

Southwest

Cedar Hill | DeSoto | Duncanville
MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2017

Now

Keeping Heroes Alive

Andy Fancher
preserves the stories
of WWII vets

**2017 Holiday
Shopping Guide**

Clean Lines

At Home With
Sharon Pierce-Hunter

Purposeful Art

Top Notch

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NOVEMBER 2017

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DeSoto ISD Family Academy & Magnet Showcase: Nov. 11

The DeSoto ISD Family Academy and Magnet Showcase event is titled "It's a Family Affair: Where Innovation and Engagement Meet!"

Participate in interactive family workshops and learn ways to better support your academic scholar in family-focused info sessions. Also, attend the DeSoto ISD Magnet and Innovation Fair where families can learn about the vast and diverse body of rigorous academic programs available to students and families in DeSoto ISD.

See and hear Family Academy Keynote Speaker Dr. Nathaniel Hearne, former assistant football coach who was a coach on the 1989 National Football Champion Permian High School football team. He has served as an educational administrator, public speaker, motivator, mentor and life coach. Dr. Hearne believes in motivating students to apply themselves and maximize their potential for future success and accomplishment.

Visit www.DeSotoISD.org/FamilyAcademy to register for sessions. Magnet Academy and Showcase is open attendance; no registration required.

Event Details:

8 am to 1 pm | 11.11.17 | DeSoto HS

DeSoto ISD Announces \$15M Dept of Education Grant

DeSoto ISD is proud to announce the district's receipt of a \$15 million grant to support magnet program expansion through the United States' Department of Education's Magnet School Assistance Program grant. DeSoto was one of 32 school entities chosen out of 69 applicants representing 16 states. DeSoto ISD received one of the largest grant allocations of those awarded from the MSAP's \$97.6 million appropriation for this fiscal year. DeSoto ISD is one of only two school districts chosen in the state of Texas for this award.

The goal of the grant is to maximize student choice, improve diversity and reduce minority isolation to empower communities of learners to engage in rigorous academic content and increase overall performance in preparing students for college and career.

CALENDAR

- **10/26:** Early Release; Parent Conferences
- **10/27:** Holiday/Schools Closed
- **10/27:** FB v. Duncanville
- **10/30:** Staff Development Day/ No Classes
- **11/09:** FB v. SGP
- **11/10:** DeSoto ISD Clergy Appreciation Event
- **11/11:** Family Academy & Magnet & Innovation Showcase
- **11/13:** Regular Board Meeting
- **11/20-11/24:** Thanksgiving Break

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Publisher, Connie Poirier

General Manager, Rick Hensley

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker

Southwest Editor, Adam Walker

Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong

Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith

Writers, Debbie Durling . Katrina Emmett

Vernon Folks . Melissa Rawlins

Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

Shannon Pfaff

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla

Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen

Martha Macias . Brande Morgan

Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose

Photographer, Shane Kirkpatrick

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives,

Dustin Dauenhauer . Jennifer Henderson

Joyce Sebesta . Cherise Burnett

Bryan Frye . Kelsea Locke

Lori O'Connell . Melissa Perkins

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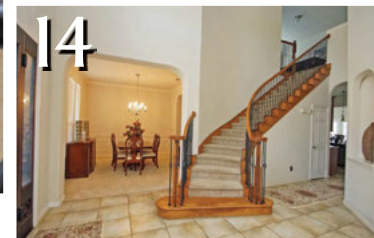
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Photo by Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Editor's Note

Thanksgiving is a time for memories.

It's a time to step back and take inventory of all we have to be thankful for. Some years are better than others. In some seasons of life, it's easier to see our blessing. But even if this year hasn't been one of your better ones, there are still plenty of things to be thankful for, even if you have to look at them sideways to see them.

When I was a child, my family spent a brief time living in an unpleasant place on a nameless rock road between towns with fewer than 50 people. Not a lot of good happened that year, but that Thanksgiving the whole neighborhood decided to eat together, on a vacant lot, each family bringing a dish or two. We ate on picnic tables and folding tables under trees dropping leaves on us while we wore our coats. That's one of the good memories of that place and time.

As Nathaniel Hawthorne said, "Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind."

Adam

Adam Walker

SouthwestNOW Editor

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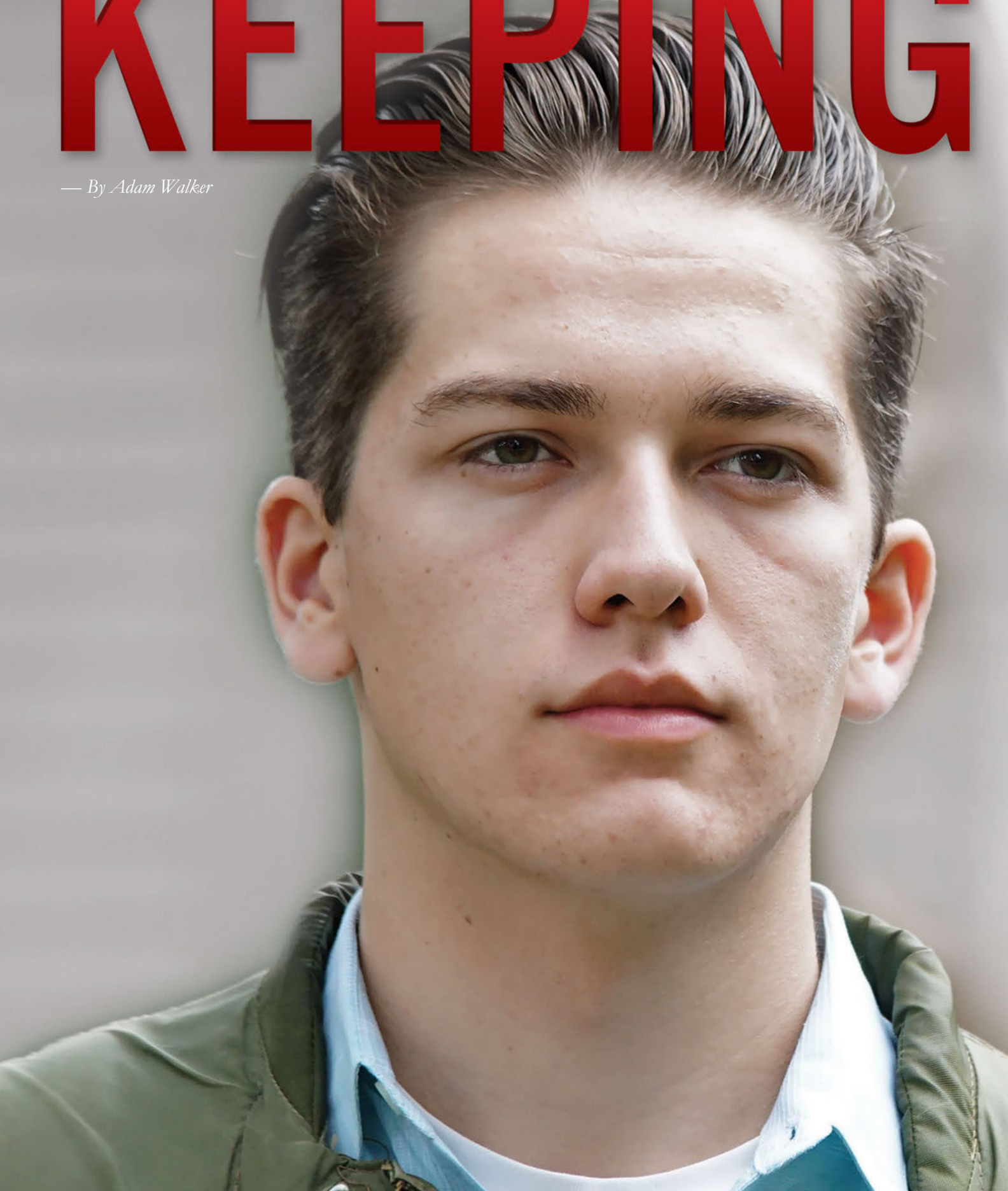
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KEEPING

— *By Adam Walker*



HEROES ALIVE

When Andy Fancher was 9 years old, he found a photograph of a man in uniform taken in Italy. He wondered what the story behind the picture might be, so he started asking questions. The picture was of his great-grandfather, Gene T. Fancher, who had served in World War II. And with that simple discovery, a yearslong project began.

“I started reading about World War II, and learning about where my great-grandfather fought,” Andy remembered. Then one day, when he was 10 or 11, while visiting his grandmother’s nursing home, Andy started talking to another resident. “I called him ‘Mr. Bell,’ and he shared the story of his time on Iwo Jima with me. We connected because of my great-grandfather. His was an amazing story. It could be a movie, but here he was with no one to tell it to. I thought, *He’s like 96. I want to capture this story.*”

I asked for a video camera for Christmas and started learning how to use it,” Andy smiled. “Every 11-year-old with an iPod thinks they’re a videographer. I started learning how to shoot and do color correction. I did some projects for my youth group at church, and then Russ Reed noticed my work. He gave me my first paid gig, filming his interviews with artists and editing them for YouTube. At our final business discussion at Panera Bread, he asked me, ‘What’s your plan after this?’ I told him, ‘I want to interview World War II vets!’” That was the birth of Andy Fancher Presents.



Andy Fancher interviews Harold Walker, a U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Pacific Theater.

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The picture of Andy Fancher's great-grandfather, Gene Fancher, is still cherished today.

Andy, who was 16 by this time, was introduced to his first interview subject, James Crouch, by his Grandpa Walter. The interview went well, and Andy was hooked. He had found a passion and devoted himself to it with a single-mindedness few adults could match.

Only three interviews into his project, Andy met Carl Matthews. "I was still getting the hang of how to ask questions. Carl was different. He was 91 and sharp as a tack. He could remember every single detail of every engagement of his service. He'd even written a novel about his experiences. Then he started asking *me* questions. No one else had done that. He wanted to know about me. Four days later, when I had edited his video interview together with footage I had found of the liberation of Saipan and showed it to him, he was saying, 'I remember that building! That's tank 45!' I had found footage he hadn't seen."

That was the beginning of a relationship that grew. Carl started doing what he called, "scouting for Andy." He started hunting down more subjects for Andy to interview. He also started calling Andy "grandson" and gave him some pieces of memorabilia. "I photographed his 92nd birthday, and got to visit with him again right before he died," Andy remembered.

Andy has interviewed men who have never told their stories before, and could barely get the words out. Others

couldn't stop talking. One interview, Louis Hudson, left Andy in tears as he told of battle after battle: Omaha Beach, Holland, Sicily, Elbe, Ruhr Pocket, the Battle of Berlin and the Liberation of Wöbbelin Concentration Camp. His entire service was a story of losing buddy after buddy, but living to fight the next battle and carry the burden. "I've never told this story," Louis confessed. "But I would do it all again for a kid like you." Andy suspended the interview, but he and Louis stayed in touch until Andy got the call that Louis had passed away.



Andy enjoys discussion with Marshall Harris, who served in the Pacific Theater as a U.S. Marine.

Andy started his project with the firm desire to go into the military. His great-grandfather and the men whose stories he was capturing inspired him. But he kept encountering variations of the same conversation with vet after vet. "They'd ask me, 'What are your plans?' And I'd tell them, 'I want to go into the military.' They'd say something like, 'That's nice. Got another plan? Go with that.' After enough of these vets telling me the same thing, I started to listen. They were the ones who had inspired me, but they had seen so much."

Andy has also interviewed Japanese Americans who spent time in the internment camps. Daniel Hirabayashi was at three different camps, including Heart Mountain Internment Camp. About two weeks after the interview, Andy got a Facebook message from Daniel's family asking how the video was coming and informing him that Mr. Hirabayashi had passed away. When the family came in for the funeral, both of Daniel's brothers sat down and told their stories on camera for Andy. Since then, Bill, the oldest Hirabayashi brother, has also passed away, but their stories are preserved because a teenager like Andy cared about what took place before him.

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"I'm trying to ensure that these stories are there for future generations. They need to be captured and preserved, so my generation can have something to refer to. Most people my age don't know what they did, what they sacrificed." At this point Andy has interviewed 56 WWII vets, but he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. "I plan to keep going until there are no vets left. These stories are important, and my generation doesn't know them. In 2011, the average age for a WWII vet was 92. And there are still stories I want to record. I would love to interview a female veteran, but I haven't been able to find one yet. I want to find a Holocaust survivor and preserve that part of the story, too." He hopes that by putting these stories up as short videos on the web, people will see them and honor these people for what they did and what they endured.

"Vets, their sons and daughters keep asking me, 'When are you doing a book?' I don't want this project to die off. I want something bigger for them. I've thought about a movie. I've even tried writing a screenplay a few times." Andy doesn't know yet what that something bigger will be — a book, movie or something else, but this is a young man who has found his passion. **NOW**



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At Home With Sharon Pierce-Hunter

CLEAN LINES

— By Adam Walker

In the north reaches of town, the two-story, brick-and-stone house Sharon Pierce-Hunter and her husband, Michael, call home, along with their children Michael II and Jasmine, nestles in a small community of homes all built about the same time the family moved to Cedar Hill. “My husband chose this area,” Sharon explained, “because he had friends near here, and it was far enough out to feel like country, but still be close to Dallas. Then two weeks later, they started building the Costco in Duncanville!”

When they bought their lot 12 years ago, on a Super Bowl Sunday, to build this house, they chose a floor plan they liked and thought everything was set. But the house was too large for the lot. After several lot changes, it had to be redesigned to fit, so it really is a one-of-a-kind house. The process took much longer than they ever dreamed, so when they sold their previous home, the family ended up in an apartment for several months. “We finally got to move in just before Christmas,” Sharon said. “We drove by at 1:00 a.m., and the workers were still finishing the house!”





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Sharon is the president of the HOA for her small neighborhood. With the help of the HOA board, she plans and organizes events to keep the community connected like a big, extended family. "We have an annual fall festival with clowns, face painting and food," Sharon said. "We try to get the fire department to send out a truck, and the police

department to send representatives to connect with the community. And we have a DJ set up by the creek. Everyone comes out, and we all have a good time." Her enthusiasm for her neighborhood is evident, but she admits that her busy work schedule has kept her from being as involved this year. This neighborhood is only four streets, so everyone knows



each other. "We help each other out. We watch out for each other's kids and for the coyotes that can be observed running along the creek bed. Recently, with the backing of the board members and the HOA, I got cameras installed to deter car thefts. It's just one more way to watch out for each other."

Recently, Michael and Sharon were at a local restaurant. The waitress came over to Sharon. "She told me, 'That gentleman over there wants to buy you a drink.' I said, 'What? I'm with my husband!'



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The waitress said, 'He said you're the president of his HOA.' I looked, and it was one of our neighbors!"

Michael is a mounted police officer. "He loves horses," Sharon explained. "He's a country boy at heart. He's an only child and keeps a second house in East Texas for his mamma."

Both husband and wife love to travel. "I will go anywhere there is blue water, fresh air and a beach!" Sharon exclaimed.

You might expect the home of an active couple like Michael and Sharon to be filled with memorabilia of all their trips and other adventures, but Sharon likes to keep the lines of her house clean. "I don't like to have anything on the walls," she said. "I only have one picture hanging downstairs and a few upstairs by the pool table of places we have visited. I like family photos, but they go on the shelves or tables, not the walls."



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The glass and wrought iron front door and transom window are recent additions to the house. "I had to wait 10 years, until the warranties expired, before Michael would agree to change that out, but just as soon as they expired, I changed it." Now the door has a swing-open panel that lets the iron show and allows sunshine and fresh air to flow into the two-story entry area with its staircase that repeats the wrought iron details.

"I think one of my favorite things about this house is the study, with its hand-scraped wood floors and built-in shelves. I like its seclusion. If the TV is on in the other room, I can't hear it in there." Sharon loves going to school and has collected a whole list of degrees. She's considered hanging them, along with those of the rest of the family, on one of the walls in the study, but she hasn't been able to bring herself to put so much on her walls.

A couple of antique pieces, a sideboard and a hutch, are on display in the dining room. "Those belonged to my great-great aunt. There used to be a couple of other pieces, but I don't know what happened to them," she explained.

The house also features a large covered slate patio where the family likes to entertain. "There's plenty of room out there for lots of guests," Sharon said. The combined den, kitchen and breakfast nook look out on this area. Above the fire place is that one picture Sharon keeps on her walls. It's a scene of a New Orleans jazz funeral.

"You can live in a place and say you like it," Sharon said raising her eyebrows for emphasis, "but I *like* this place." **NOW**



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— By Debbie Durling

Diana Rouse's love for crochet began in 1969. She had taken maternity leave for her first child to be born. "I became bored to tears and began looking for something to do with myself," she said. So, she taught herself how to knit. Even though she liked it, she hated that it took so long to make anything.

Though born in Carrollton, Georgia, Diana was raised in Harlem, New York. One

day, while on the subway, she saw a lady *knitting with one needle!* "I was fascinated with how fast she was working, so I asked her how she was knitting with only one needle," she remembered. The lady told her that she wasn't knitting — she was crocheting. Right away, Diana went to the store and bought a book about the craft and began teaching herself. "I loved it," she shared.

Soon, she began making baby clothes for her co-workers. It became her favorite thing to do in her spare time. She has made sundresses that have an elegant and expensive look. Her hats and booties can be any color, and usually have a blend



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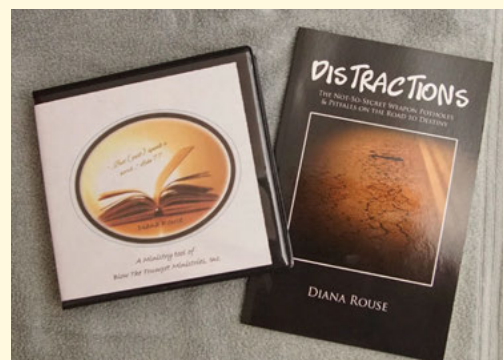


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of two colors with various patterns. The scarves and hats she makes for adults are extremely soft and easy to wear. They also make a great fashion statement.

By 1985, Diana had relocated to Fort Worth, where she worked for the Federal Government until she retired in 2010. DeSoto became her home after she began attending the Lighthouse Church in Midlothian. An ordained minister, she hosts conferences and seminars to motivate and encourage women through the ministry she founded in 1991 called Blow the Trumpet Ministries. In addition to her love of crochet, she also finds book writing and singing to be creative outlets. Throughout the course of her life, she has directed children's choirs and served as a worship leader. She has been a published author since 2011.

All her "spare" time, however, is spent crocheting. It has become her passion. Everything she creates is for blessing others or to give meaning to a cause. Each year, her pastor goes to Switzerland, where he helps with a conference that is designed to give encouragement and refreshing to missionaries stationed



across Europe. Diana carefully crochets hat and scarf sets, which he takes with him and gives to the ladies. "One of the missionaries, from Italy, who had been at the conference, asked for a hat to match her scarf, which she gave to her daughter," Diana said with a smile. "I've made hats for a missionary to China; booties and hats for Hope Mansion, a crisis pregnancy center in Cedar Hill; and hats and scarf sets for the Dallas International Street Church. I have also made various outfits for members of my church, their children and my grandchildren."

She crochets the aforementioned charitable items free of charge. The only time she charges is when an order is placed for a specific item or to fund the charitable items. It is not a source of income for her, mainly because she gives away more than she sells. What she does sell is priced barely over the cost of the yarn and/or shipping. "I have asked myself what I want to do with this creative gift, in light of my being fully retired," she said. Her dream is to open a yarn store and give lessons to pass on the art of crochet. She would also like to begin an online store, but these dreams have not progressed too far past the thinking stage.

Once she has chosen what she will make for someone, the most difficult part of any project is deciding on a pattern. For instance, she started on four different patterns before she finally settled on just the right one for a particular baby blanket she recently finished. While making a coverlet for the foot of the bed for a



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friend, she tried three patterns before she settled on the final one. There is a feeling of peace that comes when she finds the right pattern for a project, and Diana is excellent at choosing just the right yarn to make her items the correct consistency and weight.

"My biggest joy comes from seeing the looks on the faces of those to whom I have given an item I have made for them," Diana shared. "Knowing that I have contributed to their joy is so fulfilling and literally drives me on to the next project."

This seems to characterize most everything she does. Rising from difficulty in her younger years when she could have just blended into the scenery while raising her children as a single mom, she chose, instead, to reach out to others. Because of her loving and giving spirit, Diana's talents have taken her to wonderful places with wonderful people. They've made her a woman of art and influence. **NOW**

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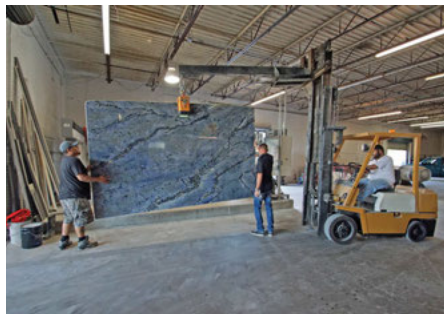
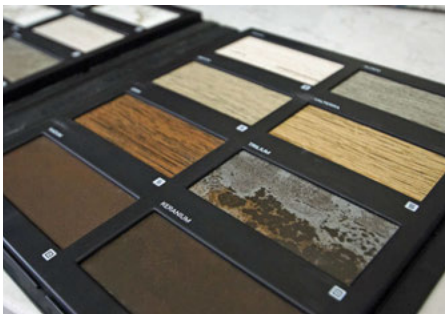


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TOP NOTCH

BC Stonemill wants to counter your kitchen blues. — By Adam Walker

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They are in the service business. “If we say we’ll be there at 10:00, we’ll be there at 10:00,” Michael said. “We’re not just selling a product. We’re serving you! We want a one-on-one experience to be sure the customer is satisfied and happy from start to finish. Customers are what make you successful.”

“We get a lot of repeat business,” Julie revealed. “People hire us to do their kitchen remodel. Then when they decided to update their bathroom, they call us back to do that job for them, too. And they tell their friends.”

Most of their employees have been with them a long time. “We try to make our employees feel like family. We have barbecues in the parking lot,” Julie explained. “That’s important to us.”

“Check us out on Facebook and Instagram to see some of the work we have done,” Julie encouraged. “BC Stonemill is 100-percent woman-owned and family-operated.”

If you are thinking about remodeling or updating, contact Julie, Michael, Jennifer and the rest of the BC Stonemill team. They are waiting for your call. **NOW**

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Brandy Williams of Cedar Hill and her fiancé are the winners of the Texas State Fair tickets giveaway.



Theresa Brooks and Aranda Bell show off superhero reading abilities at the Taste of Cedar Hill.



Several golfers help DeSoto ISD Education Foundation at the annual tourney.



BJ Hanspard celebrates being named a UA All-American with Coach Peterman, parents Byron and Yolanda Hanspard and his brothers.



Cheryl McLemore and Myra Jones assist donors at Carter BloodCare.



Duncanville ISD Board President Renee McNeely helps Acton Elementary students and staff officially open the district's newest school.



Kristin Segovia from Grand Prairie is one of the winners of the family pack of tickets to the State Fair of Texas!



Students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Duncanville ISD's Alexander Elementary School.



Technagy, at Taste Of Cedar Hill & Business Expo, was the winner of the best booth presentation award.



Dee Dee Hale and Kamrie Hurd keep things running smoothly at the Duncanville Rec Center.

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Put Thanksgiving Lessons to Work in Your Financial Plans

Thanksgiving is almost here. Over the years, this holiday has taken on a variety of meanings, most of them centered on *family, caring and sharing*. You can carry these same values past Thanksgiving into your daily life — and you can certainly incorporate them into your financial strategies for taking care of your loved ones.

So, here are a few suggestions:

- **Protect your family.** If something were to happen to you, could your family pay the mortgage? Could your children still afford to go to college someday? To protect your family's current lifestyle and long-term goals, you may well need to maintain adequate life and disability insurance. Your employer may offer these types of protection as employee benefits, but the coverage might be insufficient for your needs. Consequently, you might need to supplement your employer-paid insurance with additional policies.

- **Invest in your children.** If you have young children, and you'd like to see them go to college someday, you may want to start putting money away toward that goal. You can save and invest for college in a variety of ways, but one popular method is through a 529 plan, which offers high contribution limits and potential tax advantages. Plus, a 529 plan gives you significant control and flexibility. If you establish a plan for one child, but he or she decides not to go to college, you can name another child as the recipient.

- **Be generous.** You don't have to be a millionaire to make meaningful financial gifts to your family. For example, if you have grown children, consider helping them fund their IRAs. You can't contribute directly to a child's IRA, but you can write checks to your children for that purpose —

though, of course, they are then free to do whatever they want with the money. It's not always easy for a young person to "max out" on an IRA, which has an annual contribution limit of \$5,500 for workers under 50, so any help you can give your children in this area should be greatly appreciated.

- **Safeguard your own financial independence.** Almost certainly, one of the most undesirable outcomes you can imagine is to become financially dependent on your grown children. Even if you save and invest diligently throughout your working years, you could still be vulnerable to financial dependency if you need an extensive period of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. These costs can be enormous, and Medicare typically pays only a small percentage, and usually for just a limited time. To protect your financial freedom, you should explore ways of addressing long-term care costs. A financial professional can explain those alternatives that may be appropriate for your situation.

- **Communicate your wishes to your family.** At some point in your life, you will need to draw up your estate plans, which could include a will, a living trust, a durable power of attorney, a health care directive and other documents. To be fair to your children and other family members, and to avoid hurt feelings, you should clearly communicate your plans and your wishes while you are still around.

Thanksgiving means more than turkey and football. And if you can successfully apply the lessons of this holiday to your financial plans, both you and your family will have reason to be thankful. **NOW**

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



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A Roadmap to Cancer Care: Patient Navigation

Receiving a diagnosis of cancer is a life-changing event. Figuring out what's next comes with its own set of challenges. Traversing the many aspects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment can be daunting.

Helping a patient navigate their cancer journey is an important function of their care team — a team of caring experts each playing an important role in surrounding patients with specialized support. That means a strong focus on communicating with patients and families, managing treatment and side effects and providing guidance in areas not directly related to clinical care.

The navigation function plays a tremendous role in the patient experience. A care team's goal is to ensure that patients and their family members understand their treatment options, know what to expect and help them connect to and take advantage of helpful resources. Managing symptoms, providing emotional support and providing transition into survivorship are also ways a care team helps patients. Patients can take steps to make the most of their partnership with the care team, so the team can better help them navigate the journey.

Don't shy away from questions. One of the most important things a patient can do is answer questions honestly and ask questions openly.

- Answering questions fully and honestly will help the care team better understand how the patient is feeling, how they're responding to treatment and what support they may need. While a sign or symptom may not seem like a big deal to a patient, it can be important for the care team to know.

- It's also important for patients to ask questions without fear. What you

don't know can cause fear and stress, so asking questions and addressing concerns directly can improve the patient experience and potentially head off complications.

Pay attention to how you feel. Cancer can bring side effects and new symptoms. It's important for patients to pay attention to how they feel and tell their care team.

Share the journey. Cancer can impact one's life in countless ways. Emotional pressures, financial challenges and lifestyle changes can be stressful and feel overwhelming. Other times, patients may feel strength and hope, or be inspired to help others or try new things. Through the good times and the difficult times, sharing the journey with family, friends and the care team can be therapeutic and allows patients to feel supported.

When it comes to cancer care, your care team knows they have seen it all, but you haven't. Each patient experiences cancer differently — it's not a one-size-fits-all situation. By providing a patient navigation model that ensures patients have a system of support from trusted experts, your care team is able to create a roadmap to cancer care holistically designed to meet the needs of each person entrusted to their care. **NOW**

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Legends and Landmarks

Pieces of the past wait to be explored in Southwestern Oklahoma.

The beauty of Oklahoma comes in many forms: vast stretches of open plains, soaring mountain ranges and sunsets that set the sky ablaze with color. The state's southwestern corner, known as Great Plains Country, puts that diversity on display. The alluring and rugged terrain makes it an incredible spot for outdoor adventure, while the unique history of the area gives visitors another rich layer to explore.

Among Great Plains Country's best-known features are the granite-capped Wichita Mountains and the 59,020-acre Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The gorgeous refuge offers myriad activities. Visitors will find hiking trails and climbing routes for all skill levels, and the views are breathtaking for those who reach the summits on foot or take a drive to the top of Mount Scott, one of the state's tallest mountains.

Nestled at the entry of the refuge is the 100-year-old resort town of Medicine Park. It is filled with historic buildings housing eclectic shops, art galleries and fantastic bed-and-breakfasts. Visitors can amble along the scenic trails, fish for trout in the well-stocked creek and enjoy classic comfort food at one of several delicious restaurants — all while soaking in the history of an area that was once a playground for celebrities, politicians and outlaws.

Quartz Mountain Nature Park in Lone Wolf is a hot spot for bird-watching, rock climbing, hiking and fishing. For those wanting overnight accommodations, the rustic cabins and lodge-style rooms at the remote Quartz Mountain Resort, Arts & Conference Center offer stunning views of the Wichita Mountains and Lake Altus-Lugert.

In Carnegie, the Kiowa Tribal Museum features 10 vibrant murals chronicling the history of the Kiowa Tribe, and singing sessions and beadwork classes help introduce visitors to tribal traditions. The Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center in Lawton offers an extensive collection of artifacts, including painted buffalo skulls, intricate beadwork and elaborate war bonnets. The Southern Plains Indian Museum in

Anadarko focuses on the arts and crafts of the Southern Plains Indians, including the Caddo and Delaware nations. Popular summer events include the Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration in Carnegie, the Comanche Nation Homecoming Powwow in Walters and the Wichita Tribal Dance in Anadarko.

Throughout Great Plains Country, the history of conflict between the tribes and the United States government is also preserved. In Cheyenne, is the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, where visitors can take a self-guided tour of the 1 1/2-half mile trail, and the visitor center has exhibits and a film that tells the story of Lt. Col. George A. Custer's 1868 surprise attack on Peace Chief Black Kettle's Southern Cheyenne village. Farther south sits Fort Sill, best known as the home of Apache leader Geronimo during his latter years. Today, the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum offers exhibits on military and Native American history.

Two of the most famous pathways in United States history ran through Great Plains Country: the Chisholm Trail and Route 66. Used to drive cattle from Texas to Kansas in the post-Civil War era, the Chisholm Trail is the stuff of American legend. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan celebrates its rich history. Long after the Chisholm Trail cattle drives, another thoroughfare captured America's imagination. Built in the 1920s, Route 66 took travelers through American small towns across the country. The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton and National Route 66 & Transportation Museum in Elk City showcase the classic cars and vivid neon signs that helped make the route so memorable, while providing interactive exhibits to introduce the road to a new generation.

With its beautiful scenery and colorful history, there's much to see and do in Southwestern Oklahoma. For more information or to plan a trip to Great Plains Country, visit travelok.com. **NOW**

By Hayley Riggs McGhee. Photos courtesy of Oklahoma Tourism.



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November 4

Holiday Bazaar: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., First Christian Church Duncanville (Disciples of Christ), 203 S. Main St., Duncanville. Homemade baked goods, raffle baskets, local vendors and door prizes every hour.

Micro A-Kon Anime Fest: 10:00 a.m., Zula B. Wylie, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill. Free. Games, cosplay, special guests and anime.

Let's Start Giving Foundation 2017 Gala: 7:00 p.m., The Social Arts Venue, 106 E. Freeman St., Duncanville. Tickets \$30-\$35. Benefit to fight homelessness. Call Jaquitha Stinson at (817) 703-6250 for information.

November 10

Cinema on the Square: 7:00 p.m., 106 Broad St., Cedar Hill. Showing *Against All Flags*. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Chance 2 Dance: 7:00-11:00 p.m., Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill. 70's-themed fundraiser for Cedar Hill Action Team (CHAT). Dinner, dancing and silent auction.

November 11

ABWA Christmas in November: 9:30 a.m. registration, Thorntree Country Club, 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., DeSoto. \$30. Call Cynthia Bennett (972) 296-2146 for more information.

Vet Fest: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Nance Farm, 1325 Greenbrook Dr., DeSoto. Free. Program honoring vets, tours and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson speaking. Call Kathy Jones at (972) 230-9648 for information.

Manga Toshokan: 2:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free. Manga doodles for teens 13 and up.

November 13

Family Fun Night: Reading With Our Heroes: 6:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill. Bring the whole family to enjoy a night with veterans.

November 14

College Knowledge Series: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Teen Room, DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. Junior high and high school students learn about college essays.

November 15

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: 4:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free. 3rd-6th grade. Learn about color and light.

November 17

Discover the Arts After Dark: 6:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill. Visual arts, various music styles and cultural lectures.

Cinema on the Square: 7:00 p.m., 106 Broad St., Cedar Hill. Showing *Muppet Treasure Island*. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

November 18

Teen "You" Niversity: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. Teens ages 13-17 learn life skills for successful futures and earn community service hours. Contact Marq Rannels at (972) 230-9663.

November 20

Dining for Dollars: 4:00-9:00 p.m., Panda Express, 455 FM 1382, Cedar Hill. Support the Friends of the Zula B. Wylie Library.

November 21

Cinema on the Square: 7:00 p.m., 106 Broad St., Cedar Hill. Showing *Nate and Hayes*. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

November 25

International Culture Series Movie: 7:00-10:00 p.m., International Museum of Cultures, 411 US Hwy. 67, Duncanville. Free snacks, donations accepted. Showing *Septembers in Shiraz*.

November 30

A Christmas Carol: 8:00 p.m., Duncanville Community Theatre, 106 S. Main St., Tickets required.

December 1

Cinema on the Square: 7:00 p.m., 106 Broad St., Cedar Hill. Showing *The Princess Bride*. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Ongoing:

Third Mondays

DeSoto Public Library Book Club: 7:00 p.m., DeSoto Town Center Complex, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. For more information, call (972) 230-9661.

Tuesdays

DeSoto Senior Center Golden Voices Choir:

9:00 a.m., Senior Citizen Center, 204 Lion St., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 230-5825.

Second Tuesdays

Dallas Area Writers Group (DAWG), 7:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, Cedar Hill. DAWG meetings are open to all writers. Free to attend. www.dallaswriters.org.

American Business Women's Association, 7:00 p.m., Magnuson Grand Hotel DeSoto, 1515 N. I 35, DeSoto. Dinner \$25. Currently accepting new members. For information, call (972) 224-3049.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Caregiver Support Group: 2:00-3:30 p.m., Friends Place Adult Day Services, 1232 W. Belt Line Rd., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 274-2484.

Thursdays

The Quilters: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library. New quilters are welcome. If you or someone you know has a quilt top they would like hand quilted, call (972) 230-9661.

Tiempo de Historias en Espanol: 5:30 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd. For more information, call (972) 780-5050.

Texas Hold'Em Tournament: Noon., Senior Citizen Center, 204 Lion St., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 230-5825.

Line Dance Classes: 12:15 and 1:00 p.m. Free. Senior Citizen Center, 204 Lion St., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 230-5825.

Second Thursdays

Business on the Hill: 7:30 a.m., Texas Trust Credit Union, 109 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. Networking and meeting new neighbors.

Third Saturdays

Duncan Switch Saturday Street Market: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Main and Center streets, Duncanville. The event will include vendors, food and fun.

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In the Kitchen With Steve Randle and Rick Hensley

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Avid hunters and longtime NOW Magazines employees, Steve Randle and Rick Hensley, cook a lot in their homes and at their respective camps. At 5 years old, Rick began helping his mom in her kitchen, and then he was happy to man the grill or fire pit once he started hunting in his early 20s in Nacogdoches, Texas. Steve and his three sons have hunted turkey and deer in Comanche and Mills counties for over 30 years. Starting a brisket and a campfire Friday night, their pit and the camp fire smokes all weekend.

The recipes he and Rick share here are so simple, but they earn compliments from their friends and families. “And they’re great,” Rick said, “for sitting around a camp fire on a cool fall evening after you’ve been out hunting.” **NOW**

Rick’s Cajun Rib Eyes

Best prepared before you go out for the evening hunt.

- 2 1.25-inch-thick prime or choice rib eyes, bone-in or boneless**
- 1 Tbsp. Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning**
- 1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Pepper**
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 tsp. soy sauce**

- 1.** Place the steaks in a 1-gallon Ziploc bag. Sprinkle both sides with dry seasonings; add the sauces.
- 2.** Squeeze the air out, and zip the bag closed. Place it in your ice chest for at least 2 hours.
- 3.** Let steaks get to room temperature before putting them on the fire.

- 4.** For medium rare, and depending on the size of your fire, most steaks will need to cook about 5 or 6 minutes per side

Rick’s Venison Stew

- 2 Tbsp. bacon grease**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 2.5 lbs. venison, cubed**
- 1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Salt**
- 1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Pepper**
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 8 cups beef broth**
- 12 medium golden potatoes**
- 1 tsp. Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder**
- 1 large, sweet 1015 onion**
- 4 celery stalks, diced bite-size**
- 1 8-oz. bag petite carrots, sliced bite-size**

- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes, regular or mild**
- 1 14.5-oz. can green beans**
- 1/2 15.2-oz. can corn (optional)**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

- 1.** In a large stock pot, combine grease and olive oil.
- 2.** While it heats, season the cubed venison with salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce.
- 3.** Cook over medium-high heat until done. Add the beef broth; cook at a low boil for about 30 minutes, to start tenderizing meat.
- 4.** Meanwhile, wash potatoes. Leaving the skin on, cut into medium bite-size pieces. Add to the boiling meat mixture; simmer for another 15 minutes.
- 5.** Add remaining seasonings, vegetables and canned goods and fast simmer 20 minutes.
- 6.** If desired, use flour or corn starch to thicken it a little.
- 7.** Salt and pepper to taste, and enjoy!

Steve’s Nanner Pud

- 5 3/4 cups cold milk**
- 2 large boxes instant vanilla pudding mix**
- 1 1/2 14-oz. cans Eagle Brand condensed milk**
- 1/2 stick butter**
- 1/2 box graham cracker crumbs**
- 1 1/2 boxes vanilla wafers, reduced fat variety**
- 3-4 ripe bananas**
- 1 large tub Cool Whip**

- 1.** Combine milk with pudding mix. Stir in condensed milk, a little at a time, to avoid clumps; refrigerate.
- 2.** Melt butter and mix with graham cracker crumbs. Spread crumbs on bottom of bowl or aluminum pan, saving some for decorations, if desired.
- 3.** Put down a layer of wafers and sliced bananas.
- 4.** When pudding is firm, fold in the Cool Whip, so the pudding has white streaks all through it. Save some Cool Whip for decoration.
- 5.** Pour a little less than half of the pudding mix over the wafers and bananas.
- 6.** Repeat the layers and end with all bananas covered, or they will turn brown.
- 7.** Stand wafers up all the way around the edge of the bowl.
- 8.** Sprinkle with crumbs, and add dollops of Cool Whip.

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

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