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MAGAZINE

MARCH 2014

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New Municipal Court open at DHS

Through a collaborative partnership with the City of DeSoto's Municipal Court and the DeSoto ISD, the juvenile court docket proceedings will be held at the DeSoto High School College and Career Academies courtroom. All juveniles receiving citations within the City of DeSoto will report this location to appear before the Judge.

Full Day Pre-K, K Registration

DeSoto ISD will host two Pre-K and Kindergarten registration events. Parents can come to register for next fall April 15-17 or May 6-8. Both events will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the DeSoto Town Center Bluebonnet Room. Parents will need to bring a photo ID and utility bill, plus student social security card, birth certificate and immunization record. For more details visit www.desotoisd.org.

Open Houses to Celebrate Texas Public Schools

Every March, DeSoto ISD celebrates Texas public schools with the over 8,000 school districts in the state. Established in 1950 by the Masonic Lodge to recognize Texas' free system of education, we continue the tradition today by inviting parents, students, supporters and the community at large to see what's happening in your public schools. During the week of March 3-7, DeSoto ISD will open their doors to showcase the great things happening in our schools. Join us!

- Elementary School Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Middle Schools Thursday, March 6, 6-8 p.m.
- High Schools Thursday, March 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

NEWS TO KNOW

2014-15 School Calendar

The DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees approved the **2014-15 school calendar** at their February meeting.

The school year will begin on Monday, August 25 and end on Thursday, June 4. Major breaks include

Thanksgiving - Nov. 24-28, Winter Break - Dec. 22-Jan. 5 and Spring Break - March 9-13. The complete calendar is online at www.desotoisd.org



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ON THE COVER



Medallions of honor await children who uphold the virtues taught by the EAFK program.

Photo by Amanda Rooney.

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Publisher's Note

What an amazing decade!

Ten years ago a dream became a reality. On March 1, 2004, NOW Magazines' first publication, *CorsicanaNOW*, made its debut. With a concept not yet attempted outside the larger metro areas, we launched this community magazine with the mission of combining positive, uplifting articles and well-designed, full-color ads into a direct mail advertising product that really works. And really work, it did! With steady growth, our publication group has grown to include 10 community magazines: *CorsicanaNOW* – March 2004; *WaxahachieNOW* – November 2004; *EnnisNOW* – December 2004; *MidlothianNOW* – August 2005; *MansfieldNOW* – March 2006; *North Ellis Co.NOW* – April 2006; *SouthwestNOW* – November 2006; *BurlesonNOW* – August 2007; *WeatherfordNOW* – February 2011; *GranburyNOW* – October 2012.

Today we distribute our magazines to over 260,000 addresses every month free of charge, and have a readership of more than 600,000 across the 10 markets. Our readers are so kind to express their enjoyment in reading about their friends, neighbors and the good things happening in our communities. Thank you all! And to our more than 650 monthly advertisers — many who have been with us from the very beginning — thank you! We couldn't do this without you! I'd also like to thank our wonderful NOW Magazines staff, whose hard work and dedication make this all happen every month!

It's been a great 10 years, and we look forward to serving you for many more years to come!

Connie

Connie Poirier
Publisher
NOW Magazines

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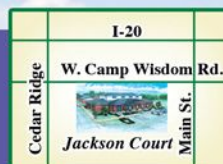
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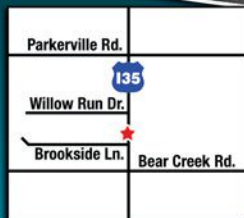
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A man with short brown hair and a light beard is dressed as a medieval knight. He wears a dark green tunic with a large red cross on the chest, silver shoulder guards, and a black belt with a silver buckle. He is holding a black microphone in his right hand, which is wearing a black fingerless glove. The background is a textured, mottled brown and green. A red text box is in the upper right corner.

*“When the characters
come dressed up, the
kids just get absorbed
into that era.”*

A Gallery of Champions

— By Callie Revell

A handsome knight stands before a crowd, pulling a glinting sword from his scabbard. A 9-year-old child approaches him, glowing with pride as he kneels. The knight taps him on each shoulder with his sword, saying, "I dub thee Knight of the Guild. Welcome to the Gallery of Champions."

This isn't a fairytale. Instead, ceremonies like this are taking place throughout the year in the Duncanville ISD. As part of a program called Early Act/First Knight, this character-building curriculum instills virtues in children and restores a sense of chivalry in today's youth. The San Antonio-based program is a branch of Knights of the Guild and is in partnership with Rotary International. The local program is led by the Duncanville Rotary Club.

Early Act/First Knight, or EAFK, uses elaborate costumes, sword fighting and storytelling to inspire elementary children. After the initial ceremony, a series of 10-minute lessons is incorporated into the classroom curriculum, teaching virtues like compassion, discipline and perseverance. "The grade-specific classroom piece is where the meat of the lessons is taught," explained David Green, project leader for Hastings Elementary.

Students also have the chance to participate in a campus service club, where they can experience how democratic processes work and why charity is important. Every four to six weeks, two students per class per grade level are nominated by their teachers to be recognized in a formal knighting ceremony for their efforts to uphold the virtues they have been taught.

"This program could be a seed that really grows," said Duncanville ISD Superintendent and Rotarian Dr. Alfred Ray. "It's about embedding these virtues for the long term, so they can become part of who the students really are."

"We started this program as an energetic, positive way of teaching values and morals," said Gary Billingsley, Rotary project chair. The program is introduced while young children are still forming their personal beliefs.

"We found that the time to teach these virtues is in the elementary grades, because they get it," David added. So far, EAFK has found great success at every school where the program has been implemented.

"We are not an affluent school district," said Rotarian Norman Davis. "We're giving some kids who would not have the opportunity to excel in their home environment the chance to excel at school."

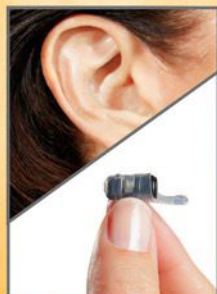
"The first impression teachers have is, 'You're taking another 10 minutes out of my day,'" Gary said. "But what



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really happens, since less time is now spent on discipline, is we're *giving* them time." In a survey of EAFK schools, all have reported a decrease in behavioral



problems and an increase in academic performance.

"I make it a point to find out the teachers' perspectives on the program," said Buddy Sheppard, project leader for Brandenburg Intermediate. "We get almost 100-percent positive feedback."

The program is not only a hit with teachers, but with parents, as well. "The first thing the parents say is, 'Thank you,'" observed Dr. Alex Peralta, standing president of the Duncanville Rotary Club. "The second thing they say is, 'I've noticed a vast difference in my child, not just here at



school, but at home as well.' I think that's a very important impact." He believes EAFK is a way for the Rotary Club to take a stand in shaping Duncanville's youth. "It's the community's commitment to young children," Alex added.

In 2010, EAFK was introduced to Duncanville with help from the program's founder, Dr. Randall Parr, and former Duncanville Rotarian Jim Bowen. The first official EAFK program opened at Central Elementary School in August 2011, and has since expanded to three other Duncanville schools: Brandenburg Intermediate, Smith Elementary and Hastings Elementary. "Getting excitement from the leadership level down is what made everyone else excited," Alfred admitted. "The enthusiasm just went



down to the students, and it's been a ball of fire ever since."

Most of that enthusiasm stems from the Renaissance theme of the program. "You talk about knights, horses and armor," David pointed out. Before they

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began this program, students might get a dry talk on a core value, but now it becomes a living thing for them.

Greg Zylka, project leader for Smith Elementary, agreed. "It's this fantasy of the Renaissance that comes to life in their school," Greg said. "When the characters come dressed up, the kids just get absorbed into that era."

During the Knighting Ceremony, honored students are surprised by the attendance of their parents. Each student has a moment of honor on stage when accolades are read, and they receive a medallion of honor. "They get to keep the medallion," Alex said. "For some kids who have never been recognized for anything, that means a lot to them." Students can achieve three levels: page (kindergarten-first), squire (second-third) and knight (fourth).

Throughout the year, only about one-third of students are chosen, but none feel left out. "There's no sense of remorse or jealousy among the kids," Alex stated. "They all root for each other."

Students who aren't recognized work even harder to make the cut during the next six weeks. "They are working to be the one who is knighted," Gary said. "The incentive is there. They aren't saying, 'I have to.' They're saying, 'I want to.'"

The actors who participate are definitely a highlight of the program: "Sir Cass" Garcia and "Lady Hannah" Walker. Both wear impressive armor and carry swords. Gary believes the actors

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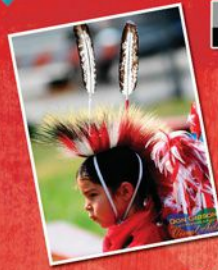
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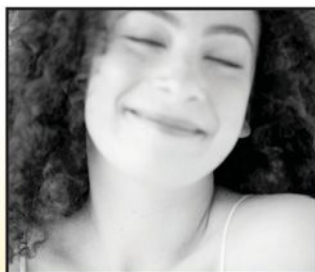
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play a vital role in the program. "As far as those kids think, Sir Cass is a knight," he said. "They want to emulate the role model he plays." The actors teach lessons through storytelling and stand as examples of virtues.

Eventually, the Duncanville Rotary Club hopes to expand the program to every local elementary school and possibly influence other school districts in the Metroplex to also start the program. "This program will work anywhere," Alfred enthused. "I don't think they need a certain type of environment — wealthy, poor, urban, suburban or rural. I think it would work for any student."

"I think one of the most important elements is this 'trickle down' effect," said Josh Fitzpatrick, president-elect of the Rotary Club. "It starts with investing in children at a young age, so they have these virtues when they grow older. But it also inspires their siblings and their parents. If we can do a little bit, it can pay dividends."

Overall, EAFK teaches children not only how to serve others, but why serving others is important. Alex recently saw the effects of the program firsthand. "I was sitting at a football game," he recalled. "I recognized two kids we had knighted the week before. They passed in front of me five times, and every time they said, 'Excuse me' and 'Please.' That's when you know you're a winner." **NOW**



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MEN IN BOOKS

— By Angel Morris

If they blink, motorists might miss Cedar Hill's Zula B. Wylie Library as they zip down Belt Line Road. Once they find it, tucked to the side of White Rhino Coffeehouse, however, they'll discover a world of learning they possibly never imagined — along with some uniquely talented employees.

Cedar Hill library has everything expected of such an institution, including Internet access, educational courses and good, old-fashioned books. In addition, four employees take the library to the next level. Winfred Thompkins, Travis Walvoord, Dan Watkins and Zoriel Perez come from a variety of backgrounds with a range of experience, all sharing a love of the library.

"We're hands-on, working together to get things done. Seeing the direct impact one's attitude has on a place is the best thing about my job," said Winfred, electronic resources coordinator, who worked for decades in the Dallas library system and joined the Cedar Hill library four years ago after moving to Lancaster.

Reference librarian Travis has a master's degree in library science. He handles purchasing books, audiobooks and DVDs and is involved in programming. Last September he organized the music event Rock the Library, which showcased area musicians, himself included. He initiated the *Dia de Los Muertos* celebration and played guitar for a library presentation by Miss Texas.



Left to right: Winfred Thompkins, Travis Walvoord, Zoriel Perez and Dan Watkins are Cedar Hill's men in books.



"I like working in nonprofit and educational environments and enjoy helping people with their information needs," Travis admitted. "It's great to help create a friendly, fun and educational gathering place with something for everyone in the community."

Also a reference librarian, Dan has put his master's in library science degree to work for 15 years at the Cedar Hill library. He teaches computer classes and makes appointments for patrons who need individual attention and assistance with creating résumés, filling out job





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applications and more. He is also part of the grant writing committee and led the team in obtaining a \$25,000 grant to have the historic newspaper collection digitized, preserving the information for future generations.

"Providing library instruction gives me an opportunity to show the public what the library has to offer," Dan explained. "I introduce patrons to resources for research on a variety of topics including health information, legal information, career development, starting a business, local history, family history and how to make things yourself."

Zoriel is a circulation clerk, who is always being recognized by patrons as the most helpful and kindest staff member. Not only does Zoriel check books out and in, place holds on books patrons wish to read and help with computer and printing issues and shelving items, but he can also be found assisting Spanish-speaking guests.

"As an interpreter, I'm rewarded knowing a slice of our community is realizing the resources available to

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them,” said Zoriel, who marked his first anniversary at Zula B. Wylie in December. “More can participate in things like bilingual story time and *Library on the Go*, the theatric performances that promote our programs.” He is excited not only to be surrounded by books, but at the chance to put his visual arts degree to use, creating graphics for library promotions and exhibits.

Putting special talents to use is also a reason Winfred loves his job, which consists of updating the library’s website, providing input on different technologies to purchase, making library videos and posting them to the city’s website, updating the library’s public computers, overseeing Anime Club for the library and taking teens to an anime convention.

“Computer technology is a hobby of mine,” Winfred said. “I usually help my family and friends with computer issues. It’s fun to realize you can do some things for yourself if you just try it.”

A five-year Garland resident, Travis has wrapped up one year with the Cedar Hill library after working in branches of

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the Dallas library system for four years. He most enjoys getting to mesh his musical background with his day job.

"I won Battle of The Bands in Arkansas, and my band, The Lost Travelers, is recording our debut CD," he said. "Being able to write music and play guitar helped when I was organizing the library's first musical showcase. That's something we want to do on an ongoing basis."

An academic librarian much of his career, Dan is enjoying his first foray into the public sector at Zula B. Wylie. The background in academia helped him secure the newspaper digitization grant.

"Cedar Hill has been around since the 1840s and has played an important role in shaping Dallas County," Dan pointed out. "This project is important to preserving our rich local history and small-town feel as our city evolves. Being a place where patrons can come and share their own knowledge is also important. We are delving into that more as the library grows."

Zoriel hopes his role in Spanish-related activities also adds to the city's evolution. He is proud of having applied his graphic design background to local teacher Erica Kennard's children's sing-along book, and enjoys learning from the library's diverse patron base.

"As a student worker for the Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, I got to work with nationally and internationally renowned artists," Zoriel recalled. "Hopefully, one day I might offer art classes here at the library. I was an ambassador in my college's international student organization and am fascinated by people I meet working here. We have patrons from all over the world, and I learn as much from them as they do from me!"

These men in books are just as enthusiastic about life outside library walls. Winfred plays chess, exercises and collects anime swords. Dan is a swimmer, runner and member of Rotary Club, the Texas Library and American Library associations. A library worker

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by day and rockstar by night, Travis is a former tennis and soccer champion whose dream is to visit every country in Europe and watch soccer's Manchester United play live. Zoriel plays tennis, badminton and soccer and enjoys oil painting, photography and sculpting. He likes being somewhat of a local celebrity when library patrons recognize him on the street.

"I would tell anyone if they want to learn more about just about anything, including the city, this is the place to meet people and gain extended members to your family," Zoriel said.

While they assist customers differently, Cedar Hill library's men in books have much the same wish for the library: "Cedar Hill's population has grown tremendously since the current building was erected in 1987," Dan observed. "With expansion, we would be better able to meet community needs."

"A larger space to house all of our wonderful programs," Winfred added.

"A bigger building with more study rooms!" Zoriel suggested.

Possibly the most fun-filled wish came from Travis: "A brand new two-story building with a slide going from the second floor to the first floor for the kids!"

A potential Cedar Hill bond referendum in the works for November 2014 might fulfill these hopes. "If it does, we go from 10,000 to 30,000 square feet," Dan enthused. "Imagine all we'll be able to do for the community then." **NOW**



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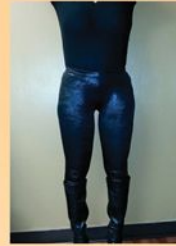
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The Mayor's Mansion

— By Beverly Shay



At Home With Rob and Jenaie Franke



Mayors don't really live in actual mansions. When it comes to Rob Franke, the mayor of Cedar Hill, the definition of mansion is far more applicable to his heart than his home. Merriam-Webster defines a mansion as a large, impressive house or the large house of a wealthy person. While Rob and his wife, Jenaie, do indeed live in a lovely home of adequate space and comfort, the real mansion in their lives is found in their passion for people in their community and even the world.

Jenaie has lived her entire life in Cedar Hill, while Rob lived in the same house in Merriam, Kansas, near Kansas City,



until he went to college. He attended Kansas State University and graduated with a degree in chemical engineering in 1982. Rob was hired in Dallas by the EPA where he met Jenaie. "We started out being friends, and I have to admit I thought she was very cute with her punk haircut," Rob said with obvious affection. "She was so outgoing. She still is."

"Rob was calm, bright, respectful and helpful, and reminds me of my dad," Jenaie noted.

"She was sassy," Rob replied.

They married in 1988, after three years of dating. "Although we have a yours-mine-and-ours family, we truly consider them all ours," Rob remarked. "Jenaie's



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son, Josh, was tragically killed recently, the sad result of ongoing problems with drug addiction, despite our continual efforts to help him overcome.” Rob’s son, 29, is named Chris. And their daughter, Farren, is 24. The Franks also have five grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 11.

Jenaie was determined to have a girl. “Years ago, I was on jury duty when I saw this man with his daughter, who was named Farren. I just thought it was such an interesting name that I wanted to have a daughter I could name Farren,” Jenaie confided. Farren is the spitting image of both her parents — a very beautiful spitting image.

Rob, who has been mayor of Cedar Hill for 17 years, has had an eclectic career. He worked as an engineer for seven years with the EPA. His next job was in environmental cleanup with Fluor Daniels. Then he started his own engineering firm called RBA (Rob & Bob Associates). After eight years, they merged with BWR and later with Lochner. Eighteen months ago, Rob left them and started a new engineering consulting firm called H&F Consulting,



Inc. more commonly known as HFC, Inc. “But since returning to school for my master’s in dispute resolution/reconciliation, I haven’t been doing as much consulting,” Rob said. “I am very excited about learning to become a mediator/peacemaker. I want to work with other cities facilitating retreats, strategic planning and mediation. Returning to school has been hard, but enjoyable. But I am serious — more

about the learning than the degree.” Rob will complete his master’s this month.

The home they now live in is the second one on the lot where they have lived for 24 years. The original home was built in the ’80s, but seven years ago, while they were celebrating Farren’s 16th birthday in Arlington, Rob got a call saying their home was on fire. He left the party and arrived home to watch as their home burned. Half of it was completely

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destroyed. The house was a total loss. Two dogs, a cat and most of their photos were also lost. The home was torn down and then rebuilt in March 2006.

"It turned out to be a blessing," Rob said, recounting the saga with emotion. "The next morning, droves of people showed up unrequested to help. Others went out looking for a place for us to stay. They found an empty house, and in one day furnished it and filled it with everything we needed to live, including toys and mints on the pillows. We were completely overwhelmed and moved by the love and generosity of the community."



Within a year, the family was settled into their new, two-story home, built of Austin stone, featuring bricked window arches and eaves. Dormers and a filigreed wrought iron and glass front door grace the outside of the home tucked behind a circle driveway. "When we rebuilt, we wanted a bigger kitchen, a second story and a pool," Jenaie remarked. "As we wanted, our house is really lived in. We've had several people live with us over the years — recovering drug addicts and people with various troubles, because we know first-hand the struggles addiction brings."

Jenaie's favorite room in the house is the kitchen, in part because of the ease in entertaining with the center island — perfect for serving food. "We love to cook," Jenaie admitted. Bottles, jars, vases and crosses are displayed above the birch cabinets and granite countertops. While an arched cutout window separates the kitchen from the den, a granite-topped bar gives access to the spacious breakfast nook. Bar stools on the nook side provide extra dinner seating or just a place to perch and visit. Rob's favorite part of the house is the patio and pool area, especially for the opportunity to watch their grandkids play.

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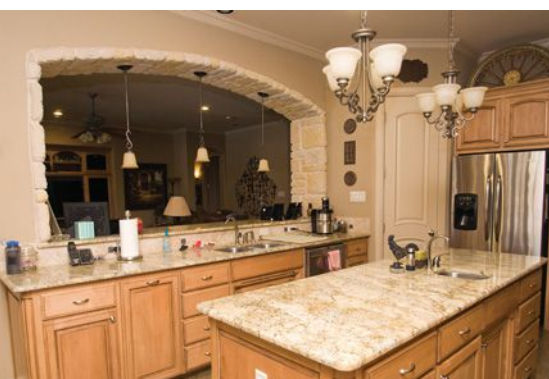
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All the bedrooms are ground level. Their master bedroom features a dark rice canopy bed with a coral and ivory matelassé coverlet. The master bath features a tub with jets and a large, separate walk-in shower with seven showerheads. Closets with built-in chests and drawers provide plenty of space for this couple and all their career and casual clothes.

Up the beautiful wooden staircase is Rob's office and Jenaie's treasured Christmas closet, where she finally has room to store all her holiday goodies in one place. Rob's office is huge and features a pool table, comfortable couches surrounding an entertainment center and his work area. Like the rest of their furniture, his desk comes from Weir's. A cabinet is filled with prized collections, spared from the fire. He has old cameras and photo albums that include photos of President Lincoln. Photography is one of his latest hobbies. He also has cylinders that can be played



on the Edison phonograph situated on a niche halfway up the stairs. On one wall hangs a collage of his father's career including shots with President Reagan and Bob Dole and campaign buttons from his time in Washington, D.C.

Gazing at the entry from their family room, visitors can see one of the mottos of their lives etched over the front door: *The Lord bless you and keep you* (Num. 6:24), aptly posted over their comings and goings. A multitude of crosses adorn one wall. "Before they laid down the new hardwood floors and walls, members of the youth group we work with wrote Scriptures on the studs and concrete," Rob shared. What could be more apropos since God's Word as found in the Scriptures is the foundation of all they do? **NOW**

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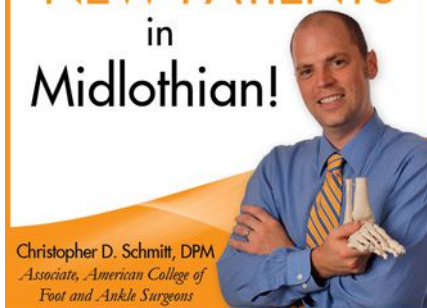
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Colon Care

Dr. Paul Hackett's goal is to prevent colon cancer while keeping your digestive system well.

— By Beverly Shay

While no one particularly likes or wants to go to the doctor, most of us are grateful for skilled physicians who specialize in the care we need, especially when it comes to relieving significant discomfort. Dr. Paul Hackett is a specialist in surgical care for colon and rectal diseases or problems. He was reared in the Los Angeles area, graduating from Gahr High School in Cerritos in 1991. His father was a pastor and taught at a Bible college. His mother was a nurse, as well as being ordained. "I grew up surrounded with the idea of serving others," Dr. Hackett expressed. "As a young child, I was exposed to dentistry. Until my junior year in college, I was on a pre-dental educational tract. But then I decided I would like to care for the whole body."

Dr. Hackett graduated in 1995 with a degree in biology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and earned his

medical degree at the University of California at the Los Angeles School of Medicine in 1999. He spent one year conducting basic research with the National Cancer Institute located at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, as part of a post-doctoral fellowship. His internship was in general surgery at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas. He completed his residency in general surgery at Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon. Dr. Hackett's colon and rectal specialty training was at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He is board certified in general and colon and rectal surgery.

"I went into colorectal surgery because of the various methods of abdominal care it requires — large and small procedures," Dr. Hackett remarked. "I enjoy caring for patients. I believe in educating them about diet. Showing understanding

for their situation enables them to change for the better.”

Education on lifestyle choices and judicious use of surgery are vital components of Dr. Hackett's practice. “The health of your digestive tract is intimately associated with your mental state and well-being,” he explained. “I work with patients and their primary care physician in making life-style modifications, arranging timely

“Colon cancer is preventable. I will tailor my care to meet your need.”

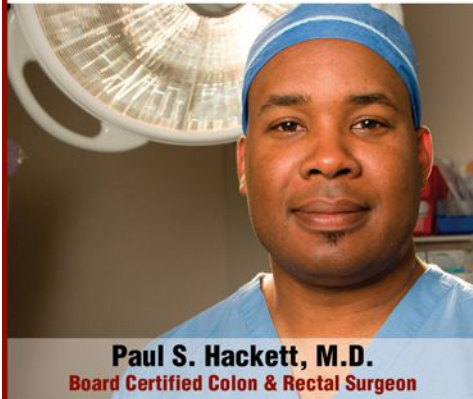
screenings and applying surgical therapies to promote healing of various bowel problems ranging from colon cancer to hemorrhoids.” Dr. Hackett performs colon endoscopy, laparoscopic/minimally invasive colon surgery and anal and rectal surgery.

Some indications that an individual may need to consult a rectal/colon specialist include a family history of colon cancer or colon polyps, an unexplained change in bowel habits, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding or pain, constipation or narrowed stool diameter. Colon cancer screenings are recommended between the ages of 45 and 50. “Relationships are established during the initial visit, as well as getting the patient's medical history and conducting a physical exam,” Dr. Hackett explained, adding that a diet is available to help prevent premature need of seeing a colon doctor.

“High fiber diets are the ‘silver bullet’ for healthy digestive systems in general,” Dr. Hackett indicated. “High fiber diets include a combined daily intake of 25 grams of fruits, vegetables, grains and whole-grain cereals, breads and pasta.” However, a high-fiber diet may not be suitable for everyone. Consult with your physician about the diet specifically best for you.

“My goal is to do everything I can to prevent colon cancer, which is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in America,” Dr. Hackett acknowledged. “Colon cancer is preventable. I will tailor my care to meet your need.” **NOW**

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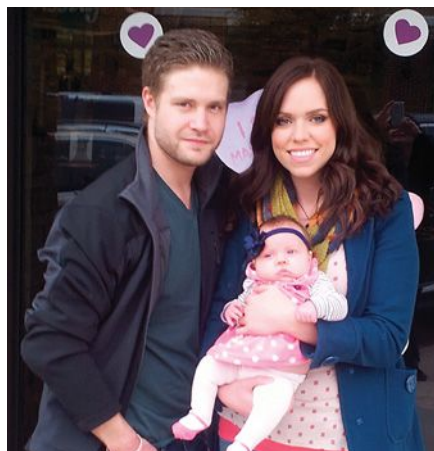
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Boy Scouts Joshua and Caleb Hutchins volunteered during a work day at Hope Mansion.



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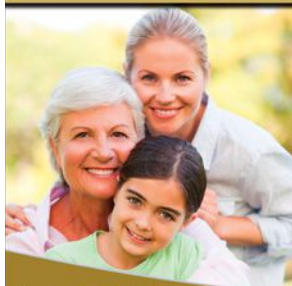
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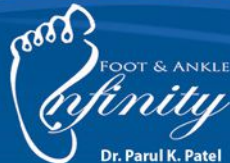
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Wednesday, March 19, 9:30-11 am
Admissions Coffee
Learn about the educational opportunities at CES for the
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Sunday, April 6, 2-4 pm
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March 1

CH Rec. Ctr. 9th Anniversary/Block Party: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., (972) 293-5288. The first 750 people will receive a free T-shirt.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr. Reg: www.redcrossblood.org; use sponsor keyword: cedarhilltx.com or (972) 293-5288.

March 3

"The Complete Beatles Experience" Liverpool Legends by Beatles Tribute Band: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Spans Beatles' careers and solo events. Benefits DeSoto High School's Fine Arts Program. Advance tickets: \$25; at door: \$30. (972) 230-9648.

March 4, 11, 18, 25

AARP free tax help: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., CH library.

March 10

Cedar Hill Quilters Guild: 6:30-9:00 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr. "Heirloom Creations or Missouri Star Quilt Tutorials" www.cedarhillquiltersguild.org/

March 11

Methodist Charlton Auxiliary Meeting: 12:30 p.m., Building C. Terry Hutton, Ph.D.

speaks on the rising cost of medication. Light lunch. (214) 947-7875.

March 12, 13

3rd Annual DeSoto Library Teen Empowerment Fair and Teen Career Fair: 9:00 a.m.-Noon, DeSoto Civic Center. For teens (13-18): workshops on job-readiness skills. Teens (16-18): opportunity for Mayor's Teen Excellence Job Readiness Certification. Reg. required: \$10: www.desototexas.gov/library. (972) 230-9663.

March 15

Citizens Walking Together Against Violence 5K: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr. Sponsored by Children on the Mend, Inc. Cost: \$15. (469) 693-8980.

Walk the Light Festival: Noon-10:00 p.m., historic downtown Cedar Hill. Artists display or perform. Fun, interactive creative art. www.walkthelight.org.

March 21

DV Senior Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Hopkins Sr. Ctr. Cost: \$5. (972) 298-0667.

March 22

Green Run: 7:00-11:00 a.m., Uptown

Village. 5K run, fun run/walk. Run early reg.: \$25; same day: \$35; walk: \$15. (972) 291-5130.

Neighbors 2 Friends Community Garage Sale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Highlands Elementary parking lot, 131 Sims Dr., CH. Cost: \$25/individuals; \$45/businesses. Benefits Bridges Safe House; unsold merchandise goes to Bridges Thrifty Boutique. Registration: neighbors-to-friends.ticketleap.com or (214) 779-4292.

March 27

Southwest Lupus Support Group: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Trinity UMC 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 291-8786 or deheus@sbcglobal.net

March 31

Southwest Dallas Co. Parkinson's Group: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Trinity UMC, DV: Long-term care, protecting assets, documents for medical crisis. (972) 298-4556.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to berverly.shay@nowmagazines.com.

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In The Kitchen With Rosalind Black

— By Beverly Shay

Rosalind Black credits her mother for inspiring and teaching her to cook. “As soon as I could stand on a chair next to her in the kitchen, I watched, helped and even ‘wrote’ recipes in her cookbooks,” Rosalind recalled. “I enjoy cooking for family and friends, but I enjoy baking even more. My first attempt at making a traditional Texas sheet cake was dubbed ‘the big brownie,’ because it fell when I poured the icing on the hot cake as directed.

Rosalind, born and reared in Ohio as the youngest of three, got to Texas as quickly as she could. She also loves music and is a classical singer/soloist at First Christian Church of Duncanville. **NOW**

Best Ever Pie Crust

5 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
2 1/2 cups Crisco or shortening
1 Tbsp. cider vinegar
1 egg, beaten
Cold water

1. Mix flour, salt and baking powder; cut Crisco into flour mixture. Stir vinegar into beaten egg in a 1-cup measuring cup; add cold water to fill to 1-cup line.
2. Work egg mixture into flour mixture. Roll out into 4 crusts.
3. Place 1 crust in glass pie pan and crimp edges. Grease bottom of another glass pie pan and place firmly on top of crust. (Repeat for all 4 crusts.)
4. Bake at 425 F for 15-20 minutes or until crust has browned as you desire. Remove from oven; remove top glass dish and cool crust completely before filling it.

Lemon Delight Pie

1 2.9-oz. Jell-O Cook & Serve Lemon Pudding/Pie Filling (not instant)
1/2 cup sugar
2 1/4 cups water (divided use)
1 egg
8-inch baked pie shell
1 envelope Dream Whip Dessert Topping mix
1/2 cup cold milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1. In a saucepan, combine pudding/pie filling with sugar and 1/4 cup water. Blend in egg. Add 2 cups water, stir well. Continue stirring while bringing to a full boil over medium heat. Do not scorch. Cover and cool. Set aside 1 1/2 cups.
2. Pour remaining filling into pie shell.
3. Mix Dream Whip, milk and vanilla according to Dream Whip package directions. Stir reserved filling mixture with 1 1/3 cups Dream Whip. Spoon over filling in pie shell.

Chill for 3 hours before cutting. Garnish servings with remaining Dream Whip.

White Texas Sheet Cake

Cake:

1 cup butter
1 cup water
2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tsp. almond extract
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda

Frosting:

1/2 cup butter, softened
About 2 Tbsp. evaporated milk
1 lb. confectioners' sugar, sifted
1 tsp. almond extract
1 cup pecans or almonds, chopped

1. *For cake:* In a large saucepan, bring butter and water to a boil. Remove from heat; stir in remaining ingredients; mix until smooth.
2. Pour into greased and floured 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake at 375 F 20-22 minutes or until golden brown. Test for doneness with a toothpick. Cool for 20 minutes.
3. *For frosting:* In a saucepan bring butter and milk to a boil. Remove from heat; add powdered sugar and almond extract; mix thoroughly. Spread over cake. Sprinkle nuts over frosting.

Date Nut Cookies

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup butter
3 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
1 8-oz. pkg. pitted, chopped dates
1 cup walnuts or pecans, chopped
1 Tbsp. water

1. Place all ingredients except for dates, nuts and water into a large bowl. Mix thoroughly at medium speed, periodically scraping the bowl. Stir in dates, nuts and water.
2. Drop by heaping teaspoons onto cookie sheet 1 inch apart. Bake for 12-15 minutes at 375 F. Remove from pan to cool on wire racks immediately.

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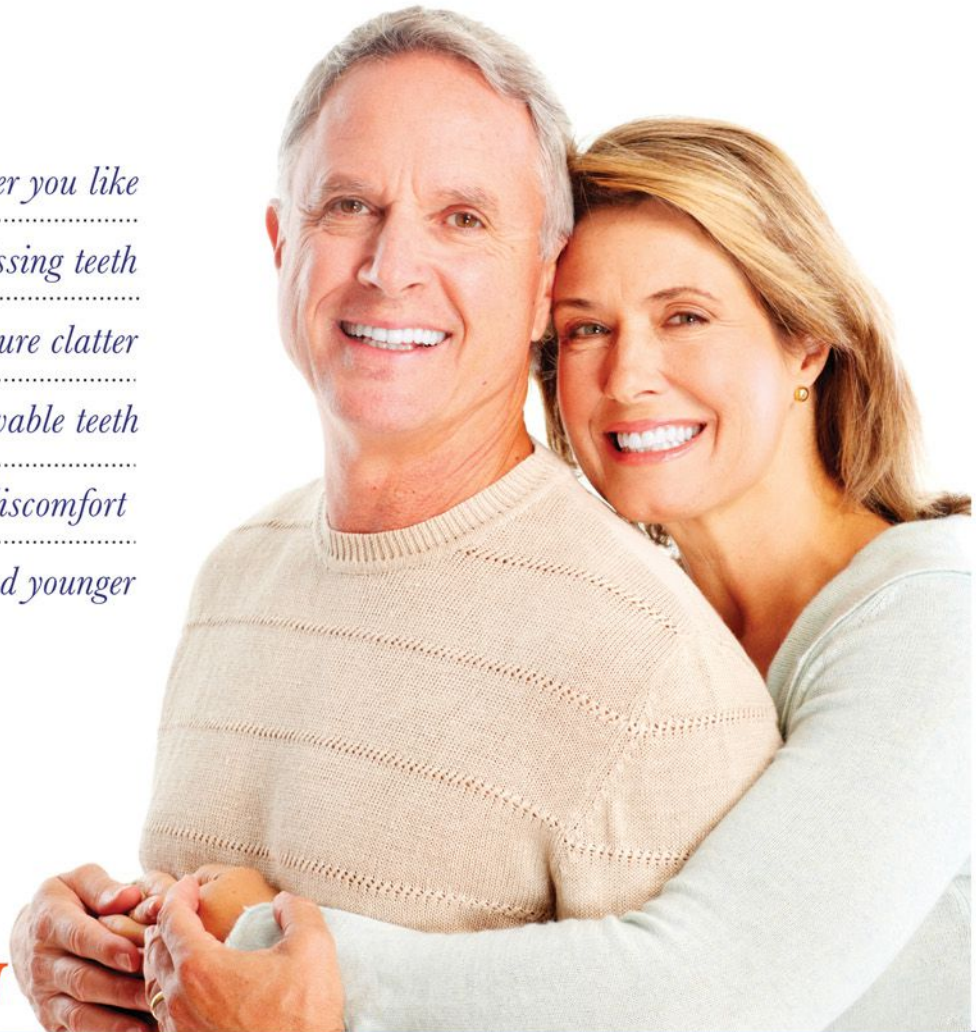
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A close-up photograph of a man and a woman embracing. The woman, in the foreground, has short dark curly hair and is wearing a yellow top. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The man's face is partially visible on the left, also smiling. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a clear sky.

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