



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kids 2 kids

# Calling ALL KIDDOS!



Over the last two-plus years, we have had the esteemed privilege of featuring an incredible lineup of kiddos from our community, in this section (Kid2Kid).

With several feature kids already chosen and planned for the new year, we wanted to use this opportunity to place a CALL TO ACTION to all of you reading your favorite neighborhood magazine. We ask you to nominate a friend, neighbor or even your own kids, to be featured in a future issue of *Estate Life*.

The process is simple. We have a very informal interview so we can learn more about the kids. There's a fun photo shoot with Candi McGill, our official Kid 2 Kid photographer. Sometimes we just do a phone/email interview and use your favorite photos. It is way more fun than anything else ... we're a very laid-back group here at the magazine.



If you want to watch your kids' faces light up when they see themselves in print, reach out! Email us at [jonathan.price@n2pub.com](mailto:jonathan.price@n2pub.com) or [katherine.ponder@n2pub.com](mailto:katherine.ponder@n2pub.com).



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## Local. Dependable. Honest.

Words like these are easy to use but often carry little weight, other than to provide great marketing buzz on what a business “stands for.”

However, for Randy Pickle and Pickle Roofing Solutions, these adjectives truly define the business, Randy, and the character of his entire team.

Local. Yes. Randy has lived in Allen for over 25 years along with his bride Dana and their two kids, Sarah and McDowell. Sarah is 19 and a sophomore at University of Arkansas. McDowell is 21 and a junior at Texas A&M.

Born and raised in the Lufkin/Nacogdoches area, Randy went to Texas State Technical College in Waco. He later graduated and moved to Dallas, where he began working at Texas Instruments as a draftsman.

A fellow TI workman and friend left the company to start his own roofing business. After about seven years, this friend convinced Randy to come work with him. Randy literally learned every aspect of the roofing business, from the top down. He stayed with this company for ten years, but when Randy realized that equity/ownership was never going to be possible, he decided it was time for him to start something of his own. Pickle Roofing Solutions was born.

What started with a little bit of seed money from an elementary school friend quickly turned into a thriving business. It is now celebrating its eighth year.

Dependable. Today Pickle Roofing is one of the best in the business, specializing in residential and commercial roofing. From roofs and gutters to fences and garage doors, Randy and his team are responsible for all aspects of any project, not just the roof.

This is incredibly important because unlike most roofers who aren't contractors, Randy and his team (Travis Dowell, General Manager; Barb Haka, Office Manager; Margaret Ferguson, Accounts; Julie Munson, Project Manager; and the rest of the crew) are positioned to assist with all aspects of the job. It's ideal for insurance claim cases related to things like hail damage, where more than just the roof is damaged.

One of the many credentials that sets Pickle apart from the field is their GAF Master Elite® rating. To become factory-certified as a GAF Master Elite® contractor, Pickle Roofing Solutions must demonstrate that they are properly licensed, adequately insured, have a proven track record and are committed to ongoing professional training.

Because of GAF's stringent standards, only 3% of all roofing contractors have qualified as Master Elite® contractors! Choosing a GAF Master Elite® contractor is your assurance that you'll be dealing with a quality, reputable and dependable professional contractor — not some “fly-by-nighter.”

For those reading this, it might just sound like a fancy marketing tool of some sort to be able to say you are GAF Master Elite®, but the reality is, it's much more than that.

As Randy shared, “Sure, having that type of accreditation is great, but it's worth more than just the logo. What most people don't understand and the reason why this is so important is that, should it ever come down to it, the fact that we are GAF Master Elite means GAF has its own sets of warranties and assurances. That's in addition to warranties we provide.”

The GAF warranty backs the roof no matter what. “While we've never had to have GAF exercise their warranty for work performed by Pickle, we have seen in the past where a roofer that is



GAF certified is no longer in business. However, the customer's roof is still considered under GAF warranty. If an issue arises, GAF is responsible should the original roofing contractor no longer be around to service such repairs.”

Honest. “Our objectives are to not only deliver an excellent product and service, but it's equally as

important to us to put the customer at ease throughout the entire process. We are here to help as consultants, not upsell them on things they don't need/want. We pride ourselves on having complete transparency and making sure they understand what we are doing and why. It's not every

day you are putting on a new roof and for many of our customers this is their first experience dealing with a roofer. We want the total experience to be a great one,” said Travis Dowell, General Manager.

Pickle has more than 30 years combined experience in providing quality roofing services to Lucas and Fairview homeowners and business owners who appreciate and expect excellent workmanship and unwavering integrity. “A successful contractor relationship is all about having your expectations met. You expect to work with someone who is accountable, approachable, respectful and focused on your job,” said Randy. “You won't get excuses, just a great experience. That is our pledge to you.”



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try). Blue and Gold day rounded out the week, and the whole school showed their spirit by decking out in glitter and face paint.

#### DECORATIONS

To kick off the exciting HoCo weekend, the Cheerleaders and Spirit Club members spent a sleepless night decorating the entire school. From painting windows to hanging posters, they did it all, and it was worth it. On Monday morning jaws dropped as the entire school had transformed into a wonderland of streamers, balloons and posters.

#### VOLLEYBALL: STUDENTS VS TEACHERS

On Monday during Higher Ground, students cheered on the Lady Warrior Varsity Volleyball team while they challenged the male teachers and staff. Although the staff got a lead early on, they could not make up for the experience of the Lady Warriors. Ragged from the defeat, the men gave up the court as the Varsity Football team stormed in and challenged the ladies to a rematch. Sadly, the spirit of the Football team was not enough to match the Volleyball team. The feeling of defeat did not last long, though, as the Cheerleaders had a table full of cookies for everyone to enjoy.

#### POWDERPUFF TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday, hungry students got to snack on a sweet treat wall, "Donut Feel Good to be a Warrior?", made by the Spirit Club. After school, students flocked to the bleachers to watch the Powderpuff tournament. On the field, the "Warriors" and "Black Thunder" battled it out to see who would be the next Powderpuff champs. Just off the field, senior football players barked out plays to their teams. Another senior football player kept up humorous play-by-play commentary for the game. The crowd especially enjoyed an impromptu half-time performance by a group of unofficial guy cheerleaders. During the third quarter, the Warriors gained a second wind, tying the game. In the fourth quarter, both teams showed their determination by scoring three touchdowns each and ending the game in a tie.

#### SPIRIT COMPETITIONS

The most exciting day was Friday. To start off the Pep Rally, the students watched a livestream of the football players and cheerleaders being escorted to the school by the Lucas Fire Department. Next, the spirit leaders intrigued the crowd by telling them the story of how the Strops Stick (sports backward) was created. After the story involving Michael Jordan and a magical pot and stick concluded, football players, cheerleaders and volleyball players competed for the ownership of the Strops Stick. The cheerleaders and football players were only seconds apart, but the football players won the game.



Class competition for the coveted Spirit Stick followed with the annual toe touch battle. Three guys from each grade in the high school competed for their class' right to own the spirit stick. Due to good form, Seniors won the toe touch battle, granting them the ownership of the Spirit Stick. For the grand finale, the cheerleaders astounded everyone with a spellbinding routine to the song "Catch Fire" by Mike Real. The rest of the day barely felt like a school day after such an exciting Pep Rally.

#### FOOTBALL GAME

Before the Football game on Friday, students enjoyed a tailgate, complete with a BBQ food truck. When the game itself started, the stands were full and camp

chairs lined the field rows thick. With a strong start, LCA had a fourteen-point lead when the first quarter ended. Westlake, however, began to catch up quickly with the score being 34-28 at halftime, LCA in the lead. By the end of the game, Westlake had gained the lead and the Lucas boys lost the game. Even though they lost the game, they did not lose their Warrior Spirit and were still able to celebrate the hard work and good sportsmanship of the Football team.

#### A NIGHT OF DANCING

To end the week, the LCA secondary enjoyed a night of dancing at the annual Warrior Bash (Homecoming Dance). LCA's Select band started the night off with a magnificent set of songs before handing it over to the DJ. There was not one person standing still when the night ended with the song "Don't Stop Believing". No one was ready for the dance to end, but class after parties kept the fun going for hours afterward.

Homecoming is the most anticipated week at Lucas Christian Academy. When it arrives, the excitement seems to consume the school. It's one way to let the students and community know how a little school can have big spirit.

# 2018 Still Feels *the spirit of* HOCO '17

By Rosalyn Larson, student at Lucas Christian Academy

Despite its size, Lucas Christian Academy can still rival other schools in spirit. Homecoming 2017 was no exception. With spirit dress up days, a Pep Rally, Powderpuff game, tailgate, and the tremendous energy that comes from playing the rival football team on the home field, it's no wonder the LCA students get so pumped for HoCo.

#### SPIRIT DAYS

Monday kicked it off with Dynamic Duo. Costumes like Grandma with her Life Alert button, Eggs and Bacon, and Thor and Loki filled the school. Those with classes on Tuesday were as comfy as could be on Pajama day. From Christmas sweaters to footies, everyone loved rolling out of bed and heading straight to school. Wednesday brought even more fun with costumes to match Disney vs Dreamworks day. Flynn Rider "Wanted" posters covered the walls both in and out of the classrooms, and Belle made an appearance wearing her iconic yellow dress. Students brought their A-game with Thursday's theme: Country vs Country Club. From flannel and boots to monocles, it was obvious which side people chose (except for the person who wore a polo and khakis but claimed to be coun-

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## in the garden

By Kathleen LoSapio, Lucas resident



# SPRING GARDENING In Lucas

January and February are the months that seed catalogs show up in our mailbox. Hope springs up and you think that maybe this year you will grow that tomato that tastes just like the ones you remember as a child: juicy, bright red and full of flavor.

While it is too early for tomato planting outside, it can be the time to start them inside. If you want to try some of the varieties that were developed to honor Ball Seed Company's 100th year anniversary, you can try out the Bush Champion II VFFA Hybrid. Other varieties include Carbon, Paul Robeson and Super Marzano. Seed catalogs that specialize in different varieties of tomatoes are *John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds*, *Territorial Seed Company* and *Tomato Growers*.

If you want to start seed inside, you should start them 5 to 6 weeks before the average last frost; in Collin County, that is March 15. A lot of the big box stores have kits to start seed along with seed displays that offer lots of varieties. Place your seed in cells or peat pots, and situate them in a sunny window or under grow lights.

When you are ready to put the tomatoes outside, you need to give them some protection. Walls of water have been around for years and are used in northern

climates to insulate the plants from the cooler nighttime temperatures. They have channels to pour water into and are placed around the tomato. They heat up during the day when the sun shines and give off heat at night.

Before you plant your spring garden, the soil needs to be amended. Some good amendments include dry molasses, horticultural cornmeal, finished compost and fertilizer. One of the better fertilizers is Microlife.

### There are a variety of cool-season plants that can be planted now, such as:

- Beets
- Cabbage \*transplants
- Carrots
- Brussel sprouts \*transplants
- Cauliflower \*transplants
- Collards
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Onions
- Peas
- Radishes
- Spinach



Transplants are available in garden centers and nurseries now. Watering is a necessity after planting the seed and until the seedlings emerge. Keep in mind that if a day is windy you will need to water twice a day (since the wind will dry out the soil). Transplant plants also need water every day for 10 to 14 days. After the roots of the seedlings and transplants have established themselves in the soil, they can be watered every two to three days. A good water-soluble fertilizer can be watered every 10 to 14 days. Be sure to water and fertilize in the morning so that the leaves can dry before the cooler temperatures set in at night.

**The Collin County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer organization, has released their 2018 calendar of events.**

**The Garden Show 2018 will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 18.**

**Admission is a \$2 donation per person to benefit Volunteer McKinney. There will be free parking available. At the event this year, there will be:**

- Local garden vendors
- Garden presentations
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Activities for children
- Tours of the international, award-winning Earth-Kind® Research and Demonstration Gardens in Myers Park
- The Show Barn in Myers Park (Note: bring your own cart or wagon!)

**On Saturday, April 21, you can come out and peruse at the 15th Annual Plant Sale. It runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Show Barn in Myers Park. Come with your own cart or wagon!**

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# The Little Black Dress GIRLS NIGHT OUT



Join us for the little black dress girls night out, an entertaining evening for the women of allen and surrounding areas, to raise money to support women's services at texas health presbyterian hospital allen and the lifesaving impact it has in the community. Bring your favorite girlfriends and dance the night away while also enjoying drinks, dinner and fun games. This always-popular cocktail event also includes raffles, auctions and a wine pull.

In 2018, the Little Black Dress would like to widen its focus on women's health by reaching out to those women in Allen and the

surrounding communities who face barriers to health care, such as financial hardship, transportation challenges and cultural isolation. With proceeds from this year's event, the Texas Health mobile unit will travel to underserved areas to meet women in need where they live, work and worship, and provide digital screening mammograms and breast diagnostic procedures at no cost.

This year's event will be held on Friday, April 20, 2018, at the Courtyard Marriott with games, food, drinks, and a silent auction! For more info about the event, please visit: [TexasHealth.org/LittleBlackDress](http://TexasHealth.org/LittleBlackDress).

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## Lucas Statistics

Homes Sold in the Past 90 Days\*

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Parking	Pool
847 Bristol Park	Bristol Park Phase 2	\$839,000	3	3	4,305	0/0/0	No
805 Bristol Park	Bristol Park Phase 2	\$839,900	5	3.1	4,892	4/0/4	No
830 Kenwood Trail	Lewis Park Estates	\$845,000	5	4.1	4,339	4/0/4	No
2365 hendrix Avenue	Creekside Estates	\$865,000	5	5	5,016	4/0/4	No
805 Kenwood Trail	Lewis Park Estates	\$875,000	4	3.1	3,872	3/0/3	No
402 Terry	Brockdale Estates	\$887,067	4	4.1	4,605	3/0/3	No
830 Bentwater Drive	Bristol Park Phase 1	\$899,000	4	4.1	4,495	4/0/4	No
821 Parchman Place	Bristol	\$899,000	5	4	5,132	3/0/3	No
240 Natalie Court	Lewis Park Estates	\$899,000	4	3.1	3,872	3/0/3	No
2035 Chalfield Lane	Claremont Spgs #2	\$919,000	5	5.1	6,011	10/0/10	Yes
755 Kenwood Trail	Lewis Park Estates	\$935,000	5	4.1	5,577	4/0/4	No

Statistics for the Past 12 Months\*\*



# Animal HOUSE



Kelsey Carroll is the social media editor for *The Red Ledger*. The photo is courtesy of Meredith Elhmann. This story was originally published on the [redledger.net](http://redledger.net). Follow them on Twitter: @theredledgerlhs.

After senior Meredith Elhmann walks into her home after a day at school, she's greeted by Chopper, a Saint Bernard, lashing his head around in excitement, followed by a swarm of more than 30 other animals.

"It's a great learning experience, and it brings a lot of different personalities to the house," Elhmann said. "It just makes your life a lot more interesting."

The Elhmann family owns three dogs, two cats, a cockatiel, four betta fish, a chameleon, 13 koi fish, seven geese and a duck. Elhmann said both of her parents were raised on a farm and always encouraged her love of animals. The family's amount of animals grew after they had two dogs, two cats and a bird.

"I was at a birthday party, and there were just a bunch of kittens running around, and then my mom was like, 'Take one,' so I came home with a cat," Elhmann said. "One time we were at an animal shelter, and we found another cat. So we bought it because [my mom] was like, 'Wow, 25 dollars for a purebred cat.' As we were growing up, my sister and I really liked animals, and my parents were cool with us just getting more, I guess."

Elhmann said she is able to manage taking care of her animals very easily most of the time, and that they are more of a pleasure to have than a hassle.

"Definitely feeding them sometimes, I'll have to call my parents and ask them to do it when I get back really late, but usually I find the time," Elhmann said. "I'll find time to hang out with my dogs. [It] usually helps me wake up in the morning. I'll pet my dogs for at least 20 minutes before I start getting dressed, and then, after school, I'll probably hang out with the geese because they don't like to wake up until later."

The Elhmanns have a lake on their property for their koi fish, and most of their animals are able to roam in the yard during the day. Elhmann said having so many animals together has let her experience new aspects of wildlife that aren't normally seen.

"Like the geese, for example," Elhmann said. "A lot of people are afraid of them. It's really fun if you sit out in the yard; [if] you just yell, they come from wherever they are and they sit around you; and if you lay down, they sit on top of you. So that's pretty cool, and just taking care of them is a lot different. It offers new personalities to animals that you wouldn't quite see. My dog and my duck are best friends, and they play with each other, and it just offers different ways to see animals."

Senior Ryan Irwin said that Elhmann's animals complement who she is.

"For some reason, it's definitely in her personality," Irwin said. "It's really funny to see just how chaotic it all is when she's taking care of her animals, and it's just a lot of fun. I still feel like, even without all her animals, she'd still be who she is, but she definitely has a lot more love in her heart [from having the animals], to be corny."

Meredith's sister, Elizabeth Elhmann, said the two have worked well together to take care of and raise their animals, and that owning so many animals has become an interesting part of Meredith's life.

"I do believe that owning so many animals has helped me to develop skills like responsibility," Elizabeth said. "Other skills I have developed from taking care of animals include patience, understanding, and my ability to be a good teacher."

Meredith's favorite animal is her duck, and she said she believes her parents allowed them to have as many animals as possible so that she could learn from them.

"That's why [my mom] pushed for having pets and why she encouraged us. It has definitely taught me responsibility for other people and things outside of me, especially since animals are so dependent on their owners," Elhmann said. "So I think it definitely has taught me to think about other people and not just focus on what I need to do."

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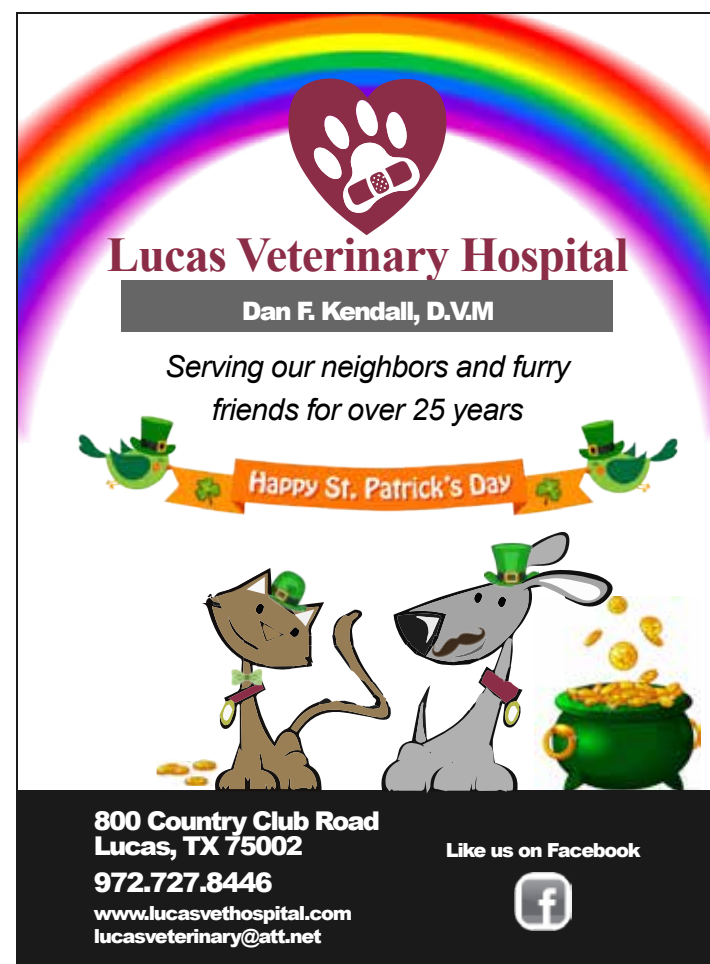


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# HISTORY OF LUCAS:

## LUCAS COMMUNITIES TIED TOGETHER WITH THE PURCHASE OF NEW SCHOOL SHOES

### PART 4

By **Debbie Fisher**,  
Lucas resident



Stinson

Two additional communities mentioned in the collected oral histories of Lucas are Engleman and Stinson. These are not easily found in an Internet search, so I am dependent on the previous writings and recordings of others.

Engleman is said to have been located near the intersection of FM 2170 (Estates Parkway) and Country Club Road. Apparently, there was a store on the north corner where these two roads met. This is the community that John W. Christian walked to from Tennessee in 1868. He had bought land nearby. His farm covered hundreds of acres, stretching from the now-named Christian Lane, where he lived with his family, to about Snider Lane. His family has a rich history with the community. Lucas resident Suzanne Christian Calton, daughter of John Christian's grandson named Wallace Christian, is the true historian of Lucas with her wealth of knowledge and saved memorabilia. So, if you see the

street, Christian Lane, you now know the origin of the street name.

Stinson was located on the south end of Stinson Road near Parker Road. I know there was a school called the Stinson School (later changed to the Parker School). Families living in this area included the Stinson family, the Biggs family and the Lewis Family.

In a story published in *A Look at Lucas* (a local newspaper published in the 1980s), Angela Poen recounts the tale of a member of the Biggs family and his journey to get school shoes around the year 1905. R.L. "Shorty" Biggs grew up in the Stinson area in a family of 14 children. Born in 1898, he attended the Lucas Community School and was later the owner of a store at the intersection of FM 1378 and Lucas Branch Road for 20 years. This is his story, as recorded by Ms. Poen:

"I was getting old enough to go to school. 'Course we was just a poor

family. We had a stand of mules to make the crop and they was our transportation. When we went to McKinney, once a year to buy supplies, we went in the wagon; when we went to the store around the grist mill, we rode the mule. Well, anyhow, this particular day, we was picking cotton and it came up a shower and we couldn't pick - had to quit. School was starting in just a few weeks. My dad told me, Pete and Clyde, 'Wee, you boys all need a pair of shoes; we can't just go to McKinney. We'll go up to Engleman's...'

"Jerome Sneed was running that store at the time, and my Dad and Jerome had growed up together, kinda buddies, you know. Well, we got on those little mules, Jack and Kate, and loped up to Jerome's store. Dad told him what we wanted and he fit Pete and Clyde both with shoes. He couldn't fit me. Well, I was looking down my nose pretty blue, no shoes and school gonna start.

"Well, I'll never forget it. I was riding behind my Dad on the little old mule called Kate; we loped around where the Baptist church is now - it was a pasture then. We got to the corner (Note: this would be near Stinson Road) - also a pasture then. We got to the corner and Dad told the boys, 'Ride



Christian homestead 1880



Wallace Christian

on home; I'll take Shorty down to see if old Strat can fit him.' I didn't know who old Strat was or where we was going. (Note: J.C. Stratton was the original owner of the country store and grist mill located near present-day FM 1378 and Lucas Branch Road.)

"We loped on down there and that old store was pretty new then, and it had been built over there in a pasture. The ground was sloping a lot, and the front end of the store had 3-foot blocks under it. He had made his porch there, you know, and raised it up good and had steps on both sides, north and south. I remember my Dad just rode Kate up to the east side of the porch, and it was so high I could just slide off that mule onto the porch.

"Well, we walked in and old Strat was taking shoes out of a big barrel - they use to ship shoes, in big barrels to the little country stores. Old Strat's byword was 'By cracky.' My Dad asked him, 'Reckon you can fit this boy with shoes?' By cracky, he believed he could! Well, that old store was 60 feet long then, and we went walking down the middle of that store, 20 feet wide and 60 feet long, and it seemed to me like we went a quarter of a mile. We went back to them there drawers that was built to slide in and out; he had all those drawers numbered and six shoes in them. Well, he fished around in there, and he found a pair of shoes that fit me. Boy, I got my school shoes! And that was the first time I remember being in Lucas."



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# PACEMAKER WIN SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON LOVEJOY BROADCAST

By Hannah Ortega, Lucas resident

Hannah Ortega is the editor-in-chief of *The Red Ledger*. Photos are by Parker Nolan, Shae Daugherty, Grace Nguyen, and Rebecca Pollard. Find more articles by Hannah and the other members of *The Red Ledger* staff at [theredledger.net](http://theredledger.net). Follow them on Twitter: @theredledgerlhs.

As he walked back to his seat and past the rows of countless journalism students from all over the country with a plaque in his hands, he was unabashed.

A wide grin pushed up his cheeks, and he did a subtle victory dance down the aisle as the yearbook adviser recorded the moment with her phone.

“Let’s go!” he said.

On that day in November, senior and executive producer Grant Dennis brought back a Pacemaker, the National Scholastic Press Association’s (NSPA) highest honor for scholastic journalism, to the team behind Lovejoy High School’s monthly broadcast show, Leopard Spotlight, after only a year of production.

“Honestly, we were not expecting even to be nominated in our first year as a program just because we’ve never heard of that before,” Dennis said. “The fact that we were nominated was a huge victory for me. Then, when they called our name for actually winning, it was like just this huge rush of disbelief and amazement, and then it really settled in, and it was like, ‘Wow, we are really up there with the top broadcast schools.’”

Leopard Spotlight, a monthly, feature-focused show, began in the 2016-17 school year as a replacement to the quick news segment *The Daily Update*. In creating the new program, the broadcast staff had a simple mission: to create something they enjoyed producing and that the school enjoyed watching. The staff spent about a month on basic video training and then built Leopard Spotlight from the ground up.

“There was nothing for us to go by,” Dennis said. “Even stuff like choosing what song to put as our theme song or what font to put in the ‘Spotlight’ — just kind of the layout of what our Spotlight should look like all came from scratch, so it required a lot of creativity.”

The broadcast team has a structured system of operation, which flows from pitch meetings and planning, to shooting and editing, to compiling all the stories into the final show and presenting it to the school. The first episode of Leopard Spotlight was met with significant praise, according to Lovejoy graduate Matthew Cinquepalmi, who served as the original executive producer.

“Someone told me they felt like they were watching NBC5,” Cinquepalmi said. “It was awesome to hear all these people’s feedback that they enjoyed it, especially because [it] was the first time [we’d] ever done it, so we weren’t sure what we were going to get.”

Toward the end of the school year, adviser Corey Hale entered Leopard Spotlight as a Pacemaker contender out of sheer spontaneity. He said he never imagined they’d be named as a finalist, much less as one of only eight winners in the country.

“I entered [Leopard Spotlight] because I had joined NSPA so we could enter some of our stories in the individual awards. I was hoping to get a critique, and they don’t actually offer broadcast critiques right now,” Hale said. “But I was like, ‘You know what, I’m just going to put [it] in the Pacemaker category,’ because that’s included in the judging, and I just wanted to see kind of where it stood up.”

Dennis said the staff “feels like a family,” and at one point, they even used the classroom whiteboard, where the Pacemaker plaque now proudly sits, to draw a fake family tree. Despite being split between three class periods, the staff carves out time to chow down on morning doughnuts together, and they stay connected via group chat. Also, as a result of randomly dividing everyone into pairs, further bonding between staffers took place.

“Whoever you’re partnered with is the person you have to work with the most, so it’s kind of one of those things where you’re learning how to get along with others and build relationships with people you would’ve never known otherwise,” Falyon Brothers, a senior and Leopard Spotlight reporter, said. “[With] my partner this year, specifically, we didn’t even know each other at all, and now we’re really good friends in school and outside of school. He’s one of my close, best friends.”

Hale hopes this closeness persists in the coming years, especially now that there is a bit of added pressure after such an early win of the highest award available.

“The difficulty is always finding a balance between trying to win awards and trying to do good journalism for our audience that would be award-worthy,” Hale said. “The big thing for me is that we just kind of continue — rather than continue trying to make Pacemaker broadcasts, [to] enjoy being together. We want to create something that we care about — that other students are going to care about.”

young  
achievers





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### financial fitness

By Paula Field, Lucas resident and CPA

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A little preparation can make Tax Day relatively easy and effortless. One of the most important things you can do is get organized. Have a place for all the tax forms you've been receiving. If you operate a small business, QuickBooks online is a fabulous tool for keeping track of your business income and expenses. Organize your documentation for work-related expenses, mileage (use MileIQ), charitable contributions and child-related deductions.

#### Calculate Applicable Credits And Discounts

Want to reduce the amount you pay Uncle Sam this year? Focus future income sources towards Long Term Capital Gains. If you work from home, consider a Home Office Deduction to save on your taxes this year. Take steps now to begin the process to convert your property to receive an Ag Exemption in the future. Find applicable credits and discounts for your situation. Do you qualify for an Earned Income Tax Credit, Education Credit, Child Tax Credit, Adoption Credit, or Foreign Tax Credit? Or perhaps you can receive a Credit for Tax on Undistributed Capital Gain? For more information on IRS credits and deductions, check out the IRS website.

#### Find A Tax Preparer

If you want to save money, you can consider doing your taxes yourself. But if your return is complex (requiring the study of tax law and knowledge of the tax code), invest in a professional tax preparer. You might not want to wait until the last minute to file a tax return either.

The sooner you file, the less likely you are to encounter problems. With that said, if you are a procrastinator, those who file their taxes later are less likely to be audited.

Don't let Tax Day take you by surprise this year. With a few simple steps, you can breeze through April 17 with ease. Don't delay - start your tax preparation today!



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