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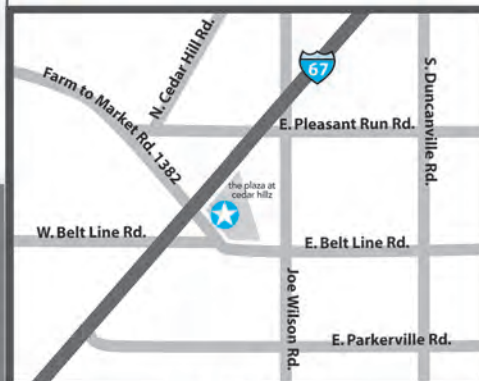
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ON THE COVER



Miranda Maldonado is a winner due to both skill and persistence in the face of unlikely odds.

Photo by Opaque Visuals

CONTENTS

November 2012 • Volume 6, Issue 11



8 A Race Against Time

Indie filmmaker, Maurice Durham, tells the inspirational story of a local athlete.

16 She's Gym-tastic!

Miranda Maldonado tumbles to success despite joint disease.



24 Croppers for a Cause

Scrappers are unleashing their creativity to preserve memories and fund events for some very sweet athletes.

30 The Gallery in Duncanville

At Home With Ron and Sharon White.

36 BusinessNOW

38 Around TownNOW

40 FinanceNOW

42 HealthNOW

44 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving, Southwest Friends!

Thanksgiving will be different this year since my oldest daughter is in Israel. One of my daughters-in-law will be working. My oldest son has been generous about opening his home for entertaining since his is oh-so-much-larger than mine. I know we'll thankfully smell amazing food and, yes, watch football. My youngest daughter loves parades, so I'm sure we'll be watching one. I have so many blessings to be thankful for: good health, good kids, delightful grandboys, a great job with people I love to work with and my extended family in Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville. Most of all, I am thankful to be in God's family with the best Father ever.

I hope your holidays are joyful and thankful, too.

Beverly

Beverly Shay
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District hosts *Principal for a Day* program

On October 16, DeSoto ISD hosted six officials and business leaders in the DeSoto ISD Principal for a Day program designed to allow participants to experience a day in school from the principal's perspective.

Freshman Campus Principal for a Day Roland Parrish, CEO of Parrish McDonald's Restaurants and Chair/CEO of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association, stated, "it's been a refreshing and enlightening experience. I'm very proud to be a resident of DeSoto ISD."

State Representative Helen Giddings, who shadowed Woodridge Elementary Principal Robert Torres, said "the students are so well-mannered and teachers are so enthusiastic about their jobs. It's so uplifting and inspiring. I am delighted I had the opportunity to do this today."

"We hope to foster a greater understanding of education today which has changed from when many adults were in school," said DeSoto ISD Superintendent David Harris. "We want to provide a glimpse of today's schools from the principal's point of view."

DeSoto ISD Principal for a Day Participants

DeSoto City Councilmember Patricia Ledbetter, *East Middle School*

DeSoto City Councilmember Curtistene McCowan, *Ruby Young Elementary*

U.S. District Court Judge Sam Lindsey, *DeSoto High School*

Texas State Representative Helen Giddings, *Woodridge Elementary*

Owner/CEO Parrish McDonald's Restaurants Roland Parrish, *Freshman Campus*

Dallas County Court Administrator Darryl Martin, *West Middle School*



Calendar of Events

Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m. – Eagles Football vs. Grand Prairie

Saturday, November 3, 9 a.m. to noon – DeSoto ISD Parent Academy

Saturday, November 3, 12:30 to 3 p.m. – Parent vs. Staff Basketball Game

Friday, November 9, 9:30 a.m. - DHS Veteran's Recognition Program

Monday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Board Meeting

November 19-23 - Thanksgiving Break

December 24-January 4 - Winter Break

Monday, January 7 - School Resumes

Who Knew?

DeSoto ISD's Financial Allocation Study of Texas (FAST) rating of 4.5 stars indicates Very High Academic Progress and a Low Spending Index. DeSoto ISD received an 84 Composite Academic Progress Percentile, meaning that the district had as much or more progress than 84% of Texas school districts, and a Low Spending Index, based on a cost adjusted spending per pupil of \$6,968, earning the district 4.5 stars. In addition, Frank Moates Elementary was named a **Texas Honors Circle Campus** for receiving five (5) stars on the FAST rating.

DeSoto ISD Board Member Don Gant was recently elected to The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors, representing Region 10D. Gant, a regional manager for a fast food chain, has served 12 years as a trustee and was an active parent before his four children graduated from DeSoto High School.

The DeSoto High School Marching Band received the highest possible rating of Division I at the Region 20 UIL Marching Contest held October 10. The Band now advances to compete in the UIL Area Marching contest and hopefully to the State Contest in November.

DeSoto ISD is hosting a Parent Academy and Parents vs. Staff Basketball Games at Freshman Campus on November 3 for Parent Involvement Month. The Parent Academy, consisting of two sessions and keynote speaker Dr. Adolph Brown, will take place from 9 a.m.-noon with the games following from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Parents who attend both events will be entered into an iPad drawing.

Frank Moates Elementary and East Middle School each received a \$500 check for having the greatest energy savings in September. The district's energy conservation program has reduced district expenses by \$1.02 million in the past 19 months – a reduction of 22% - and is projected to reach \$7.8 million over ten years. The district is rewarding individual schools for their efforts by presenting \$500 checks to the top schools based on the campus savings.

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A Race Against Time

By Beverly Shay

Maurice Durham shook his head, "Who'd have thought a boy from Wilmer-Hutchins High School would be attending film festivals in Hollywood?" Yet, he has. Back in high school, he considered studying film, but making films was strictly a dream career. "So I wrote poetry, and my high school English teacher felt I was good and entered my poetry into competitions. My senior year, I wrote a piece on politics and the election of '72. A different English teacher questioned if I had written it myself, because she found it written on such a high level," Maurice recalled.

He continued to write — and read. Stories easily grip him. He wants to retell them. They animate him, and he talks with his hands — eager to bring things to life, so others can see them, too. "I read everything I find," Maurice readily admitted. "I love stories and how-to books. I never had any post-high school education. I am pretty much self-taught, but there's so much out there you can learn. Reading is so empowering — it develops your comprehension."

While working for the post office, Maurice spent years studying the craft he loves: filming, editing, script-writing. "I was gleaning and gathering ideas, material and courage. In the mid '90s, I wrote a full-length screen play — based on the post office," Maurice began his tale, hands in full animation. "I sent it to an agent, who signed me on. I had this contract in my hands." Even though his agent shopped it to Hollywood and HBO, it was never produced. "It's a hard arena to get in out there."

Disappointed but undaunted, Maurice continued to write — and to submit. Along the way, he submitted an article to an editor at *D Magazine*, Lee Cullum, a regular guest contributor on the



NewsHour With Jim Lehrer. "She was so encouraging and later wrote me a note to keep on going," Maurice shook his head again. "To think she actually remembered me."

Maurice delved into further preparations and self-education. "I knew if I was going to make it in film, I would need to write, direct and produce. So, I pursued roles as extras in movies and TV, such as *Walker Texas Ranger* and *Dallas: J.R. Returns*. I wanted to watch how the director directed," Maurice paused, looking for just the right turn of phrase to capture his thoughts. "You know, I felt so at home — the set felt so right."

Indie filmmakers are independent moviemakers, often producing shorts to keep the costs down. "My goal in forming MSD Productions was to make something short but with a lot of impact — quality films that would be meaningful and educational and could tell a story on a level real people can relate to. My first film, called *The Restaurant*, was shot in Cedar Hill and went to the Hollywood Black Film Festival.

"The Hollywood Black Film Festival (HBFF) is an annual six-day celebration of black cinema drawing together established filmmakers, popular film and TV stars, writers, directors, industry executives, emerging artists and new audiences from Southern California and around the world," according to

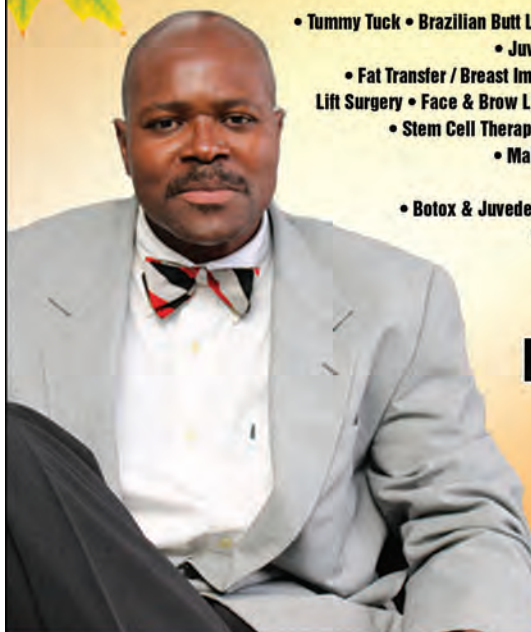
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their Web site. Maurice and his assistant director, Elgin Young, were greatly encouraged to learn from other directors and filmmakers at that event.

"Unlike most Indie filmmakers, who go from film to writing, I went from writing to filmmaking. And I'd had experience in filming weddings," Maurice said. The first was his sister-in-law's, and he made it the story of their romance, culminating in their marriage. Others asked him to do the same thing. "I learned to give them a movie aspect by telling their story. This work helped to fund my other movies."



Maurice's second film was a short on the topic of rape. "I heard a news anchor tell her story and began to research. Only three percent of rapists even do time for one day, and only 56 percent of rape victims even report the crime. My film, *Secrets*, available on Amazon, won first place in a local film festival," he said.

So three years ago, when Maurice retired from the U.S. Postal Service, he decided to pursue his dream full time. "My wife, Sandra, and my mother, Helen Durham, are my biggest fans. It's great to have that kind of support in your corner," Maurice shared. And then he came across the story he'd been looking for.

"I saw the story featured on WFAA news — the most emotional story Joe Trahan had ever covered," Maurice



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recalled. Sharla Butler, a young track star from Lancaster, who had been running since the age of 3, was headed toward the Olympics. Her specialty was one lap around the track — the 400 meter. On Christmas Eve, 2008, after a workout with her sister, Sharla suffered a seizure. Initially, it seemed she pulled out of it, but then another more severe seizure occurred on New Year's Eve, and she was rushed to the hospital. For 30 days, doctors tried everything they could think of to alleviate the continued swelling in her brain. They never could figure out what was causing the swelling and seizures.

Before Sharla passed away, she had one last conversation with her father, asking him about crossing the finish line into heaven. The Butlers decided before burying their daughter to give her one more lap around the track. "When I approached the Butlers about telling their daughter's story, they agreed, saying they felt her young life had a story to tell. I promised to be accurate in portraying the whole family. I was so honored to do this for them," Maurice said quietly, obviously still moved by the real life drama he translated to film.

He recruited mostly local talent, including a young woman from Plano to play Sharla. "Jasmine Sabino immediately began training with her school track team. We had over 20 dialogue actors and used some students who had been Sharla's friends. The scene of her last lap around the track in the hearse is powerful. Sharla's dad had begun to yell for her, as he had during her meets, telling her to go all the way through. He had told me it was like he could see her crossing the finish line. We were able to bring what he saw in his mind to the screen, and it was simply powerful."

Later in conversation, Maurice discovered he was actually related to the Butlers. "I knew then I was meant to be the one to tell Sharla's story. I wrote the script in 30 days and shot it in 14 days, scored the music and edited the film myself. I will make other films. I'd like to do a documentary, and now, I have the confidence to do it." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information about Maurice, visit videographybymaurice.com.

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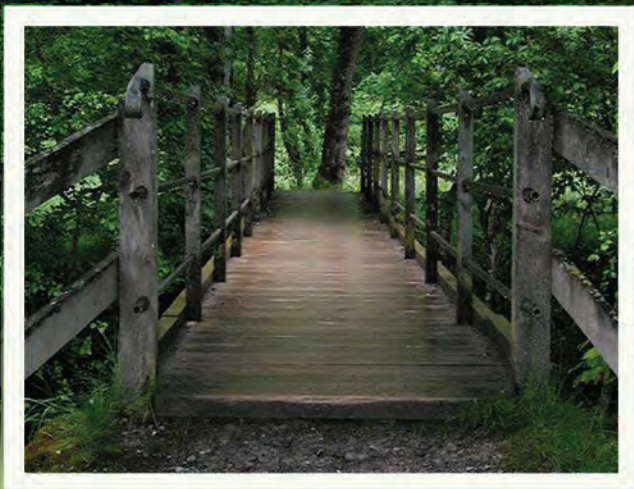
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She's

CHAMPION

— By Angel Morris

Miranda Maldonado is like a lot of 13-year-old girls in that she loves animals, boy bands and gymnastics, but a couple of things set her apart from the average teen. Miranda suffers from a disease that could keep her from doing a simple cartwheel. Despite this she decided to be a world-class gymnast. "My mom says, 'Don't let people tell you what you can't do, show them what you can do,'" Miranda said. "Doctors have told me all my life to stop gymnastics, but I'm not going to sit at home and feel sorry for myself."

Miranda has a hereditary condition called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. EDS is a connective tissue disorder causing severe joint pain, hypermobility and dislocation of the joints. Rigorous athletics like gymnastics put Miranda's joints to the test, and she may dislocate them 30-50 times a day. "It's harder for me to

stay tight while doing gymnastics, because my body is naturally looser than other gymnasts. I'm in a lot of pain every day, but you would never know it, because I'm good at putting my joints back in place really fast. Most people don't even know I have EDS, because I just keep going."

Perseverance through pain is a way of life for Miranda's family. Her mom, Kerri, her two sisters and two brothers also suffer from EDS. "I was diagnosed with EDS when I was 3 years old by a geneticist. My mom and brothers and sisters understand how it feels to live with the same pain, so that helps me push through it. Our mom went to massage school to learn to massage us at night when the pain gets really bad."

Despite EDS, Miranda has been competing in gymnastics since she was 8. She watched older sister, Anjelica, tumble until a severe injury ended her career. Miranda said gymnastics "just comes naturally" to her. "It's what I love, and I'm determined to be the best that I can be," she said. This desire results in six to nine major competitions each year for Miranda, who now has her sights set on a world title.

"I have been regional, state and national champion many times now. I have competed in other countries and even at Worlds in 2011 in England. Now I am training to someday be a world champion and hopefully an Olympian," Miranda said. Miranda most recently competed for the U.S. when she made the World Team last year in Birmingham, England, and has competed in Canada as well. She was named to the U.S. National Team while competing at Nationals in California over the summer. On September 4, Miranda visited Portugal to compete in the World Cup, where she earned a team silver medal and fourth in individual competition.

A DeSoto resident for much of her life, Miranda is homeschooled because of the hours she spends training and



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traveling for competitions. About 12-15 hours a week are spent focused on gymnastics skills at The Palaestra, a gym in Farmers Branch, in addition to hours of conditioning at home. "Gymnastics isn't really a sport to me. It's what I do naturally," Miranda said.

"Miranda was born a gymnast. When she was 9 months old, she could walk a balance beam unassisted. She competed as a level 9 gymnast at the age of 8," Kerri said. "She has been unstoppable since the day she started. I remember her refusing to take off her leotard and falling to sleep in it! She has had some amazing coaches and wonderful teammates who have become family."

Family and friends alike will help Miranda mark her 14th birthday this month, when they will celebrate her passion, determination and courage. "Miranda is sweet, loving and caring on one side, and on the other has this fierce intensity toward gymnastics. She has a burning desire to make her dreams reality," Kerri noted. "She refuses to quit or ever give in to her pain, and that's the kind of spirit that makes her a champion!"

Admitting that "gym is pretty much [her] life," Miranda does find time to enjoy less competitive activities. "I just like to have fun. Go-karts, rock wall climbing, swimming and anything to be active. And I love music," Miranda admitted, naming One Direction, The Wanted and Katy Perry her favorite musicians. "Of course, I like to play video games on my iPad. I like to watch movies. We go to the drive-in movies, sometimes twice a week. Oh, and I like to shop."

Kerri noted Miranda also likes helping



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Kerri Maldonado and her daughter, Miranda, shown with their dog, Beanie.

Locks of Love, donating a total of 6 feet of hair to the cause that makes wigs for patients suffering hair loss. And Miranda has a passion for animals, including her toy Chihuahua named Beanie and her cat, Kietta. She hopes someday to be a marine biologist. "I never want to see an animal hurt or abused. I rescue a lot of strays and try to find them homes. I take care of them until we find them owners. I wish I could keep them all, but my mom won't let me," Miranda said.

Rescuing every animal in need may be the one thing this determined young gymnast can't do, but Miranda hopes her story might be inspiring to others suffering from any kind of disease. "Just because someone says you can't do something, doesn't mean you have to accept the limitations. I don't want to be in a wheelchair. I'm going to fight it every day of my life and build my body so I'm strong enough to keep walking and running and competing in gymnastics," she said.

And since she prefers not to take the medicine available to her unless absolutely necessary, Miranda said the key to her success is simply working through the pain. "My biggest accomplishment is that I get up every day and train even though I have EDS. I won't complain. I won't quit. I will never give in to the pain," Miranda said. "This is normal for me, so I just deal with it the best I can. When you are born this way, you don't know what it's like to go a day with no pain. But I just have to work harder and not let it stop me from doing what I love. I have EDS. It doesn't have me." **NOW**

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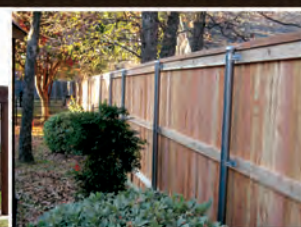
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Croppers for a Cause

By Beverly Shay

First it was Brownie box cameras, then home movies, Polaroids, photo albums, camcorders, and now it's scrapbooking — all in an effort to preserve those special moments in life for posterity. But who would have thought preserving memories could be a fundraiser? Well, it is when you have a bunch of women who love to get together and are willing to pay to share tools and resources and donate the monies garnered to a very worthy cause, such as Special Olympics.

"You just would have had to have been there!" Mary Beona exclaimed. "At our last Scrapping for Athletes event, three of the Special Olympic participants came, and I was just so touched by their enthusiasm and sweetness. Such joy they express over the simplest thing. I tell you, I am hooked — they have won my heart." Winning Mary's heart is a wonderful thing. She has a very big heart and a hearty dose of enthusiasm of her own.

Mary Beona, her daughter and granddaughter all scrapbook, as do Gloria Backus, her daughter and granddaughter. "It's contagious!" they agreed. "But scrapbooking is not really a new thing," Gloria informed. "We have a 1919 catalog my mother's sister redesigned. She glued newspaper articles about our family onto the pages to create a family history, and it's become a piece of our legacy."

Just how does someone become addicted? "Usually, it just



Mary Beona, Gloria Backus and Gloria's granddaughter, Liv Shahan, enjoy scrapbooking.

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takes one visit to a crop!" Gloria intoned. A crop is the name of the event, and the event in Duncanville is called Crop Till You Drop. Every second Friday, the crop is on — from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. "We do a lot of visiting and get a lot of ideas — everyone likes showing off their creativity," Gloria admitted.

Usually a group of 14 to 18 people gather at the Hopkins Senior Center, although they have had as many as 23. For a \$10 entry fee, croppers can use tools, such as crimpers, punches, border punches, stamps and pads to add to their own stockpile of buttons, brads, sewing bric-a-brac, ideas and, of course, photos. "While it's not a cheap hobby, it certainly has its good side," Gloria stated.

"It sure does," Mary confirmed. "When I am scraping, I forget about anything else that has been bothering me, whether that's physical aches and pains or just plain worries." Mary just turned 90 and recently broke her arm. "But I'm not about to let a little thing like that bother me," she said with her nonstop effervescent smile. "I began scrapbooking about 15 years ago, and I plan to continue for at least another 15 years."



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Mary has completed projects of all sizes, including a brag-size book. But one of her favorites she made to celebrate her granddaughter Mary Frances' graduation from culinary school. "It commemorates our cruise to the Caribbean where we had such a lovely time." You can tell how you have grown in creativity by looking back at your first scrapbook. "One thing I have learned is to avoid self-stick albums and always use acid-free paper to preserve the quality and clarity of the photos," Mary added.

"Some of my books have themes, like trips I've taken. One of my favorites is my mother's recipes," Gloria added. The collection features many of her mother's handwritten recipes — one on a bag and another on the back of a check! A crocheted dishcloth resembling bloomers is on the page with a photo of her mom in the kitchen from the '50s. You can see the dishrag on the wall behind her mom. "It's a legacy I will leave to my girls! I know my mom would have been a scrapper if she were still alive. So I am kind of doing this for her."

Other cropping supplies include background pages, brads, magnets, as well as theme-items, such as mini mortar boards and tassels for graduations; cupcakes and candles for birthdays; holiday embellishments; shoes to represent shopping trips; and letters, numbers, pencils and backpacks for school days. Craft stores have endless arrays as fodder for your imagination to have fits of creativity.

Croppers are not limited to scrapbooks — card making is a popular side craft. The same creativity can be expressed, and then you have something to give away. "One Christmas, we decided only to give homemade gifts. One of the most prized gifts was a set of 12 homemade all-occasion cards," Gloria remarked.

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“When my daughter, Ruby, went to her first crop with a friend, she thought it was a class, so she came with about 12 photos. Some of the others looked at them kind of funny — where was their ‘stuff?’” Mary recalled. Kim, the regional coordinator for Creative Memories, taught them the basics. Then Ruby brought Mary along the next time. “I didn’t have any ‘stuff’ either! I ended up buying about \$500 worth of ‘stuff’! Really, there’s no cure for this addiction, so it’s a good thing it’s so therapeutic!”

“For my mom’s 90th birthday, we invited a lot of people who had been in my mother’s life over the years. We asked that her gifts would consist of only cards and people,” Gloria remembered. “We took tons of photos, and I wanted to make my mom a scrapbook. That was my very first one. I put the photos of people greeting her on the same page as their cards for her. She kept that book on the foot of her bed in the nursing home where she lived, and everyone who came in her room was asked to look at it — even if they had seen it before. Mom looked at it every day until the day she died.”

Gloria is such an addict that she converted her spare room into a craft room. “I just love having a place to spread out my projects without having to put things up when I can’t work on it. When my husband retired, I suggested he become a distributor for one of the craft suppliers, so I could get a discount! And he is so supportive that he did just that!”

One of Gloria’s favorite scrapbooks is one her daughter made for Mother’s Day using their favorite photos. “I still cry every time I look at it. What a great way to preserve memories! I think it’s the most wonderful gift I have ever received. Then she made one for her dad commemorating their years together in the Indian Princess program, a YMCA program designed to foster understanding and companionship between fathers and daughters. Her dad loves it!”

“We just want to invite everyone to come join us for a crop, so they can get started preserving memories as a legacy,” Mary remarked.

“And then, you can benefit the Special Olympics, as well!” Gloria added. **NOW**

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THE GALLERY IN DUNCANVILLE

At Home With Ron & Sharon White

— By Katrina D. Lewis

Opulent. Traditional. Exotic. On their own, any of these three words can describe the decor of a home and reveal much about the owners. And to say that blending these three styles into one home could be challenging is quite true. However, in the case of Ron and Sharon White's Duncanville home, the three styles mesh beautifully, only enhanced by their extensive collection of African-American artwork.



Married since 1979, Ron and Sharon have two children: Reginald, and his wife, Farrah, and Alysha, and two grandchildren: Chancei and Joshua. The Whites met during a church social event, and though she “ran in a pack” as Ron put it, he was able to get her attention and eventually, her hand in marriage. After a 32-year career with two government agencies, Sharon retired, yet still does contract work for the Department of Homeland Security. Ron has been a successful insurance agent with Nationwide for 20 years.

Although the home took roughly nine months to build, the entire process began when the Whites looked in other nearby areas for existing homes. Not finding anything they liked well enough to buy, they decided to build. “We met with the builder and went over the plans and went over them and over them,” Sharon laughed. Sharon, according to Ron, has an eye for coordinating colors, therefore she handled the decor in the home, while Ron’s only requests were an office, a man cave and “trying to stick to the budget” the couple joked.

“This area was relatively new and still undeveloped when we first moved here,” Ron said. “I was insuring several homes in this area. Before I insure a home, I have to inspect it. So, I noticed this area back here. It was secluded, and not a lot of people knew about it, so I asked Sharon to come back here and take a look.”

The home is set in a hilly terrain filled with trees and a certain ruggedness unseen from the nearby highway.

Built in 1997, the 5,000-square-foot, two-story, custom design has four bedrooms, five-and-a-half bathrooms and features a theater room (which also serves as Ron’s man cave), home gym with a sauna/steam room and a pool. Visitors gain access to the home through a set of large, double doors with iron scrollwork. And as difficult as it is to understand how a home’s decor could be beautifully opulent, greatly traditional and surprisingly exotic, the view from the front door explains it all.

To the right of the entryway is the family’s formal sitting



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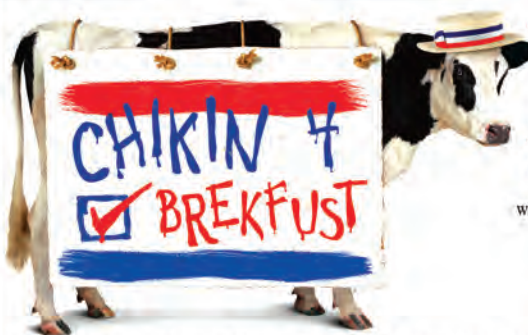
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area, the walls painted a dark teal. Along a far wall, a gleaming dark, wooden china cabinet houses a sparkling collection of Waterford crystal serving pieces and glasses. Two small settees, covered in a printed teal fabric serve as the focus of the room, and have a soft zebra-print rug underneath them. This room displays the iconic print of Ellis Wilson's *Funeral Procession*, an image made popular as part of the Huxtable family's art collection on *The Cosby Show*.



Downstairs, the home features a very open layout. The living room is just a few steps from the formal sitting area. A row of windows gives an uninterrupted view of the family's backyard, with the pool as the centerpiece. Hardwood floors run throughout the area adding warmth to the room. But, the most noticeable pieces in the room are the lamps — their shades are covered in a custom snow leopard print, with a row of crystal accents suspended from them. Another settee in the room is

covered in a zebra-print fabric. Although the animal prints provide a little walk on the wild side, the White's furniture has the clean lines and classic shapes of French-inspired furniture, tying all of the various prints and pieces together.

"I've always loved animal prints," Sharon said, addressing the seamless blending of the design element with more traditional pieces. "But I was a little bit skeptical to do that, because you think, *I can't put a leopard print with a zebra print*, but

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you really can. And so, all animal prints go together along with anything else. I had one designer I worked with who told me, 'Even if you had a red couch right here, these prints would go with it.' And they would."

On the other side of the double fireplace is the family's kitchen, a very brightly lit space with an island and small stained-glass design element over the stove. The layout of the downstairs area, with a small balcony overlooking the living room is more than ideal for gatherings and celebrations, of which the family takes full advantage. "I wanted beautiful areas for entertaining," Sharon admitted. "We do a traditional Thanksgiving dinner here, with lots of family and friends. We've done special things at Thanksgiving for many years. We've had entertainers here like Martha Burks — she did a little jazz concert here before."

"When our daughter was in high school and college, she'd have lots of parties here," Ron said, laughing. "They would get in the backyard and in the house and out by the pool. There have been as many as 100 kids in that backyard!"

Throughout the home, small and large prints, original paintings, sculptures and drawings feature the names and special touches of many prominent African-American artists, both local and national. These names include Ruth Williams, Arthello Beck, Ernie Barnes, Frank

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Frazier and more. The pieces have been purchased from local charity and civic events and auctions. Some were even purchased during some of the couple's travels to places like Jamaica, Haiti and Nigeria.

Tucked away in art niches at eye level or higher, the artwork has no particular theme, but each piece seems to show action, while exuding vibrancy. In one, a woman clutches a Bible, a hat on her head and her forward stride showing purpose as you imagine her heading off to church. In another, an angel's deep eggplant-hued wings frame her and her gown of gauzy purple. Just off the kitchen, Henry C. Porter's rendition of *Lady Godiva* sits triumphantly on her horse as it prances to places unknown.

Both Sharon and Ron have favorite pieces, hers being Charles Bibbs' *Lady In Black*, and his a colorful scene of jazz musicians and a sultry singer that hangs over a pool table in an upstairs game area. Ron also has a framed and signed Kansas City Monarchs jersey, one of the teams from the now defunct Negro Baseball League.

Although the couple has thought about downsizing, for now, they are content in their home. But, some work is never done. "A woman is never finished decorating her home," Sharon said smiling, as Ron playfully shook his head. "There will always be another art piece that we can find space for." **NOW**

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Jeanette and Hutch Martinez and their son, Josue, know how to provide and have fun!

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— By Beverly Shay

Generally speaking, bounce houses mean fun is in store. Hutch and Jeanette Martinez, owners of Bounce Entertainment, make it their goal to see everyone has a good time. “The best part of doing what we do is seeing those kids’ faces when we arrive to set up the bounce houses. They just know it is their day, and everyone is going to have fun at their party!” Jeanette said.

In 2000, Hutch and Jeanette rented a bounce house for their daughter’s birthday. When the bounce owners couldn’t set it up, Hutch and Jeanette set it up themselves. “We looked at each other and said, ‘We could do this as a business!’” So they spent a year researching and saving and opened Bounce Entertainment, with three bounces in 2001.

Hutch and Jeanette both grew up in Dallas where they met at

17. He graduated from Carter High School, and she graduated from Sunset High School. They went their separate ways for a while, crossed paths later and married at 24. “I had trained as an auto tech and was working for Toyota,” Hutch explained. “We heard they were opening a new facility in San Marcos and thought of moving there. By the time the Toyota job offer came, we had already decided to open our business here.”

“We’re glad we stayed here, because we love what we are doing. And our children have grown up where we did — in fact, our son, Josue, will be attending Sunset this year,” Jeanette stated. Their daughter, Destiny, also a Sunset graduate, is in her sophomore year at Texas Tech University, where she is working toward her Bachelor of Science in international economics.

"They have both worked for us and have been a great help with the growth of our business," Jeanette stated. "I think it has developed their work ethic and responsibility."

"Yes," added Hutch, "Josue likes to work and earn his own pay. He likes muscle cars. And he is a good worker."

Working includes delivery, setting up and tearing down for the day-long rentals. Of their 26 bounces, six have water features, which are very popular. The bounces include castles, a dinosaur, two birthday cake houses, a train, a fire truck, many of which are combo bounces with slides. Another popular one is an obstacle course. "Whether the kids are young, having a birthday party; older, having a graduation party; or a cross-generational group, such as a family reunion or church picnic, everyone has fun," Jeanette said.

When they return to deflate and

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pack it all up, sometimes those happy young faces get sad — because the children often think the bounce house was a birthday gift. Setting up is a quick 10-minute process, and tearing down only takes a few minutes more. "We can also provide a trackless train, tables and chairs and concessions, such as popcorn, a margarita drink maker and cotton candy," Hutch remarked.

They can set up most anywhere within the 635, 360 and I-20 circle of the Metroplex. "Sometimes, we do up to eight events, and we want to be able to get to each of them in a timely manner," Hutch explained. Most of their business comes from repeat customers, their family members or referrals.

"It's fun to see all the different types of people from all backgrounds and ages," Hutch said. "We've set up for weddings, church and school functions, health fairs and lots and lots of birthdays. We make a great team because we like working together and providing a fair and honest chance for others to have fun." **NOW**

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Let's consider some of these risks:

- **Longevity.** None of us can say for sure how long we'll live. But it's still important to have an estimate, based on your health and family history. So if you think you may live for 25 years in retirement, you'll want to withdraw enough from your investments each year to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle — but not so much that you deplete your funds before the 25 years have passed.

- **Inflation.** We've experienced pretty mild inflation over the past few years. But over time, even a low rate of inflation can seriously erode your purchasing power. To illustrate: If your current monthly costs are \$3,000, with only a three-percent annual inflation rate, that would be about \$4,000 in 10 years. And in 25 years at that same rate, your monthly costs will have more than doubled, to about \$6,200. To help protect yourself against inflation risk, it's important to have at least some investments that offer growth potential, rather than only owning fixed-income vehicles, such as certificates of deposit (CDs). You'll also want to consider sources of rising income potential, such as dividend-paying stocks. (Keep in mind, though, that stocks can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time and are subject to market fluctuation and loss of principal.)

- **Market fluctuations.** When you retire and begin taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio — that is, when you begin selling off investments — you'd obviously like prices to be high. After all, the classic piece of investment advice is "buy low, sell high." But it's impossible to try to "time" the market this way, as it will always fluctuate. That's why you may want to consider sources of income whose value is not dependent on what's happening in the financial markets. Your financial advisor may be able to recommend investments that can provide you with this type of income stream.

- **Low interest rates.** Many retirees depend on fixed-rate investments for a good portion of their retirement income — so it's a real challenge when interest rates are low. Consequently, when you retire, you'll certainly need to be aware of the interest-rate environment and the income you can expect from these investments. Longer-term, fixed-rate vehicles may be tempting, as they typically offer higher rates than shorter-term ones, but these longer-term investments may have more price fluctuation and inflation risk than shorter-term investments. Consequently, you'll still likely need balance between short-, intermediate- and long-term investments to provide for a portion of your income in retirement.

Retirement can be a rewarding time in your life. And you can help make your retirement years even more enjoyable by understanding the relevant investment risks and taking steps to address them. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Darryl Fenton is an Edward Jones representative based in Cedar Hill.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the things for which we're truly grateful. At Edward Jones, we're thankful to serve our clients and our community. During this holiday season and every day, we wish you all the very best.

Darryl L. Fenton
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Taking the Bite Out of Pain

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Relaxing with a cup of hot tea or just chilling with friends enjoying an ice cream cone are simple pleasures you may have to enjoy at your own risk. Sensitive teeth can definitely take the pleasure out of eating. The symptoms are easy to recognize. Stimulation or irritation of teeth by hot or cold substances, or sometimes even by flossing or brushing, can cause pain and discomfort in the affected tooth. Sensitive teeth in and of themselves are not a medical crisis. However, they could be the indicator of worse things to come.

Many reasons might cause a tooth to suddenly become difficult to live with. Damage to the tooth would be an obvious cause. Fractured or cracked teeth can lead to great sensitivity and pain. Frequently, the damaged tooth is discovered after pain has driven the person to the dentist's office. Teeth grinding or biting on a hard surface, such as ice or popcorn kernels, can lead to tooth trauma. Having a tooth restored after such an ordeal is extremely important in order to avoid having bacteria seep into the exposed surface and cause tooth decay. Erosion of the tooth's enamel can occur with abuse of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine, which has earned the nickname of "meth mouth," because of the prolific amount of damage to teeth from the highly acidic drug. Some over-the-counter medications can cause damage to the enamel if not taken

properly. An example is aspirin with its acidic nature or the sugar in cough syrup that's allowed to remain in the mouth and not rinsed or brushed away. Saliva helps protect teeth, but some medications, such as antihistamines, can cause dry mouth. Gastroesophageal reflux, as well as eating disorders, such as bulimia, cause stomach acid to bathe the teeth, which then breaks down enamel. Teeth whitening products are one of the major causes of sensitive teeth.

Preventing tooth sensitivity can be accomplished various ways. If you grind your teeth, have yourself fitted with a proper mouth guard. If your teeth have been damaged, seek the help of a dentist for remedy. Good oral hygiene is vital. Proper brushing, flossing and regular dental checkups go a long way toward keeping your teeth in good condition. Avoid hard bristled toothbrushes, because they can wear down your tooth enamel and cause irritation to the gums. Use fluoride toothpaste, and check with your dentist about which mouth rinse you should use. When brushing, do so gently. In today's world, modern dentistry can perform miracles. If you need dental services, call your dentist. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.



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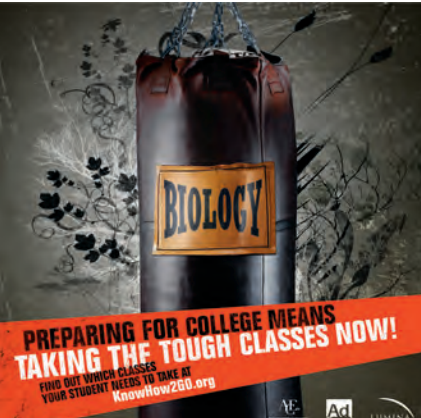
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October 26 through November 18

The Corner Theatre presents *Crowns* by Regina Taylor. Tickets: \$20 matinee (**Saturday** and **Sunday**: 2:30-4:00 p.m.); \$25 evenings (**Friday** and **Saturday**: 7:30-10:30 p.m.). aareptheater.com. or (972) 572-0998.

November 1

The Friends of the Duncanville Library invite you to the 16th Annual Author Appreciation Gala: 6:30 p.m., James Donovan, author of *The Blood of Heroes*, will be honored at the D. L. Hopkins Senior Center, 206 James Collins Blvd. Tickets: \$20/each or a table of six/\$120: www.duncanville.com/library or cbryan@ci.duncanville.tx.us.

November 3, 10

Cedar Hill library is offering free Spanish tutoring: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

November 4

Daylight Savings Time ends: 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

Open House: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Canterbury Episcopal School, 1708 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto. Open to residents of Dallas and Ellis counties. CES provides tours for families interested in learning more about the school. Light refreshments served. Contact (972) 572-7200, ext. 106 or ConderL@TheCanterburySchool.org for more details.

November 6, 13, 20, 27

Duncanville library is offering free Basic Information Computer Assistance: Noon-2:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the computer lab. (972) 780-5082.

November 9

Fall Student Art Show: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Visual Expressions Creative Arts School, 1425 N. Hwy 67, just south of Wintergreen in Cedar Hill featuring art work (on display through *November 26*), food, wine, art demos and raffle for a six-week art class. (972) 293-1117.

November 10

Mobile Heart Screenings: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Canterbury Episcopal School, 1708 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto. Ages 12-22 are encouraged to take 20 minutes for a low-cost screening to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest in youth. Cost \$125. Parents call 1-855-849-TEST (8378) for appointments. Visit www.living4zachary.org for more information.

DeSoto Veteran's Appreciation Day: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Jim Baugh Government Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Mayor Carl Sherman invites all DeSoto soldiers currently serving

and all U.S. Military veterans and their families to be honored for their service and learn more about local services and benefits, including health, mental health and small businesses and discounts on local services. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson will speak at 10:00 a.m. (972) 230-9600.

Friends of the DeSoto Public Library are sponsoring a Harvest Craft Fair and Market fundraiser: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto (in the outside breezeway next to the library); www.desototexas.gov/friends or (972) 230-9665.

Joshua Experience, known as God's Big Band: 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Cedar Hill, 128 N. Roberts Rd. The band, who recently returned from London, features singers and musicians sharing worship music and a message of faith, hope and love. Tickets include a four-course dinner, family/group photo and reserved seating for concert. Adults: \$30; children (6-12): \$15; 5 and under free. For reservations: Sharon Swanson (972) 948-6229 or Charity (972) 291-1711.

November 10-12, 17-19

Duncanville community Theatre presents *Don't Dress for Dinner*: 8:00 p.m., 106 N. Main St., Duncanville. This comedy written by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawthorn and directed by Elisa Guse centers on a well-crafted rendezvous which turns into a hysterical farce as mistaken identities and secret lovers collide for an evening of laughter. Cost (reservations recommended): Thursday and matinees: \$11; Friday and Sunday: \$14; children, students and seniors: \$1 discount. (972) 780-5707.

November 12

Veteran's Day Observed

November 13

Duncanville library presents Family Story Time and Craft: 7:00 p.m. Bring your family out for an evening of stories, songs, puppets and crafts. (972) 780-5082.

November 16

Extravagant Hope Gala, benefitting Hope Mansion: 6:45 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln., Waxahachie. Speaker: Christian comedian, Mike Williams. Cost: **before Nov. 8:** \$40; **after Nov. 8:** \$45; table of eight: \$320. (972) 293-3370.

November 22

Thanksgiving Day

November 26

Southwest Dallas County Parkinson's Group: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. Speaker: Cindy Weatherall, new president of Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society (DAPS). Refreshments will be served. Exercise and speech classes also available. (972) 298-4556.

November 30

Youth Bee Scholarship application deadline: 5:00 p.m., Metro Beekeepers, c/o Tim Wallace, 1510 Sunnydale Dr., Midlothian. Members of the Metro Beekeepers Association want to provide a hive to a wannabe youth hobbyist beekeeper. Application can be found on <http://metrobeekeepers.net/>

December 6

Old Town Holiday on the Hill: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Rotary Club of Cedar Hill: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Dick's Uptown Cafe, 610 Uptown Blvd. cedarhillrotary.org

Tuesdays

Rotary Club of Duncanville: 7:00 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 800 N. Main St. duncanvillerotary.org

2nd/4th Tuesdays

Cedar Hill Lions Club: 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Good Shepherd Church, 915 Straus Rd. lionsclubcedarhill.com

DeSoto Lions Club: 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lions Club Building, 110 Lyndlin St. (972) 863-1401.

Thursdays

Rotary Club of DeSoto: 7:00 a.m., Thorntree Country Club, 825 W. Wintergreen Rd. desotorotary.org

Fridays

Duncanville Lions Club: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lions Club Building, 210 Lions Trail (972) 877-3850.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.



In the Kitchen With Dotti Pennebaker

— *By Beverly Shay*

Dotti Pennebaker, Duncanville's 2011 Woman of the Year, is a self-described foodie. "Fall has long been a favorite season to enjoy food, family and football. I often plan interesting culinary treats for Longhorns and Cowboys watch parties with friends and family," Dotti said. She has attended cooking classes in New York, New Orleans, San Francisco and Dallas. "Recently, I was able to take part in the Dirty Dozen Cooking Course at Abacus Restaurant, exploring the cuisine of Julia Childs," Dotti remarked.

Dotti gleans inspiration from her cookbook collection, friends and family. "My family used to joke that I was having a 'Martha-moment,' as in Stewart, when I would serve Roasted Pumpkin Soup in small, individual roasted pumpkins, spend a weekend marinating meat for sauerbraten or preparing Cold Cured Gravlox. **NOW**

Cold Cured Gravlox (Lox)

3 Tbsp. vodka (optional)
1/4 cup coarse salt (Kosher or similar)
1/4 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. coarsely ground black pepper
2 1-lb. center-cut salmon fillets, skinned and boned
1 bunch fresh dill
Rye party bread or party crackers
Sour cream
Onion, capers, dill sprigs, finely chopped

1. Drizzle vodka onto salmon fillets. Stir together salt, sugar and pepper. Gently rub mixture into flesh of each fillet, making sure to spread mixture evenly. Place one fillet skin side down in flat-bottomed glass or ceramic casserole pan large enough to allow fillets to lie flat. Cover fillet with fresh dill; place second fillet on top with skin side down.

Wrap casserole loosely with plastic wrap. Place a 3- to 5-lb. weight on top to compress fillets.

2. Place in refrigerator for 4-5 days to allow marinade to start forming. Once a day flip fillets, ensuring both are well-soaked in marinade.

3. Lox can be eaten right away or slice into halves or thirds, wrap securely and freeze for later use. To serve: slice Gravlox thinly on a diagonal; serve on party bread/crackers; top with sour cream and garnish with onion, capers and dill sprigs.

Longhorn Chili

3-4 lbs. round steak, cut into cubes
Salt and pepper, to taste
2-3 cloves garlic
1 can beef broth
1 heaping Tbsp. Kitchen Bouquet

1 large red onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. jalapeño, chopped
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
1 28-oz. can tomatoes (with juice)
1/2 cup water
2 Tbsp. cumin
2-3 Tbsp. chili powder
1 1/2 tsp. flour
1 1/2 tsp. cornmeal
Beans (drained, canned Pinto or Ranch Style)
Sour cream
Cheese, grated
Green onions, sliced

1. Simmer meat, seasonings and garlic (use olive oil if necessary) until meat is light brown.
2. Add next 10 ingredients, adjusting liquid as desired; simmer 1/2 hour; add beans 10 minutes before serving.
3. Prior to serving, incorporate flour and cornmeal; add gradually to thicken.
4. Offer sour cream, cheese and onions as toppings.

Pulled Pork Tacos

1 4- to 5-lb. pork butt roast
Salt and pepper, to taste
3-4 Tbsp. cumin
1/2 cup apricot jam
1 onion, chopped
3-4 Anaheim peppers, chopped
Corn tortillas
Fresh cilantro, chopped
1-2 avocados, sliced
Limes (optional)
Hot sauce (optional)

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Roll out large piece of foil (big enough to cover roast). Place roast on foil; rub salt, pepper and cumin into roast; rub apricot jam into roast. Place onions and peppers on or around roast. Seal foil around roast; bake in large pan approximately 2 1/2 hours (45 minutes per pound).

2. Shred meat with fork; serve with warmed tortillas, cilantro, avocado, squeezed lime juice and hot sauce, as desired.

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



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Brees was first introduced to AdvoCare while he played in San Diego. Looking for safe and effective nutritional supplements, his strength and conditioning coach suggested he try AdvoCare. "Advocare products work. They are proven to give results. And, I feel like the products help me play at a championship level." See our World Class Athletes and Champion Endorsers at Team Advocare in the Advocare Magazine. Athletes include: Coaches, Track & Field athletes, Pro Football & Baseball players, USA Wrestling Champions, Martial Arts, PGA Golfers, Team USA Weightlifters and many other athletes that are proud to add their name to Team Advocare.



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