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MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2012

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DHS National Merit Commended Students

Two Duncanville High School students recently received national recognition for PSAT scores. DHS senior David Daniels was named a 2013 Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholar Program, and fellow senior Alexander Dunn was recognized as a Commended Student.

David placed among the top 16,000 students, in the top one-third of the 50,000 highest scores earned on the PSAT exam. He is an oboe player in the DHS band, made All-State Band as a sophomore, and has been the first chair oboe player in All-Region band for the last three years. David is hoping to attend Rice University to study medicine.



David Daniels

Alexander placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students taking the PSAT exam. He is also in the DHS band, and currently serves as the second-chair euphonium for the Wind Ensemble. Alexander is interested in pursuing a career in statistics and is considering attending Baylor University.



Alexander Dunn

Red and Blue- Is It In You?



For ten years, five times a year, retired US Army officer and former Duncanville ISD administrator Norman Davis has helped place more than a thousand flags at subscribing homes and businesses in Duncanville as part of the Duncanville

Rotary Club Flag Program. Every Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day, proudly waving American flags line the roads of the community thanks to Rotary Club volunteers like Davis. Davis has purchased a Rotary Flag subscription for the new Duncanville ISD Education Plaza, located at 710 S. Cedar Ridge, in honor of his late wife Rosalinde. To hear more of this inspirational story, visit the district's online newsroom at duncanvilleisdnews.org.



Norman Davis



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ON THE COVER



Jacquelyn Watts loves, loves Christmas — for the chance to decorate and enjoy her family!

Photo by Opaque Visuals

CONTENTS

December 2012 • Volume 6, Issue 12



8 A Musical Inheritance

Technicality, talent and tremendous time have produced one very talented family.

16 Travel Bugs

For 50 years, Ron and Linda Harris have served DeSoto, that is, when they haven't been roaming the world.



22 A Labor of Love

Dr. Ronald Dotson surprised his teenage daughter with her very own home.

30 The Heart of the Family

At Home With Kenneth and Jacquelyn Watts.

44 BusinessNOW

46 Around TownNOW

48 FinanceNOW

50 HealthNOW

52 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Southwest Friends,

On this lovely cold day, I'm enjoying an oversized mug of my delicious homemade chicken soup. The only time my family gets real meals are when the cold wakens fleeting moments of domesticity. Soup in hand, I'm reviewing the year, which has flown by so quickly, and contemplating the month ahead. The year was amazing, with two outstanding highlights: a trip to Argentina and slightly more time with my daughter, Bethany, between her move home from

four years in Atlanta and her departure to Israel for six months.

The month ahead brings birthdays: my King's and my grandson's (Michael how could you possibly be 7 years old already?) and then the year will, thankfully, be over. Holidays, decorating and partying are not my forte. I appreciate the noncommercialized version of Christmas — God, born in a manger.

I salute joy to the world and peace on earth,

Beverly

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor
bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net

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Full Engagement 2015: A New Way

"The perspective we have, how we approach every decision we have to make, will be determined by this commitment to becoming the best," said Dr. Harris. "Every DeSoto ISD employee should be focused on a student-first approach with the goal of academic success in mind."

DeSoto ISD has launched a new way of doing things with the goal of being fully engaged by 2015. That means that all staff, students, parents, organizations, businesses and the entire community are on the same page and engaged in the district in some capacity and are following the district's core beliefs which is students first and foremost. It also requires integrity, respect, loyalty, accountability and teamwork - but with students first, the primary core belief, the other elements will follow.

Some recent activities and opportunities for parent and community full engagement have included the recent parent academy and basketball games, Seniors Prom for residents age 55 and over, Go Green Fridays, Principal for a Day program, Mayor Walks with corporate citizens, Counselors' Community Walks, DeSoto Library Story Time, Adopt-A-School partnership development, Realtors Breakfast, Veterans Recognition Event and Dallas parade participation, and student-led food drives.

We are continually working to provide additional opportunities at the district and campus level and welcome your participation and suggestions. We look forward to building DeSoto ISD into a premier school district and becoming fully engaged by 2015.



Calendar of Events

Tues., Dec. 6, 6 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Fine Arts Showcase, DHS
Mon., Dec. 10 - DeSoto ISD Board Meeting, Board Room
Tues., Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Open Enrollment Open House, DHS
Wed., Dec. 12, 1 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Spelling Bee, Board Room
Dec. 24-Jan. 4 - Winter Break
Mon., Jan. 7 - School Resumes
Mon., Jan. 14 - DeSoto ISD Board Meeting, Board Room
Jan. 18 & 21 - No School; Staff Development & MLK Holiday

Who Knew?

Calling all DHS Alumni! Alumni Day will be held at DeSoto High School on Friday, January 11. Alumni interested in attending should visit the high school web site and register by December 14.

Fifty students from each of the three middle schools will receive a laptop checked out from the district for the remainder of the year and beyond. Students, selected through needs-based criteria, must attend a Laptop Pickup and Orientation on December 6 with their parents. The laptops are funded by the \$100,000 state Technology Lending Grant.

DeSoto alum Von Miller, Denver Broncos linebacker and a spokesman with Riddell, selected the DeSoto Eagles Football Team to receive 25 donated Riddell 360 helmets.

DeSoto senior Kiara Rhodes was named a National Achievement Scholarship Program Outstanding Participant. She scored in the top 3 percent of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the program.

Parent Engagement includes the recent Parent Academy and Parents vs. Staff Basketball Games November 3 with over 250 participants at both events. Coming in December, parents can sign up for iParent Academy to learn tips about integrating technology into education at home.

DeSoto senior Matt Jones signed his letter of intent to accept a full scholarship to play basketball at Duke University next year.

DeSoto Eagle Dontre Wilson has been selected to play in the 2013 Under Armour All-America High School Football Game on January 4 in Florida. Head Coach Claude Mathis has been invited to be one of the coaches for the game. DeSoto has had four previous players named as All Americans.

DeSoto EAGLE / Gifted and Talented students and staff raised \$3,000 plus food that was donated to the DeSoto Food Pantry.

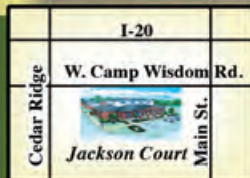
Congratulations DHS Girls Basketball Coach Larry Goad on his 700th win earlier this season!

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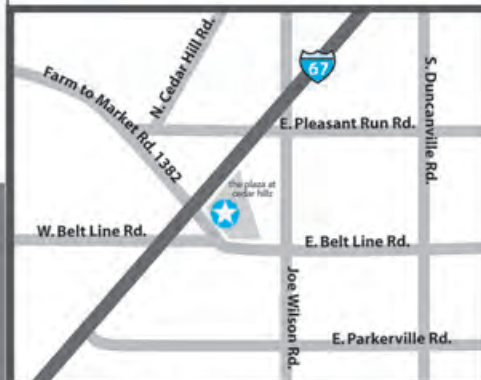


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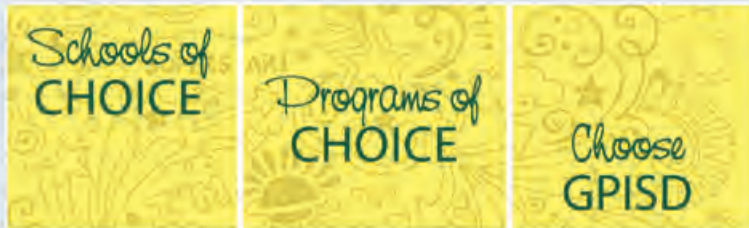


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A Musical INHERITANCE — By Beverly Shay

Music runs in the Marantz family's DNA. Sara Marantz grew up on St. Simmons Island in Georgia surrounded by woods, history and wealth. She remembers water ballets on nearby Sea Island set to music like "Moon River." Sara studied piano with Helen Morgan Lindsay, organist at the famous Christ Church. Sara's husband, Bart, grew up in Brooklyn, New York. His grandparents were immigrants of Polish, Russian and Austrian descent. His father was a retail business owner and opera buff. Bart was 8 when they moved to Florida, where his maternal grandparents had retired. He recalls how the influx of Cubans altered the musical culture of Miami.

Bart took up trumpet at the age of 10, after hearing an Al Hirt album. "I was taken with the trumpet, telling people the trumpet found me. I was stunned with the sound and the style and what could be done with a trumpet," Bart recalled. From his first elementary concert together with instrumentalists from the University of Miami onward, Bart quickly made his mark — playing with the high school band while in junior high school and a nine-month season in Miami Beach clubs while in high school. "I played for such people as Marlon Brando and Tiny Tim. It was surreal!

I learned from some of the best — like Frank Biringer, and became friends with the likes of Sam Palaphium, who now teaches at the University of Arizona," Bart stated.

Sara credits her mom, who, as a pianist/organist, taught Sara and her seven siblings "to become musical in the truest sense. She arranged



us in trios, quartets and quintets to sing sacred music.” After she left the Island to attend Georgia College, her parents moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where she and Bart married. “I taught piano lessons to about 70 students during our three years there,” Sara stated. “Our home in Hattiesburg was a three-bedroom — our bedroom, my piano room and Bart’s studio,” she recalled.

The two met while they both studied at the New England Conservatory of Music from ’75-’77. Sara was studying piano on the third floor with Veronica



Jochum, who now teaches their son Luke, and Bart was working on a degree in Afro-American music in the basement. If Sara had not worked in the mailroom, the two might not have met. “I was copying material there while Sara was on duty. I saw her, liked her and asked her to coffee. She refused me! Our first date was the worst ever, but our second date was the best ever,” Bart admitted. They’ve been married for 34 years now.

“Veronica Jochum, a grand dame of piano, is still very energetic — she simply vibrates. It’s as though she plays through you. Learning from her is both intimidating and inspiring. She requires everything to be executed to perfection, but I learned to set the bar high under her direction” Sara commented. “We are so thrilled that Luke is now studying with her.”

Bart began a weekly column called “The Jazz Corner” in the *Hattiesburg American*. This developed into a radio

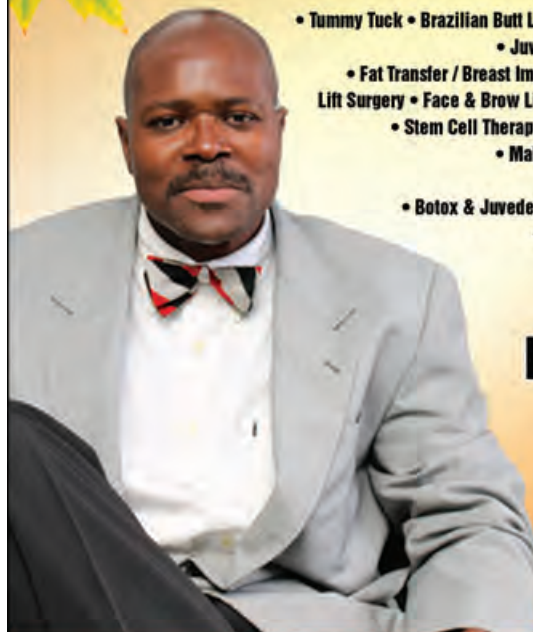
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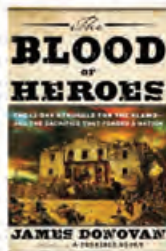
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| | - Faith Bible Church Choir | 3 pm |
| Dec. 15 | - First Presbyterian Church D'ville Choir | 1 pm |
| | - Windsor Park Baptist Church Choir | 3 pm |
| Dec. 22 | - Special Country Performances by | |
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program at the University of Southern Mississippi, which led to Bart becoming an assistant to the band director of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi. "I started out tuning up the marching band, but ended with sponsoring several jazz festivals with such jazz greats as: Woody Herman, Mundell Lowe, Lenny White, George Duvivier and Bill Berry," Bart said.

In 2010, Bart became the 18th recipient of the International *DownBeat* Jazz Education Hall of Fame. He also became the seventh recipient of John LaPorta National Jazz Educator of the Year given by Berklee College of Music and presented by Jazz Education Network in 2012. To chronicle all the forays into music which have filled Sara and Bart's lives would be encyclopedic, but with all their love and wealth of music, it's no



surprise at all that their two sons followed in their footsteps, becoming musical wonders themselves. Matt took up the saxophone in sixth grade with greater talent than Bart. "By seventh grade, I could not believe how good my son was. He is the most decorated student Booker T. Washington High School has ever seen. While in high school, Matt has played at the White House with the National Endowment of the Arts. Quite an accomplishment for an 18-year-old," stated Bart, who teaches at Booker T. Luke, the younger Marantz son, started his musical endeavors singing and was voted best jazz music vocalist twice while in junior high. He found piano in 10th grade and was playing in the jazz ensemble in his junior year. Luke opened for Herbie Hancock in his senior year, as well as B.B. King and George Duke.

Both boys were awarded scholarship

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funds for collegiate-level jazz studies — Matt from Manhattan School of Music and Luke from New England Conservatory of Music. Recently, they formed a band. Both write music, and they have just released their first album — an eclectic mix of jazz and country called *Matt and Luke Marantz and The Primary Colors*. Matt also has a solo album called *Offering*. “It’s very fulfilling to watch the boys enjoying each other as musicians,” Sara remarked.

Music just flows in this family — their dog is even named Schubert! Their home is a veritable collection of all things musical, from the grand piano in the front room to the boys’ rooms, plastered with musician posters and their collections of *DonnBeat* magazine’s student musician awards — Matt has 26 and Luke has 17. “They’re not gold mines — they’re diamond mines of talent, due to so many hours spent perfecting their craft,” Bart remarked.

“We made an incredible effort to envelop and immerse our children with all kinds of music. It’s vital to provide the very best teachers you can for children who exhibit the kind of talent our sons have. And then, you have to let them find their passion, their instrument and give them every opportunity to improvise and interpret what is within them,” Sara advised.

Without a doubt Sara and Bart have contributed much to their entire family and well beyond through the concerts and lessons they give. Their insight into classical and jazz music provides both balance and enlightenment. “Classical music is a predetermined composition that is interpreted and shaped by the performing artists. Jazz is composed extemporaneously, not only by ear, but by all the artists playing based on form and chord structure. This is true whether they are playing romance, blues or beat music,” Bart explained. “Initially, 95 percent of developing jazz musicianship comes via emulation and transcription. Later musicians find their own voices.”

“To play well involves passion, as well as technical ability,” Sara added. “What we are drawn to is a musician’s joy in the music. That’s what moves our hearts and souls.” **NOW**



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Travel

Bugs

— By Beverly Shay

Ron and Linda Harris enjoy living the good life, even if they started life together blindly. Linda moved to Texas, her mother's home state, from New Jersey when she was 10. She graduated from Carrollton High School. "Ron attended Sunset High School in Oak Cliff and graduated from East Texas State University where he and I were set up on a blind date," Linda recalled. After Ron's graduation, he joined the United States Navy, and the two corresponded. They liked what they saw in each other, and romance blossomed. "We set our wedding date for October 1962, but because of the Cuban Missile Crisis, we didn't marry until December."

"December is a great time to get married but a hard time to have an anniversary," Ron added. Truth be told, they've managed to have quite a few anniversaries — in fact, this year they will celebrate their 50th. You'd never know they've been married so long by either looking at them or trying to keep up with them. They love to travel!

But before they got the travel bug, Ron served in the Navy at the Pacific Missile Range near Oxnard, California, until 1965, and then stayed in the reserves for 30 years. He was also a physical education teacher for 30 years in Oak Cliff. Following



his retirement, he started yet another career — as a hospital concierge at Children's Medical Center. He worked there for 11 years. Meanwhile, Linda was a commercial real estate asset manager for 23 years, retiring when the office she worked for closed. "Then, I went back to school, earning a BBA from Northwood University in 1997," Linda said.

Ron and Linda have lived in their present home in DeSoto since 1978, and both of their children graduated from DeSoto High School — Randy in '82 and Susan in '84. Randy now lives in Flower Mound, and Susan in Wylie. Between them, they have given their parents five grandchildren, from 2 years old on up to high school. "When our children were young, we traveled together all over the United States. After we both finally retired, we began taking cruises and traveling to Europe," Linda remarked.

Because of his military background, Ron has avidly researched those involved in World War II battles and maneuvers. In fact, he researched all 114 Sunset students and the principal who served in WWII. Some of their trips have taken them to European war sites. "We took a two-week D-Day tour, commencing in London and including Churchill's Bunker; Normandy, France; and Berlin. "We both found it interesting, because I had an uncle who died in the war, and Ron's uncle was in a prison camp during the war," Linda stated.

Linda enthused about one trip called the Danube Waltz. They visited Budapest, Salzburg and Vienna on a riverboat for eight days, even visiting a castle in Augsburg, Germany, where Mozart had played. "We saw shoes lined up along the streets of Budapest, representing those who had been killed during the Holocaust," Linda recalled. "They have the largest Jewish synagogue in Europe." The Harrises have also traveled to Scotland and England and have taken a Mediterranean cruise. "Ephesus was so interesting," Linda remarked.

For their 50th anniversary, they are planning a tulip tour of Amsterdam. "Three other couples have traveled with us over the years," Linda said, telling how they met once a year to tour various locations in the U.S. "We also took our



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whole family on a cruise from Galveston to Cozumel and Yucatan two years ago. We like leaving from Galveston, because we don't have to fly."

They've been to Alaska, and recently Linda won a drawing from the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce for — you got it — a cruise to the Bahamas and Key West! "I always want to bring home the man who makes the beds on the ship!" Linda grinned.

When not out cruisin' the world, Ron and Linda keep busy with one thing or another around DeSoto. Currently, Linda is president of the neighborhood association, works at the DeSoto food pantry, Meals on Wheels and is active in the Charlton Methodist Auxiliary. Oh, and she's also president of Lecture Luncheon Club. "It's a 60-year-old club that started in Oak Cliff but is now made up of women from Lancaster, Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Midlothian, DeSoto and, of course, Oak Cliff!" she added. She also started the Great Days of Service program with Debbie Baugh.

"Linda ends up being the president of everything," Ron kidded, "which means I am on all her committees! One day I was doing some research and told my wife I had found my birth certificate. I found out my name isn't Hey, Ronny!" Besides enjoying teasing Linda, Ron loves to surprise her — like when she finished her education. Along with giving her a hard time for taking 37 years to do so, he gave her a huge surprise party! Of course, Ron has his own list of volunteer work: past president of the Lions Club, former member of the library board, as well as a volunteer at Children's Medical Center. Both Ron and Linda are active at First United Methodist Church of DeSoto, where Linda sings in the choir and both serve on several committees.



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"Well," admitted Linda, "Ron *is* my associate. He takes pictures, makes posters and he's a great go-fer!"

"I do love what I do!" Ron replied. Their body language and repartee speak of years spent wonderfully together. "We do really support each other," he nodded. "I just do what she says!"



Linda feels the secret of their good, strong, long-lasting marriage is forgiveness, compromise and overlooking. "And Valium," Ron added. Quoting a family joke, he quipped, "For better or for worse, but not for lunch." Actually, they both had parents with good values, which they have incorporated in their marriage. They also discuss stuff — "even what we buy for ourselves," Ron indicated.

"We are fortunate to have a lot of the same interests. We do what we like together and let each other do what they want to alone," Linda stated — unless she needs Ron's help.

About a year or so ago, Ron decided to take up bike riding. "My son bikes, and with two knee replacements and a somewhat bad back, my doctor said bike riding would be good for me," he said. Ron has worked up to a 14-mile route. "I always spray down for mosquitoes, because I like to ride mid-morning or later in the evening. I've been to Midlothian and back, Ovilla and Ferris and the Lancaster Country Ride. I sleep better and feel better. Just walking was too hard on my knees."

Linda tracks him on the GPS from his phone. "One time, I just knew he had bought me the camera I wanted, since he stopped so long outside the Wolf Camera store!" she added. Linda also works out three or four days a week at DeSoto Town Center. All in all, they are pretty good at enjoying one another. **NOW**

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— By Rick Hope



Duncanville **NOW**

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Walk into Duncanville obstetrician Dr. Ronald Dotson's office and look to your right. The receptionist will politely take your name and point you toward the waiting area. Turn in the direction she is pointing and you'll see a beautiful Victorian dollhouse. The elaborate structure has multiple stories, working electricity and amazing craftsmanship. When looking in the windows, you will see a man busy at his office desk and a woman setting the table for dinner. You'll also find a young boy getting dressed for the day. The house catches the eye of every new patient, and no doubt, even the old patients feel compelled to examine it time and time again. But what most don't realize is for Dr. Dotson it is not only a labor of love, but a gift he gave his daughter recently on her 13th birthday.

Just before the turn of the century, Dr. Dotson was designing and building the structure that would house his private practice. "I wanted something special in the lobby," he said. "I had noted that most doctor's offices and children's hospitals had some type of attraction. It's usually a train or a miniature village. I wanted something special at the office, as well."

While trying to figure out what to put in the lobby, Dr. Dotson recalled a visit he had made to the Chicago Museum of Art. One exhibit in that museum compared housing designs through the years in both England and the United States using dollhouses.

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"The houses from the United States got better and better while the houses in London steadily declined in quality and architecture," Dr. Dotson explained. So the good doctor decided that a dollhouse would be the perfect attraction for his lobby and made plans accordingly. Having never done this type of thing before, he looked around for just the right type of supplies.

He found the dollhouse kit at a specialty shop in North Dallas. Eleven months later, the project was complete. "I had no idea the project would be so elaborate," he admitted. Dr. Dotson pointed out that the dollhouse is quite detailed. He actually had to wire the entire house for electricity and even had to buy miniature light bulbs to go in each of the tiny light fixtures. "There are tiny electrical wires underneath the wallpaper. I had to install it all myself. It was very meticulous work."

In addition, he equipped it with only the best accessories. "Cheap furniture makes the whole house look cheap," Dr. Dotson stated. "I couldn't have that." He obviously wasn't joking when you consider the house has a \$350 miniature as part of its decor. Above the miniature fireplace is a picture of his daughter, and in the office, miniature versions of Dr. Dotson's medical diplomas are hanging on the wall.

The house is rather large, and Dr. Dotson had to take it partially apart to move it from his home to his office. Otherwise, it would have never fit through the entrance door. To maintain the house requires a lot of special ordering and can be costly. However, for this reason, the house is always admired for its detail and the new features that appear each season and holiday.

Dr. Dotson has always been a detail person. "Details were part of my medical training," he said. "I've always believed if you're going to take on a project, you need to give it your all or nothing." This is also evident in the fact that Dr. Dotson graduated third in his class of 107 students at Texas Tech Medical School in Lubbock.

Dr. Dotson indicated even husbands stop and look at the dollhouse. "I'll be seeing a patient and ask where the

Duncanville **NOW**

husband is. I'll find out they're still in the lobby looking at the dollhouse," he said with a smile. "Wives think it's pretty, and husbands admire the workmanship."

The dollhouse is also decorated throughout the year to celebrate the seasons. At Halloween, trick or treaters are found at the door. An elaborate dinner table is set in the dining room for a Thanksgiving feast. New flowers are added at spring time. At Easter, colored

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eggs are placed in the yard. During the Fourth of July, streamers and flyers decorate the exterior of the structure. A gazebo is added in June complete with a miniature bride and groom celebrating their summer nuptials.

His dream was to give the dollhouse to his daughter, Lorynn, when he retired. "I finally decided to give it to her on her 13th birthday. She was surprised to find the threshold of the front entrance of the dollhouse to be equipped with a banner that said, 'Happy Birthday, Lorynn!'" For the unforeseeable future, the dollhouse *will* continue to be located in the lobby of his private practice.

Dr. Dotson and his wife, Lori, and their two children, Lorynn and Lucas, live in Duncanville. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and landscaping. Since Dr. Dotson completed this project, he has found a new hobby. Once he realized all the intricacies of building and frequently adding features and improving on the dollhouse, he decided to try it on a larger scale. His new hobby is flipping houses, basically buying an old home, remodeling it and then putting it back on the housing market. All the work he has put into his Victorian dollhouse will, no doubt, lend an artistry to his life-size remodeling. **NOW**

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The Heart of the Family

— By Beverly Shay

"Lucky people get to meet their soul mate and recognize them," began Kenneth Watts. His eyes still light with appreciation as he gazes at his wife, Jacquelyn. Both are locals, he having grown up in the Lancaster area and a graduate of Wilmer-Hutchins High School, and she having grown up in south Oak Cliff and a Kimball High School graduate. They met at a concert at the Bronco Bowl when they were



— At Home With —
*Kenneth and
Jacquelyn Watts*



in seventh grade, became friends and later dated in high school. "The first night I called her, I told her I was going to marry her."

Jacquelyn quickly interjected, "I wasn't into boys then or dating. The night at the Bronco Bowl was the first time I had ever gone out with friends, and I was not looking for a boyfriend." Their friendship grew as they talked on the phone. She could tell Kenneth was different from other boys she knew. Kenneth found Jacquelyn to be very attractive, charismatic, someone who loved the Lord and a very good person.

Sitting in their elegant, yet comfortable family room, the Watts juggled back and forth the privilege of deferring to one another. Their comfort with each other is obvious, their affection worn like favorite clothes, as they discussed their blossoming love, agreeing it was indeed 1982 when they got married. "I had been



in college, working for the Dallas Police Department at the city jail, but when the jail closed, so did my job. When we got married, I was working security for Texas Instruments, but we moved to Sioux City, Iowa, for a job," Kenneth remarked. Then nodding his head at Jacquelyn, he continued, "I pursued that job, because she wanted to move out of state."

"Somewhere different," Jacquelyn added.

They moved back to the Dallas area

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when Kenneth's father died. Jacquelyn worked for Texas Department of Human Services. The Watts had three children, two boys and a girl, whom they lovingly

reared. They lived in one house for 12 years and moved here seven years ago after spending one-and-a-half years looking for their dream home. Jacquelyn saw it first and wanted Kenneth to see this *was the one*. "I knew it would go with my stuff," Jacquelyn laughed. They

already had most of their stuff. "When Kenneth saw the house, he liked it, too."

Together they stood in the living room and prayed, "If it's Your will, we'd like this house." They did all the paperwork and put in their bid, but the house was



sold to someone else. Jacquelyn was so disappointed. Two weeks later, they were called back. "I picked up the phone and heard them tell me our house was ready," Jacquelyn recalled.

She handed the phone to Kenneth, who calmly replied that they didn't have a house. "I let them know if they wanted me to buy this house, the price needed to be cut drastically. By the end of the conversation, they were practically begging us to buy the brand new home. Amenities and upgrades were offered at no charge. We realized God was good as we saw Him at work in the delay," Kenneth remarked. In January 2007, they moved into their dream home.

"We haven't really changed much," Kenneth remarked, looking around the

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high-ceilinged family room. "It's all pretty much her." Neutral tones are accented with cushy leather furniture and the safari theme Jacquelyn loves: Leopard skins, elephants, jaguars and giraffes — lots of giraffes. Each corner has a few, some peeking from behind plants, others clustered around the fireplace.

"The whole house doesn't look like this," said Jacquelyn of the safari theme. "The only other room with a safari look is the guest bathroom." Jacquelyn knows what she likes, and when she finds it, she decorates with gusto. Her kitchen, for example, is quite the reflection of her flair. Basically black and white, the red accents are found primarily in the cheerful red scarves and kerchiefs found on the Aunt Jemima ceramics liberally scattered around. A happy, rotund chef is the male complement in a kitchen that really gets put to use when Jacquelyn caters in her spare time. "The kitchen was plum and silver, but that just isn't me, so I changed it to black, white and red," Jacquelyn said. A very long granite counter runs along the back wall past the laundry room, perfect for serving food when family comes around. They have a lot of family, since Kenneth is the youngest of 15 children. His family loves barbecue and playing chess.

The formal dining room has a glass-topped table, with gold damask-covered chairs. The furniture is light wood, antiqued with gold. The pieces are large, ornate. "I think of it as an empire design," Jacquelyn commented. The table is set with pebbled glass dishes, napkins in rings. The china hutch holds a large set of elegant bone china, trimmed in gold, which Jacquelyn inherited from her mother.

"The formal living room is where the older folks hang out," Jacquelyn stated. Bone-on-bone, woven upholstery covers the overstuffed couch. All the furniture matches the dining room set. A unique glass-enclosed grandfather clock with glass shelves showcases exquisite figurines. The master bedroom also features the same design of furniture found in the dining room and living room and even has a matching ceiling fan. "What?" asked Jacquelyn looking at Kenneth, "You know I like it." Indeed this bedroom, with its gold and green comforter adorning the sleigh bed, is Jacquelyn's favorite room.

Kenneth's favorite rooms are the workout room, which he appears to frequent seriously, and the media room, where he plays some pretty competitive video games with the kids. Jacquelyn also enjoys the game room, which overlooks the entry, complete with a video arcade, casino gaming tables, slot machine, gumball machine and a tall cafe table.

The curved stairway, with its light wood banister and wrought iron spindles, dresses up pretty for Christmas. "I love, love Christmas," Jacquelyn beamed. She



sets up seven or eight trees, decking them out to match the decor of each room. Kendrick's tree is the tallest at 12-feet, because he was the tallest man in her life. Christmas will be a little different this year without their oldest son, Kendrick, who was killed a few months ago. But their daughter, Tamika, along with her husband and their two children, 6-year-old Taylor and 4-year-old Tyler, will join Tamika's brother, Kenneth Jr. to celebrate the season of faith the whole family holds dear. Stockings, Santas, reindeer, music, candles and lights compete with the scents of holiday cooking, as the Watts do what the Watts do best: spend time together. **NOW**

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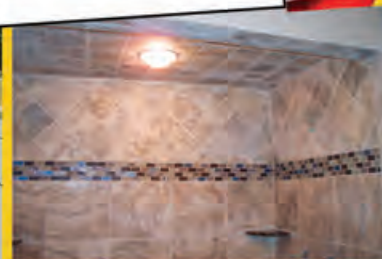


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to a school friend, Wendy Russell Reves, who had left Marshall to become one of New York's top models in the 1930s. At the time the editorial was written, Ms. Reves, living in France, was the widow of a wealthy publisher and art collector. Ms. Reves responded to her friend with a check for \$25,000 to help her childhood community have "its holiday wish." With that check as a start, members of the community eventually raised more than \$70,000 to start illuminating the town.

Today, Marshall's Wonderland of Lights Festival rivals the best Christmas lighting events in the country. More than 10 million lights creatively caress homes and businesses with extravagant, elegant and simple displays. With expanded activities and events, the simple lighting of buildings and trees now incorporates light and sound shows, an evening music show, as well as attractions for young children, teens and adults. The display of lights has evolved to creating a fun and exciting evening of adventure.

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A free variety music show is performed on the courthouse steps each evening at 7:00 p.m. The show features local Marshall singers in a newly written production. The performance recalls the memories of past holidays with the hopes of creating new traditions for the entire family.

The Samsung Ice Skating Rink is the only outdoor ice skating rink where skaters can enjoy being under the stars while watching the fascinating courthouse light and sound show. Thousands enjoy the evening glide across the ice with special exhibition performances scheduled during the festival. Occasionally, special events, like a marriage proposal, occur on the ice.

Young children can see the elves hard at work (or taking a nap) in their workshop in the North Pole Play Land. Just for children under age 10, an exciting experience includes the snowball hut, giant bounce house package and, of course, the Marshall Express train.

One of last year's most visited attractions was the Wonderland Mountain — a 32-foot tall slide with an exhilarating 10-second ride from top to bottom. Adjacent to the mountain is the Polar

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Snowflake, the giant rocking horse, brings back memories for those who recall hours rocking back and forth as a child. In the Wonderland Village, Snowflake awaits all who want to relive those memories by rocking 12 feet in the sky!

A picture, it has been said, is worth a thousand words, but what is a picture inside a snow globe worth to friends and family? Measuring 16 feet wide, up to six people can have that unusual holiday photo to express their holiday happiness.

Until he prepares to leave for the North Pole, Santa, along with Mrs. Claus, welcomes children to his workshop. Each child can make their train, decorate a cookie and, of course, tell Santa all of their dreams and wishes.

To enjoy seeing the millions of lights that Marshall has, visitors can enjoy a light tour on the old English double decker bus. Decked out with its own lights, a tour guide welcomes each guest aboard to experience not only the brilliance of the community but to learn more about Marshall's 170-year history. Maps for drivers who want to do their own driving are provided in several locations throughout the Wonderland Village.

Several special events occur during the festival. Celebrity Chef, sponsored by Get Healthy Marshall, explores a healthy food menu. Participants can view the specialty foods as created by invited chefs and then actually enjoy them.

For artists or want-to-be artists, the Holiday Art Party is a fun-filled afternoon of painting one's own masterpiece. Even if you've never painted before, each person will finish with their own holiday masterpiece ready for display. Marshall is also becoming known for its resident artists, and during the festival local artists display their favorite holiday painting or other art form at the Visitors Center located at 301 N. Washington, in the Washington Square District. The art show is free and open daily during the festival. **NOW**

For a complete operating schedule, contact the Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau at (903) 702-7777 or at www.VisitMarshallTexas.org. Photos by Ron Munden, EastTexasTowns.com.

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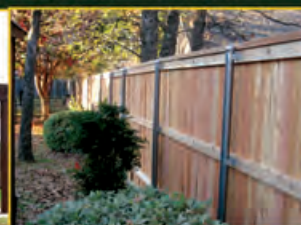
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Matthew Wolvorton, now junior vice-president joined his father, Thomas Wolvorton, in the family business in 2008. Thomas' son, Keith, runs the Waxahachie office.

Getting Your Cool On

When it comes to keeping things cool, Wolvorton Air knows just how to go about it.

— By Beverly Shay

Thomas Wolvorton has been cool his whole life and is very good at keeping others cool, too. “My dad began working in refrigeration, as it was called, the year I was born,” Thomas Wolvorton, owner of Wolvorton Air, remarked. “In 1939, refrigeration referred mainly to appliances, and theaters were the only buildings with refrigerated air. I started in the business around 1968,” recalled Thomas, a Duncanville High School graduate, who attended Arlington State College (now The University of Texas at Arlington) for three years.

Thomas was a quality control supervisor for Texas Instruments in Richardson for three years. As his father moved from just commercial refrigeration for companies such as 7-Eleven to new home construction, Thomas rejoined his

father’s company, known as the oldest AC business in the county of Dallas.

After living in Dallas for 10 years, Thomas moved to Duncanville. “We target the southwest Dallas trade area, as well as Oak Cliff, Highland Park, University Park and Southlake, servicing Dallas, Tarrant and Ellis counties, but we have done jobs in Oklahoma,” Thomas stated. “Fifty percent of our work is commercial, and 50 percent is residential.” With 17 employees and five servicemen in the Duncanville office, some of whom have been with Wolvorton Air for 30 years, the service is expertly handled. His son, Matthew, who has been with him since 2008, is junior vice president. “My son, Keith, runs our Waxahachie office, primarily serving Ellis County. Between both offices, we

have 35 people dedicated to customer satisfaction — our No. 1 goal,” Thomas emphasized. Thomas also serves on the advisory committee for the classes on air conditioning in the technical disciplines program.

Thomas’ work ethic is mirrored in his civic involvement. He is a member of Chambers of Commerce in Duncanville, Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Lancaster. Since the ’80s, he has worked with the Lions Club, from whom he received a Distinguished Service Award. He was Duncanville’s Man of the Year in 2002. Other awards include the Jack Welch Service Award, Pioneer Award (1993) and the Melvin Jones Humanitarian Award. Wolverton Air was voted the Best Southwest air conditioning company in 1994 and 2012. His wife, Dorothy, works with Keep Duncanville Beautiful as Mother Nature and has served on the Duncanville ISD board for three terms, including one as president.

The best things you can do to keep your cool consistent are to have your system checked annually and either clean or change your filters every three weeks. High-efficiency filters restrict air flow, thus requiring a system that has double the filter size to maintain air flow, which will provide consistently cool air. “Make sure the coil outside is cleaned regularly. Beware of fire ants that are drawn to the ozone in the unit, preventing the contractor from functioning, thus breaking down efficiency. We always tell people ants and cottonwoods are the enemy,” Thomas stated.

“The most efficient setting on your thermostat is off,” Thomas grinned, “the lower the temperature, the higher the bill. Programmable thermostats are good, and we can install them, as well as provide recommendations or advice on insulation and those who install it. Good filters and coil cleaning would render about 90 percent of duct cleanings unnecessary.

Wolverton Air also provides and installs furnaces, humidifiers and filtration units. “The money spent on an extremely high-efficiency unit can take a long time to provide payback, so if you are planning to build, consult with an AC specialist to make sure you get a system adequate to the home you are designing,” Thomas remarked. **NOW**

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Duncanville Chamber welcomes W&B Sales to the community with a ribbon cutting.



Two-year-olds from First Methodist School visit with the Duncanville Fire Department during Fire Safety Week.



Duncanville's Anna Fitzgerald brings her kitten to the annual Blessing of the Animals at Canterbury Episcopal School.



Amber Chatley presents a welcome basket to Chaves Williams, general manager of Chili's, during the ribbon cutting with the Cedar Hill Chamber.



Carolyn Campbell (left) enjoys a fun night out with friends at the DeSoto ISD Seniors Prom.



DeSoto Councilwoman Curtistene McCowan visits with students and Principal Becky Sheppard at Ruby Young Elementary School.



The artwork of Cedar Hill students, Emily, Tina and Jacqueline (shown with Principal Tuck and art teacher, Mrs. Miller) was chosen for display at a school administrator/ school board convention in Austin.



Women gather for the Bank of DeSoto Cancer Awareness Reception.



Cedar Hill Mayor Rob Franke, Charles and Sandra Richardson with their son, Jason Richardson, 2012 Olympic silver medalist, who was recently inducted into the newly formed Longhorn Legacy Hall of Fame.

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Don't Take a Holiday From Working Toward Financial Goals

We're well into the holiday season now. And while the holidays are joyous, they can also be expensive. In fact, at this time of year, many people make spending decisions they end up regretting. But you can enjoy the holidays and still stay on track toward your financial goals by following a few simple guidelines, including the following:

- **Set a budget — and stick to it.** Whether you're buying gifts or hosting holiday parties, you need to establish a budget and not exceed it. The people to whom you're giving gifts and entertaining do not expect you to dig yourself into a financial ditch on their account — and they wouldn't want you to do so, either.

- **Compare prices.** With some searching, you can almost always find less expensive versions of the gifts you're considering. But a word of caution: The earlier you start hunting for bargains, the better your chances of finding good prices.

- **Watch for "after-holiday" sales.** The best bargains typically appear when the holidays are over. While these sales may not benefit you this year, they can prove quite valuable if you decide to "stock up" on gifts for the next holiday season.

- **Don't overuse your credit cards.** Try to limit your credit card purchases over the holidays. If you must use a card, at least pick the one with the lowest interest rate, and do the best you can to pay off the card quickly. Over the last few years, Americans have actually done a pretty good job of lowering their household debt levels — and that's definitely a movement in which you'll want to participate. Keep in mind that the higher your debts, the less money you'll have available each month to invest for retirement, college for your children or any of your other financial goals.

- **Avoid dipping into long-term investments.** If you find yourself coming up short when dealing with holiday expenses, you may be tempted to cash out at least a portion of your long-term investments. But this should be avoided, for at least two reasons. First, depending on the account you're tapping into, you may face penalties, fees and taxes. Second, and perhaps even more importantly, you'll be depriving yourself of resources you had earmarked for your key goals, such as a comfortable retirement. Of course, you may eventually be able to replace the funds you've withdrawn. But in the meantime, you've lost out on the growth potential these investments may have provided — and that period of lost opportunity typically cannot be regained.

- **Build a "holiday fund."** It might be too late for this year but, once the holidays are over, set up a special account for next holiday season. Even if you put in only a small amount each month, you'll be pleased with how much you can accumulate in a year. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account — one that's separate from any money you use for your normal day-to-day expenses.

By following these suggestions, you may be able to take some of the stress out of this holiday season — and possibly even brighten all the other seasons of the year, too. **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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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The E Myth

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

It may come as a shock but vitamin E is not the panacea for scars some people thought it would be. Vitamin E is essential and has many necessary functions, but alas, not for scar removal. Hopes have been definitively dashed with a published report from the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* (Dec. 2006) that concluded, "The evidence that topical vitamin E alone improves the cosmetic appearance of scars is poor. It is also associated with a high incidence of contact dermatitis. The use of vitamin E should, therefore, be discouraged." So, far from being the cure, it can cause additional problems and dermatologists consider it contraindicated for use for that purpose.

There are many positive functions for vitamin E. It is an antioxidant that protects body tissue from damage caused by free radicals. Free radicals are molecules that cause tissue damage. Free radicals are thought to contribute to visible signs of aging. This vitamin also plays a role in improving our immune system. The first line of defense for the body is the skin, and vitamin E, along with other vitamins, works to keep the skin cells healthy. Another function of vitamin E is helping in the formation and protection of red blood cells.

Vitamin E is a fat soluble vitamin found naturally in many foods and will interact with some medications and with some conditions.

You should check with your doctor first before embarking on a campaign to increase intake of any vitamin. Believe it or not, in incorrect doses, some vitamins, particularly fat soluble ones that stay in your body for a while, can do more harm than good. For example, too much vitamin E can interfere in the functions of vitamin K. If you have taken too much vitamin E, you might experience headaches, diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, muscle weakness and possibly abnormal bleeding.

The total amount of vitamin E required per day is quite small. It is possible to get what you need from your daily diet. It is found in vegetable oils, olive oil, nuts, meats, eggs, vegetables and whole grains. Vitamin E deficiency is actually a rare occurrence and is treated by vitamin E supplements.

Although the news is disappointing regarding vitamin E and its relevance to helping improve the appearance of scars, the vitamin is extremely useful and essential for the proper function of many cells and organs within the body. If you eat properly every day, you will receive what you need for a healthy level of vitamin E. **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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Calendar

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December 2

First Christian Church of Duncanville presents *Tapestry of Light, A Celtic Christmas Celebration*, by Joseph M. Martin: 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., 203 S. Main St. www.fccduncanville.org or (972) 298-2166.

December 5

Duncanville Women's Club's annual fundraiser luncheon and silent/ live auction event: 10:00 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn. Cost: \$25. quilts handmade by the DWC Quilting Group. For reservations: Barbara: (972) 296-5860.

December 6

Old Town Holiday on the Hill: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pioneer Park, CH. Tree lighting, kids' activities, treats, live entertainment and photos with Santa. (972) 291-5100 ext. 1084 or cedarhilltx.com

Decorating tips and treats to make your home sparkle for the holidays: 7:00-8:30 p.m., CH library.

December 7

DeSoto's annual tree lighting: 7:00 p.m., DeSoto Town Center.

"Santa's Workshop" Christmas parade and tree lighting: 7:00 p.m., DV. Visit Santa Claus at Ben Franklin, a live reindeer at Duncanville

Feed Store, choirs, dance teams and crafts and activities at various businesses.

December 8

A Cowboy Christmas (lunch and variety show): 11:30 a.m., Hopkins Senior Center. Tickets: senior center office, 206 James Collins or (972) 780-5073.

December 10

Family time building gingerbread houses: 6:30 p.m., CH library. Supplies provided.

December 10 and 11

Auditions for Duncanville Community Theatre's upcoming production of *Don't Drink the Water*: 7:00 p.m. (Show dates: February 7-9 and 14-16: 8:00 p.m.)

December 11

DeSoto High School College and Career Academics open house: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Camp Bow Wow presents Deck the Paws: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Uptown Village. Photos with Santa; contests for best dressed, best tricks, most look-alike; pets available for adoption and pet stocking stuffers. (972) 296-9663.

December 12

DeSoto ISD District Spelling Bee: 1:00 p.m., in the board room, 200 E. Belt Line Rd.

December 14

60th anniversary of Lecture Luncheon Club of Duncanville: 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Sara Taylor, professional singer and harpist. (972) 224-8762.

Teens: discover latest trends with mobile app swaps: 5:00-7:00 p.m., CH library. Bring cell phone, iPad, laptop or favorite mobile device.

December 15

Breakfast with Santa: 8:00 a.m.-noon., DeSoto Town Center.

Christmas Story Time with Mrs. Clause: 11:00 a.m., DeSoto library followed by crafts and cinema. (972) 230-9666 or Facebook.

DeSoto Christmas Parade: 2:00 p.m.

December 20

Bring children in pajamas for *The Polar Express*, train rides and treats: 6:00 p.m., CH library.

December 24

CH library celebrates Kwanzaa with food, storytelling and more: 2:00 p.m.

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



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In The Kitchen With Marilyn Terrel

— *By Beverly Shay*

Marilyn Terrel learned to cook Southern-style food from her mom, who had a restaurant favored by local fishermen. The house specialty was chicken and dumplings, which Marilyn excels at making.

For a time, Marilyn and her husband lived in South America. The food was different from our own with many common items not available. She had to learn to make her own mayonnaise, sour cream and salad dressings. Ladies from all over the world lived in the community. They held cooking classes and taught each other how to cook meals from their homelands. In turn, Marilyn taught her new friends Southern-style cooking. When a U.S. destroyer made port for Thanksgiving, Marilyn organized the ladies to feed 25 sailors a holiday meal. **NOW**

Chinese Cabbage Salad

- 1 head Chinese cabbage
- 2 bunches green onions
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 1 .75-oz. jar sesame seeds
- 1 2.25-oz. pkg. slivered almonds, blanched
- 2 pkgs. ramen noodles (do not use seasoning packet)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce

1. Slice and mix cabbage and onions.
2. Brown together butter, sesame seeds, almonds and ramen noodles; mix with cabbage and onions.

3. In blender, blend sugar, vinegar, oil and soy sauce; pour over salad up to 30 minutes before serving.

Marilyn's Twice-baked Sweet Potatoes

- 6 sweet potatoes
- 4 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 4 Tbsp. butter (room temperature)
- 4 oz. cream cheese (room temperature)
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 375 F
2. Place sweet potatoes on sheet pan; bake for one hour until soft. Remove from oven;

- let stand until cool enough to handle. Split and remove insides; reserve skins for serving.
3. In bowl, mix brown sugar, butter, cream cheese, spices and potatoes; mash with fork.
4. Place mixture into skins; bake an additional 15 minutes.

Lemon Hollandaise Sauce

Serves 6-8.

- 4 Tbsp. salad oil (divided use)
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 3 Tbsp. Sunkist lemon juice
- 2 egg yolks

1. Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in top of double boiler.
2. Add flour and milk; stir continuously until thick, about 10 minutes.
3. Add remaining oil slowly, stirring constantly.
4. Remove from heat; add salt, paprika and lemon juice; mix well. Beat in egg yolks, one at a time.
5. Reheat slowly; stir continuously. Do not overcook. If sauce separates, add 1 tsp. cold water and stir well. Serve hot.

Spicy Walnut Raisin Pie

- 3 eggs
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. each: cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves
- 1 cup light or dark corn syrup (your choice)
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 9-inch unbaked pie crust

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Beat eggs, sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, syrup and butter thoroughly with rotary beater. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Pour into pie crust.
3. Bake 40-50 minutes, until filling is set.

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

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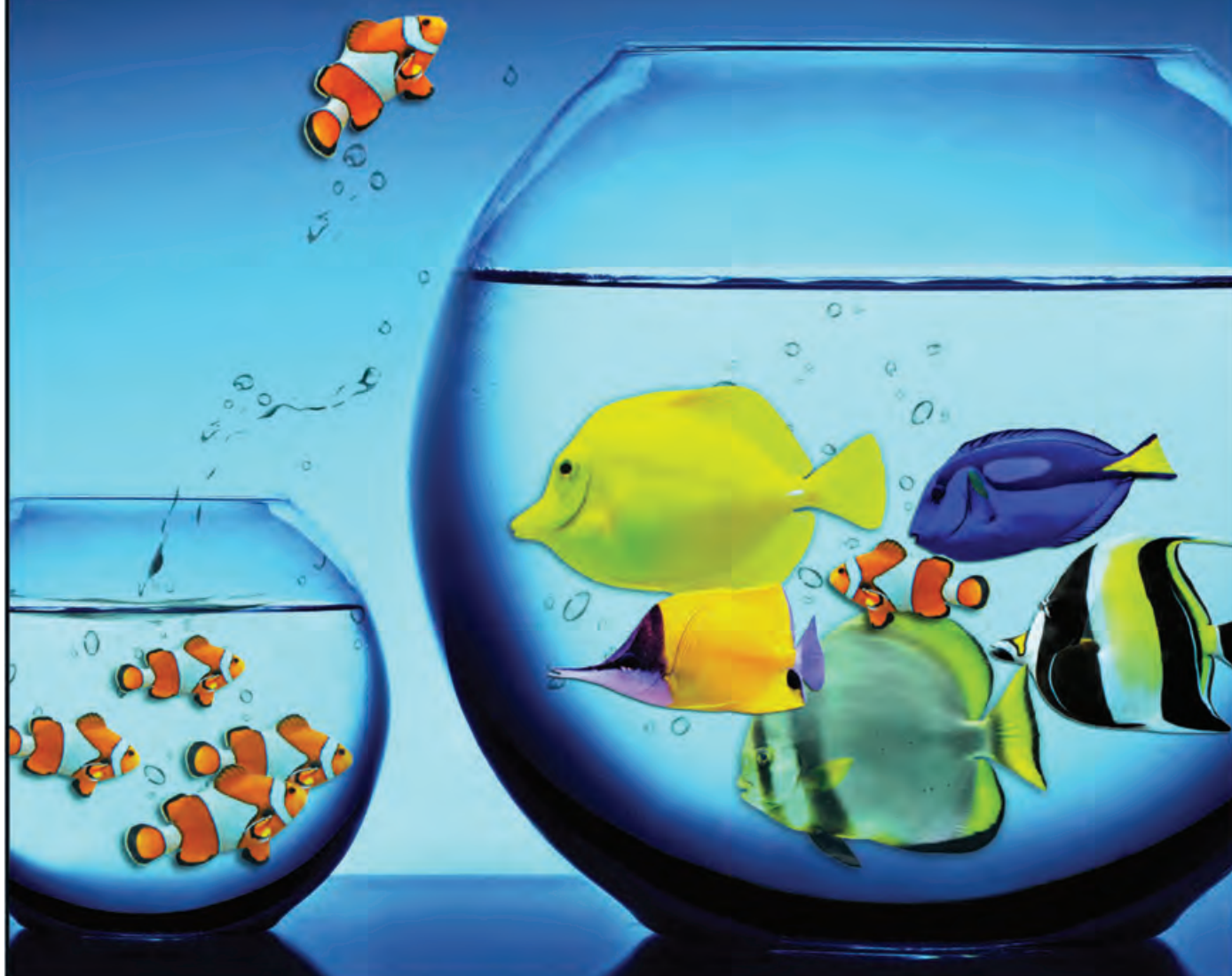


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