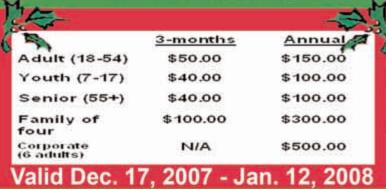




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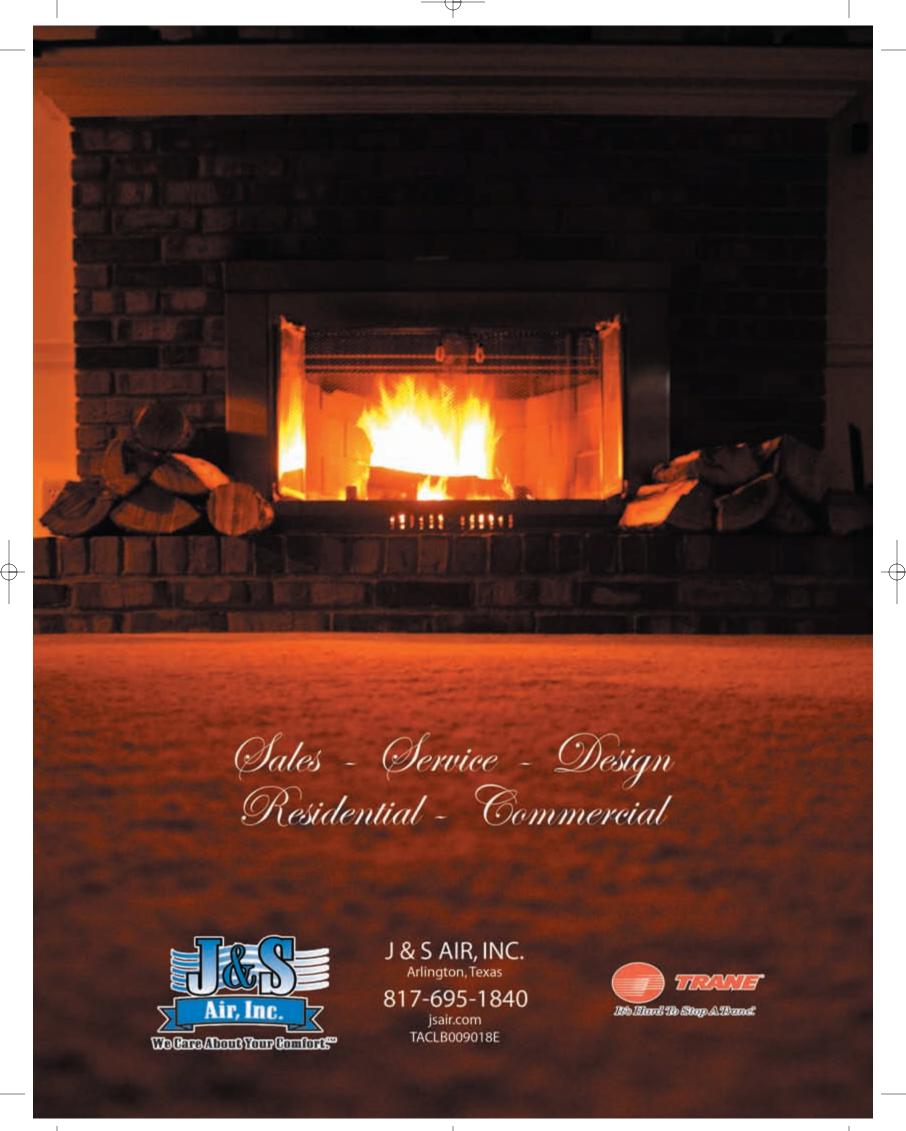
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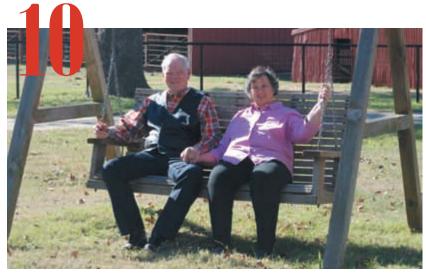
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Southwest Editor, Beverly Shay Contributing Writers, Lesa Ansell . Stephanie Brewer . Amanda Pitt . Jaime Ruark Photography, Dia Catalani . Rod Cordsen . Ivey Photography . Sandra McIntosh . Terri Ozymy Contributing Editors/Proofreaders, Pamela Parisi Jaime Ruark . Beverly Shay

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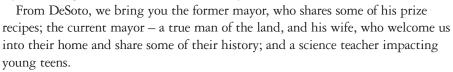
Southwest NOW

Editor's Note

Happy New Year, Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville!

Rather than making resolutions I may not keep, I see the New Year as a fresh start ... looking backward and forward. Then I realign the direction I am headed.

From Cedar Hill, we provide Jolanta's dramatic story of a fresh start as she left Poland on a journey ... to Texas. Meet some amazing artists, eager to inspire you to try something new and release the creativity within!



In Duncanville, we found a sweet, talented, young girl whose goal is to skate in the Olympics some day. You will be warmed by her story.

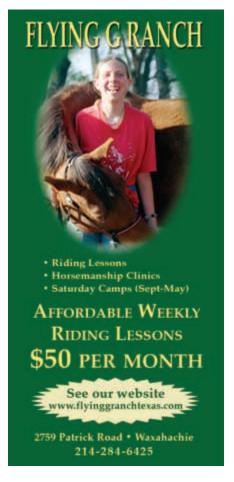
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Beverly Shay SouthwestNOW Editor









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D American Page 1 and 1

— By Sandra McIntosh

Jolanta Bublewicz was born and reared in Poland. In 1964, she traveled to Buffalo, New York, with her parents, where they lived until 1970, at which time she and her mother returned to their home country. During this second time in Poland, she met Les, her husband of 31 years. "I met Les for the second time," Jolanta said, explaining that her husband had lived next door to her when she was growing up in Poland. "I didn't really like him when he was my neighbor. He'd chase me and pull my hair."

Upon her return, Les asked her out. After their first date, Jolanta quickly realized Les was no longer pulling her hair; he had pulled her heartstrings. "We went to see a French movie with Polish captions," she remembered, with an all-knowing smile on her face. "Les read the captions in my ear so I'd understand the movie." A few years later, they married and had two sons, Michael and Peter, before the Solidarity movement began in Poland. As Solidarity grew to encompass all of Poland, Jolanta and Les saw several of their friends and acquaintances arrested and put in jail. In October 1981, they felt it was time to flee the country. "We heard of a refugee camp in Austria," she said. "We decided at that time it was 'now or never."

Jolanta remembers this time with surprise and wonder. Over the years, she has come to realize just how lucky they were to have successfully gotten out of the country. "We were a young family of four. It was very unusual for a small group to leave together," Jolanta explained. "We looked as if we were going on a short vacation. We had \$500, our passports, the clothes on our backs and one change of clothes in the suitcase we carried." They left their families and all their belongings behind. "We left without telling anyone," she added.

As soon as they landed in Vienna, they began looking for the camp. Once they saw the long, long line they knew without a doubt that they had arrived. "The line was huge," she said. "There were Czechs, Poles and Turks of all ages. Everyone was fleeing." After turning over their passports, the family was fingerprinted and issued Austrian identification cards. "We also each received a wool blanket, a pillow and a tray for food," Jolanta said, further stating that they only had to spend one night in the military-like barracks with

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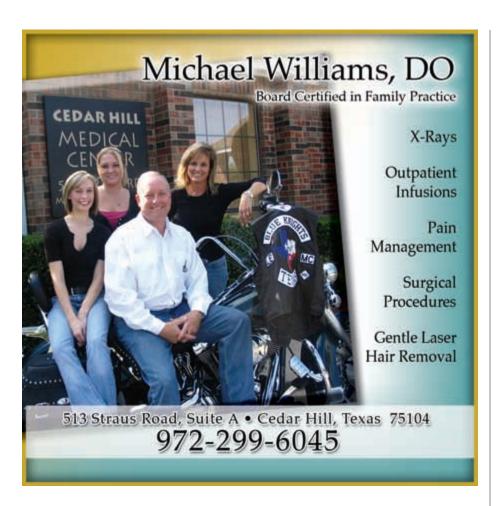




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rows and rows of metal bunk beds. "At about 4:30 a.m., we were transported to a small suburb in Austria about 50 miles from Vienna."

Settling into the gasthof, or what most in America would compare to a simple bed and breakfast, went quickly. The family was issued a room equipped with one sink, two bunk beds and the use of a communal bathroom down the hall. Jolanta remembers at least seven Polish families coming to live in this first gasthof. "We were given three meals a day, our room, toiletries, laundry items and 50 shillings per family member per month," she said, explaining that 50 shillings is equivalent to 20 American dollars. "We were able to move about freely, but we were not allowed to work. We were people without a country."

In December, marshal law took over in Poland — no one was allowed in or out. Now considered political refugees, the family applied for immigration. During this time, two more eventful things happened. "Les took \$400 of our money and bought an old Volkswagen Beetle from a nearby junkyard," she said. "He started transporting people to and from immigration for a small fee. He made enough to buy winter clothes."

The memory that still brings tears to Jolanta's eyes is the day her family was moved to the attic to accommodate those on holiday. "Just to go to the bathroom, I had to carry my babies down a stairway that was iced over and filled with river rats," she said, explaining the rats were the size of small cats. When this situation finally became too much for Jolanta, they were moved to a second gasthof that was nicer, more picturesque.

While all this was going on, they were still waiting to hear from immigration services. They had the opportunity to quickly relocate to South Africa or be patient a while longer and come to America. To make a long, beautiful story of hardship, strength, courage and victory somewhat shorter, the family made the choice to come to America, thanks in large part to their

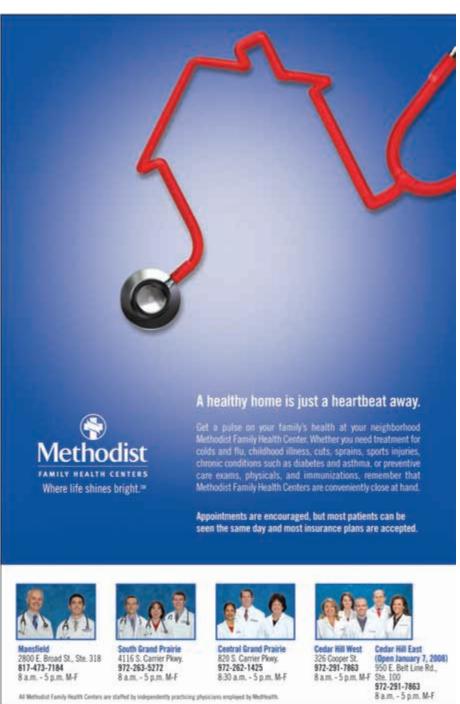
sponsor, Monique Redding. Thinking that some elderly lady had sponsored them, they boarded a plane bound for the United States. "Up until a week before flying out, we still didn't know where we were going," Jolanta said. "When we were told we were going to Buffalo, New York, I didn't think anything of it." When living in Buffalo before, she had a best friend named Grace Antowski. "Who knew that Grace would change her name to Monique?" Jolanta said, with a laugh. "When we landed, all the people I'd ever known in Buffalo were waiting to welcome us, even Monique and my dad."

Remembering how cold Buffalo winters can be, they decided to pack up their rusted-out Pinto station wagon and drive to San Antonio, Texas. Nearly a year after their journey out of Poland first began, Jolanta was hired as a sales associate at Dilliard's, while Les worked his way up the corporate ladder. She soon took another job with an insurance company. After five years, they were able to take the oath to become American citizens under the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Two years later, Jolanta was offered a promotion that meant a final move to the Dallas area, landing the family in Cedar Hill.

Since that time in 1989, the family's determination for something better has not wavered. Les currently owns and operates a successful business, and both boys, following graduations at Cedar Hill High School, have moved on to bigger and better things. Michael is married now, pursuing a career in the medical field, while Peter is a pilot for Chituaqua Airlines in Columbus, Ohio.

Jolanta has survived the untimely death of her mother, a bout with breast cancer and the need for a pacemaker. "We didn't leave Poland for economical reasons. We left for political reasons," she said, referring to their determination to see firsthand what the United States had to offer. "We wanted a better life for our children, a better education. We truly feel like we are living the American dream. Poland is a place we visit, but Cedar Hill is home."

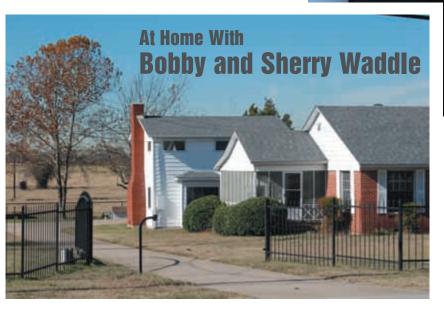




You Could Not Meet a Nicer Couple

- By Beverly Shay

They say the longer you live, the more you become like those around you. That may or may not be true of homes, but Bobby and Sherry Waddle's more than 100-year-old farmhouse is as warm, gracious and accommodating as they are. The solid ambiance invites visitors to sit back and listen, hinting at the treat in store. Windows open, curtains blowing,





Bobby Waddle began the story of Great-grandfather Crawford Tree and the family's history, steeped in the land of DeSoto.

"My great-grandfather came from Illinois, settled here around 1845 and basically stayed here except for a few years pursuing the gold rush. Crawford married Anna Minerva Kimmel in 1846; their marriage license was the first one filed in Dallas County," Bobby disclosed.

The property surrounding the Waddle's home was acquired in 1891, and the home built shortly thereafter. It has been moved around a bit to face one road or the other as the years

passed. The prairie was transformed into farm and ranch land; growing up Bobby found himself becoming a man of the land. "I remember working the land here and over near where Joe Pool Lake is

now, out on the tractor or some sort of farm equipment, watching the WW II flight training going on overhead. They

flew biplanes and various craft and I'd think to myself, They've got a better deal going on flying up there than I do driving

this tractor."

As a true man of the land, he graduated from Texas Tech in 1955, with a degree in agriculture. By August, however, he was off to San Antonio for Air Force basic

training and then pilot training. "It was a completely different venue than college; it required a lot more than







just spitting out answers to questions. I had to produce; those airplanes had to be finessed. It took skill and knowledge to handle those planes ... it was humbling," Bobby confessed. "But I kept improving. Over the next year, I trained in T-34s and T-28s, finally moving to Big Spring for fighter jet training.

"I really learned to fly once I was assigned to Webb Air Force Base as a flight instructor. We taught, 'If you don't think you're the best fighter pilot in the world, then you don't have it," Bobby remarked, remembering his days in Vietnam, when being the best pilot could mean the difference between life and death — for you and the men depending on you.

"Camaraderie among servicemen is necessary for hard times and good times. Pilots, known for their competitiveness, also know how to work together when it counts," Bobby said, that glint of understanding still in his eyes. Thirty years in the Air Force included a year in Vietnam flying an F-4; two-and-a-half years in Colorado Springs teaching a





cadet squadron; time posted at the Pentagon, in Montgomery, Alabama and San Antonio, where he completed his service career.

"By the time I retired in '85, my father had passed away and Mom was living here alone, so we settled here.

Once again, I was farming and ranching the land." He oversees over 4,000 acres of farming and ranching spread over several locations.

As could be imagined, the comfy farmhouse is surfeit with memorabilia of

family, history, airplanes and travels. Much of the furniture comes from Sherry's family, hailing from Mississippi and Kentucky. Her grandfather was a physician and his secretary graces one corner of the den. There is a tall, narrow

wardrobe against one wall and a huge, old traveling trunk tucked under the stairs to Bobby's working office/loft for both his land work and his city job. "Having my office up there keeps both me and my work out of Sherry's way," he grinned. It also serves as a personal

display of Air Force mementos.

"This room is actually one we added on," Bobby commented as the tour began. "Most people come through the back door here by the church bench which comes from the Methodist church where I grew up. I like having it there; it reminds me of what I learned as a child," he grinned. The house is connected room-to-room,

each room with its own amazing finds. Treasures along the den's back wall include: Crawford Tree's mantle-sized clock — now that is a real grandfather's clock; an eagle with wings spread in flight — a gift when Bobby left the



Academy; cabinets, crystal and, no doubt, more.

Stepping up into the bedroom (once a garage), two things compete for attention: the massive half-tester canopy bed ("We had to build the ceiling high enough to accommodate it,"

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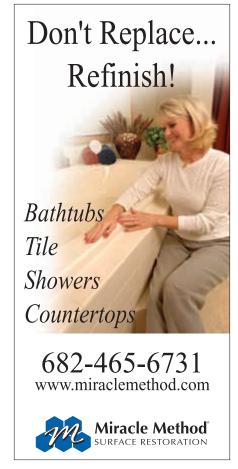
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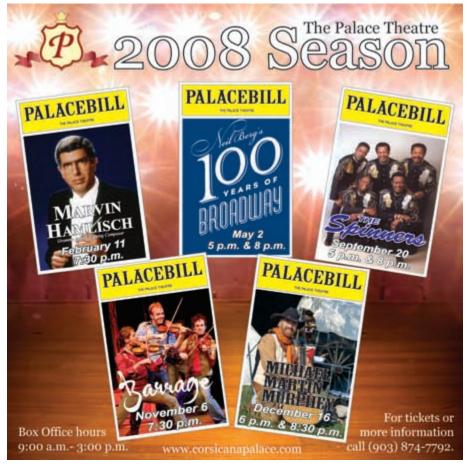


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Bobby confided) and the wall of photos. There must be 40 or 50 photos: some ancient, stoic ancestral shots; some colorized, cherubic '50s shots of the Waddle's three daughters growing up; the requisite glamour shots of fashionable young women coming of age in the '60s; weddings and generations of grandchildren ... decades of history. Crawford would no doubt be plenty proud of his progeny.

Around a corner and up a few stairs, is the room Bobby and his brother shared. Next is the kitchen/family room, with a line of demarcation in the beautiful, hardwood floors where the "official" kitchen begins — the planks



of the original floor are wider and made of pine. Aerial photos of the land reinforce the "family of the land" theme.

Amazingly there is still more house to see. The formal living room has a threedimensional floral picture made of hair, both human and horse. "It's not really

my taste," confided Sherry, who had joined the tour, "but it's so unique and rare, you can't really get rid of it. Maybe we'll take it to the Antiques Roadshow to see if it's worth anything," she joked. Beautiful old china is

showcased. "I was the only child of an only child, so I inherited a lot. I don't really know what to do with all of it," Sherry remarked.

"There's a story to this carpet," Bobby said of the living room rug. "Shopping in an Egyptian bazaar, the shopkeeper kept showing Sherry more rugs. She liked this one. I said, 'No. No. No. There is no way we're going to get it home.' But [the shopkeeper] packed it into an old suitcase, shut it and we brought it

home," he grinned.

Between generational roots, a solidly ingrained work ethic, patriotism and military service, it was a natural step for Bobby to then tackle local community civil

service, first as a councilman and now as mayor. "I strive to be fair, listen to all sides, make the decision that benefits the community as a whole and implement my duties with integrity," Mayor Bobby Waddle said. WOW





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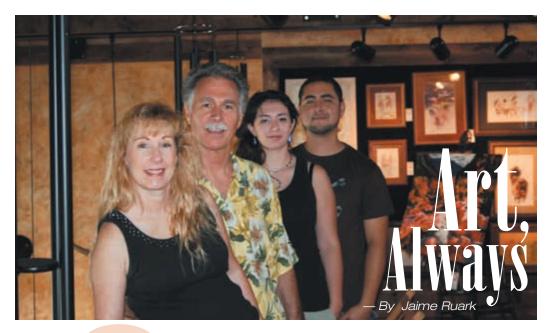
BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF ACTUAL PATIENTS











Open the door to the Visual Expressions Art Gallery at the Ranch in Cedar Hill and Chester the bulldog, resident door greeter and guard dog, saunters over to give a welcoming sniff. Bill Ingle, his wife and nationally known artist, Robin, and daughter, Jennifer, who is the gallery director have created a showcase for renowned artists' works. Locals, who have an artistic bent, can learn from some amazing and celebrated talents.

Watercolors and oils are native-Texan Robin's passion, her medium of choice. "I began working with oils when I was about 14; I never had any classes in school when I was young," she shared. She has worked with watercolors for 15 years, and for "every subject matter I'll decide which medium I want to use." Robin expressed, "I like to experiment. That's what it's all about. There probably aren't too many things I haven't painted on — canvas, walls, concrete, marble."

With her Indian family heritage (her grandmother was half Comanche), her work displays a predominant Western theme. That is, however, only one side of this multifaceted artist. With such extensive subject matter as her beautiful florals, stoic and regal eagles, broken-down wagons and even

soda cans, Robin's repertoire is vast.

Robin surrounds herself with other well-known artists. One such gifted craftswoman is Nan Phillips, who has been involved with art since she was young. "As a kid, I always did art projects. We always painted. My father was an artist on the side," she stated. Nan began working with pottery and glass, and, as she said, "just fell in love

with glass." She has now been creating gorgeous pieces of dichroic glass and figurative sculpture for 14 years, having developed her own creative techniques.

Nan has been a part of many shows, such as the Jewish Arts Fest of Dallas and the Texas Sculpture Association 2007 Membership Show. She had a display in the Cedar Valley College Center Arts and

Crafts Festival in Cedar Hill in mid-November. "I love to go to shows and set up my own booth, talk with the people, listen to the 'oohs' and 'ahhs," she said, with a modest smile.

Indeed, each work is beautiful,

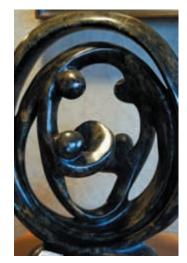


dazzling and completely original. The vibrant hues of her jewelry beg to be worn, her cranberry cathedral glass shimmers for a table to adorn. Her eye-catching pieces are often both functional and beautiful, while others, such as her art-glass wands are simply fanciful in nature. "I taught myself my own technique. I like the glass to speak. Everything I do is one-of-a-kind," she

pointed out.

Both Robin and Nan feel that artists should constantly experiment and create, learning from and using fellow artists' techniques as a starting place to enhance their own work. "I'm constantly pushing the limits. Don't copy; incorporate," Nan sagely advised. Nan plans to teach fused-, stained- and leaded-glass classes at Visual Expressions

Creative Art Studio opening January 7. She is confident she can impart her techniques to fellow artists, both novice and accomplished glassworkers alike. "I welcome all skill levels. We can always learn from each other," she said.





Pages could be devoted to another of Robin's fellow artists, Kelli Howie, yet never fully capture this bubbly "theater chick." From clever Indian and clown masks to calming landscapes to breath-taking synthetic clay flower pieces, Kelli is as multidimensional as her body of work. She started painting in preschool, and by the age of 13 was a workingwoman. "I won a citywide contest and was offered a job with Neiman Marcus," she smiled, sharing how she was actually their window display, working where people could see her as they walked by.

Each mask she has rendered has an interesting secret; it takes a discerning



eye to see Kelli's process. "Look closely," she invited with a challenge. "Can you tell that each mask started with my own face?" Having created a mold of her own

features, she then worked the clay into the crazy and funny or stoic and beautiful faces of her masks.

Kelli, who also has an extensive background in stage herself, with a bachelor's in theater and art and a master's of fine art in design, plans on teaching theater to anyone who has the acting bug. "What I hope to show people is that theater influences all aspects of life," she said. "I can help you learn public speaking and poise, and instill confidence. I want people to learn that if you fall on your face, you just have to get right back up and say, 'Hey, I meant to do that!"

The next generation of local artists cannot help but benefit from such talented artists as Robin, Nan and Kelli. For these ladies, art is their passion, as well as a way of life. Robin perfectly explained, "Art is sort of a high. It relaxes me. I think every artist who truly loves their work can say the same. I've done many things in life, but art, always." TOW



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The Making of a Young

Ice Princess

- By Beverly Shay

Many little girls dream of becoming a figure skater — gliding across the ice with the greatest of ease, pirouetting and executing impossibly perfect triple jumps — definitely the stuff dreams are made of. But what makes this kind of dream come true?

Coach Christy Malacrea said of her 9-year-old star-in-the-making, Caroline Rodriguez, "She's a very hard worker and a dedicated skater." Dedication means 15 - 18 hours of practice each week — quite a big commitment for the fourth-grader at Alexandria Elementary School, who has been skating for four-and-a-half years.

"I was scared at first," admitted Caroline's mother, Dolores. "My husband enrolled her when the rink [Dr Pepper StarCenter] first opened and Caroline told us she wanted to skate. I was afraid she would injure herself, so I withdrew her after two weeks."

Dolores had Caroline try cheerleading (Caroline made a face) and gymnastics over the next year, but that was only worse. Without his wife knowing, Caroline's dad, Elias, re-enrolled her. "It's what she wanted to do," Elias explained.

"She has made rapid progress," Christy enthused. "She has learned all the single and double jumps and is beginning to learn her triple jumps. Caroline's connecting steps and spins are very solid. As well, she is very artistic on the ice, with good presence and style. She's very mature for her age."



Caroline's eyes moved from her parents to her coach, as she shyly explained, "I'd like to go to the Olympics. I want to skate like Sasha Cohen." What is her favorite thing to do on the ice? "Spins," she grinned.

Recently, Caroline participated in her first regional competition in Grapevine. She placed seventh out of 16 competitors ages 9 - 12, slightly intimidated by the skills of the other girls. "It was a learning experience," Coach Christy remarked. "She learned she needed to fight and not just sit there." Caroline nodded.

Most children's first exposure to ice-skating is a party or public skate session. If further interested, they sign up for an eight-week Learn to Skate class. There are several levels of classes in figure skating. Advanced students move on to private lessons or take up ice hockey. Competitions begin in-house, advance to local teams and then high school teams. "Being a successful skater is a combination of talent, desire, work ethic and passion. Some kids are very passionate and work very hard, but may lack the talent or skill for higher levels of competition. What's hard to see is someone with a lot of talent and



skill, yet [lacking] the passion or work ethic to succeed," Christy commented. Apparently, Caroline functions in all of these categories.

"I like to skate to Spanish music," commented Caroline, whose favorite outfit is sparkly blue and black. She feels like a princess on the ice.

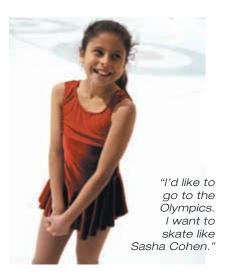
"It's financially expensive, but we see it as a good investment. We didn't come into this thinking she'd be aggressive, but she really picked it up. It's challenging at times," her dad said, speaking of the time commitment. Every Monday and Wednesday morning, Caroline is at the rink for an hour-and-a-half of practice, beginning at 5:30 a.m. That means Mom is there, too. Saturday practice begins a little later — at 6:30 a.m. Four afternoons per week, practice commences once Caroline has finished her homework.

Caroline simply enjoys skating. "I think she has really identified with herself and is figuring out how she wants to pursue this. I guess I'll just have to hit the lottery so we can continue," Elias laughed. "Everyone has invested a lot of time in her. Once a coach recognizes interest, they will spend time developing that skater. We



don't want to push her or see her burn out, but we plan to continue as long as she is interested, willing to work at it and still enjoys it," Elias stated.

"This is a sport not many Hispanics pursue. There are a few Mexican federations of skaters. For the summer, my wife will probably take her to Torreon, in Coahuila, Mexico, where they have recently built a new rink," Elias remarked.



"My father never went beyond the third grade, but he worked hard to provide for us five kids," Elias said. "I determined I would work even harder to give my kids the opportunity to pursue their dreams to the fullest extent."

"Our 17-year-old son is ranked number one in the state as a classical clarinetist," Dolores proudly added. He was featured in *Texas Monthly* in June 2007, as well as invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in front of 4,000 people. Talent, skill, hard work and performance apparently run in the family.

In addition to practice on the ice, Caroline has been in tae kwon do for three months to increase flexibility and arm strength. Off ice, she works on jumps and attends ballet class to develop strength and condition core muscles. At the end of the day, it comes down to one thing: "I just like to skate," Caroline said.



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Business



When all you receive for the money you spend is a receipt and a memory, it is the quality and value of that memory that will inspire you to return. Creating good memories is the focus at the Duncanville Ramada located at 711 E. Camp Wisdom Road. "We are in the hospitality industry to serve the hospitality needs of the community and travelers," explained Tom Hackney, director of sales. "We work hard to satisfy our customers, addressing any issue they need help with, so they have a happy memory to take home."

The Ramada is a mid-tier, full-service, value-priced hotel. Mid-tier means they carry neither a five-star nor a one-star rating. Unlike most mid-tier hotels which have limited-service facilities (no bar, restaurant or banquet capacities), the Ramada's full-service status allows them to offer the community affordable, budget-variable events, such as: company meetings, family reunions, sports banquets, weddings, receptions or graduation parties.

Nine different meeting spaces are designed to accommodate anywhere from 25 to 350 for a sit-down dinner or 400 for a stand-and-mingle reception.

Tonya Bailey, the hotel's food and beverage director, makes it her mission to assist you in planning a memorable, yet affordable event. She is ready to give ideas on decorating and planning a menu, as well as offering a package deal where she takes care of all the details. "I keep up with current trends and tips on decorating and catering all manner of events, so I can help our clientele make the most of their time with us," she stated.

Tanya desires to cater for all nationalities. "I have such a passion for people; I love all their different personalities. Growing up with 15 siblings, I have learned to take into

consideration many different tastes. It challenges me to hear peoples' expectations and dreams, and then make it happen on their budget," Tanya claimed.

"We see our hotel as a big house and our workers as a big family. Our goal is to make our guests feel comfortably at home during their stay with us whether they are here for a

meeting, an event or an extended stay," Tom stated.

The new owners, Dallas Partners LLC, are implementing community-friendly changes: they have joined the Chamber of Commerce and other groups. Extensive renovation is providing a "face-lift" on the exterior and a fresh look inside



Business

under the oversight of Monty Cary, an amazing artist in his own right. "Originally this building was built for a paraplegic, so the design is extremely 'senior-friendly' with no stairs and very solid, 'anti-fire-spreading' construction," Tom confided. "So the physical changes are all cosmetic. We are also introducing

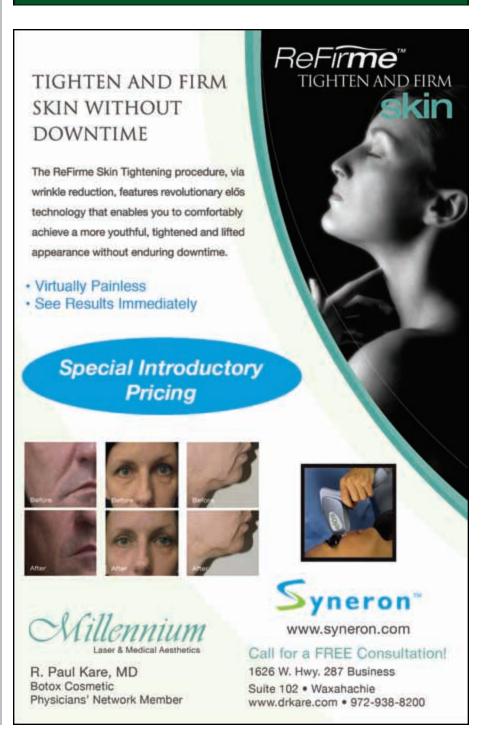


more service ideas, such as Trip Rewards®. Our desire is to present a hospitality center that appeals both to travelers and locals," Tom commented.

While some of their amenities are already known in the community, such as the Texas Tux Club and Tino's, their full-service restaurant, other new amenities feature a computer station near the lobby and the coming updated room décor including more pillows and beautiful duvets. "We offer good, clean, friendly, professional service. We welcome seniors who would like to take advantage of our daily, weekly or monthly rates, along with shuttle and van service for local outings. The Ramada also hosts Duncanville High School sporting tournaments," Tom divulged.

Visit the 123-room facility, boasting 8,000 square feet of banqueting space. Mention this article for a 20 percent discount on any banquet event, or stay two nights and get the third night free. Club hours are 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. Tino's hours are 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Call (972) 298-8911 or e-mail ramada.dos@gmail.com for more information.







According to Lolita Looney, eighth-graders at West Middle School might compare her classroom to boot camp — at least during the first six weeks. If her science classroom had a motto it would follow suit, "Be all that you can be," because for this scientist-turned-teacher, helping students do their ultimate best is her main goal. "Even when you find a little bit of success, you don't quit going until you reach your highest potential," she said.

Lolita teaches six general science classes, three at the honor level. She is the sponsor for the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and has been teaching for eight years — six at Henry W. Longfellow Academy in Dallas and two at West Middle

School in DeSoto. Each year in the classroom, Lolita scraps last year's lesson plans and starts fresh. "Every class is different, because your kids are different," she said. "To just keep doing the same things because it's easier for me — I don't even allow that to be an option."

"Before you can teach students, you have to reach them [individually]. Once you reach them," Lolita continued, "you can teach them anything." She comes from a family of educators, but like her students, before she could teach, she had to be reached with a realization of her own calling.

Lolita graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bachelor's in microbiology. Fresh out of college, she was determined to be a scientist. She worked for the Dallas office of Smith Klein, now Quest Diagnostics. Even as a microbiologist, when new lab-technicians came aboard, Lolita was asked to train them. Eventually, she found herself training regularly, but it was not often enough, and her

trainees were not young enough. She began to feel that if she could just reach students at an earlier age, she could instill in them the desire to become lifelong learners. Eventually, lab work became routine in light of her growing aspiration to impart more than on-the-job training.

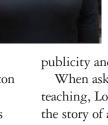
In 1999, in spite of a substantial pay cut, Lolita gave up her job and surrendered to teaching science. "Life is too short," she said. "If I die tomorrow, I want to be able to say I've done what I wanted to do." Her family was ecstatic at the decision. "It was almost like I joined the family sorority," she said of fully yielding to the teacher in her blood.

In keeping with her passion to motivate greatness,

improvement and innovation follow this teacher/scientist. Last year she developed and implemented Eighth Grade Week at West Middle School. It provides an activity for the big kids, while adding incentives and rewards for good behavior. The week ends with a Friday night ball. "Our behavior problems have gone way down, at least for the eighth grade, because everybody wants to go to the ball," she said. West's second year for the event is 2008, and Lolita is looking forward to increased community

publicity and involvement.

When asked to name one of her favorite things about teaching, Lolita said, "Every day is a new day." Then she told the story of a 14-year-old student, whom most had given up on. He had a difficult upbringing in foster care, with two strikes against him seemingly from the beginning. Lolita remembers looking him in the eyes and saying, "Your past is something you can't change, but your future is something



Education

you can.' It seems like every year you get kids like that," she said. Watching them grow to become even one step closer to their goals is an extremely fulfilling experience for her. "Everything we learn, we've been taught," she explained, "and if we are not taught the proper way, or if nobody takes us aside and says, 'Hey, this is wrong; I'm not scared of you. There is a child inside of you that wants to do right, but just does not know how,' then how can we learn?"

"Sometimes the kids with deep-seated

"Before you can teach students. you have to reach them (individually). Once you reach them, you can teach them anything."

hopelessness really need a teacher the most, because the harsh realities of life have not taught them well," Lolita said. Not only does Lolita teach science, but she also works to incorporate life-skills training, both in the classroom and in NJHS activities. She places high value on exposure to music, art and career options. Honors society activities include: volunteering with Dallas Life Foundation to help the underprivileged, trips to the Dallas Museum of Art and live theatrical performances. "We go to see Lion King and someone gets inspired to pursue the arts," Lolita said of the exposure the students are getting. She also gives students an online look at career paths in light of supply, demand, salary and education. Lolita's higher standard is worth the extra reaching when she sees students grasp the difference between opportunities with a high school diploma versus a college degree — a gift that, when given at a young age, can change the future in countless ways.

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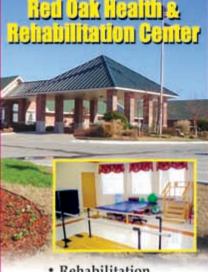
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Around Town Cedar Hill







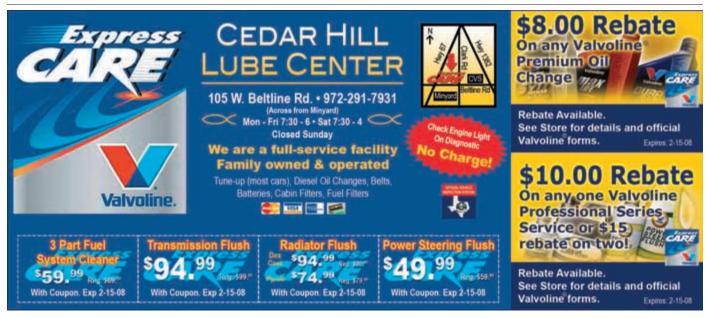








The Storytime Theater at Zula B. Wylie Library, top left, presented Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present. Crafts, top center, were a big hit at the library's annual open house. Library Friends, top right, are shown with the aquatic cube they donated to the children's area. Expressions Chiropractic Wellness & Rehabilitation and Expressions Salon & Spa, left middle, donated \$500 to the Cedar Hill Pantry. Trinity Christian Cheerleaders, directly above, show school spirit. The first place team at the annual golf tournament held at Tangle Ridge Golf Course, bottom left, happened to be the guys from Waste Management, Santa, bottom right, visited the library.





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Around Town DeSoto



















The DeSoto High School Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALS) group, top left and top center, decorated the Book Angel Tree at the DeSoto Public Library. The annual Christmas parade brought out the holiday spirit in all those who were in attendance as evidenced by the four photos directly above. PALS, middle right, had a great time decorating the tree. Smiling faces, bottom right, are always found at a parade.



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Around Town Duncanville



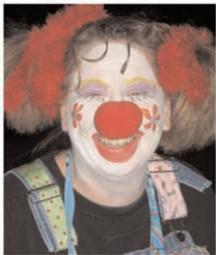












Santa Claus, top left, made his entrance on a fire engine. A family, top middle, waits for the annual Christmas parade to begin. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, top right, addressed the Best Southwest Chamber of Commerce Partnership at their quarterly meeting. Floats, left center, and smiling faces, middle center, were in abundance at the parade. A Lakota Sioux tipi, right center, was recently erected by Larry Besseler, at the International Museum of Cultures. A clown, bottom left, smiled for the camera. Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, bottom right, addressed no fewer than 300 Chamber members from the Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Lancaster and Duncanville chambers at a recent meeting.



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH MICHAEL HURTT

ichael's memories of cooking stem from a strong background of great cooks. His grandmother was a chef and once owned a restaurant. Michael comes from a large family, the oldest of seven, so everyone helped! "I learned to do pancakes," Michael said. "I also learned to hate washing dishes, so I do the grocery shopping and cook, while my wife, Marilyn, does the dishes."

Michael has attended cooking classes from chefs such as Kent Rathburn and Stephen Pyles. While teaching of this caliber has been an influence, Michael's inspiration has stemmed from being a member of a family of great cooks and outdoor grilling. "The neighborhood requests include the popular barbecue brisket or prime rib," he said, "but my personal favorites are the flavorful dishes

BEEF TENDERLOIN WITH MUSHROOMS

1 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced 1 cup chopped green onions 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley 1 (6 to 7 lb) beef tenderloin 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt 1/4 tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning 14-oz. pkg. crumbled blue cheese 1 8-oz. bottle red wine vinegar and oil dressing crushed peppercorns, to taste

Sauté sliced mushrooms and green onions in butter in a large skillet until tender; drain. Stir in parsley and set aside. Trim excess fat from beef tenderloin. Cut tenderloin lengthwise to within 1/4 inch of other edge, leaving one long side connected. Sprinkle with seasoned salt and lemon-pepper seasoning. Spoon sautéed mushrooms and onions into opening of tenderloin; sprinkle with blue cheese. Fold top side over stuffing. Tie tenderloin securely with heavy string at 2-inch intervals. Place tenderloin in a large, shallow dish. Pour dressing over tenderloin; cover and refrigerate 8 hours, basting with marinade occasionally. Remove tenderloin from marinade. Press crushed peppercorns onto each side of tenderloin. Grill over medium-hot coals, covered or tented, 35 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 140 F for rare to 160 F for medium. Transfer to platter. Serves 8.

CANLIS' SPECIAL SALAD

SALAD: 2 Tbsp. olive oil pinch of salt large clove of garlic 2 peeled tomatoes, cut into eighths 2 heads Romaine lettuce, sliced into 1-inch strips

CONDIMENTS:

1/4 cup chopped green onion 1/2 cup freshly grated Romano cheese 1 lb. rendered finely chopped bacon

DRESSING:

1/4 cup lemon juice 1/4 tsp. oregano 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper 1/4 tsp. chopped fresh mint 1 coddled egg 1 cup olive oil 1 cup croutons

SALAD: In a large wooden bowl, pour approximately 2 tablespoons of good imported olive oil, sprinkle with salt and rub firmly with a large clove of garlic. The oil will act as a lubricant and the salt as an abrasive. Remove garlic, and place the tomatoes in the bottom of the bowl. Add Romaine, sliced in 1-inch strips. You may add other salad vegetables if you choose, but remember to put the heavy vegetables in first with Romaine on top. Add condiments. Pour the lemon juice and seasonings into a bowl. Add coddled egg and whip vigorously. Then add olive oil, whipping constantly. When ready to serve, pour dressing over salad. Add croutons. Toss generously. Serves 4 - 6.

FUNERAL POTATOES

6 medium potatoes 1/2 cup butter 1 10 3/4-oz. can cream of chicken soup 1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded 1 pint sour cream 1/2 cup chopped green onion

TOPPING:

1 cup crushed corn flakes 2 Tbsp. butter, melted

Boil potatoes for 12 minutes. Cool and shred. Place them in a large drip pan. Mix butter, cream of chicken soup, cheese, sour cream and green onion. Pour mixture over potatoes. TOPPING: Mix lightly with fork so mixture can partly penetrate into potatoes. Mix corn flakes with melted butter and place over potatoes. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes.

MICHAEL'S STUFFED MUSHROOMS

25 – 50 large mushrooms 1 stick butter 8 oz. crabmeat, more if desired 3 oz. whipping cream 3 egg yolks 2 Tbsp. lemon juice 4 oz. sour cream bread crumbs

Take stems out of mushrooms and chop the stems. In a skillet, melt butter and sauté mushroom stems. Add crabmeat and then the whipping cream, egg yolks, lemon juice and sour cream. Then add bread crumbs to thicken. Fill mushrooms with the mixture. Heat at 350 F for 15 minutes on greased cookie sheet.

MEXICAN SEAFOOD COCKTAIL

1 1/2 cups chilled Clamato juice (or 1 cup tomato juice and 1/2 cup clam juice combined)

Who's Cooking

1/4 cup ketchup

1/4 cup fresh lime juice

1 tsp. hot sauce (like Tabasco)

1 tsp. salt (or to taste)

1/4 cup finely chopped white onion

1/4 cup fresh cilantro

1 firm-ripe California avocado (peeled, pitted, cut into small chunks)

1/4 lb. fresh lump crabmeat, cleaned (about 1 cup)

1/4 lb. cooked baby shrimp

Stir together Clamato juice, ketchup, lime juice, hot sauce, salt, onion and cilantro in a large bowl, then gently stir in avocado, crabmeat and shrimp. May be served with oyster crackers or Saltine crackers if desired. Spoon into 6- or 8-oz. glasses or cups. Serves 4 - 6 as a first course or light main course.

KAHLUA CAKE

CAKE:

3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened

2 cups sugar

3/4 cup sifted cocoa

4 eggs, separated (For fluffy, high egg whites, have them at room temperature. Just as you start to beat them, add a pinch of salt.)

1 tsp. soda

2 Tbsp. cold water

1/2 cup cold coffee

1/2 cup Kahlua

1 3/4 cup cake flour

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

GLAZE:

1 cup Kahlua

1/2 cup powdered sugar

CAKE: Cream butter and sugar well. Add cocoa and one egg volk at a time beating well. Dissolve soda in water. Combine soda, coffee and Kahlua. Add liquids to creamed mixture alternately with flour. Stir in vanilla. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into a greased and floured 10 mm Bundt pan. Bake at 325 F for 45 minutes or until done. Remove cake from pan while warm. Pierce cake with fork. GLAZE: Combine Kahlua and powdered sugar blend until smooth. Pour glaze over cake. Cover and store in refrigerator. Garnish with whipped cream and strawberries, raspberries or drizzle with a berry coleus if desired. Yield: 8 - 10 servings.











Finance

Do Not Let Wall Street's "Mood Swings"

Upset YourInvestment Strategy

Some investors were rattled by the recent volatility in the stock market. And it is hard to blame them. After all, one day, we are seeing record highs, and then, a few days later, we are on a losing streak — followed by a rebound. What will happen this week, next week or next month? No one really knows, but one thing is certain: stock prices often fall (or rise) for reasons that have little to do with why you invest.

To illustrate, let us consider two of the factors that investment professionals cite as responsible for the market's series of losses in early June:

Falling hopes for a rate cut

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke hinted that the Fed might not be cutting interest rates before the year ended. Because interest rate cuts often spur the economy and can boost stock prices (at least in the short term), Bernanke's statements took away some enthusiasm from investors.

Rising bond yields

Bond yields rose significantly. At one point during the stock market's losing streak, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note hit 5.24 percent, its highest level in five years. When yields go over the 5 percent level, some stock investors believe they can cut back on risk, and still earn a reasonable return, by investing in

bonds. If many of these investors then pull back from the stock market, stock prices may fall.

As an individual investor, what should you take away from these apparent "mood swings" of Wall Street? Here is lesson number one: do not overreact to the mood swings of Wall Street. You will waste time, money and effort by constantly trying to adjust your investment strategies in response to events such as comments by the Federal Reserve chairman or a rise in bond yields above a rather arbitrary figure. When the market is volatile (and even when it is not), focus on the things you can control. Here are a few suggestions:

Invest broadly

If you spread your dollars among a range of stocks, bonds, government securities and other vehicles, your portfolio may withstand market downturns better than if you only owned one or two types of investments.

Buy quality

Look for quality investments, including stocks of well-run companies with histories of paying dividends. These investments tend to hold their value better during market declines — and they usually bounce back faster when those declines run their course. (Keep in mind, though, that companies can increase, decrease or totally eliminate dividends at any time without notice.)

Follow an "all-weather" fixed-income strategy

If you are investing part of your portfolio in bonds, do not try to outguess the direction of interest rates. Instead, take an "all-weather" approach by building a "ladder" consisting of bonds of varying maturities. Once you have created your ladder, you are



Finance NOW

prepared for both rising and falling interest rates. When rates are rising, the proceeds from your maturing bonds can be used to invest in new bonds at the higher levels. When market rates are falling, you will continue to benefit from the higher rates offered by your longer-term bonds even if the maturing bonds will be locking into the lower rates.

Above all else, keep your eyes on your goals. Your monthly investment statements may occasionally make you frown, but if you have done a good job of building a solid investment portfolio and you follow long-term strategies, you may eventually have a lot to smile about.

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The Woes of the Weekend Warrior

The scene is set: free time, buddies and a challenge. The winner takes all, a no-holds-barred weekend warrior challenge. It is "just a game" you all say, but everyone knows it is a play-full-out championship game! The next day you realize, I'm not a kid anymore! Muscle aches, headaches and sprained ankles — How did this happen? It never used to feel like this.

It is easy to make jokes about being a "weekend warrior," but it is really no laughing matter. These injuries can actually be quite serious. They can even have life effects, such as neck and back injuries.

Many times, we find that we have a "weak link," an area that we seem to injure time and time again. One of the fundamental keys to preventing injury is to find the weak link. However, sometimes this is difficult to do. This is because it often is not located closely to the injured area. An example of this is seen in the

ankle/foot/arch complex. When there is a problem in this area, it can affect the knee, hip or low back.

Other keys to preventing injuries include:

- Arriving early to prepare for the game.
- **Warming up** to elevate your body's core temperature.
- **Stretching** to increase blood supply to the muscles.
- **Hydrating** dehydration is a major factor in injuries.
- Dressing appropriately wear the right gear for the
- Do not overdo it use your head, not your ego to know your limits.

What do you do when you do get injured? You pay the

PRICE! This stands for Protection, Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation. This protocol can help prevent scar tissue formation and help you recover more quickly. For injuries that are more severe or pain lasting longer than 48 - 72 hours, always consult your doctor! NOW

Dr. Lesa Ansell is the CEO of Pro-Adjuster Chiropractic Clinic and is a

member of the Texas 4 Disaster Medical Team under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security.

COMMON WEEKEND WARRIOR INJURIES

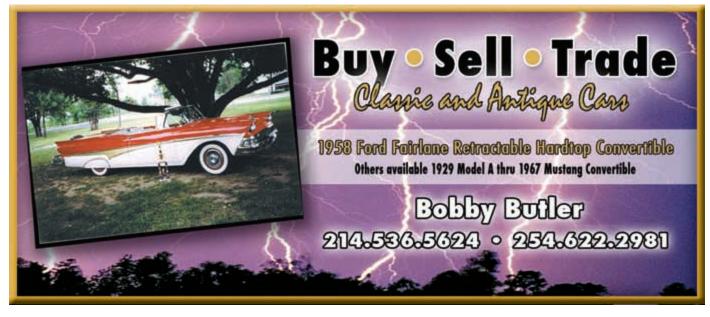
Sport

Surfing Volleyball Baseball **Tennis** Soccer Swimming Weight lifting Hiking and Climbing Football Running

Neck, low back, shoulders Shoulders, low back, ankles

Commonly Injured Regions

Shoulders, elbows, knees, ankles Elbows, wrists, knees Neck, knees, ankles Shoulder, low back Low back, shoulders, wrists Legs, low back, shoulders, ankles Knees, ankles, shoulders, low back Low back, ankles, knees, hips





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Great Outdoors

'08 Resolution — Save a Tree!

— By Nancy Fenton

Are you planning some remodeling or new construction for your home this year? Let us consider how to do it while protecting those big trees you love. If you are thinking about expanding your home or your driveway this year, consider looking at it from the tree's point of view. Our gracious, old trees have had a lifetime to put out those roots past the edges of their drip line using them to absorb water and

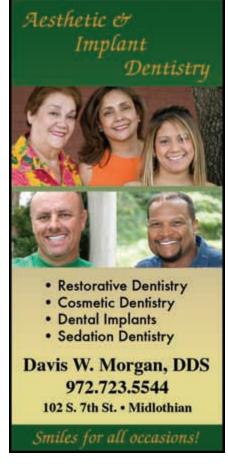
14 essential nutrients. When we pave or add soil, it really fouls up the absorption. Protect the tree from those big machines by creating a barrier with that ugly, but effective, orange fence as far out from the trunk as you can. A four- to six-inch layer of mulch over the area will protect it from the compacting of large machinery that knocks down your fence. Avoid the fill dirt around the tree as much as possible since it will slowly strangle the tree over a period of several years. Those pavers with holes in them offer some help in getting the moisture and air down to the roots if you must cover part of the area.

If you are putting in irrigation or underground lines, tunnel two to four feet below the surface rather than trenching. It will avoid most of the feeding roots. Root pruning is a last-gap measure, but necessary if you want a level surface area. It will promote a rush of new growth and reduce the chance of root rot.

The tree canopy of the earth is quickly diminishing. We can see it as we drive down the highway and notice the dozers knocking down second growth trees in preparation for yet another shopping mall or housing addition. When the rains have no place to be absorbed, they tend to run into our homes, etc. Not a pretty thought! Less noticeable is the oxygen that those destroyed trees were producing and the CO2 they were taking out of the atmosphere. Let us all do our share by planting trees, taking care of the ones we have, and encouraging the builders to think before bulldozing building sites with trees. NOW

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.





January 2008 community Calendar

Every Monday (except Jan. 7th and 21st)

Nursery Rhyme Time from 10:15-10:45 a.m. at Duncanville Public Library. *Head to Toe*: Jan. 14 - hands; Jan. 28 - heads.

Every Tuesday

Rotary Club of Duncanville meets at the Hilton Garden Inn at 7:00 a.m. www.duncanvillerotary.org.

Homeschool Movies from 2:00-2:30 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library. *Plant Life*. Jan. 15 - photosynthesis; Jan. 22 - structure & growth; Jan. 29 - biodiversisty.

Every Wednesday

Rotary Club of Cedar Hill: 7-8 a.m. at Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 East Parkerville Road.

Every Wednesday and Friday

Preschool story time at Cedar Hill Library: 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. (972) 291-7323.

Every Thursday

Story Time from 10:15-10:45 a.m. at Duncanville Public Library. *Growing up With Books*. Jan. 10 - presented by Duncanville High School Family, Community and Career (FCC) students; Jan. 17 - things to do with baby; Jan. 24 - I can do it too; Jan. 31 - getting ready.

Lectura en Español by Tamara Knapp from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Every Saturday

Fun Time Live: 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Recreation Center. Safe, exciting, supervised entertainment for children (3rd through 8th grade). Cost is \$10/child for four hours of fun, challenging activities supervised by adults with a police officer on site. Activities and themes change each week, but will include such things as: karaoke, live DJ, dance contests, football/basketball/dodge ball/soccer, relay races and tug-o-wars. Concessions are available for minimal charge. Call (972) 772-6000 or visit www.funtimelive.com.

First Tuesdays

Dad's Night Out With the Family from 7:00-7:40 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library. This event is moved to the second Tuesday (Jan. 8) for this month only due to New Year's Day.

First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants' free informational sessions: 5:30 p.m. (972) 842-2999. **No meeting on New Year's Day.**

Second and Fourth Mondays

Texas Ladies Networking: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Ryan's Grill, Waxahachie. (214) 587-1221.

Second Tuesday

The Dallas Area Writers Group at Cedar Hill Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Cedar Hill Lions: Noon - 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, 915 Old Straus Road; (972) 291-0651.

Second Wednesday

Cedar Hill/Duncanville Early Childhood PTA: 10 a.m. at Cedar Hill Hope Lutheran Church, 917 N. Straus Road.

January 8

Dad's Night Out With the Family from 7:00-7:40 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library. *Storytime* presented by Duncanville High School Family, Community and Career students.

January 9

Business on the Hill at the Cedar Hill Chamber: 7:30 a.m.

January 10

Cedar Hill Chamber Night Out: 5:30-7:00 p.m. TBD.

January 12

Free Wellness Fair presented by City of Duncanville and Duncanville Recreation

Center partnering with Methodist Health Systems: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Duncanville Rec. Center, 200 James Collins. FREE — everyone is invited. (972) 780-5774.

January 15

Good Morning DeSoto! Morning networking event: 7:30 a.m. at MCM Grande Hotel/Fundome. Call (972) 224-3565 or visit: info@desotochamber.org.

January 23

Business on the Hill at the Cedar Hill Chamber: 7:30 a.m.

January 24

Cedar Hill Monthly Chamber Luncheon at Northwood University: 11:30 a.m.

January 26

DeSotoOpoly! - A Gala Night of Fun & Games (DeSoto Chamber's Annual Awards Gala & Auction): 6:00 p.m. at the MCM Grande Hotel/Fundome. Call (972) 224-3565 or visit: info@desotochamber.org.

January 28

Cedar Hill Education Council meets at Chamber Office at 4:30 p.m.

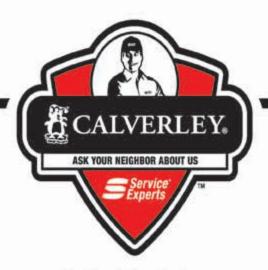
January 29

Good Morning DeSoto! Morning networking event: 7:30 a.m. at MCM Grande Hotel/Fundome. Call (972) 224-3565 or visit: info@desotochamber.org.

January 31

Zula B. Wylie Library of Cedar Hill is hosting a Dining for Dollars event at Applebee's in Cedar Hill from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Enjoy a great meal and support a nonprofit group that raises support for the library.

To have your events posted on the community calendar, e-mail us at: bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.



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