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November 2010

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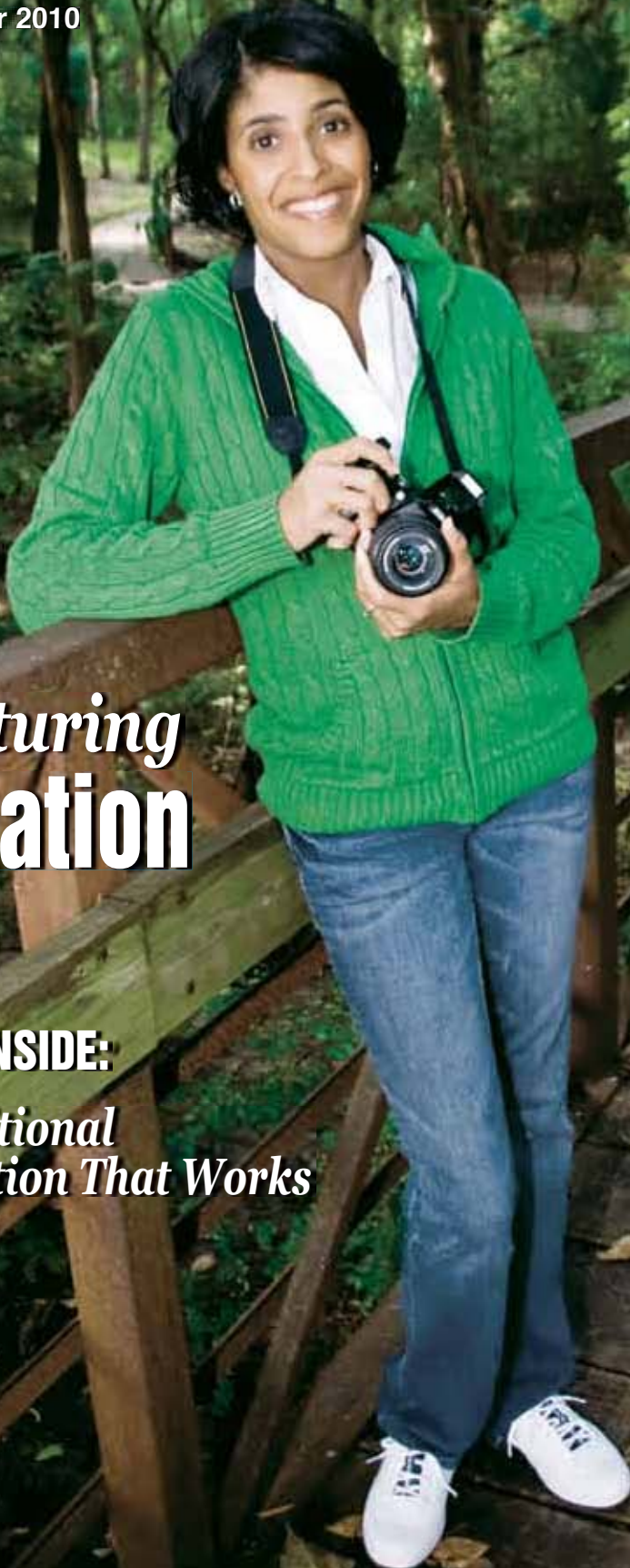
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MAGAZINE
The Community Magazine
Serving Cedar Hill, DeSoto,
Duncanville and the
Surrounding Area

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Assistant Coach Troy Chambers (left) and Head Coach Derek Stovall (right) led the Cedar Hill Hornets to the championship title during the last three years' winter and spring basketball seasons.

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On The Cover

DeSoto photographer, Lisa Johnson, poses for her own portrait.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

Editor's Note



Hello, Southwest Friends,

It is hard to believe Thanksgiving Day is near. Makes my mouth water — I can almost smell the turkey roasting, sweet potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie and my daughter, Mary's, amazing work of art, otherwise known as apple pie. *Sigh.* No problem being thankful for an almost sinful amount of food ... and family ... and friends. I always think I will try new recipes, but the family wants the traditional favorites. Check out Jennie Ayers' recipes for a few new ideas.

DeSoto artist Lisa Johnson will be photographing her family. Our distinctive young flutists, Taylor and Kirsten will be showing off their magazine debut to family and friends; read our SouthwestNOW feature (really a joint DeSoto/Duncanville story) to find out why. And you can safely encounter some Hornets who, instead of stinging are zinging around basketball courts in Cedar Hill.

I am thankful for each of you who have enriched my life with your stories.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor
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Instilling *The* BEST

— By Antoinette Nevils

Undefeated and unmatched are just some of the many words that describe the Cedar Hill Youth Basketball Hornets. The team of 10 boys between the ages of 8 and 10 have not only been undefeated champions three years in a row, but are also undefeated in the classroom by maintaining good grades throughout the years. “We’re directly teaching them basketball,” Head Coach Derek Stovall said, “but I also feel we’re teaching them about life.”

Sponsored by the Cedar Hill Recreation League and the city of Cedar Hill, this

team was formed three years ago, at which time Derek enrolled his twin sons. After volunteering so much at the games, he was promoted to coach in 2007. Derek has had years of coaching experience in basketball and football. The Hornets’ assistant coach, Troy Chambers, also started off as a volunteer for the team because his son is also on the team, and was later invited to be the assistant coach. Being dads and coaches means extra quality time with their sons and that extra push for excellence.

The Cedar Hill Hornets have been champions during the last three years’ winter and spring basketball seasons. The league gave each hardworking player, as well as the coaches, their own trophy for each win. They even received the Outstanding Performance for Perfect Season trophy award for the winter and spring 2009-2010 seasons. Troy shared, “You create winners by making the sport

fun,” he stated. “The boys come back every season and win because they keep the game fun and love the sport.”

The main reasons for their success lie within their longevity, foundation and the yearning for high achievement on and off the court. “How much time and how much effort you put into it will determine the outcome,” Derek added.

Troy shared how the boys had a rough first year and were not the most athletic at first, but after they “hung in and fought the first year, the second year they gave it their all — putting it all on the court.” They practice two times a week and play every Saturday during the winter and spring seasons.

“We are devoted to the kids,” Derek added.

Another unique aspect of this winning team is its loyal and consistent players. “The basic core of our team is the boys who have been together since day one,” Troy explained. “They have that consistency. They know one another and depend on each other for getting things done.” However, for the few new players they do receive, watching veteran players allows the new players to not only see great work, but to also measure up quickly to their standards. “They saw how



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~Monica, Class of 2014



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to continue to be in a system and learn and work," Derek said. "It's not about necessarily changing teams; it's sometimes changing how you do things."

When they are not playing, they are working hard on their academics. Derek's repetitive motto for his sons is: "Whatever you do, whatever you sign your name to — you do your best." He shared how he reminds his boys that athletics is an extracurricular activity, while school is most important and should be held as a task to strive for daily. If his sons get a 95 on an assignment, he tells them to shoot for a 99 or a 100 next time and find out why they did not get a 100, and what they can do next time to get that top A grade. "It's all about instilling in them to try to do their best in everything they endeavor," Derek said.

"They have to be kids also, but we're also trying to raise young men," Troy added. "We want this winning attitude to carry over not only on the basketball court, but also count in school and in their walk in life. You have to want to be the best at what you do."

Not only do Derek and Troy demand excellence and drive during practice, so do their sons and team players. Troy knows the team believes in what they are teaching and giving them. "When the team is backed in a corner," Troy said, "they know what to do." Derek mentioned that supportive parents also make this a winning team. Parents and families attend practices and support one another.

Not only are the coaches proud of their team's success, but so are their hardworking sons. "We do not lose because we are good at what we do and work harder than most teams," said Troy's son, Trenton Chambers. "We don't doubt ourselves. We never give up." He also mentioned that he completes his homework as soon as he gets home so he can go practice later.

Jared Stovall, one of Derek's twin sons, believes they are undefeated because of their great offense and defense. He shared how he likes his teammates, being undefeated, working hard and working with his dad. "He teaches me things I don't know. He has me do drills, so I can do better," Jared explained. He also said he does not get tired despite the hard work.

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"When I get tired, I play even harder, because I know I can do better." Jalen Stovall, Derek's other twin son, along with Jared and Trenton all said they love basketball, enjoy school and have fun playing with their fathers.

Surprisingly, their least-troubling issue is team energy. The more fun they have, the more they want to play. Derek revealed how time management is "key" for him working as a coach, being a father and working full time. They keep practices and the game fun, and in turn the boys keep their coaches' gas going and their energy up. Troy laughingly explained it is really the coaches who lag behind and try to keep up



with the kids. "They have the drive to do it; so it pushes us," Troy mused.

The coaches also mentioned how the Hornets are growing up, never miss practice and never lack in numbers. "It didn't start out that way. The team has truly evolved into an extended family," Derek said. They are now thinking of playing in the fall season with new teams to introduce the boys to new players, skills and styles of the game. "Our team is getting older, and we need to elevate their skills," Derek admitted.

As coaches, their biggest sense of pride is getting it done and winning. "I want to highlight their physical and mental growth, and how they have transformed," Derek shared. "Every season ends as a great season, win or lose, they're always winners." **NOW**

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Convergent Talents

— By Beverly Shay

Passion and focus seem to be two key elements both Taylor Sims and Kirsten Laman have striven for and achieved at a young age. Taylor, 17, is a senior at DeSoto High School, and Kirsten, 16, is a sophomore at Duncanville High School. Both girls were invited to be a part of the prestigious National Flute Association's High School Flute Choir presented at the 38th Annual National Flute Association (NFA) Convention entitled "Illuminating Tradition" held in Anaheim, California August 12-15, 2010.





Leonard Garrison, chair of the board of directors of the NFA, wrote in the convention program welcome, "At my first NFA convention decades ago, when it was much smaller, the number of fantastic performances flabbergasted me — I never knew great flute playing was so widely distributed! Much to my surprise, some Young Artist Competition finalists were just as polished as established artists (and today these former competitors are themselves established artists). If this is your first convention, I hope you have a similar revelation." In this atmosphere, Taylor and Kirsten, along with their mothers and flute teacher, Rebecca Simonfalvi, found their horizons expanding, their appetites for music



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finesse exploding and their passion enveloped and exponentially reverberated in the presence of prestigious instructors and flutists of renown, along with other wide-eyed young flute artists.

"I could not be prouder of Taylor and Kirsten," began Rebecca, "for being two of only 24 high school students chosen from applicants from all across the nation! Their convergent talents



really represented Duncanville and DeSoto well at the convention! They worked so hard to prepare for this, without neglecting their schoolwork and other responsibilities of their lives." Even applying for the choir is an arduous task. Each applicant had to make a CD recording of two flute pieces — one technical solo and one slower contemporary piece to demonstrate musicality — which three judges would evaluate; three "yeses" from the judges were needed to be accepted.

"The same pieces were chosen for each contestant, so capturing the judges' attention within the first three notes played was very important," Rebecca explained. "The quality of the recording, accuracy and precision of each note and tone, as well as conveying your own



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DeSoto ISD: Engaging Parents and Community

DeSoto ISD continues to strive for parental and community involvement in district events, activities and everyday learning. Changes in several communication tools and programs have enhanced opportunities and involvement.

Boundary Realignment Committee. A 50-member Boundary Realignment Committee will begin reviewing past, future and predicted future elementary and middle school attendance zones based on current and alternate boundaries to balance school enrollment with building capacity. The Committee will meet several times before providing a draft recommendation in January for public input. A final recommendation is expected to go to the Board in February.

State of DeSoto ISD events. on October 19 the district hosted two events - a breakfast and evening forum, to update the community on district academic, financial and growth status as well as to hear questions and concerns from the community. The Chamber. State of the District luncheon will be held in February.

DeSoto ISD Council of PTAs have been busy this fall with recruitment drives, a DeSoto's Got Talent Showcase and joining the Homecoming Parade! Contact your school to join PTA - it's never too late to get involved!

Strong Families DeSoto continues to host Dad's Days, Math and Science nights and family functions across the district to help parents get involved in their child(ren)'s education.

DeSoto ISD has established a **Parent Awareness Line** for parents, staff and students to learn about various topics such as drugs and alcohol, mental health, stress and depression, health and nutrition, parenting and safety. Details online at www.desotoisd.org under the Parent Assistance Center.

Web site updates have included virtual tours of all campuses and the alternative school. Also online, we have added direct



links to the vsi.net login for parents to quickly access their student's information. You can also sign up for the Eagle News electronic newsletter, join our Facebook page and view photos on the new DeSoto ISD Photo Gallery site all from the Web page!

Finally, **Parent Involvement Week** is coming November 13-19 with a variety of activities, but the biggest draw is the Parent Fair and Parents v. Staff Basketball Game on Saturday, November 13 at McCowan Middle School from 11:30-a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Parent Enrichment classes will be offered November 16 as well as throughout the year. Contact the Parent Assistance Center for questions and details at 972-274-8212 Ext. 221.

calendar

November 5, 7:30 p.m. - Eagles vs. Longview
November 6, 6 p.m. - Seniors Prom (age 55 and up)
November 13-19 - Parent Involvement Week
November 13, 11:30 a.m. - Parent vs. Staff Basketball Game and Parent Involvement Fair, McCowan
November 16 - DHS Choir Renaissance Feast, Town Ctr.
November 22-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday, No school
December 4 - DeSoto Holiday Parade of Lights
December 7, 7 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Christmas Choir
December 16, 7 p.m. - DeSoto HS Christmas Choir
December 21-31 - Winter Break
January 3 - School Resumes
January 14 - Teacher Preparation Day; No School
January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

www.desotoisd.org

BOARD SENDS MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS

The DeSoto ISD Board, along with districts across the state and Best Southwest, are sending resolutions to Texas Legislators regarding the need for education funding to be corrected. The resolution outlines the need for equal funding across all public schools.

Did you know if DeSoto ISD received even the state average for WADA funding we would receive an additional \$4M per year?

Contact your State Representatives and Senators to voice your concerns about the unequal funding in your district!





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Her interests include menopause management, obstetrics and in-office surgery. She believes most major surgeries can and should be done with minimally invasive techniques, and actively utilizes the state-of-the-art DaVinci Robot Surgical System for most major gynecological surgeries.

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interpretation all had to be perfectly rendered," she paused remembering the effort both girls put into their recordings. "Kirsten provided amazing tone and emotion as she played Muczynski's 'Andante Sostenuto' unaccompanied. Her capacity for tone is what sets her apart, and it is hard to be perfect on a slow piece. Taylor is consistently almost note perfect and plays with a distinct energy flow rare in a high school flutist. She played Godard's 'Waltz,' with amazing virtuosity. You know the girls are serious when they agree to record in my bathroom," she laughed. "Well, that room has the best acoustics for unaccompanied recording in the house!"

"I am always encouraging my students to let the music out — to release what is in their hearts on any given day. Music brings depth and beauty; it expresses the experiences of life through actual notes and allows us to give from our souls."

"In fifth grade, we got to try out various instruments," Taylor began her story. "I tried an oboe, but settled on the flute, partly due to Ms. Blake's influence. She's the wife of the former band director at DeSoto; she played flute, so I started to play. We learned to read music in sixth grade, but I didn't study theory until I began lessons with Miss Rebecca."

"I thought about playing clarinet, trombone or flute. I went with the flute and started lessons with Miss Rebecca in 2006. My mom (an orchestra teacher) actually taught me to read music and began me on music theory in first grade; she tried to teach me to play violin," Kirsten remembered, shrugging.

"I love classical music," Taylor explained concerning her favorite thing about playing flute. "It's so focused, and that helps me with my academics, because I have to pass if I am going to participate in the high school music program, of which band is just a part."

Kirsten mused, "For me, it's the tone; it's so beautiful I can lose myself in this different world — this classical world."

For these girls, playing is just a part

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Scarborough for President in 2012



There's a lot of buzz about the upcoming election year, but Duncanville High School senior Austin Scarborough isn't running for a position on Pennsylvania Avenue. He hopes to one day lead the

post-secondary program of the national student organization SkillsUSA as National President. Right now, Scarborough is leading on a state level - he was recently named the 2010-11 Texas SkillsUSA president, a position that is responsible for working with more than 1000 public high schools and trade schools across Texas. Scarborough hopes to continue his legacy as part of the SkillsUSA post-secondary program next year when he attends the University of Texas. For now he's focused on making this year count. "I'm looking forward to working with all of my state officers to make this the best year yet for Texas. SkillsUSA is more than just an organization - it's a family. And I'm excited to see what's in store for us!"

National Merits

Meet our three Duncanville High School students who have been recognized by the National Merit Scholar program.



Nathan Heineman

He's making the grade and opening the doors of opportunity. Duncanville High School senior Nathan Heineman was recently named a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. One of only 16,000 high school juniors in the United States to receive this distinction, Heineman earned it after scoring a 221 out of 240 on the 2009 PSAT/NMSQTR. It's a future that, according to Nathan, includes a college education at either the United States Naval Academy or Washington University. "I really want to be a fighter pilot, but Washington University has a really good medical school." Wherever he ends up, Heineman hopes it's with plenty of financial assistance. "My goal is to get a full ride." As a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, Nathan Heineman will now advance in the National Merit Scholar program. If named a Finalist, he will have the opportunity to compete for one of approximately 8,400 awards worth more than \$35 million.

Jennifer Oaks

When asked her feelings about being a senior, Duncanville High School student Jennifer Oaks replied, "It's fun being on top." But she just found out that her grade level isn't the only thing putting her in that position. Oaks was recently named a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Commended Student. Oaks plans to attend Abilene Christian University in the fall. While she hasn't decided on a major, Jennifer says she's excited about the school's Undeclared field of study. "It's really focused on helping you find out what you're passionate about."



Peter Eaton

Duncanville High School senior Peter Eaton is learning that practice pays off. He is one of two DHS students to be named 2011 National Merit Scholarship Commended Students. "I was sitting in Psychology when they made the announcement over the loud speaker," Eaton explained. "All of my classmates clapped and it felt really good. I wasn't sure how well I did on the PSAT, but I guess my hard work paid off!" Eaton plans to major in 3-D Animation at a college in the Dallas area. He credits his education at DHS along with his teachers in helping to prepare him for the future. "Some of my teachers were the first people that I told. They've helped me in so many ways."

Regional Assistant Principal of the Year

It takes a team of principals to keep Duncanville High School running smoothly, and one of the best is Associate Principal for Instruction **Suzanne Gardner**. Her role in the running of DHS is noticed not only by students but beyond the walls of Duncanville ISD. She has been named the Region 10 High School Assistant Principal of the Year for 2010. Ms. Gardner is now in her sixth year at DHS. "The last three years have been the most rewarding of my career," she said. "Through (principal) Mike Christberg's guidance and leadership, along with the opportunity to work with the level of talent and dedication possessed by the DHS staff, I have been pushed to grow professionally. Together we have realized exciting and fulfilling accomplishments in our pursuit of academic excellence." Now under consideration for the Texas Assistant Principal of the Year Award, Suzanne is a shining example of the quality leadership within Duncanville ISD. As a regional winner, Ms. Gardner will be recognized at the 2011 TASSP Texas Heroes Awards Dinner next June. Congratulations, Suzanne, on this great honor.



Regional Teacher of the Year

An inspiring educator and leader in Duncanville ISD, high school geography teacher **David Williams** seems to have an innate ability to transform the classroom and challenge students. But his ability to inspire isn't confined to the classroom. His approach to education also motivates other educators, including those who served on the Region 10 Teacher of the Year selection committee. They named Williams the 2010 Regional Secondary Teacher of the Year. In his fifth year with Duncanville, Williams looks forward to a rewarding career. "The best part of teaching is that more students are finding their voice, growing in their character, and carving out their worldview in the process. I am planting and watering seeds that one day will bloom, and that gives me great hope and I hope my most significant contributions and accomplishments in my profession are yet to come."

District Earns States Highest Fiscal Rating

Duncanville Independent School District received a rating of "Superior" under Texas' Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system for the eighth consecutive year. The rating system measures the quality of a school district's financial management and reporting. Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas) is a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources. "The Schools FIRST accountability rating ensures that Texas school districts are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently," said Duncanville ISD Superintendent Dr. Alfred Ray. "We attribute our Superior rating to our core beliefs and commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement. As a team we examine our priorities and focus our dollars on instructional efforts while following sound financial practices of conservative projections, conservative spending, and staffing to enrollment."

80% of Duncanville ISD schools are rated Recognized or Exemplary for the second consecutive year.

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— a beginning; they are still learning and striving to improve and excel, as well as still discovering a greater, bigger world of music and flutes, in particular. Taylor commented that when learning notes and timing and double-tonguing (a technique of rapid alterations of tongue positioning to play a fast succession of detached notes), she forgets to play with emotion. “Emotion is the hardest thing for me to remember and achieve right now,” she remarked.



“I have to really work at the dynamics of playing louder on certain measures,” Kirsten confessed. “I was so inspired at the commitment to practice I saw at the convention. Even at 11 o’clock at night, many were still at it. The skill level was phenomenal. We got to hear and meet Greg Patillo (renowned as a beatboxing flutist, recognized for redefining the sound of a flute); he gave a concert and talked to us.”

Taylor told how the convention influenced and encouraged her to practice more. “I went to everything and had my mom attend sessions I couldn’t get to. The level of attention and practice and then hearing the performances was so inspiring!” she reminisced.

“The convention provided the girls with the awareness of the next step, of what they need to do to head where they

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want to go. Taylor can single-tongue faster than anyone I know; now she knows what to learn and practice next. The opportunity to hear the amazing performances, see the exhibits and meet so many other dedicated flute students, as well as playing themselves, is incomparable," Rebecca remarked.

What is next for these blossoming virtuosos? Both Kirsten and Taylor are auditioning for one of eight slots in a national soloist's competition, an opportunity which arose from attending the NFA convention. Kirsten has three years to try for the professional-level competition. Taylor will continue performing with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic, while auditioning for colleges. Both girls participate in standard school competitions with the Texas Music Educators Association and University Interscholastic League (UIL). They both find time to prepare for their weekly flute lessons and perform with their high school marching bands: Taylor as head drum major, and Kirsten playing flute.

"I like conducting, because I'm not marching. The band trusts me, and it's developing my leadership skills. It takes a lot of time commitment, though," remarked Taylor.

"It is hard to march and play at the same time," agreed Kirsten. They explained how differently the music is arranged for a marching band than for an orchestra. "It's often easier than orchestra music," Kirsten remarked. "The steps and choreography are used to create visual emotion."

"My end goal," Taylor stated, "is to major in flute performance. I'd like to go to The University of Texas at Austin. I want to play for the rest of my life, but I would also like to study nursing. Music will always fill my life every day."

Kirsten, too, is looking toward college and flute performance. "I am looking at the University of North Texas, but I may find something better. I plan to study music education, because I want to teach. But I would also like to study art; I have always wanted to be a cartoonist."

Both the girls and their mothers extensively credit Rebecca as an exceptional teacher. "She is dedicated and

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invests so much time," Kirsten's mother, Patricia, remarked.

"It's me who is honored," responded Rebecca. "Every single day I get to teach flute. And these girls ... they bring pride, honor, laughter, sometimes tears, dedication and inspiration. It is truly a joy to teach them. They bring such beautiful music and ideas into my home and my family. They are very special."

Taylor's advice to aspiring flutists is: "If this is what you really want to do, if this is what inspires you, then you can keep this for the rest of your life, whether you continue to play or not. You will always have the memories. So don't give up."

"Practice! It will take you places you cannot even begin to imagine," remarked Kirsten. "And if this is what you love, then do it. If not, then find what you love and pursue that."

Both moms, Patricia, Kirsten's mom, and Pam, Taylor's mom, are convinced that the private lessons got their girls past the hurdles and exposed them to a world beyond what they have learned in band alone. "I am so glad Kirsten found her niche and found Rebecca!" Patricia said.

"When I look back at how far we have come, despite how rocky it has been at times, it is so rewarding," Pam commented. "Rebecca recognized both girls' talents and brought them farther than any of us thought they could go. She made them want to work for it. My heart just expands when I hear Taylor play. She touches my heart and the hearts of my family in South Carolina." Who knows how many hearts around the world these girls will touch with the hard-won "magic" of their flutes?

"I am always encouraging my students to let the music out — to release what is in their hearts on any given day. Music brings depth and beauty; it expresses the experiences of life through actual notes and allows us to give from our souls," Rebecca enthused. "It is a profound thing to give that gift to others. In the giving, you are forever changed beyond your imagination. Everyone should have music or make music for the rest of their lives. When these girls move on, I will so miss hearing them practice, hearing them learn, hearing their hearts and souls." **NOW**



What do these two have in common?

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At Home With Tom and Jan Blake

Blending styles into one home can be a challenge for any family. In the case of Tom and Jan Blake, however, their home reflects the couple's easygoing and faith-filled, busy lifestyle.

Married for 17 years, the Blakes met on a blind date. Though both had experienced heartache (Jan was divorced, and Tom had lost his first wife to cancer), they quickly fell in love and were married a year after they met. Originally from Boston, Tom has been in Texas for almost 40 years and works in the banking world. Jan, a native Texan, grew up in Oak Cliff and is a special events coordinator for a nonprofit organization in Dallas.

As you step into their Cedar Hill home, the first thing you will notice is the flooring that runs through the downstairs area. The paved concrete floor is stained a

Faith, Family, *Style*

— By Katrina D. McNair

rich mahogany color and keeps the home cool during hot summers.

Inside the 3,500-square-foot home, which is set on one-third of an acre, an abundance of natural light brightens the entire downstairs. A painting of bright flowers, in shades of reds, pinks and whites, is framed above an antique console table, which actually matches the couple's dining room set and kitchen decor. Avid antique collectors, the Blakes' home is full of warm pieces.

Across the foyer entrance is the downstairs office. Larger than your average home office, the room has built-in shelves filled with books and photos of the Blakes and their family members. A carpet in the center of the room, its center oval design a blend of red and pink roses, provides a pop of color.



The Blakes' home is not one of angles and lines, but of curves and turns that invite you to explore and take it all in. In the living room, two mauve-colored chairs face a couch, the furniture adjacent to the family's fireplace. The fireplace — framed in green, white and black swirly marble tiles — features hidden panels where small knickknacks are stored.

"Extra storage spaces like this are all over the home," Tom said, "especially in the form of existing closets where, in most homes, only walls would be."

The Blake home was custom-built, and as a recommendation to others who are building their homes, Jan advised, "Don't just take pictures of the home as it goes up, follow the framers as they go about building spaces."

Jan proudly showed off her hidden closets and extra-sized storage areas, including an attic where rows of gently used gift bags hang in a rainbow of polka dots, stripes and solid colors. "If you ever get to build, do. And be there when they frame out. A lot of times, people don't

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realize there's a lot of empty space where they put a wall up, and there's a bunch of wasted space where they could put a closet or something."

The Blakes love to entertain and are very active in the Dallas Northway campus of The Village Church. Each

Tuesday, some members of their church gather at their home for fellowship. The couple's strong faith, reverence for family and hospitable spirit are truly reflected in their decor.

A large table stands in the living room, where a small statue of a tree rests on a trio of ornate and illustration-filled Bibles. Jan refers to this as her "tree of life." A soft gold vase resting on the mantel has the shape of a water jug, which women of biblical times used to gather water. Two wooden statues are also on display — one playing an instrument resembling a guitar and one of a mother and a small child hugging her long skirts. "My faith is reflected in all of this," she said of the symbolism.

The kitchen in the home is painted in cheery yellows, accented by decorative blue and yellow plates adorning the walls — some from local antique shops, while others arrived from faraway lands like Holland, Scotland and Germany. The Blakes and their daughter, Becky, a student in her last semester of law school, are avid travelers.

On the other side of the kitchen is the formal dining room. A chandelier hangs

from the ceiling, its decorative, shiny crystals accented by a chain of faux pearls intertwined in its cord. A china cabinet, with a backlit array of beautiful silver and glass dish settings, sits against the wall.

The master suite is also on the ground level of the home. A beautiful, dark wood antique bed and armoire set are prominent and serve as the centerpiece of the room. The adjoining bath features a traditional garden tub and gleaming his-and-her sinks. One of the most striking pieces in the bathroom is an antique stained glass window above the tub. Shades of purple, red and white are the dominant colors of the window, though it is hard to agree upon exactly what the design is. "We don't know if it's a flower or what," Jan laughed.

Tom chimed in with his interpretation. "It looks like a beetle bug to me," he said with a smile.

Moving upstairs, visitors will find an expansive game room, with a pool table and book shelves (there are over 500 books in the house) lining the wall. One wall showcases dozens of the family's photographs and a scattering of picture frames throughout reflects happy faces

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and fun times. Also upstairs is the guest room, referred to as the “Rose Room” by Jan. The room is decorated in shades of green and soft pink and brings to mind a beautiful rose garden. Immediately noticeable is the padded headboard with its green and white stripes. A white wooden cross with a spray of colorful wild flowers painted on it hangs on the wall.

Entering Becky’s room, her vibrant



personality and zeal for life are evident. Her athleticism (signified by a football signed by Herschel Walker), her love for travel (represented by the large replica of the Eiffel Tower in one corner) and her dedication to her studies (indicated by numerous books) are all displayed. Directly outside her room hangs a plaque from the 2001 Inauguration she attended, which includes a ticket to the event and a



large photo of the student leadership group she was with.

All in all, the Blakes love their home and probably will do just a little bit more to it before it is all said and done. Effortlessly blending a mix of contemporary and classic, they have carved out their own niche on their quiet cul-de-sac. “We truly recognize the blessings we have,” Jan said, “in both our home and our lives.” **NOV**

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Cedar Hill swimmers Tyler Jordan and Trey Newson pose with head coach Amy Lamar at the 2010 National Night Out at Verlinda Park.



Lasbondra Ellis delivers lunch at Sonic to SouthwestNOW photographer Jay Lamar.



Linda Dean smiles after winning first place in her age group for the Mission 5K Fun Run at Country Day on the Hill.



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Big Brothers Big Sisters' regional executive director, Diana Phillips, thanks dignitaries from Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and Lancaster for their unprecedented collaborative effort.



Lloyd Treadwell and Kathy Goad hold the ribbon to the WINGS children's center and nursery; Linda Zander (center) designed the area for use by children of WINGS' students.



The DeSoto High School Drama Department's performance of The Golden Fleece earns a second place award in the PTA's Drama Showcase.



Caitlyn Pierce, Canterbury senior, is awarded MVP of the girls varsity volleyball team and chosen to be on the All Tournament Team at the Living Stones Tournament.



DeSoto ISD board member, Warren Seay, displays his status as a third-team member of the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team.

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Nicholas Branks picks his favorites from the Pumpkin Patch at First United Methodist Church.



Dr. Paul Hackett talks with guests during his open house.



Dr. Clara Reed recently spoke at a luncheon attended by Methodist Charlton president, Jonathan Davis and Methodist Health System president and CEO, Dr. Stephen L. Mansfield.



Aidan Fultz-Lesmeister enjoys a ride down the slide on a fall afternoon at Armstrong Park.



A few of the over 320 men who attended the free men's health tune-up at Methodist Charlton Medical Center fill out registration paperwork.

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— By Beverly Shay



“For me photography is like telling a story, revealing the glory of God.”

Like her photos, Lisa Johnson is colorful, full of life and hard to ignore. Her quick smile and joyous sense of life are contagious. After just a few minutes with her, the world seems a brighter, more cheerful place. Fun is a major quantifying factor in Lisa's life.

“I love being outdoors, watching people, enjoying nature — God's creation. The only thing better is seeing it all through the lens of a camera — my camera,” Lisa's eyes brightened. “For me photography is like a devotional time,” Lisa explained. Focusing on one element, zooming in on a child's expression, capturing a family at fun with one another — these are the treasures Lisa has discovered to a magnified extent through the lens of her Pentax and Nikon. Such treasures, she is quick to point out — created by and for God's pleasure — bring her pleasure, as well.

“The best part of photography is seeing the prints turn out portraying exactly what I had hoped to capture. Seeing it, knowing it will make a great photo, snapping several shots and having them convey the joy, the color of the day, the ambience — that is

just the best,” Lisa sighed. Lisa has always loved photography, but only took it up more seriously in the past seven years or so. Everyone who sees her photos reacts with delight. They are definitely inspiring.

“For me photography is like telling a story, revealing the glory of God. When I blow up my photos, I find myself seeing the occasion or the beauty all over again, and it brings me such joy,” Lisa remarked. “I see the beauty and love of God in His creation, in people and their relationships with one another. I think of Scriptures that speak of what I see and photograph, and I add them to the photos. Recently, I sent out an e-mail with a devotional attached to one of my photos; I think I would like to write a devotional book using my photos to illustrate it,” she pondered.

Lisa's beautiful candid shots of family events have earned her the task and title of family photographer. “All my family members consider me the designated photographer, and I really don't mind. I just love taking photos. I love being in the middle of a good time. But I only take photos outside because I thrive in the

natural lighting, and I think I get much better pictures outside.” Weather is not a problem; in fact, Lisa likes the nuances created by diverse outdoor lighting that come with various weather conditions.

“I like spontaneity much better than posed portraits. I want to capture the character and interaction, especially within a family. I want everyone to have as much fun as I am. So I tell the moms, especially, ‘Don't worry about everyone facing me or smiling just so.’ I encourage them to loosen up and play around, and then I start shooting. That's when I get the best photos,” Lisa remarked.

Although Lisa has never had any formal training in photography, she has photographed two weddings — one with

Arts **NOW**

an engagement photo shoot first. "Those experiences showed me that really wasn't what I want to do as a career. It was too formal with less opportunity for casual shots, at which I excel. But I was able to



make a story of it, and that was fun," Lisa remarked, coming back to her theme of having fun at what she loves to do.

"I have to balance time between shooting photos and blowing them up and posting or printing them. I probably have 4,000 unprinted photos right now," Lisa laughed. "When I look at what I have taken, I learn a lot. With photography there really is no opportunity to 'redo' the shot. I feel I have a gift for doing this, and I don't want to take that lightly."

Lisa is very intrigued with lighting. "The lighting in Texas is really good; when I took pictures in San Diego, I found it to be more challenging. I had to wait forever for the sunset. But I am eager to venture out into different locations. I would also like to incorporate more older couples into my family photo shoots, to capture the interaction across the generations."

While Lisa is still developing technique and style, she dreams about putting together a book. "It would be about many families of all ages in different locations to show off their uniqueness. People are so fascinating," Lisa stated. "But I am most insistent that this not become merely a job. I want to retain my passion, because I think that shows in the quality of photos I take. I know this is a gift God has given me. He has put this passion in me to capture the unique individuality in people, and I want to honor both His gift in me and His investment in people. I believe your gifts will make room for you. Essentially, my goal is to continue to capture people's smiles," Lisa remarked, with a brilliant smile of her own. **NOW**

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Transitional Education *That Works*

Tough education, more than mere training, to equip transitional people with job skills so they are job and career ready. — By Beverly Shay

Dee Dee Curtis is convinced she and her staff at PC Center can help anyone in the community better his or her life with job education, whether they are facing a mid-life career change or trying to enter the workforce for the first time as a young, single mom or a recent high school graduate. “Our education is more than just set skills training; we teach people how to write résumés, how to interview, how to have a career-friendly attitude, as well as providing fully accredited courses in computer technology, English, math, writing and medical skills,” Dee Dee listed. “Soft skills are even more important than the hard skills.”

Education begins the moment a prospective student walks in the door and continues each day until they graduate. “We work on much more than just

classroom studies, because we focus on the whole person, teaching them critical thinking necessary to solving day-to-day crises and problems,” Dee Dee continued. “The course of education is not easy; if students are not serious or don’t cut it, we will ask them to leave. The biggest complaint we get is how hard the work is. Many students come to tell me they want to quit because it is too hard. What they are really after is encouragement, so I listen; we talk; and they push through. At graduation, they thank me for hearing them out and seeing them through. We teach our students to believe in themselves, because we believe in them.”

Dee Dee started the school because of her work as a hotline counselor for the National Organization for Women. Repeatedly, women told her they stayed

From left:

Carol Walters, Dee Dee Curtis, Felisa Williams and Bridget Brown.

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in abusive situations because they had no skills to function or survive on their own. "One of the most rewarding aspects of what I do is when we take a person totally unprepared for the work world or devastated by a job loss and teach them computer skills, life skills and occupational skills, which effect a change in their whole attitude about themselves. We help them break cycles of quitting, of never finishing; we help solve financial problems and educate them for gainful employment," Dee Dee remarked. "When you see the light come on, and they fight to finish, it is all worth it."

"If someone comes here who has been a student elsewhere, I ask them why they want to leave that school. I tell them to stay there and be successful, to finish what they have started. Our students do not have a choice about whether they will succeed or not. Success is what we expect. Whatever handicaps they claim is only more reason to overcome," Dee Dee stated.

PC Center, with its staff of eight to 20 adjunct faculty, offers diplomas for medical office assistants, medical assistants and computer technicians. Courses include instruction in business communication, computing essentials, word and document processing, spreadsheet applications, medical billing and coding, pharmacology and medication administration, office procedures, medical terminology, math, English and career skills, as well as externships.

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As a service to the community, PC Center also produces a TV program, *Home Team DFW*, which highlights accomplishments of high school students across the Metroplex, as well as volunteers who serve at community events. The program airs on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. on KPXD. **NOW**

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In The Kitchen With Jennie Ayers

— By Adam Walker

Jennie Ayers gets inspiration for cooking from a scent in a garden or walking through a market. Now a very successful cook, her first adventure was not so pleasing. “When I was 5,” she confessed, “I grabbed a bowl and started creating the best recipe ever. I started adding my favorite things together. Everything works right? Well, I learned very quickly that just because something tastes good, doesn’t mean

that it pairs with everything! I don’t remember all of the ingredients; I just remember something with green Jell-O, marshmallows and tuna. I was *not* pleased with my first creation!”

Her mother and grandmother taught her to cook. “Nothing was written down — you would just watch, learn and catch the ‘feel.’ I inherited a technique I apply to almost everything.” **NOW**



SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE DIP

1 10-oz. box chopped frozen spinach
2 Tbsp. butter
2 tsp. minced garlic
1 small jar of artichoke hearts
8 oz. softened cream cheese
1 cup freshly grated Asiago cheese
1 cup of shredded Parmigiano-Reggiano (commonly known as Parmesan)
1/2 cup half-and-half (more may be used if the mixture is too thick)
Pinch of nutmeg
1/2 tsp. coarse black pepper
Salt, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. Defrost spinach and let drain. Blot with a paper towel to remove moisture.
3. Over medium heat, melt butter; add garlic and stir for 1 to 2 minutes. Coarsely chop the artichokes (use a food processor or chop by hand); add to the garlic and butter. Add the cream cheese, Asiago, Parmigiano-Reggiano and half-and-half.
4. Whisk together until smooth. Add the nutmeg, pepper and salt to taste.
5. Remove from heat and add spinach. Pour into an oven-safe dish; sprinkle more Asiago over the top; bake until golden and bubbly (about 10 to 12 minutes). Serve with your favorite breads, crackers or veggies.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

6 sweet potatoes
1/2 stick of butter
Salt, to taste
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup dark brown sugar
1/2 cup cream
1 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Boil potatoes until just soft (still firm enough to be held on a fork). Drain and put back into pot.
3. Add 2 Tbsp. of the butter, a little salt, vanilla, 3/4 cup of brown sugar and half of cream into the pot with the sweet potatoes and beat until smooth. Slowly add rest of cream while beating.

4. Pour into a casserole dish and place the pecans, remaining sugar and butter on top. Bake for 20 minutes or until the pecans look caramelized.

MAC AND CHEESE

1 16-oz. pkg. dried elbow macaroni
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup heavy cream
4 oz. cream cheese
1/2 tsp. mustard powder
1/2 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
1/2 cup grated Colby Jack cheese
1/2 cup grated Gruyère cheese
1/2 cup Asiago cheese
3 eggs
1/4 cup sour cream
1 cup milk

Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. In a large pot, bring water to boil. Season water with salt and cook macaroni until *al dente*, about 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, melt butter in a small saucepan; add heavy cream and cream cheese; whisk until creamy.
4. Add the mustard powder.
5. Drain pasta and place in a large bowl. While pasta is still hot, add the cheeses. Pour sauce mixture over noodles.
6. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs and add sour cream. Add to macaroni mixture. Slowly fold in milk with a spatula and add salt and pepper to taste.
7. Spray casserole dish with nonstick spray and pour in macaroni mixture. Add additional cheddar and bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

PECAN PIE

1 9-inch unbaked piecrust
3 eggs
1 cup dark corn syrup
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Prepare piecrust with your choice of decorative edge.
3. In medium bowl, whisk eggs well. Beat in corn syrup, sugar, butter and vanilla extract until well-blended. Add pecans.
4. Pour into piecrust and bake for 1 hour or until knife inserted about 1 inch from edge comes out clean. Allow to cool before serving.

PIE CRUST

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt

3/4 cup shortening

5-6 Tbsp. ice water

1. In a medium bowl, fork together flour and salt.
2. Dice shortening and slowly cut it into the flour.
3. Once it looks like coarse bread crumbs, add ice water, 1 Tbsp. at a time until it can be formed into a ball.
4. Split for two crusts, wrap in plastic wrap and let rest for 30 minutes before rolling out the crusts.

WHOLE WHEAT ROLLS

1/4 cup honey
2 cups warm water
2 Tbsp. active yeast
3/4 cup olive oil
2 eggs
6 cups whole wheat flour
2 tsp. salt

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. In a small bowl, add honey and warm water together to dissolve honey. Immediately add the yeast. Allow to set for 5 minutes.
3. In a large bowl, add yeast mixture to remaining ingredients. Combine and beat until dough pulls from the sides and forms a ball.
4. In a warm, dry place, cover and let dough rise for an hour. Once dough has doubled, dust the dough with flour to prevent sticking. Form into rolls.
5. On a greased cookie sheet, bake for 15 minutes or until the bottoms are a light golden brown.

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Be Prepared for Return of Estate Tax

There's never really a bad time to do estate planning. But in the months ahead, you may have an extra incentive to look at your estate plans. Why? Because changes are coming to estate tax laws — so you'll want to be ready.

Change is nothing new in the world of estate taxes, which have been in a state of flux for years. As the law now stands, there is no federal estate tax in 2010. Then, in 2011, the estate tax is scheduled to return, with an exemption amount of \$1 million and a top rate of 55 percent. Yet, these figures are highly likely to change; ultimately, we may see a return to what existed in 2009: a \$3.5 million or \$5 million exemption and a top rate of 45 percent.

Of course, your susceptibility to the estate tax will depend on the size of your estate. But no matter what your level of assets, you'll want to have your estate plans in order. First of all, you almost certainly need a will. You'll also need to make sure you've named the proper beneficiaries in all your legal documents.

Now, let's return to the estate tax issue. Specifically, how can you help reduce any potential estate tax burden your heirs may face? Here are some ideas to consider:

• Take Advantage of Your Exemptions.

You and your spouse each receive an exemption from the federal estate tax. As mentioned above, this exemption could be anywhere from \$1 million to \$5 million, starting in 2011. To maximize these exemptions, you may want to create a credit shelter trust. In a nutshell, here's how it works: When you die, you fund a credit shelter trust with assets equal in value to your available exemption; if you have other assets, you can leave them to your spouse, free of estate taxes. Your surviving spouse can draw income from the trust's assets while he or she is alive. Upon his or her death, the trust disperses the assets to your children or other beneficiaries, taking advantage of your original estate tax exemption. Your spouse's estate will also disperse assets to beneficiaries, using his or her exemption to reduce or avoid estate taxes.

• Use Life Insurance.

If you owned a \$1 million dollar life insurance policy, and it was subject to an estate tax rate of 55 percent, your beneficiaries would receive a death benefit of just \$450,000. But if you established an irrevocable life insurance

trust (ILIT) with a new insurance policy, the trust would own the policy and distribute the proceeds to the beneficiaries you've chosen. By using an ILIT, you'd keep the life insurance out of your taxable estate.

• Give Generously.

You can give up to \$13,000 per year to as many individuals as you like without incurring gift taxes. And the more you give, the lower your taxable estate. You can also reduce your estate by making gifts to charitable organizations.

Keep in mind that estate planning can be complex. You will need to work with your legal and tax advisors before establishing any type of trust or other estate-planning mechanism. And with the looming return of the estate tax, there's no time like the present to get started. **NOW**

Edward Jones, its associates and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your particular situation.

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When Silence Isn't Golden



Over 17 million American women live with the shame and embarrassment of frequent urination or overactive bladder. Women feel trapped, unable to enjoy everyday activities such as shopping, exercising, traveling or attending social outings. Although women tend to keep quiet on this issue, here are three truths that may help women speak up:

✓ Be honest with yourself.

One in three women with frequent urination is under the age of 35.

✓ Be open with your doctor.

According to www.acog.org there are different tests for frequent urination. One such procedure is urodynamics, which measures the pressure and volume of the bladder as it fills and the flow rate as it empties. There are also behavioral and medicinal treatments that can alleviate many symptoms such as Kegel exercises or avoiding diuretics such as caffeine. Consulting with your doctor is the only way to truly know what is best for you. Bottom line: your doctor is there

to treat you, not judge you.

✓ Be proactive with the issue.

After talking with your doctor, follow through with the treatment. Self-help solutions may just irritate your bladder, so it's best to stick with medical advice. Frequent urination could also indicate an underlying issue or illness, so take any and all medication as prescribed. Whatever the cause may be, there are usually a variety of treatments depending on the severity of the issue. Bladder retraining and diet restrictions can help, too.

Women shouldn't live in fear when changes occur in their bodies and should never feel isolated because of frequent urination. Treatment and help from your trusted physician is available so you can get back to the things you enjoy in life. Overcome the fear of embarrassment with the triumph of knowledge concerning the issue. So go ahead, live a little more. **NOW**

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Mondays

Rhyme Time: 10:15 a.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 6:30-7:30 p.m. first three Mondays; last Monday: support group: 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

Second Mondays

Diabetes Support Group: 6:00 p.m. at Methodist Charlton. (214) 947-7262.

Tuesdays

Senior Access Tai Chi classes: 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Methodist Charlton. Cost: \$6. (214) 947-4628.

Homeschool Videos: 2:00 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 6:00-8:00 p.m. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Second Tuesdays

The Dallas Area Writers Group: 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Third Tuesdays

Free Immunization Clinic for ages 2 months to 18 years, sponsored by CareVan: 5:00-7:00 p.m. (no appointment necessary) at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 689-8285. (Clinic runs through Nov. 16.)

Wednesdays

Preschool stories: 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

Thursdays

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 4:00-6:00 p.m. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Spanish story time: 5:30 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

Visual Artist of Cedar Hill (VACH): 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Creative Arts School for ages 18-plus, 1435 N. US-67 S. (at The Ranch).

Fridays

Walking program: 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Methodist Charlton, in conference room 6. (214) 947-4628.

Toddler stories: 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

First and Second Fridays

Line dancing in the Methodist Charlton auditorium: 11:00 a.m.-noon. Reservation required: (214) 947-4628.

Second Saturdays

Baby Boutique Resale: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Sound Options Pregnancy Services (972) 230-8101.

Third Saturdays

Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at J. W. Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln. (972) 291-1505.

Ongoing

DS library is offering free adult literacy classes in partnership with Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF). One-on-one classes taught by trained volunteers at the library. Stop in or call (972) 230-9661. More volunteer instructors needed; call OCBF (972) 228-0872, ext. 1600.

DeSoto ISD ACE After-school Program is now offering adult Spanish classes at Moates Elementary School, 1500 Heritage Blvd., Glenn Heights: Monday and Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Contact Wanda Gardener to register: (972) 230-2881 or (214) 537-8415 or wanda.gardener@desotoisd.org.

November 4

Internationally-known singing group, Shiloh, will perform at First Christian Church, 203 Main St., Duncanville: 7:00 p.m. No cost; first-come, first-served seating. Call Sheila for reservations: (972) 298-2166. Refreshments will be served following concert.

November 4 and 11

Cedar Hill Public Library presents Science Maniacs Club for grades 2-5: 5:30 p.m. Learn, explore and discover the fun of science. Call (972) 291-7323, ext. 1312 to register.

November 4-6, 11-13

Duncanville Community Theatre, 206 S. Main St. presents: *George Washington Slept Here*, written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman and directed by Elisa Guse. A historic home in the country may be a dream come true, a nightmare realized or perhaps a new reality that is just right. Call (972) 780-5707 for times and tickets.

November 6

The Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar, hosted by Disciples Women: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 203 Main St., Duncanville. The Bazaar includes vendors from the DFW Metroplex with holiday gift items, handmade crafts, delicious homemade breads, freshly baked pies, cakes, cookies and a raffle: tickets may be purchased at the Bazaar. Call (972) 298-2166.

Inviting all DeSoto ISD residents age 55 and older to "DeSoto ISD: A Night in Paris": 6:00 p.m. at McGowan Middle School, 1500 Majestic Meadows, Glenn Heights. Join Superintendent Lloyd Treadwell for a patriotic dinner, entertainment and dancing; includes prom photos, special student performances and crowning of the Prom King and Queen. Reserve your tickets: (972) 274-8212, ext. 301.

November 6 and 11

"La Vida Loca," a live musical revue with dancing, singing and comedy presented by 45 senior participants at Hopkins Senior Activity Center, 206 James Collins, Duncanville: Nov. 6: 3:00 p.m. and

Nov. 11: 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5. (972) 780-5073.

November 8

Cedar Hill Public Library presents Family Fun Night Science Expo: 6:00 p.m. featuring science experiments/demonstrations for all school ages.

November 12

Fall Student Art Show 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Visual Expressions Creative Arts School, 1425 N. Hwy. 67, Cedar Hill, featuring food, wine, art demos and a raffle for six-week art class. Students' artwork on display November 12-19. (972) 293-1117.

November 13

Cedar Hill Public Library presents Career Fair: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for teens and adults.

November 19-20

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Cedar Hill presents Love Loud reaching out to the community through a health fair: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., including mammography (must preregister 214-947-0026), prostate screening, cholesterol and diabetes screenings and much more. Call (214) 718-1286 for more information.

November 22

Cedar Hill Public Library presents Weather Day!: 1:00 p.m. featuring local meteorologists, Greg Fields, David Finfrock and Ron Jackson followed by a showing of *Cloudy With a Chance of Rain* at 2:00 p.m.

November 22 and December 13

Methodist Health System's mobile mammography van at Methodist Charlton Midlothian Imaging Center, 2210 Bryan Place. Payable by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard at time. Appointment required: (972) 775-7410.

November 29

Cedar Hill Public Library presents a Native American Celebration: 6:00 p.m. honoring Native American Heritage month with Native American author and storyteller, Tim Tingle and library's youth storytellers.

Book Damsels book club: 7:00 p.m. at Karen Dannheim's home in Cedar Hill, Texas; open to any woman in the SW Dallas County or Northern Ellis County area. For November, we will be discussing the book *Year of Wonders: a Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks. Contact Mary at (972) 230-8166 or dragonm1@swbell.net.

December 6

Methodist Mobile Mammography at Ben Franklin Apothecary, 302 N. Main St., Duncanville: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Appointment required: (972) 947-0026. Medicare and most insurance accepted; pay at time.

**For more community events,
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- 8:30-10:00am: **Third-Annual "Parade of JOY"** with emcees Gloria Campos and Greg Fields from WFAA.
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Prizes will be awarded to parade participants for best float, crowd favorite, most festive décor and more!
- 1:00-5:00pm: **Classic Car Cruise-In and Toy Drive** benefiting Toys for Tots
This annual event is hosted in conjunction with the monthly Classic Car Cruise-In; guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys for Tots program.
- 6:00-9:00pm: **Community Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Entertainment**
Children's entertainment, complimentary food tastings, strolling entertainment and more!
At 7:00pm, Santa will flip the switch to illuminate the 100,000 lights on Uptown Village's 30-foot interactive tree.
- 7:00-9:00pm: **Photo's with Santa in the Village Green**

Ongoing holiday events at Uptown Village will include visits and photos with Santa through Dec. 24, holiday carolers and more. Visit UptownVillageAtCedarHill.com for more information.



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