

# Southwest

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M A G A Z I N E

OCTOBER 2011

# NOW

## TOWN CLOWN

Lou Flowers  
Stoddard takes  
a ride down  
memory lane.

### Also Inside

On a Quest for Education

The Man With  
the Golden Gloves

A Smoking Good Time

In the Kitchen  
With Blake Logan

AN ENCLAVE  
FOR ENTERTAINMENT  
AT HOME WITH  
TOM FOWLSTON & AMY JACKSON





# EAGLE EXPRESS



## 2011-12: The STAARt of something big!

### Expansion construction at DeSoto High School moving quickly

Construction is progressing quickly now on the DeSoto High School College and Career Academies with over 40% of the project complete. Building foundations and structural steel are 90% complete, interior framing is beginning to take shape along with plumbing, mechanical and electrical work.

Classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, offices and common areas are forming as framing makes the process more visible. One can see the high ceilings and openness of the entrance, hallways and staircases with skylights and massive windows. The process of selecting interior color schemes, classroom desks/work surfaces and seating and lighting for common areas has already begun.

ALL DeSoto students have the opportunity to explore a potential career with the traditional high school experiences and extra-curricular opportunities! The academy programs began in 2010-11 with classes in broadcast journalism, aviation technology, veterinary technology, culinary arts and more. The expanded facilities (160,000 sq. ft. total) will house the already operational DHS College and Career Academies.

- Arts and Performance Academy
- Business and Technology Academy
- Classical Academy
- Health and Science Academy
- Professional Academy

The expansion has been in development for years once the community expressed a desire to keep one high school in town and then approved \$45M for expansion and \$8M for renovations to DHS in the \$116 million bond package passed in 2005. The current construction project is \$20M. The project includes 41% M/WBE participation, far exceeding the goal of 25%.

The larger expansion attached at the back of the existing school will house the Health and Science Academy with many labs as well as classes for the Professional Academy including culinary arts kitchen space, a courtroom, a 911 dispatch area, a banking location and much more. The west expansion will include additional performing arts areas including a black box theater and choral practice spaces. Completion is scheduled for mid-spring in 2012 with full functionality starting in the fall of 2012.

### calendar of events

- October 3 - State Fair Day, Staff Development, No school
- October 4-7 - Homecoming Week (See Web for details)
- October 10 - Early Release
- October 10, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room
- October 11, 7-9 p.m. - PTA DeSoto Idol Showcase, DHS
- October 24, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room
- November 5, 6 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Seniors Prom, age 55 & up



*An artist rendering above and photo of current construction (taken Sept. 20) shows the grand entrance of the Health and Science Academy and adjacent Professional Academy.*

### NAMING OF DHS COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMIES

The district is currently seeking community input for suggestions to name the academies. By policy, district facilities can be named after persons who have had significant contributions the community, especially education; state or heroic figures; or residential or geographical areas. Nomination forms for suggested names of each academy are online at [www.desotoisd.org](http://www.desotoisd.org). **All nominations are due by Saturday, October 15.**

### DHS HOMECOMING - OCTOBER 3-7

DHS Student Council presents Homecoming 2011: Oct. 3-7 "Lights, Camera, Action: A DeSoto Production"

- Powder Puff Game - Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30 p.m.
- Parade & Pep Rally - Wednesday, October 5th at 6 p.m.
- Talent Show - Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m.
- Game - Friday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- Dance - Saturday, October 8th at 7 p.m. to Midnight

There will be a prize given for the best Homecoming float that incorporates the theme creatively and appropriately. See parade information and forms online at [www.desotoisd.org](http://www.desotoisd.org)





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## On The Cover



Lou Flowers Stoddard  
takes clowning around  
seriously.

*Photo by Opaque Visuals.*

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# Editor's Note

*SouthwestNow* Friends!

Join me in congratulating Cedar Hill as one of just 16 municipalities of 1,200 cities and towns in Texas to be awarded Scenic City Certification by the Scenic City Certification Program of Scenic Texas. Anne Culver, executive director of the program, said, "Cedar Hill exemplifies the idea that by implementing strong scenic standards citizens can enjoy a higher quality of life and businesses find it easier to attract customers and employees. This is a win-win situation for these cities, their residents and for the promise of future quality of life and economic development." A reception to present these 16 municipalities their Scenic City Certification will take place on Thursday, October 13, 2011, at the Four Season Hotel in Houston in conjunction with the annual conference of the Texas Municipal League.



I tell you, our magazine serves three truly amazing cities!

*Beverly*

Beverly Shay  
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# At Home With Duncanville ISD



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With a Career and Technical Education program that covers a variety of fields including automotive, health, cosmetology, and audio and video production, Duncanville ISD is committed to training the workforce of tomorrow. It's a goal that's shared by national distribution company Air Products. They've partnered with the DHS Engineering Academy since 2009, mentoring students and providing internships, scholarships, supplies, and labor. Because of their dedication to preparing our students for the future, Duncanville ISD honors Air Products as the September Red and Blue - Is It In You? recipient. Read more about this powerful educational partnership at [duncanvilleisd.org](http://duncanvilleisd.org).

## Middle Ages May Hold Key to Teaching Kids Character

*Duncanville ISD elementary first N Texas school to pilot Early Act First Knight character program*

Focused on building student character and competence, Duncanville ISD launched a district-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program last year that teaches acceptable behavior around the school and in classrooms, rewarding students for good behavior to decrease the occurrence of negative behavior. This year, Duncanville ISD is going one step further by partnering with the Duncanville Rotary Club to pilot the Early Act First Knight (EAFK) program at Central Elementary.

Early Act First Knight is a character education program for students in grades K-8. It was created by The Knights of the Guild, a nonprofit educational organization that provides live-action character education programs and curriculum. The Knights of the Guild are working with Rotary Clubs who seek to bring programs to local schools. The program teaches knightly virtues and Rotarian values such as tolerance, responsibility, confidence, perseverance, discipline, respect, honesty, compassion, friendliness, and service. While it's offered nationwide, Duncanville ISD's Central Elementary is the first to pilot EAFK in the North Texas area.

## Duncanville Director Takes His Show to China

From co-authoring two band warm-up and technique books to presenting workshops in more than 25 states, Duncanville ISD Director of Bands Jeff King is well known throughout the US. His influence is reaching internationally as well - King was invited to China to present workshops over the summer. "I was introduced to a Chinese gentleman named Joseph Cheung at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago this past December," he explained. "Mr. Cheung, who is also a band director, had already started the English to Chinese translation of *Foundations for Superior Performance* - a band method book I co-authored in 1997 - and was interested in publishing the book in Chinese. The president of the Kjos Publishing Company asked me if I would be amenable to traveling to China to present some clinics. After I thought about it for two seconds, I said, 'Yes!'"



King traveled to China in July, teaching in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Beijing for two weeks. He rehearsed music with students from third grade all the way through high school. Although he visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall of China, King says the most amazing sight was seeing music break the language barrier. "Since this was my first time presenting a clinic to a non-English speaking audience, I found myself singing examples of what I wanted rather than trying to put them into words," commented King. "Through our musical connections, I made many new friendships in China." Believing that individuals grow when put in situations out of their comfort zone, King is already looking forward to a future trip to China.



DHS English Teacher Angela Banks was named the 2012 Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the Year. Read more about her at [duncanvilleisd.org](http://duncanvilleisd.org).

## Did You Miss The Headline?



Use the above QR Code to quickly access the district's website and other resources.

## Parent Conference Days October 6 & 7

As part of the district's commitment to enhanced parent communication, Duncanville ISD designates two days each year for Parent-Teacher Conferences. All Duncanville ISD schools will host Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 6 and October 7. Teachers will be available to meet with parents on Thursday evening and on Friday morning. Regular classes will be in session on Thursday, October 6; however, there will be no classes for students on Friday, October 7. Parents should contact their child's school for details.

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# On a Quest for Education

— By Beverly Shay

*Most parents dream, hope and work for their children to have the best of everything, eager to see who and what they will become. So, they want them to have a great start with the best education possible. Every developmental progress is applauded. While usually anticipating more than dreading their child's venture into the world of school, parents are somewhat apprehensive about turning their child over to the, hopefully, nurturing care of their first teacher.*

Brandt and Mindy Malcik both grew up in Duncanville and graduated from Duncanville High School. They moved to Midlothian with the desire to rear their boys in the country. Mother's Day Out was the first classroom experience for Branson, their oldest son (now 8). "Branson has always been bright, inquisitive, a good learner. I was eager for him to get used to a classroom, sure he would shine," Mindy recalled. "He had never shown any indication of aggressive behavior or hyperactivity. When I received notes about his behavior and arrived to find him sitting alone outside the classroom, I was puzzled and concerned.

"Branson was born an old soul. He speaks like an adult, has a good memory and learns quickly. I know he's smart," Mindy sighed. "I began to wonder what I

was doing wrong." Before kindergarten, Branson was tested using the Connors' Rating Scales, a test commonly used to measure/diagnose behavioral issues in children. Branson showed no major learning problem, so the Malciks sent him to school, hoping things would work themselves out. Once again, notes arrived indicating Branson did not follow directions or do his work. He couldn't focus on tasks and constantly needed one-on-one attention. "He even talked other children into doing his work for him. Brandt and I wondered if he had ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). We decided to have him tested further."

A clinical psychologist determined Branson did suffer with ADHD and started him on meds in the spring of '09. "By summer, Branson had developed





ticks and was constantly clearing his throat. They tried different meds, more meds. But nothing helped,” Mindy lamented. Reluctantly, Mindy and Brandt decided to hold him back for another year of kindergarten. Not only did the Malciks get the same reports, but Branson began coming home from school with migraines and vomiting.

“We had his eyes and ears checked. CAT scans were run, but everything came back normal, everything except Branson succeeding in school,” Mindy stated. Branson began seeing a psychiatrist and got back on meds. “He’d get recess detention and was isolated from other students to do school work in the principal’s office, and the notes just kept coming. Finally, Branson became so anxious that he dreaded going to school. He cried when it was time to read.” While he loved being with other kids, he simply didn’t fit into the school setting.

“Branson told me he knew something was wrong with his brain because he couldn’t learn like other kids. His self-esteem plummeted. I met with the teachers and the principal to create a behavior plan tailored to his needs in an attempt to persuade Branson to work. It broke my heart that they saw him

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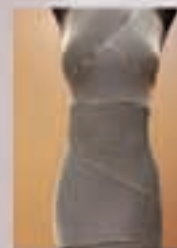
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as so much of a problem; they weren't even recognizing his gifts. Branson became more and more emotionally and spiritually wounded," Mindy said.

Mindy researched ADHD and found it always included other problems, like dyslexia or OCD (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder). The National Center for Learning Disabilities defines a learning disability as "a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive, process, store and respond to information." Generally, individuals with these disorders have average or above-average intelligence. The gap occurs between their cognitive ability and their performance. Mindy called doctors and counselors, looking for anyone who would know how to help Branson.

Finally, Mindy heard about Braintrain, a school for all children (K-12), but which specializes in students who have learning styles different than what traditional schools can provide for. After an entire day of testing in the spring of 2010, Mindy felt relief. "As I talked with Sue, I felt as if she had known Branson from birth. She recognized what he was going through, what he had and, most importantly, what to do about it," Mindy said.

Braintrain, now called Cedar Hill Preparatory Academy, opened in 1994. The academy, cofounded by Sue Pillow and Ann Cole, both of whom had children who suffered with learning disabilities, initially only provided tutoring. "It's a one-on-one, nontraditional, homeschool hybrid. We started with 12 students and currently have 52, but we have worked with hundreds and hundreds," Sue remarked. "Where public and private schools set a goal of 70-percent mastery, we achieve 100 percent. I mean, which 30 percent of the alphabet do you not need to know?" she queried.

The first year or two of schooling at Cedar Hill Preparatory Academy recaptures what is naturally in place in a student. Next, a foundation is built, on which they can prepare to learn. Then teachers introduce information. If a skill is missing or lacking, the skill is developed first, before introducing



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# The Man With the GOLDEN GLOVES

— By Jeremy Agor

*Errol Spence is in a place many people aspire to, but will never see. At 152 pounds, this 21-year-old is one of the hottest amateur welterweight boxers in the country, and he is within reach of one of his biggest dreams — representing the United States in the 2012 Olympic Games. “I want to be an Olympic gold medalist, then turn pro and hopefully win a world title. After my career, I’d like to be in the Hall of Fame,” Errol said. “I’m excited about the possibility of fighting in the Olympics. All the great American fighters fought in the Olympics: Sugar Ray Leonard, Muhammad Ali, Roy Jones. It would be an honor to be mentioned with those names someday.”*

Errol’s road to the Olympic Games started later than most fighters. He was 15 years old in 2005 when his father, Errol Sr., who had always been a boxing fan, convinced him to try the sport. They chose a local gym at random, and Errol’s career began shortly after. “We had no clue how to get started. We looked for a place where they work hard and produce good fighters. We found my first gym, Vivero Boxing Gym, in the Yellow





Pages. I walked in and said, 'I want to box,' and the owner, Gene Vivero, told us everything we needed to get started. The first week, he had me sparring, and I got stopped by a 119-pounder. After that, I got better and fell in love with it," Errol recounted.

Soon after, boxer and coach Derrick James was watching Errol and approached Errol Sr., telling him he could coach Errol to the next level. Not long after that, Errol was boxing with Derrick in his corner.

Errol's first tournament was the state Junior Olympics in 2005. That tournament was an open format where there is no consideration given to the amount of experience a fighter has when choosing his opponent. Despite a case of the jitters, Errol won the tournament and advanced to regionals. There, he lost to Anthony Campbell, who became a good friend. At the time, Anthony had about 100 bouts under his belt; Errol had 6 or 7. "It was an experience thing," Errol explained. "Most kids start boxing at 6 or 7 years old. They're bred into it, and it's all they know. I started at 15, so I had to get that experience as fast as I could."

Errol won the Dallas Golden Gloves at age 16 and, two years later, was competing for a variety of national titles. He won the Under 19 National Championship, the Police Athletic League National Championship and the first of three straight national Golden Gloves titles, all in 2008. He also travelled to Guadalajara, Mexico, for his first international competition, the Youth



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World Championships. He won three fights, then lost a controversial bout to a boxer from Uzbekistan. "The guy had tape in his wraps, which isn't allowed. We had the wraps for evidence and filed a grievance, but it was ruled that he could advance," Errol said.

Since then, Errol has travelled around the United States and to Wales, Russia, Germany, Italy, France, England, Mexico and Venezuela, fighting in dual meets as part of the USA Boxing National Team. "Being on the road is kind of rough.

Time changes are crazy, and they make us stay up all day when we get there. Also, it's usually about a nine-hour flight, and then you have to drive another three or four hours after you land. It wears you out! I usually need a few days to adjust," Errol admitted.

All of this experience has led to where he is today as the top-ranked welterweight in the United States, with a top 30 ranking in the world. His victory in the National Police Athletic League title qualified him for the Olympic Trials in August. He won all four of his bouts there to advance to the world championships at the end of September and early October in Azerbaijan. If he finishes among the top 10 there, he will fight in the Olympics next summer. Regardless of the result, however, he will return from the world championships and leave four days later for the Pan American Games in Mexico.

For a long time, Errol enjoyed anonymity, even in DeSoto. But now, local media have noticed, and he has been the feature of several stories on television and in newspapers. He has even been recognized by strangers while running errands. "When I was in school, I didn't talk about it much, but a lot of people know I'm a fighter now. I was in North Dallas at a gas station recently, and a man approached me and asked if I was the guy in the newspaper who's going to be boxing in the Olympics. It made my day! It was cool. It felt good to be recognized for my accomplishments," Errol smiled.

Becoming a top-flight amateur boxer is not easy — it takes determination and hard work. Errol's daily workout regimen would be impressive even to the most hard-core workout junkie.



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He runs six miles each day, followed by punching exercises on a variety of equipment for about 45 minutes, jumping rope for 15 minutes and strength and conditioning work with medicine balls, resistance bands and tackling sleds after that. Sometimes, he incorporates swimming into the workout. Although it might seem that upper body strength would be most important for a sport

that features punching, Errol said that strong legs and muscle endurance are more important than brute force. Diet is another part of his regimen, and he eats twice a day, mostly lean turkey, fish and fruit. He avoids beef and limits eating out at restaurants. Prior to the world championships, he spent a month preparing at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "The food is great, and you eat what you want. Training is intense because the center is 6,000 feet above sea level, so the first few days it's hard to breathe. It's much different than back home," he said.

"It's a lot of work, but I don't get tired. Sometimes I have days where I don't feel like training, but this is the most important year of my amateur career," Errol explained. He doesn't have time to slack off because his competition in other countries isn't. They're working hard every day, just like Errol.

"For me, boxing is pretty much a 24-hour-a-day thing," he added. "I hang out with my friends, go to the mall and watch movies, but to me boxing is pretty much everything. It's like a marriage." **NOW**





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# Town Clown

— By Randy Bigham

In 1975, at age 49, the late-blooming creative soul finally put her talents to good use, first as an artist specializing in portraits of clowns, and then as an entertainer herself, appearing across North Texas as “Honey the Clown.” Eventually proclaimed Duncanville’s Town Clown, Lou enjoyed a long run as the city’s favorite performer. She turned up with her crazy wig and big red nose at civic events to make kids smile and cheer. “It was exciting to represent the city in a fun way like that,” she said. “I was also the official Easter Bunny for two years, which was another great opportunity to be incognito and put on an act for the kids.”

Lou was first drawn to painting clowns because of their bright costumes. “They were just so vibrant,” she recalled. “That must be what interested me at first.” Lou admitted to having an interest in art when she was younger, but she never thought she



*A local woman who has enjoyed an eclectic career is reviewing her colorful past. A soft-spoken, genteel lady, she hardly seems to have existed beyond the gracious dinner table of her comfortable home. But for 85-year-old Lou Flowers Stoddard, memories are vivid of a life lived with gusto — and laughs aplenty. Moving with her late husband, Robert, to Duncanville in the early 1950s, Lou was a typical housewife caring for her three children and heading a Girls Scout troop, until painting and performing cast their spell.*



had any aptitude for it. “I would look at a sunset or a landscape and say, ‘If I could only paint.’ I knew I couldn’t even draw a straight line! Well, I learned in art you don’t need many straight lines.”

Joined by her husband in her new avocation (Robert preferred painting Indians), Lou traveled to circuses and fairs to capture performing clowns with



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her instamatic camera, images that she then transferred to canvas. Husband and wife worked well as a team in their newfound craft. "We loved painting together," she recalled. "Robert was better at sketching subjects, so he would usually draw them for me. I would then come in and paint them." For her part, Lou helped Robert mix his colors. The couple regularly attended Metroplex clown shows, and at a stand-up act put on by a popular clown called "JoJo



Jingles," they met the star backstage where he consented to be painted by Lou. During the session, JoJo suggested the pair join Clowns of America. They did, and the decision opened up a whole new world for the Duncanville artists.

From painting clown faces, Lou graduated to applying her own by greasepaint, blossoming forth as "Honey the Clown." In quick succession, adoring Robert transformed himself into zany "Boppo the Clown," and the flamboyantly outfitted, balloon-dispensing couple was soon in demand, headlining seasonal events at the State Fair of Texas, Traders Village and Six Flags Over Texas. One of Lou's first regular gigs was replacing JoJo Jingles in his traveling show. After that she and Robert joined other area clowns in forming a volunteer activities program called Clown Alley, the first Texas branch of Clowns of America, which presented free entertainment for charitable organizations, hospitals and orphanages. Chartered in 1978 as Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85, the group networked with the Dr Pepper Circus and partnered with famous clown, Emmett Kelly Jr.,

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with whom Lou and Robert became close friends.

Lou served in an advisory capacity with the new group, while Robert took on public relations. Meanwhile, the Stoddards and their troupe performed all over North Texas, celebrating National Clown Week (August 1-7) at Lee Park in Dallas or at major shopping centers



Lou and her husband, Robert.

## “We loved painting together.”

like Red Bird (now Southwest Center) and Valley View malls. In addition, Lou still enjoyed acclaim as an artist and was asked to showcase her paintings at the Women's Building (now known as Grand Place) at Fair Park. “It was a great honor being invited to display there,” Lou remembered. She was in her element according to her niece, Jeanette Sanders, who followed Lou's example by becoming a professional clown. In an article she wrote about Lou, Jeanette described the occasion as a high point in her aunt's career, saying, “The public strolled by, stopping to admire her brush stroke technique.”

But it was Lou's performance art as Honey and the camaraderie she shared with other Clown Alley members that

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brought her the greatest satisfaction. "The time I spent with my clown friends will always be a bright spot in my life," she said. "I'm proud of the hard work, energy and heart Alley members contributed over the years." Lou was also devoted to the Texas Clown Association, which she cofounded in 1982, serving variously as director, treasurer and editor of the group's membership journal. Robert also came into his own during this time as a journalist, writing and editing for a series of magazines, from *Circus Report* and *Carnival News* to *The Calliope*.

For all her dedication to the business of clowning, Lou never lost her love for live entertainment, especially the intimate connection she forged with youngsters who attended her shows. The mother as well as artiste in Lou was always present in her Honey impersonations on stage, and she also exhibited her understanding of children during photo ops at other public events, never allowing a pushy parent to foist a screaming child off on her. "I would hand them right back, and say, 'Maybe next year; they're not ready for me yet.'" Her rapport with kids was something special. "I used to squat down near the child and hold my finger out and wiggle it," Lou explained. "If the child took hold of my finger, we were friends."

Lou got a chance to share her passion for clowning in a big way in 1990 when the Universal Pictures comedy, *Problem Child*, starring John Ritter and produced by Ron Howard, cast her and a number of other Clown Alley staples in a scene filmed at the State Fair. Lou found the eight days she spent filming both exhausting and exhilarating. "We all had fun in spite of the long hours," she admitted.

Appearing in a Hollywood movie was certainly a treat, Lou granted, but she insisted she's more proud of the local tributes she has received, such as the 1991 plaque the mayor of Duncanville presented her for her years of community service and the memorial tablet that honors her at the Duncanville Public Library for the eight years she sat on the facility's board of directors. "But the greatest reward," Lou said, "was seeing the smiles of all the little children over the years. That's what kept me going." **NOW**

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# An Enclave for *Entertain*

— By Beverly Shay

## At Home With Tom Fowlston and Amy Jackson

*Tom Fowlston and Amy Jackson could easily be described as media people. Both have led lives immersed in the world of media production. They are products, aficionados and purveyors of the arts. Tom was born in Blytheville, Arkansas, but mostly grew up in Brunswick, Tennessee. His parents were music teachers in Arkansas, but once in Tennessee, his dad built a swimming pool park that became Lakeland Playland — essentially, Tom's playland, as well. Tom planned to major in electrical engineering, but then chose broadcasting. He was working at a radio station in Covington, Tennessee, when the draft kicked in. Rather than be drafted, Tom signed up with the Army, with the hope of going to broadcasting school following a summer of managing the swimming pool his father had built.*

"The fall of '71 found me in Defense Information School (DFNOS), where I took what was essentially a three-year college course in broadcast journalism in a 10-week period," Tom recalled. "At 21, I was sent to Vietnam as a broadcast specialist, in April 1972, working with American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN), mostly in radio, with the occasional TV newscast." *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987), starring Robin Williams, depicts Tom's experience there.

"I think it is of note that Tom was the last live American voice heard over that broadcast as the American troops were pulling out," Amy reminisced. The "On Air" sign from their station in Vietnam resides upstairs in their media room, along with a refrigerator-sized reel-to-reel player on which Tom can play his Vietnam radiocasts. His microphone rests nearby.

"The closest I came to being shot at in Vietnam was a cross-country trip in a troop transport helicopter. As we lifted off, a bullet flew through the Huey ... if they had waited till

we were one-and-a-half feet forward, well, I wouldn't be here today," Tom recalled with clarity.

Amy and Tom's home is filled with an eclectic mix of memorabilia, artwork and various furnishings from relatives. "When we bought this house in 2002, everything was painted white and all the carpet was grey. It took eight months to completely remodel and repaint it before we could move in," Amy said. "Tom even sandblasted the high-gloss white paint off the bricks on the floor-to-ceiling fireplace."

"That took about 20 minutes per brick," Tom recalled. The formal living area became their music room with the newly paint-stripped, upright piano that Amy learned to play on. Tom hung up the sign that was in his front yard as a child:

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The room also features Amy's grandfather's end table with a harp-shaped pedestal, Tom's mother's metronome, a





# Entertainment



signed first edition of Robert Frost, Amy's grandmother's Bible and her granddaddy's hymnal.

"We have really filled our home with memories of growing up," Amy remarked while touring their home. A bedroom-turned-study has an oak school

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desk, posters of plays she has been in or produced and “funky” kids’ things from their childhoods, like Go to the Head of the Class and Clue games. Amy is now in her 24th season with the Duncanville Community Theater. She has loved theater since childhood.

Amy, a confessed clean-freak, loves their master bedroom, which opens to

the backyard and overlooks the pool. The room resembles a set from *The Glass Menagerie* and comes complete with a chair from Amy’s childhood, where she sat and read *The Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew*. Amy is also justifiably proud of the redone master bathroom with its marble counters and pipeless jet tub. “It is the best place to relax. Of course, Tom



made sure the house was wired for sound throughout. And he got rid of the horrible carpet that was in here,” Amy remarked.

A delightful open stairway curves upward. “We knocked out the wall that closed off this room and painted the walls burgundy,” Tom said of the media room. Their entire home is filled with nooks inviting cozy curled-up conversation because they love to entertain. Leather furniture, wine racks and artwork from local artists all lend an



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easy air of bonhomie and traces of an artist's lair.

Indeed, art and theatrics run in Amy's family, as noted in the photos of her granddad in the vaudeville troupes, The Angel Bunch and The Nutty Bunch. Photos include Amy with her mom and dad in the country outside Breckenridge. The "funky" guest bath reflects Amy's sense of fun in shades of Caribbean blue and "beach ball" yellow.

Each room displays treasures of heritage and childhood. The dining room is resplendent with Fostoria crystal from Amy's grandmother, the buffet and dining room chairs from Tom's mom, toned down slightly with Amy's tiny, child's table, still painted orange and redolent with memories of youthful art projects. "We use it all the time when we host parties," Amy smiled.



And then there's the kitchen. Just standing in it lifts your spirits, with its bright white, beadboard cabinets and multicolored confetti Corian countertops. "It's like a party waiting to happen," Amy admitted. One of the unusual, but perfect-for-entertaining features is the long, low counter bar with a higher bar set on glass block pedestals. The roomy kitchen has a glass-topped stove on a large island and features a warming area, two-inch square tiles and "several shades of yellow on the walls." Amy explained, laughing, "It's because I am a theater person."

Entertainment drifts outdoors as well, where guests can enjoy the sound





system hidden in the rock landscaping, while lounging at one of several tables and chairs scattered throughout the patio area. Fairy lights are strung around the pool and throughout the trees all the way down to the creek. The carryover of their youth is evident in the '56 Chevy two-door coupe and the candy apple red '68 Mustang Tom enjoys. Amy's ride of choice is a 2007 Boxster.

By and large, life has been good for Amy and Tom. "We have a great working relationship, in that we are able to strongly debate business decisions even with opposing opinions and not have it affect our personal relationship," Amy declared, while Tom agreed. They met when Amy was teaching theater for seven years at Duncanville High School. "We needed a new sound system, so I met Tom at his company, AV Pro, as a customer," Amy said.

Tom offered Amy a job as a sales manager, which she accepted. Soon they began an eight-year stint of dating before deciding to marry. "We didn't want a big wedding, so we only told four people we were getting married. It was just perfect. The judge even gave us some great advice," Amy smiled at Tom. Must have been good; they've been married 14 years now. **NOW**

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Matthew Taylor, Gary Christopher and Alex Wilkerson are ready to serve up some delicious barbecue and homemade desserts.



# A Smoking Good Time

*Our barbecue is all about taste, which is why we serve the sauce on the side.*

— By Beverly Shay

As most Americans, especially Southerners, know — barbecue is a national food, perhaps even a food group. By the number of smokers in evidence nearly year-round, Texans take their barbecue seriously. Gary Christopher, who has worked around engineers for most of his adult life, has now engineered some serious flavor into his barbecue. “It’s been a passion of mine for 35 years to barbecue,” remarked Gary. He honed his skills and finally opened a restaurant in Cedar Hill in February 2010, so he wouldn’t need to travel anymore and could care for his late wife, Dorothy, who was very sick at the time.

Gary, a native of Hannibal, Missouri, moved to Davenport, Iowa, when he was 13. Later, he spent 21 years with the Army, serving in Europe, Central America and Alaska as a financial

management officer and operations research engineer. “I worked with operations research simulations in Stuttgart, when I first retired, working with a government contractor,” Gary recalled. Then he moved to DFW, settling in Arlington, where he worked as an operations research project manager for General Dynamics and later as an IT practice director for Oracle Corporation.

“My wife and I married young and enjoyed most of our life traveling around the world. We grew into the people we became together. We were married for 42 years,” Gary commented quietly. They had three boys of their own and adopted Dorothy’s youngest brother, Isaac, when her parents died. Their sons, Gary and Isaac, both came into town to cook with Gary this year for both the Kaboom Town Fireworks in Addison on July 3 and



Fair Park on July 4. Gary couldn't have done it without their help, along with his six employees.

"I guess you could say my motto is to make the best barbecue known to man," Gary said. "There are all kinds of barbecue restaurants. Ours is unique in that we don't serve our meats with sauce. That's always served on the side. I buy high-quality meat, and I want the customers to taste that. We make all our sauces and rubs here from scratch. I make a Memphis-style rub." Gary uses Certified Angus Beef and premium pork. "Barbecue is different all over the country. In Texas, it is all about beef." He serves beef brisket and pork butts that have been smoked at less than 200 degrees for 12-16 hours. His pork ribs,

**"I guess you could say  
my motto is to make the  
best barbecue  
known to man."**

smoked for four to six hours, are tender and tasty — as are his sausage, chicken and turkey legs. "Low and slow makes tender and tasty," said Gary, who has spent years perfecting his art of smoking. "We season all the meat with our rub."

Side dishes include: baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, fried okra, fried and baked potatoes. Dessert features include various pies, cheesecake and peach and apple cobbler. Gary learned to make from his foster mother. "Everyone has secret recipes, so rather than give mine out, I sell my sauces and rubs." But one secret he shares is smoking his meat on a commercial Traeger wood-pellet grill with a digital thermometer. "When you cook 50-60 pounds of meat daily, you need to be able to offer consistent, tasty, quality food at a reasonable price."

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CHISD Athletic Dept. provides a Longhorn letter jacket for 88-year-old Raymond Dennis (shown here with Gina Farmer) 70 years after he graduated from Cedar Hill High School.



Estella Gallegos braves the heat for a morning workout in Cedar Hill.



A ribbon-cutting celebration is held for Knight's Cove, the new student dorms on the campus of Northwood.



Foy C. Munlin, pastor of Shepherd's Voice, and his wife, Natalie, pose with Chamber ambassador, Amber Hatley.



Emily Maness and Brent Brooks of ASEA Advantage are welcomed to the Chamber at a ribbon cutting.

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During clean up on the last day at Moseley pool in DeSoto, the puppies are allowed to play.



Jeff Thomas gets a hair cut from Raw Cuts' Omar Jackson.



DeSoto residents visit WFAA. From left: Felecia Benton from DeSoto's Turning Point School brought two students; Lora Stallings and Tracie Hlavinka, assistants to the DeSoto city manager.



Students at Northside Elementary School log on to their computers on the first day of school.

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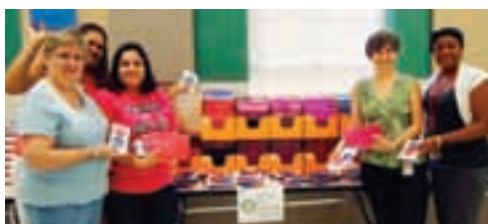




Laura Cahill receives a second place medal at the North Texas Special Olympic swim meet for her 25m backstroke.



Methodist Charlton hosts breakfast for newly elected officials: Dallas Constable Roy Williams; DV Councilwoman Johnette Jamison; DS ISD Board Trustee Kurt Krohn; Lancaster ISD Board Trustee Ellen Clark; DS Councilwoman Patricia Ledbetter; DV Councilwoman Janet Harris; Dallas County JP "Stretch" Rideaux; Ovilla Councilman Doug Hunt.



Fairmeadows Elementary second-grade teachers show off school boxes and scissors donated by the Duncanville Rotary Club.




Alexander Elementary has outfitted students with name badges as part of the district's Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program.



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# Tunnel of Pain

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Popular thinking says carpal tunnel syndrome is found mostly in women who work with computers entering data. Well, popular thinking is half right. Carpal tunnel syndrome is more common in women, but data entry personnel have to wait their turn on the list for those afflicted.

You have a nerve in your wrist called the median nerve. This nerve is what gives you feeling and movement to parts of your hand. Carpal tunnel refers to a passageway that contains connective tissue and nerves. This passage is very narrow, so if there is any swelling in the tunnel, the median nerve is compressed, and there is your genesis for carpal tunnel syndrome.

Scientific data is conflicting when suggesting repetitive or lengthy activities, such as extensive computer work or even prolonged video game play, cause this syndrome. These activities can cause irritation in the wrist. However, carpal tunnel syndrome may not be the definitive diagnosis. This syndrome can be caused by any number of factors that irritate or compress the median nerve in the carpal tunnel. A few examples are: trauma to the wrist area, such as, a fracture or sprain; pregnancy, because of fluid retention; rheumatoid arthritis, due to inflammation of the area; and even metabolic disorders, such as diabetes can cause damage to the nerves. Unfortunately, in some

cases, a cause cannot be found.

Determining if you have carpal tunnel syndrome as early as possible can help avoid nerve and muscle damage. Symptoms of tingling, numbness, burning, weakness and pain begin gradually. Sometimes, someone affected with this will shake their hands in an attempt to restore normal sensation. Some may notice the symptoms at night because of sleeping with flexed wrists. If you have symptoms in your other fingers but the little finger feels fine, that may be a sign you do have carpal tunnel syndrome. As symptoms worsen, the pain and weakness become more pronounced. You may find difficulty in grasping objects and drop things unexpectedly.

Initial treatment focuses on reducing any further damage to the area. Ice packs may be applied for swelling and inflammation. A splint for immobilization, as well as resting the affected area for a few weeks, may work for mild or moderate cases. Sometimes medication, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and the injection of corticosteroids can help with the pain by reducing inflammation. If symptoms persist, surgery is an option. Physical therapy to regain strength in the area after surgery is very helpful.

Because carpal tunnel syndrome can occur because of multiple factors, there is no one preventative. If you feel you are at risk, consult your health care professional for guidance. **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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## Economic and Investment Outlook

**Economic News:** The economic news lately has not been good. Estimates of a second half recovery this year have been revised downward. There is fear that the U.S. economy is heading into another recession, with odds of a recession at 30 to 50 percent. Fear of a recession is not unwarranted given the unemployment rate is above nine percent, a weak housing market, declining consumer confidence and a manufacturing sector barely growing. Fear of recession also extends to Europe where economic growth in the Euro Zone is tepid. A recession in Europe would negatively impact the U.S. economy.

There is also concern that the long-term path of the U.S. is similar to Japan's "Lost Decade" of the 1990s. Japan lost their Triple A credit rating in 1998 after their government ran up a very large debt. We may not be on Japan's exact path, but what we may have to look forward to is sustained high unemployment, very weak economic and wage growth and a housing market that may take years to recover.

**Investment Outlook:** Corporate profits have done well this year even as the economy slowed. This was due in part to overseas markets, which make up a significant portion of the profits reported by the S&P 500 companies. With Europe and China/Asia showing signs of slowing, we can't count on the foreign markets' profits to make up for a weak U.S. market.

**Investment Strategies:** If you invest in stocks or stock mutual funds, be prepared for a bumpy ride. As long as you have the patience and ability to ride out the storm, you have the potential for high returns. Bond investors have little choice but to accept low returns. For those investors who are not willing to invest in stocks, annuities may be the answer. Some annuities offer guaranteed returns, and some allow you to participate in the returns of the stock market without the risk of losing your principle. **NOW**

*Dennis Brock  
Haydin Insurance Group*

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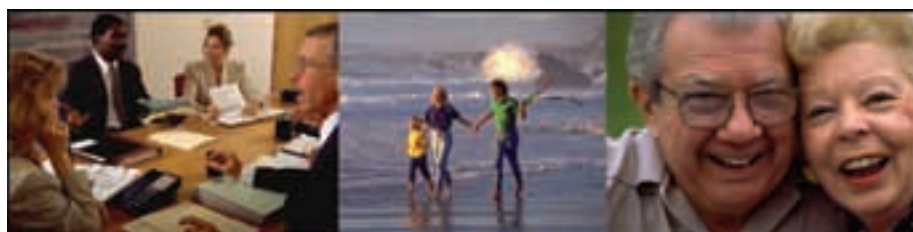
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## In The Kitchen With Blake Logan

— *By Beverly Shay*

Blake Logan is the 12-year-old son of a local police officer and a small business owner. He attends Permenter Middle School in Cedar Hill. He has prepared wonderful desserts for Ramona Logan (former Channel 5 news reporter), Cedar Hill city employees and many others in the community.

"I enjoy cooking because I enjoy being in the kitchen," admitted Blake, who has taken cooking classes at the recreation center for three years. "My mother has inspired me with all the different dishes she makes for the holidays. My favorite spice is cinnamon because you can use it in so many dishes."

When not cooking, Blake likes to play basketball. He would like to be a chef someday, maybe even a personal chef for the president. **NOW**

### Spicy Lemon Garlic Shrimp

**2 lbs. raw shrimp, shell on**  
**2 sticks cold, unsalted butter, cut into pieces**  
**1 tsp. kosher salt**  
**4 cloves garlic, peeled**  
**1/4 cup fresh parsley**  
**1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper**  
**1 lemon, juiced**  
**Crusty bread**

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Rinse shrimp; arrange in single layer on baking sheet.
3. Place remaining ingredients, except bread, in food processor; pulse until combined and crumbly. Sprinkle crumbles over shrimp.

4. Bake until shrimp is opaque and butter is hot and bubbly (12-15 minutes).
5. Serve with hot, crusty bread. Peel shrimp; dip bread in butter sauce.

### French Onion Soup

**4 cups onion, thinly sliced**  
**1/2 cup butter, melted**  
**2 Tbsp. flour**  
**2 10 1/2-oz. cans chicken broth**  
**2 10 1/2-oz. cans beef broth**  
**1 1/3 cups water**

1. In a large Dutch oven, sauté onion in butter, until tender. Add flour; stir well.
2. Add broths and water. Bring to a boil. Cover; reduce heat; simmer for 30 minutes.

### Spicy Pumpkin Soup

**1 small onion, minced**  
**2 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1/2 Tbsp. chili powder (or to taste)**  
**1/2 tsp. cumin**  
**2 10 1/2-oz. cans chicken broth**  
**1 can pumpkin**  
**1 can whole kernel corn, undrained**  
**1 can pinto beans, undrained (optional)**  
**3/4 cup chunky salsa**  
**Cheese, shredded, as garnish**  
**Sour cream, as garnish**

1. In a skillet, sauté onion, garlic and spices in oil.
2. In a soup pot, combine broth, pumpkin, corn, pinto beans and salsa. Bring to a boil.
3. Reduce heat; add sautéed spices; simmer 10 minutes or until hot.
4. Serve garnished with cheese and sour cream.

### Apple Dumplings

*Warning: Prepare this dish at your own risk!  
 It is beyond imaginable!*

**2 Granny Smith apples**  
**2 8-oz. cans crescent rolls**  
**2 sticks butter**  
**1 1/2 cups sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 12-oz. can Mountain Dew**  
**Cinnamon, to taste**  
**Ice cream**

1. Peel and core apples. Cut each apple into eight slices.
2. Roll each slice in a crescent roll. Place in buttered 9 x 13-inch pan.
3. Melt butter; add sugar, barely stirring. Add vanilla. Pour over apples.
4. Pour Mountain Dew around edges of pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
5. Bake at 350 F for 40 minutes.
6. Serve with ice cream. Pour juices from pan over ice cream.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



### October 1

9th Celebrating Life Foundation Sister to Sister Festival and 5K Run/Walk: 6:00 a.m.-noon, Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd. This festival is a day of breast cancer education activities including the 5K Run/Walk to raise money for breast cancer awareness. For more information, please contact (972) 501-9981, ext.110 or [www.celebratinglife.org](http://www.celebratinglife.org).

Music in the Park Concert — Vocal Trash: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater, 2850 Park Ridge Drive, Cedar Hill. Experience an evening of music with nationally acclaimed Vocal Trash, a high-energy band that puts fun into recycling, using instruments recycled from trash. There will be environmental booths and demonstrations and much more information on going green.

### October 4

Come join the Duncanville Police Department for the 2011 National Night Out Event: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Bob Knight's Fieldhouse, 1700 S. Main Street, Duncanville. Representatives from the Duncanville Police Dept., other law enforcement agencies and organizations will be present to meet and greet citizens. For more information, contact Officer Doug Sisk at (972) 780-5027 or [dsisk@ci.duncanville.tx.us](mailto:dsisk@ci.duncanville.tx.us).

### October 8

DeSoto Senior Activity Center's Annual (Giant) Community Garage Sale: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 204 Lion St. (indoor/outdoor booths). Proceeds go to vendors and the Activity Center. Concessions provided by the Center.

### October 8 and 9

74th Annual Country Day on the Hill in Cedar Hill. **October 8** Old Settlers Reunion: 4:30-8:00 p.m. with bingo, dinner and king and queen crowning. Cost: \$5 for adults and \$3 for children; proceeds benefit Bridges Safehouse, ELF & Friends and Cedar Hill Food Pantry.

**October 9:** 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Enjoy over 100 craft vendors, food, activities, contests and live concerts on three stages, FUMC 5K Fun Run and more. Admission is free. See event schedule at [www.countrydayonthehill.org](http://www.countrydayonthehill.org) or call (972) 291-7582.

### October 11

Membership Appreciation Day at Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Job Seekers Ministry Meeting: 5:00-6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 310 Roaring

Springs Drive, DeSoto. Find encouragement, information, job search skills, networking and support. Register with Reverend Kevin Strempe at (972) 223-6118 or [office@fumcdesoto.org](mailto:office@fumcdesoto.org).

### October 12 and 19

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles): 7:00 p.m., Bat Zion Messianic Congregation, 730 N. Cedar Ridge Dr., Duncanville. For more information, call (972) 709-8761 or visit [www.batzion.org](http://www.batzion.org).

### October 16

Celebrate Your Boss Day

### October 17

Cedar Hill's 1st Annual Caddyshack Open: 11:00 a.m., Thorntree Country Club, 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., DeSoto. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

### October 21

Duncanville Senior Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Duncanville Senior Center, 206 James Collins Blvd. featuring ballroom musician Doc Gibbs. Cost: \$5 for those over 50 only (unless special permission granted). For more information, please call (972) 298-0667.

### October 22

Scrapping for the Athletes, benefiting the Special Olympics of Texas: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., D.L. Hopkins, Jr. Senior Center, 206 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Employees and families of the Duncanville Police Department in conjunction with the Law Enforcement Torch Run are hosting this special fundraising event, which includes creating scrapbooks, silent auction, registered massage therapist, craft demos, make-and-takes and door prizes. Cost: \$35. Must register by **October 8**; forms are available at <http://www.duncanville.com/>.

Duncanville Denim & Diamonds Annual Civic Auction: 6:00 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn. Cost: \$75 per person; \$600 per table. For more details, call (972) 780-4990 or e-mail [megan@duncanvillechamber.org](mailto:megan@duncanvillechamber.org).

### October 24

Southwest Dallas County Parkinson's Group support meeting: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. Exercise and speech classes also available. For more information, please call (972) 298-4556.

### October 26

6th Annual Health and Wellness Conference

"Building a Healthy Workforce": 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Methodist Charlton Medical Center, 3500 W. Wheatland. Admission: Free. Keynote speaker will be Rhett Butler, the obsessive-compulsive guitarist, speaking on Alzheimer's disease. For more information, contact [admin@desotochamber.org](mailto:admin@desotochamber.org).

### October 28

Spooktacular Halloween Party: 7:00-10:00 p.m., Visual Expressions Creative Arts School, 1425 N. Hwy. 67 in Cedar Hill. Enjoy games, food, scary fun and contests for the whole family. Win gift cards, art lessons and more. For more information, please call (972) 293-1117.

### October 29

Fall Family Festival: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd. Free family event offering games, bounce houses, food and more. Call (972) 572-1986 for more information or visit [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com).

### October 30

Send the Praise Up 2011/2012 Festival and Concert Tour presents "It's a Family Affair": 1:00-11:00 p.m., Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch, 4523 University Hills Blvd., Lancaster (I-20 at Houston School Rd.) featuring Keith Wonderboy Johnson and Norris J and hosted by David Mann. Choirs and dancers wanting to participate for competitions and cash prizes contact Josette Ables: [worshipskiss@aol.com](mailto:worshipskiss@aol.com).

### Ongoing:

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DeSoto Public Library Baby Storytime: 10:30 am. Engage your baby with great books, finger plays and songs to promote pre-literacy skills.

#### Wednesdays

DeSoto Public Library presents Preschool Storytime: 10:30 am. Enjoy a wonderfully themed story time, arts and crafts and a short educational video.

#### Saturdays Through November 12

DeSoto Public Library presents Cool Science Investigators: 11:00 a.m. Experience interactive hands-on activities in science, and discover how fun science can be! Must register: (972) 230-9666.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*





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