

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

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Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville

M A G A Z I N E

April 2009

Big Footsteps

**All the
Presidents'
Hymns**

**Saving From
a Rainy Day**

**A Creative
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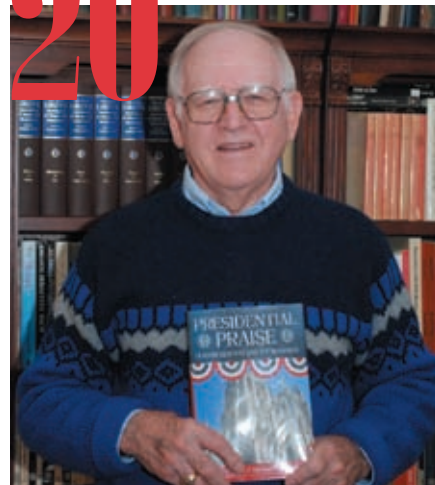
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Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville
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The Community Magazine
Serving Cedar Hill, DeSoto,
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MAGAZINE

Greetings, Southwest Friends,

I am writing from Lake Tahoe, where the sun is shining, the snow is falling, skiers and snow boarders swish down the slopes ... definitely winter here! As you read this, your gardens are blooming and Texas is in full-spring-swing! We are all ready for the pleasant weather that reminds us why we live in Texas.

This month, we offer some interesting articles: how to build a rain harvesting system to conserve water usage — very timely in drought conditions. Ed Spann shares the favorite hymns of all of our American presidents. Read about the Stanley family, longtime DeSoto residents. Our April artist is Duncanville jewelry maker, Kari Sullivan. David Wilson of David's Seafood Restaurant shares some delectable, mouth-watering recipes, and Shirley and Gordon Vansteenbergh have graciously invited us into their home. Be sure to check out our business feature, especially if you like riding motorcycles.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor



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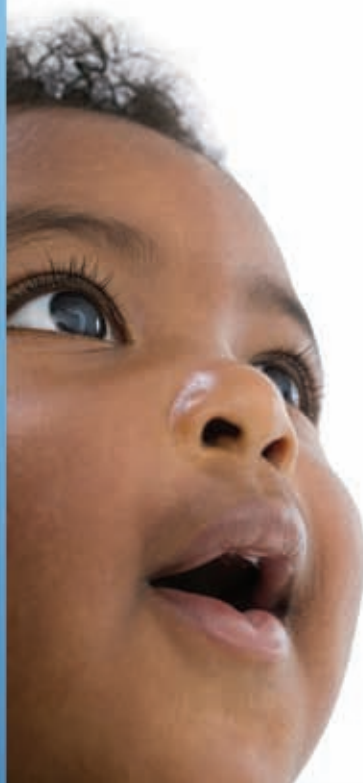
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Saving *From* a Rainy Day

— By Katrina D. McNair

We bathe in it, cook with it, wash our cars and dishes with it, and nothing is more refreshing than a cool glass of it on a hot Texas day. No matter its use, water is an essential element of life. Like many of our natural resources, however, water tends to be taken for granted and shamefully wasted as we go about our daily lives. For Pam Daniel, a resident of Midlothian, this is simply unacceptable. As a rainwater harvesting specialist, Pam is ready to teach others about the importance — and the necessity — of conserving water.

A native Texan, Pam, along with her husband, Rick, began to teach rainwater barrel making about three years ago, assisting different cities and companies in teaching water conservation and rainwater harvesting. In addition to being a rainwater harvesting specialist, Pam is also an accredited professional through the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association. “I attended a water conservation/rainwater harvesting course as a Master Gardner volunteer. I’ve always felt like water conservation was extremely important,” she said, “but that kind of ignited my passion again.”

Her passion inspired Pam to outfit her own home with a 6,000-gallon rainwater collection system, a visible testament to her belief in the importance of water conservation. This system allows the Daniel family to irrigate about 2,000



square feet of landscaping. As a result, they have seen water bills go from upwards of hundreds of dollars a month, to about \$20-\$30 on average.

What exactly is rainwater harvesting? A basic definition is the process of capturing, diverting, storing and distributing rainwater for later use. It is an old concept with a new value. As water shortages and droughts continue to cause problems, homeowners are looking to conserve water and save on bills.

Cedar Hill’s concern for water conservation led to Pam’s rainwater barrel class being held at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. In her class, Pam’s students actually construct a rain barrel and are able to take it home the very same day. The class lasts about two hours and all materials are supplied. During the first hour, participants view a presentation about water conservation. The presentation touches on issues with water supplies across the globe and then focuses on water issues closer to home. “We need to change the way we’re

Mrs. Portillo

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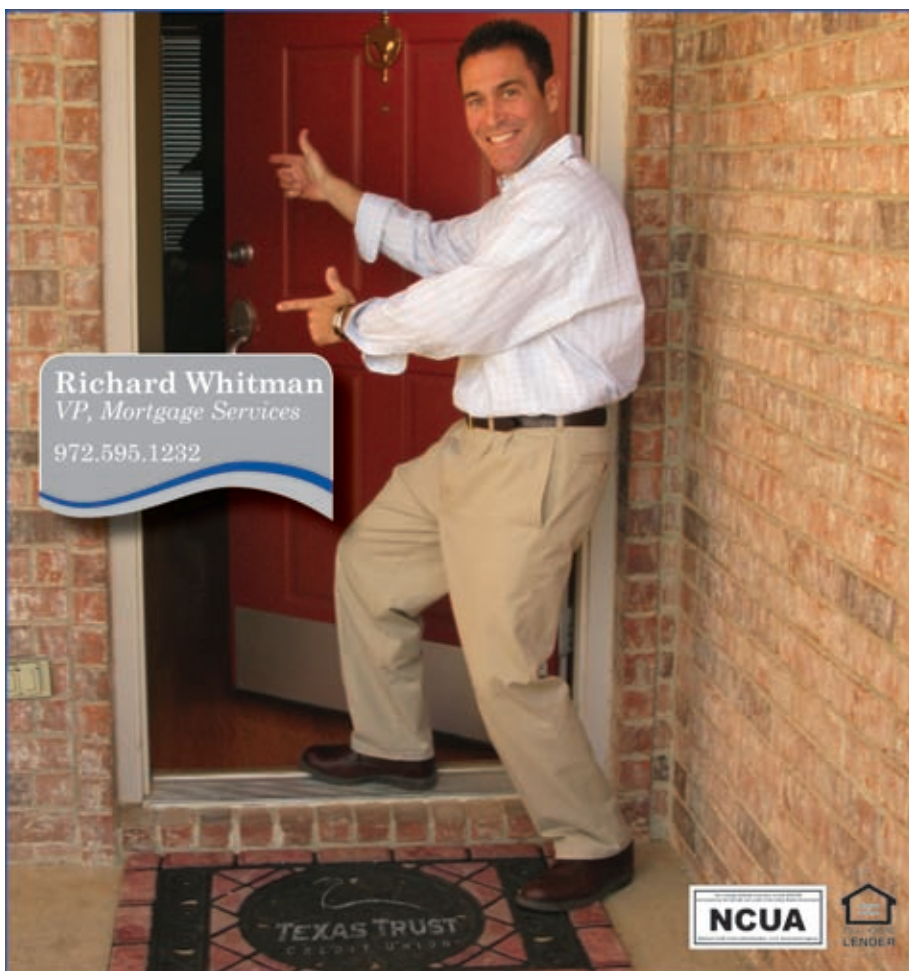
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doing things, or we will not have the same Earth for our kids or future generations. We're using up our resources at an alarming pace, and water is that most important resource," Pam said. "The class gives a good overview of the opportunities that rainwater harvesting can offer."

After the presentation, class participants are then assisted in making their own rain barrels to aid in their conservation journeys. The rain barrels are typically four feet high and a couple of feet wide. They are designed to hold



approximately 55 gallons of water. The barrels are food grade, meaning they have already been used to store food items, ensuring their quality and safety in storing water. Though the barrels are usually blue in color, they can be painted to suit and fit in with a home's outside decor. Each barrel is built with a spigot to fill watering cans with stored water, or which allows a hose to be attached. Class costs range in price, depending on location.

Though standing water can be a concern, especially during the summer, Pam believes those who create their own rain barrels will have little to be concerned about. "What we recommend is that folks put a mosquito dunk in the barrels and that will get rid of any mosquitoes," Pam said. The "dunks" are available at most local hardware stores. Also, when participants construct their rain barrels, Pam assists them in placing a small piece of netting over

the hole where the water drains into the barrels. This also assists in keeping mosquitoes and other small insects out. Since most homeowners will use the water they collect to take care of landscaping, the water is normally not standing long enough to be contaminated by things like algae. The barrels require a minimal amount of cleaning; rinsing the inside of them with a high-powered hose will usually do the trick.

“We’re using up our resources at an alarming pace, and water is that most important resource.”

As people have become more aware of water conservation and excited about rainwater harvesting, Pam has seen a variety of people take her classes. “It’s been interesting. We’ve seen all age groups. Older people remember their parents and grandparents collecting rain water in cans and buckets; that’s what they used before we had municipal water that was so easy to get,” Pam explained. “And we have the younger generation that is more into environmental improvement, being sustainable and going green. It’s funny how it reached all levels.”

With population in Texas growing at a consistent rate, reaching all generations and sharing the importance of water conservation is crucial. “The population of Texas is going to double in 20 years,”



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Pam stated. "Our aquifers (underground water systems) are low. We're taking too much out, and it's not recharging. It's just population. The water we have is the water we've had since the beginning of time, but our population is increasing."

As summer approaches, even more water will be used to hydrate parched lawns and plants. According to Pam, about half the water used in Texas goes toward landscaping purposes. This makes the idea of using a rain barrel even more appealing, as those with them should see a significant decrease in their summer



water bills. Pam constantly hears from landscape professionals how water is wasted by people overdoing it.

Residents of Cedar Hill and the surrounding area will have an opportunity to make their own rain barrels under Pam's instruction on April 8 at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. Pam wants her class participants to take with them an awareness of how they use water. "It's just the awareness — not overwatering your yard, making sure the dishwasher is actually full before you run it." Concerning collecting rain water, she stated, "It almost becomes addictive; you want to collect more and more, and you begin to see how you can be a little more conservative with your water use. We can do without a lot of things, but we can't do without water." Ultimately, creating and using a rain barrel is just one means to a sorely needed end — respect for our water supply and dedication to conserving it. **NOW**

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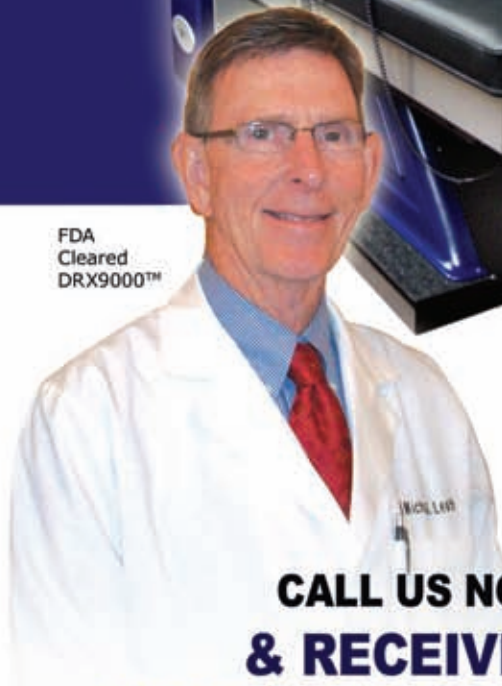
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Big Footsteps

— By Beverly Shay

Tim Stanley can hardly remember a day in his life without cars being the major focus. However, there may be something, or rather someone, who has made an even bigger impact on him: his dad, Doug Stanley. “My dad gave me every opportunity in life. He always backed me in good and bad situations. He never questioned me; he was simply there. If I can be half the dad he was ...” Tim’s voice trailed off, as his eyes misted over. Tim’s dad has not been gone all that long, just since November 2008, but it is evident that before he went, Doug Stanley deposited a lot of life in a lot of people — especially his son, Tim.

“I felt like I went from 19 to 45 in one day,” Tim pondered, remembering how his dad was just three hours short of receiving his 25-year award for being a Ford dealer. Just a few hours later, Tim was finishing up payroll — “It’s what Dad would have done,” Tim explained. “Dad would never ask someone else to do something he wouldn’t do himself.” Obviously, family is a big deal to Tim, who has two sisters. “I am really glad Dad got to see his first great-grandchild before he died,” Tim remarked.

Of his wife, Melissa, Tim said, “She is more beautiful, smarter, better able to analyze things than anyone else I have ever met. She has helped me out a lot — put up with a lot. Her parents are as close to a second set of parents as you could get,” he boasted. Tim met Melissa through a mutual friend. “We were friends for several years. In fact, Melissa tells people, ‘We were good friends for years, but he was un-dateable.’ It’s true,” Tim continued. “I pretty much had my own agenda





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Congratulations DeSoto High School Boys Basketball 5A STATE CHAMPIONS!

DeSoto won arguably the most important "Battle of Belt Line" basketball clash ever March 14, defeating neighbor rival Cedar Hill, 59-47, for the UIL Class 5A State Championship in Austin. DeSoto defeated previously unbeaten Houston Strake Jesuit 48-44 on March 13 to advance to the championship game. DeSoto led by four entering the fourth quarter and used a 12-0 run midway through the period to secure a 52-37 lead with 2:25 remaining.

"When the lights came on, they were ready to play," Dyer said of his team. The DeSoto Boys previously won the State Championship in 2003 and were State Runner Up in 2005.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

HB 1555 and SB 982 are identical bills working their way through the House and Senate, respectively. Both bills outline a streamlined funding system that returns the state to a formula system based on HB 1.

HB 1 capped state funding for each district at the 2006 amount received per student - for DeSoto that meant \$4,679 per Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA), approximately \$400 per WADA below the state average.

The proposed bills help equalize school district funding levels, and subsequently reduce ISD taxes below the \$1.00 rate. Under these proposed bills, DeSoto ISD would gain approximately \$5M in 2009-10, and \$2M each of the following two years and the tax rate would drop assuming other factors remained the same.

Contact your state representatives, Rep. Helen Giddings and Senator Royce West, to ask them to support these bills for the benefit of DeSoto ISD and public education across the state.



Dominique Bennett, MVP of the championship game, goes for a layup in the win against Cedar Hill in the 5A Boys State Basketball final in Austin on March 14. (AP Photo/Jack Plunkett)

Discipline in DeSoto ISD

Discipline is a much debated topic in DeSoto ISD. How much is discipline and behavior correction of a child the responsibility of teachers and the school system?

The vast majority of our community would agree that students should come to school ready to learn - mentally and physically. But what should happen when they don't?

DeSoto ISD is expanding the Region X Positive Behavior Support Initiative, currently at Northside and The Meadows, to all DeSoto ISD schools. The program helps establish guidelines for behavior expectations.

A survey of DeSoto High School students does not indicate an unsafe environment, but a sometimes disruptive one that can affect student progress. New measures taking place include sectioning the building by grade level to enhance academic performance.

We are also developing focus groups to discuss perceptions vs. realities in the community. How can we advocate for change? What is fact and fiction about DeSoto ISD?

DeSoto ISD Forum
Tuesday, April 21
6:30 p.m.
McCowan MS

Friday, April 10 - Teacher Prep. Day (No School)

Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 3-7:30 p.m. -

DeSoto ISD Critical Needs Job Fair (Gr. 6-12 Math, Science, Foreign Language; Bilingual and Special Education), Board Room

Monday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting

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going, but once I decided to propose, I did, even though I didn't have the ring. I proposed when we were at a friend's wedding in Austin." Tim and Melissa wed in 1990.

Melissa had graduated from DeSoto High School and then University of Texas at Arlington (UTA); she went on to get her master's in rehabilitation counseling psychology (RCP) from Southwestern Medical University. She worked with people needing help getting back into the workplace. Finding counseling was not really her forte, Melissa began teaching at Richland College.

Tim, who graduated from McCullough High School in The Woodlands in 1981, attended Texas A&M briefly. "I found the education



there to be way too general and, well, boring. Nothing I was learning there seemed as if it would profit me. I already knew what I wanted to do," Tim grinned, "work with cars! I had already sold my first car at 14." So Tim went home and began to work at a parts store. "Beginning in high school, I began buying and selling cars for my father's used car lot in Houston. My dad took me to car auctions and that was my education," he recalled.

A friend told Tim about Northwood Institute (now University), a two-year school offering an automotive program, so he went to one of their college presentations. He started school there in '82, but then his dad opened a Ford franchise in DeSoto. Forecasted to sell

only 40 cars the first month, the franchise sold 80. Both Tim and his mother, Barbara, began working from open to close. "My mom worked alongside Dad every day. She has given me the opportunity to follow in Dad's footsteps, running the family business. She has always loved me unconditionally," Tim said quietly.

"Everyone at the dealership was working open to close, but one thing I have to say for my dad — he knew how hard being a car salesman could be on a marriage. So, he made me leave work by 6:00 every night to be with my wife," Tim recalled.

Later, Melissa had a grand mal seizure and had to be on medication. Her doctors recommended that she not get pregnant while on the medication,

"She has given me the opportunity to follow in Dad's footsteps, running the family business."

yet were not enthusiastic about her getting off the medication when Tim and Melissa wanted to conceive. So Tim and Melissa decided to gradually wean her from the meds. After a year without medication and no adverse affects, her doctors gave her a clean bill and told them to go ahead and try.

"We were camping out at Lake Whitney when Melissa did a pregnancy test and it was positive. I was so excited about being a dad!" Tim recalled, with the delight of that moment evident on his face. "I love my son. I love doing things with him like I did with my dad. I try to teach [him] to keep an open mind, but T.J., he likes coming down here," Tim said, with obvious pride in his 11-year-old son. "I started bringing him here when he was 6 months old,"

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he added, with no sense of sheepishness.

T.J., a student at Canterbury Episcopal School, is, according to his father, “wonderful, responsible, intelligent, strong, mature for his age,” quite the artist and adept at playing guitar by ear. “We call each other Budgy,” Tim grinned. “He wants to come in and wash cars; that’s his goal right now.”

Before Tim and Melissa had children, they decided there should never be more children than there were parents, so they are very content with their family of three — unless you count Beau, the family’s yellow Lab. “He is sort of like

“I find myself telling my son a lot of the same things my dad told me.”

a second son,” Tim commented. “He fits into our family quite well. My wife and I have this motto: We have fun! Life is about more than just the facts; it’s about how you let them affect you. My dad used to say, ‘You can get glad quicker than you get mad; it’s your choice.’ It’s true, anger builds, but you can quickly reverse to gladness; and he did. It was an endearing quality of his, which I did not always appreciate. I find myself telling my son a lot of the same things my dad told me,” Tim mused.

“I really like to do things with my family — just the three of us. It doesn’t have to be something spectacular — just something together,” he remarked. Fun for Tim and his family includes beach time in Galveston, fishing, hunting, traveling, and of course, anything that goes fast, such as race cars. “I was a rather avid street racer, and the DeSoto Police Department kindly advised that I would be a much better example to the youth if I kept it on the race track, so we have sponsored open nitrous nights every Friday at the Texas Motorplex. If it’s fast, I’m there.” **NOW**

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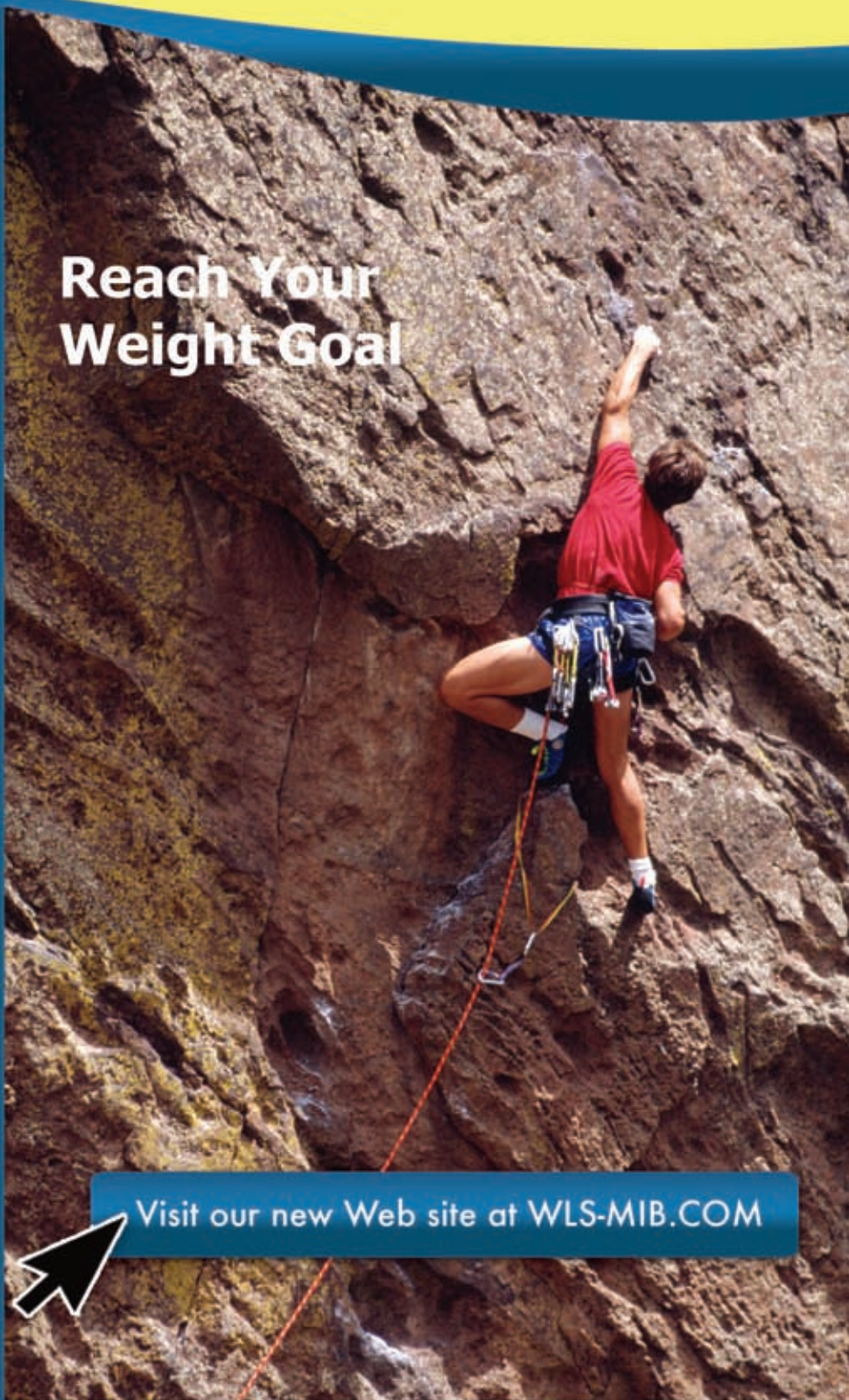
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All the Presidents' Hymns

— By Beverly Shay

Only a professor of hymnology would think to research hymns and music in connection with the presidents of the United States. The outcome of his study is a book entitled: *Presidential Praise: Our Presidents and Their Hymns* written by C. Edward Spann and Michael E. Williams, Sr. Michael is the current dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Dallas Baptist University (DBU), where Ed served first as chairman of church music and vocal studies for three years and then as the dean of the College of Fine Arts until 2004.

"My children and grandchildren gave me canvases and oil paints as a retirement gift, thinking I would set aside research and take up painting as my retirement pastime," Ed smiled. "But I had come across some literature telling how President Franklin D. Roosevelt was known by the hymns he loved. It intrigued me, and I began researching what hymns had been heard during President Franklin's funeral — 19 of his favorite hymns were played across the country that day," Ed enthused. "Of course, then I was curious what hymns had been chosen by other presidents or their families to be sung at other state funerals."

After three years of research, Ed had discovered at least one favorite hymn for each president from George Washington to George W. Bush. "One of my favorite hymns was also President Calvin Coolidge's favorite: 'Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go.' President George W. Bush readily showed visitors a painting he had in the White House titled *A Charge to Keep* (painted by W. H. D. Koerner in 1916)," Ed related. Both the painting and, later, President Bush's autobiography bearing the same title as the painting, were inspired by Charles Wesley's hymn, "A Charge to Keep I Have," which itself was based on Matthew Henry's commentary on Leviticus 8:35.

As Ed developed his research into a book, he explored whether the men who served as presidents had been musical or not and what type of music they had in the White House, especially which hymns. One president, John Quincy Adams, even wrote hymns. Ed also introduces the favorite hymns of each president, the reason they chose them and then delves into the story of that particular hymn: how the words were chosen and how they were set to music. "I also interpret the stanzas in relation to that president, discussing

his spiritual journey or decisions he had to make during his tenure. Many of the hymns related directly to the Scriptures they had chosen to address in their inaugural speeches," Ed recalled.

Ed approached his colleague, Dr. Williams, who is a presidential scholar, and asked him to write the introductory portions of each chapter, giving the background on the presidents and their religious beliefs. "We made a good team," Ed stated.

The book, with a chapter for each president, was released in October 2008 and has gone to a second printing in January of this year. "I now give numerous presentations to senior adult groups, various clubs, such as



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Rotary Clubs, evening church gatherings, colleges and a retired ministers' retreat in Glorieta, New Mexico. I have put together multimedia and PowerPoint presentations of varying lengths that include one stanza of each hymn," Ed elucidated. His book includes music scores engraved by his daughter, as well as a CD recorded and mixed by Randy Adams (Adamsound) and directed by Dr. Steve Holcomb, director of choral activities at DBU.

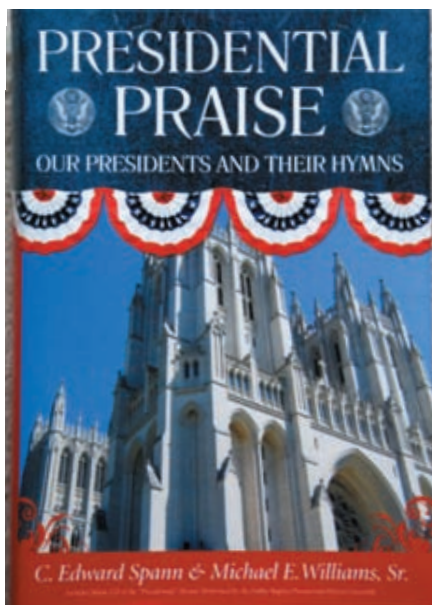
Ed has so many anecdotes about the presidents, but he recommends getting the book to get the full story. Here are



a few he shared: President Garfield was not only a fine Christian president, he was also a preacher. As a young man of 17, Grover Cleveland was taken under the wing of Fanny Crosby, an instructor at the New York Institute for the Blind, following the passing of his father, a Presbyterian minister. Future President Cleveland came in as a clerk and later served as secretary and fellow literary instructor with Fanny, with whom he developed a close friendship. Not only did Fanny Crosby write some 9,000 hymns, she was also the first woman to speak before the joint session of Congress, when she addressed them on behalf of blind education.

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Some of the presidents sang quite well, such as the Roosevelts: Franklin played the pump organ and was known for singing loudly; Theodore also sang loudly, but at an octave lower than everyone else. President Lincoln sang a hymn for his sister's wedding and was often brought to tears when hymns were sung to him by his appointed singing chaplain, McCabe. Tennessee Ernie Ford, whose album *Hymns* was released in 1956 and spent 277 weeks at the top of the chart, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President



Ronald Reagan in March 1984.

In Ed's teachings and presentations, he has accredited St. Augustine with saying hymns need to be sung congregationally. "We learn our grassroot theology through hymns," commented Ed concerning both his interest and career in hymnology. Ed further explained, "For a modern song to qualify as a hymn, it must be biblically based and pass the test of time. Some modern choruses, like 'Shout to the Lord' may make it. However, many of our contemporary worship songs are more personal than biblical.

"Really good hymns were often written out of periods of suffering,



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such as 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God' by Martin Luther or 'It is Well with My Soul,'" Ed stated. The latter hymn was written by Horatio Spafford in 1873 following two great tragedies: his financial ruin in the Chicago fire of 1871 and the death of his four daughters when their ship collided with another in the Atlantic. As his own ship passed the spot of the collision several weeks later, Spafford penned the

"Really good hymns were often written out of periods of suffering."

words, which have brought hope and consolation to countless others who have endured great suffering. "Even King David penned his hymn, recorded in Psalm 51, out of the suffering resulting from his sin," Ed added.

Ed has served as minister of music in many churches and has held academic positions at Shorter College in Georgia; a Baptist Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Houston Baptist University and DBU. His teaching fields include: hymnology, music education, church music, conducting, voice, handbells, choral, music theory, music in worship and ethnomusicology. Besides his book, Ed has written numerous articles for various publications.

While Ed is the expert, his family also had an active part in his book: his wife, Jan, typed the book; his son-in-law, a graphic artist, edited the presidential portraits for printing found in each chapter and, as mentioned previously, his daughter engraved the music scores found in the book. The canvases and oil paints still await his attention, as Ed continues to study this subject. "My next project," Ed shared, "is to take the series of vignettes I have been writing and turn them into two-minute dramatic presentations where an actor introduces various hymns telling how they were written." **NOW**

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The project will feature approximately 38,000 square feet of office and retail space, 136 modern rental apartment units and parking. The one and two bedroom residential units, which range from 700 to over 1,300 square feet, feature 9' ceilings, modern kitchen cabinetry, GE® appliances, contemporary color schemes and an outdoor space for each unit. Building amenities include a Cyber Café, intimate courtyards with a swimming pool, water features, grilling and gathering areas, controlled access entry and covered parking. The Town Center is strategically located in an area rich with services, including grocery, dry cleaners, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. and has easy access to the City's extensive Civic Center, including a state-of-the-art fitness center, basketball and racquetball courts, a youth center and meeting rooms.

The site is currently home to DeSoto's City Hall and municipal complex, which are currently integrated in a former retail strip center. The public library, an amphitheater, an indoor performing arts center, and a weight training and recreation center are also housed in this facility. These public uses were supported by an underutilized parking lot, but now serves as the specific location of the DeSoto Town Center.



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Family History

— By Jaime Ruark



At Home With Gordon and Shirley Vansteenbergh

Gordon “Gordy” and Shirley Vansteenbergh have moving down to a science. They have moved 13 times over the years, never staying in one place longer than 10 years. While it may seem difficult for such a nomadic couple to call any place home, thanks to Shirley’s well-known skills as a decorator, home is exactly what they now call their lovely DeSoto abode.

Gordy’s pride in his wife’s abilities is evident; he gives her free reign in all their decorating decisions, content to enjoy the outcome. “We moved here from Chicago,” Gordy said. “Our home there was featured in the *Chicago Tribune* home section. Shirley decorated about 30 homes there and has now done several here.” Gordy used to attempt talking Shirley into starting her own decorating business, but she does not want to force what is now a talent and hobby to become a job. “I like to do it on my own time, for friends,” she smiled. Shirley prefers a traditional style for her decor and favors jewel tones, such as deep greens, mauves and maroons; colors she calls “Victorian” that give the



home a warm, inviting feel.

Forty-eight years together and more than a dozen moves have molded the Vansteenberg's marriage into a relationship of companionship and trust. In fact, Shirley moved to DeSoto over nine years ago into a home she had only seen in pictures. "He came down one weekend to buy the house. I didn't see it 'til I moved in," she recalled of the four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath, 2,800-square-foot space. "Our tastes



"I love birdhouses — I have them everywhere. It's a collection that just evolved, and now friends give them to me as gifts."

are pretty much the same and we had decided to scale down. This house is much smaller than other houses we have had, and it needed a lot of work, but I liked the layout."

The dining room is home to one of Shirley's many collections: beautiful glass bowls, cups, pitchers, bells and boots, all with an unusual pineapple pattern. "It's called amethyst depression glass, because of the variation in color. This collection started with a pitcher and glass that were my grandparents'," Shirley said. "Over the years and during

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our travels we've added pieces. This particular color and pattern is somewhat rare." A shelf on one wall houses delicate cups with a pink floral pattern, as well as dessert dishes decorated in deep greens and purples. "Some are just cups I've collected over the years, while some belonged to my grandmother from her collection. The dessert dishes are from Gordy's grandmother and are very old," she added.

The kitchen shows off Shirley's

artistic flair, with pots, wicker baskets and decorative garlic, grapes and bell peppers hanging from the ceiling in a creative arrangement. A cute assortment of birdhouses is grouped near the stove, a favorite collection of Shirley's, pieces of which can be found in almost every room. "I love birdhouses — I have them everywhere. It's a collection that just evolved, and now friends give them to me as gifts," she noted. A corner cupboard displays her birdhouse



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dishes and an old butter churn rests nearby. "The churn was given to us as a gift, so I don't know too much about its origins, but we love antiques," Shirley added. "We don't go antiques as much as we used to because we have a full house." With a laugh, Gordy interjected, "We're not allowed to buy anything more until she sells something!"

Throughout the residence, Shirley's green thumb is evident. Her love of

greenery is splashed in every room, especially the room Gordy has labeled "the Texas Room," a sunlit area Gordy added on, which displays more of Shirley's birdhouse collection and opens onto the backyard pool area. "When we entertain, we eat out here," she said, mentioning a special dinner group they always enjoy hosting called Dining and Dialogue. "It's a program here in DeSoto, which was



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started to encourage dialogue between all the ethnic groups in town. We meet two or three times a year to discuss different problems within the city or school system."

The master bedroom has many special family heirlooms, including a cedar chest built by Gordy's grandfather and quilts made by Shirley's mother and grandmother. The brass bed was a find with a surprising story. "We found it in a garage on one of our travels," Gordy related. "Through some investigation we found out it came from one of our family estates. Someone had bought it and stored it in Pennsylvania, where we're both from." A painting of Gordy, done by a professional artist friend and commissioned as an anniversary gift for Shirley, hangs on one wall, and in the master bath a family of ceramic rabbits gather around the sunken tub.

The guest bedroom again shows Shirley's flair, the mauve quilts on the bed showcasing a vignette from an October 1938 *Reader's Digest*. "There's a lot of history in this room," Gordy said, pointing out two charcoal etchings of Shirley's grandparents. "The furniture here all belonged to family, including the sewing machine, which still functions. We don't have antiques that just sit around; they're usable." A 70-year-old marble wash stand, given to Gordy's parents when he was born, resides in one corner.

The couple's lovely home makes it



easy to see family history is something they hold dear. Upon entering Gordy's office, it is also easy to tell what else the couple finds important. Pictures of their son, Brett, who served in the Texas National Guard, hang next to a sweet painting of a much younger Brett fishing, while another wall holds plaque upon plaque commemorating Gordy's years of volunteer service, including the 2008 Community Service Award from the fire department. "I put in close to 200 hours a month just in volunteer work," Gordy humbly said. The list of his volunteer work is long: Park board member for the city of DeSoto, president of the Home Owners Association, director of Best Southwest Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and president of the police academy's Alumni Association. He also works with the Boy Scouts and Ducks Unlimited and is a citizen on patrol (COP) for the city of DeSoto.

Volunteering is just as important to Shirley, who puts in many hours with Gordy. "We try to do as many things together as we can," she smiled. "Any worthwhile project, we'll try to work into our schedules." Gordy added, "People in DeSoto may not realize the opportunities that are afforded them here. We've lived in 13 places and DeSoto is the first city that has open arms for its residents. The city is so gracious, and we just participate as much as we can." **NOW**

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A Creative Outlet

— By Beverly Shay

As artists go, Kari Sullivan is about as unobtrusive as you can get. She lives in a quiet home on a quiet street in a subdued neighborhood, where she and her husband, Jerry, “feel comfortable enough to grow old.” Still somewhat sporting the hippie flavor of their teens and early 20s, both Jerry and Kari seem to have a pretty low-key, laid-back approach to life. Their living room, inhabited by a big golden dog and a small black cat, is decorated with art of all kinds.

“That portrait of our wedding day was painted by my son-in-law,” commented Kari shyly. In the portrait, Kari looks like a Spanish or Gypsy dancer, while a leather hat covers Jerry’s long hair, reminiscent of Gregg Allman or one of the Van Zant brothers. The portrait is beautiful, and they are quite proud of it. Some of Jerry’s paintings also grace the room. A cow skull draped with Mardi Gras beads competes with various swords that represent their connection to medieval arts.

Kari’s first venture into art was working with Jerry on stained glass. “Jerry and I worked out of our house making custom stained glass until his health no longer allowed it,” she shared. Kari then worked for a stained glass business until the business moved farther away than she wanted to commute.

With more time on her hands, Kari was ready for a new project. “I have always done handwork, like plastic canvas crafts.



I first got interested in making jewelry because I received a bead kit in the mail from the home arts club I had joined. The kit was for a necklace, but I didn’t really like how it looked, so I ended up designing a completely different one myself and I really liked that. It was much easier than it looked,” Kari expressed. Pretty soon, she was buying beads of all kinds from Michael’s, Hobby Lobby or even Wal-Mart from time to time. She chooses plastic, glass,

wood, pearl, ceramic or hematite beads of all different colors and shapes. Some even look like carved ivory. She usually makes a necklace, bracelet and earrings that match. They are strung on string, wire or elastic. She sometimes uses a magnifying glass as she works, especially when doing more intricate work.

“I have gotten more adventurous, trying different things. Jerry helps coordinate the colors; he has that artist’s eye for what goes together,” Kari demurred. “She’s more artistic than

she admits; she is really good at this,” countered Jerry with obvious pride. Kari held up a necklace in shades of muted greens with a large, flat medallion with leaves etched into it. “I found several of these medallions in various colors and built my designs around them,” she explained. Kari lays her beads out on a tray that came with her initial kit. The tray has ditches where she can lay the beads to form different-length necklaces bracelets or earrings. “The tray makes it easier to keep the beads in a consecutive order while

“She’s more artistic than she admits; she is really good at this.”

stringing them,” she stated.

Several of her necklaces have swords or dragons. “Jerry and I like the Renaissance Faire and medieval time period; we’ve spent a lot of time at such events. So, that’s where I have gotten some of my ideas,” she said producing her pièce de résistance, a beaded headdress, sporting strands of various color combinations and many types of beads. “I just finished this one,” Kari commented proudly. No doubt she’ll be making more of those.

“One of my other more challenging projects was a slave bracelet a friend asked me to make. Slave bracelets have several bands of beads at the wrist on elastic string held together with multi-strand spacers, strands of beads up across the back of the hand and around the fingers. It took several tries before I finally figured out how to do it,” Kari recalled. She admitted she has given away a lot of items as gifts at Christmas and for birthdays in the six months she has been making jewelry. “The hardest part is tying on the jump



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rings and doing fine knots," Kari confessed.

Jerry and Kari met singing karaoke, another common interest. They also seem to be each other's biggest fans. "Kari is not only a talented artist, musician and pool (billiards) champion; she is really a wonderful wife, who relentlessly cares for me. Her cooking brought my health back after all the surgeries I have had to go through. In fact, cooking is another one of her art forms," Jerry boasted. He then explained how she makes centerpieces from cleverly cut vegetables, decorates gingerbread men and deviled egg-bunnies.

Slightly embarrassed by all the attention, Kari said, "I guess I just like to have my creative outlets. I even managed to impress my sister with my jewelry. This [making jewelry] is something I will continue to do. I hope to be able to sell some — maybe at the pool hall or where we sing karaoke," she envisioned. **NOW**

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Jim Kelley has been riding motorcycles for 40 years. He knows firsthand how important both safety and skill are for riders and other drivers on the road. “Motorcyclists are more vulnerable on the roads without the protection of a car’s metal framework,” Jim stated. “That is something we are constantly reiterating throughout the two-day basic rider skill course and during the half-day advanced course on riding and street skills,” added Jim’s wife and co-instructor, Lisa.

Jim and Lisa combined have 12 years of teaching experience and are both certified through the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), whose materials they use in their course. “As rider coaches, we have been through a two-week training process involving background and driving record checks and recertification every two years,” Lisa commented. “I am always working on self-improvement courses, such as CPR training, curriculum-based activities, as well as keeping current about new motorcycles and safety issues by reading articles in numerous magazines,” Jim added.

“We love teaching together and plan to continue. Seeing students concentrate and then begin to smile, you know they

are getting it. Those smiles are the best reward,” Lisa enthused.

Jim and Lisa’s business, Advantage Motorcycle Training, offers a two-day basic rider course designed to teach safe and responsible motorcycling for first-time riders, as well as for experienced riders desiring a refresher course to sharpen their skills and/or safety strategies. “The first day of the basic course is spent in the classroom, with the workbook and DVDs. The same material will be covered while driving motorcycles we provide on the range the next day,” Lisa stated.

“We teach the SEE strategy: Search (always look), Evaluate (plan what you will do) and Execute (learning to slow down/speed up, how to roll and brake),” Jim explained. “Our riders must have a valid, unrestricted Class C license/driver’s permit and sign a waiver; students 15-18 years old must also have their parents sign a medical consent form to receive aid — something we are trained for but have never had to provide,” he said.

“Our basic course teaches how to ride safely, risk-awareness and risk-management. They sit on the bike to practice controls, position wrists for shifting and turning, even how to turn their heads so they have the whole road picture. We begin instilling good habits before they even ride. They also learn



street strategy: what to do at intersections; how to position your bike within a lane and make lane changes; what to do about signaling, cars and pedestrians. Another key element is correct gear and being visible to other vehicles; we encourage them to wear bright clothing," Jim cautioned.

"The students are divided into groups; each group chooses some of the 126 questions to answer as a team from the



"Seeing students concentrate and then begin to smile, you know they are getting it."

book. We then go over all the questions to make sure they have the correct answers. This familiarizes them with the book. We are here to provide the tools they need to learn; it's the student's responsibility to learn," Lisa emphasized. "Many students later stop by our range to thank us for the course," Jim smiled.

By the end of the course, Jim and Lisa have a good idea of what each student can handle. They may advise them to start with a smaller bike, until they gain more experience and skill. "Recently, more women have been signing up, so we end up with a fairly even mix of men and women," Lisa related. They receive a Texas DPS Certificate of Completion when they complete the entire course, pass the knowledge test and an on-cycle evaluation.

To find out more about Advantage Motorcycle Training's weekend courses and required riding gear, call (972) 291-5905 or visit their Web site at www.alertrider.com. **NOW**

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Jerry and Mel with the Greater Southwest Shrine Club, top left, were collecting donations during the National Pancake Day at IHOP. Karen and John Haines, top right, enjoyed breakfast at the Cedar Hill Lions Club Breakfast. Ribbon cuttings were held for: Carter BloodCare Cedar Hill Donor Center, second row center; Big Brothers Big Sisters, second row right; and First Data Merchant Services, bottom left. CHISD students, second row left, performed at The Meyerson Symphony Center. The electric slide, third row right, was a popular dance during the Daddy Daughter Dance held recently. Sherry Kennedy, bottom right, was honored as Ambassador of the Month.



DeSoto Police Officer Rodney Sneed and his daughter, Leah, top left, attended the Daddy Daughter Dance. Ryann Campbell, sophomore English teacher at DeSoto High School, top right, received a visit from her Aunt Sandra. Chief Financial Officer Bobby LaBorde, second row left, accepted two national award plaques from Superintendent Lloyd Treadwell and Board President Don Gant. Northside Elementary students, second row right, used etiquette skills learned in class during a dinner celebration. Mary Vaughan, Canterbury 10th-grader, bottom center, volunteered at Mission Arlington. Students from Canterbury Episcopal School, bottom right, performed *Mulan* to a packed auditorium. Northside students Dhillon Grant, Destani Burns and Lauren Bishop, bottom left, received certificates from Superintendent Lloyd Treadwell after leading the board meeting in the pledge.



Fred Orr, top left, passed the gavel to Mayor David Green. Ken Weaver, top right, passed the gavel to Jamie Gatto, during the Duncanville Chamber Installation and Awards Dinner. Ken Weaver, second row left, also presented the Newcomer of the Year Award to Mark and Martina Dixon of ACT Security. Xi Rho Beta/Duncanville Outreach Partnership, second row right, volunteered for one of their many service projects. Reverend Bill White, third row left, performed during the Duncanville Women's Club meeting. The Silvertones, bottom, sang recently at the senior group meeting at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH DAVID WILSON

CAJUN PECANS

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. coarse salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 egg white
- 3 cups pecans halves

Mix first 4 ingredients in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag. Beat egg white in a medium bowl until foamy. Add three cups of pecan halves; toss to coat. Add nuts to Ziploc bag with dry mixture; shake well. Spread a single layer on a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 30 minutes at 300 F. Allow to thoroughly cool before storing.

CEVICHE DE CAMARONES (SHRIMP CEVICHE)

- 2 medium red onions, sliced very thin, marinated
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 14-oz. bottle Heinz ketchup
- 4 cups orange juice (with pulp)
- 2 tsp. La Hot Sauce (or to taste)
- 2 Tbsp. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 lbs. medium boiled shrimp; cut each into 2-3 pieces
- fresh pop corn

To marinate red onions, wash them in hot water and drain. Allow them to cool to room temperature in a medium-sized bowl. Next, add 1/3 lemon juice and 1/3 salt; toss well then wash as before. Do this same procedure two more times; this will remove the strong flavor from the onions. On the last time washing and cooling the onions, mix them with the remaining ingredients. Use some of the onions as a garnish. To serve, place about 3/4 cup of the mixture in an appropriate size bowl and top with about 1/2 cup fresh pop corn. Unique and delicious!

MOM'S ORIGINAL TRAIL MIX

- SAUCE:**
- 4 lbs. butter
 - 3 4-oz. jars garlic puree

- 6 oz. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
- Lawry's Garlic Salt
- MIX:**

- 1 15-oz. box Cheerios
- 1 8-oz. box rice Chex
- 1 12-oz. box corn Chex
- 2 9-oz. bags stick pretzels
- 2 9-oz. bags pretzel twists
- 24 oz. fancy mixed nuts, without peanuts
- 24 oz. cashew halves
- 24 oz. salted peanuts
- 20 oz. sesame nut mix
- 1 lb. pecan halves

Preheat oven to 325 F; melt butter in a 2-quart saucepan then add remaining sauce ingredients. Mix dry ingredients above, preferably half at a time, in a large container. Fill a large baking pan, (I use an aluminum pan as you would for a turkey) about half full with dry ingredients; pour several ounces of sauce over dry ingredients then lightly sprinkle with garlic salt. Bake 15 to 20 minutes. Again, add several ounces of sauce and the garlic salt. Cook for another 15 to 20 minutes. Continue this process until the sauce is used up, approximately 1 1/2 hours. The Trail Mix will turn a beautiful brown color and the aroma will have you anxious for it to finish cooking! When the mix is a rich brown color, remove from the oven and allow it to cool before sampling and storing. Store in airtight containers. Note: Thick Ziploc bags will work; I also use the cans that the nuts came in.

MIMI'S APPLE CAKE

My family's favorite cake.

- 5 red delicious apples, cored and pared
- 2 cups and 5 tsp. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3 cups flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Cut apples in thin slices; cut each slice into

Ever since David Wilson's grandfather built a small stool so he could stand next to his grandmother's stove and watch her cook, he has been fascinated with food. Now, David is fulfilling a dream as proprietor of David's Seafood Grill in Cedar Hill. "I try to always bestow the gift of hospitality to my guests," he expressed. "It is very fulfilling to have so many regular guests each day and many are families. I love to see the children as they grow up and want to come and see us."

Another love of David's is his three grandchildren, Jack, Brody and Marisol. "Any time that I can get away from the restaurant, I try to spend with my grandchildren," he said. "I love fishing, which I love to do with my sons and their families!" **NOV**

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.

three or four pieces. Place apple pieces in a 3-quart bowl; sprinkle with 5 Tbsp. sugar and all cinnamon. Stir until pieces are evenly coated; set aside. Pour remaining ingredients into a mixing bowl; beat until smooth. Pour half the batter into a greased, floured tube pan; sprinkle with half of apple mixture. Pour remaining batter over layer of apples; evenly distribute remaining apple pieces over the batter. Bake for 1 1/2 hours at 350 F. Allow to cool completely before removing from baking pan.

LOW FAT (BUT DELICIOUS) TURKEY BURGERS

- 1 medium red onion, diced very fine 1/4-inch
- 3 egg whites
- 2 lbs. 99 percent fat-free ground turkey
- 3/4 oz. fresh garlic, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. La Hot Sauce
- 1 pkg. Lawry's Meat Loaf Seasoning
- 1/2 cup Progresso Italian bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup fat-free Parmesan or Romano cheese, grated
- 1 Tbsp. Lawry's lemon pepper
- 3 Tbsp. McCormick's parsley flakes
- 1 Tbsp. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 tsp. liquid smoke flavoring
- 1/2 ounce pickled jalapeño, finely chopped

In a large mixing bowl, mix all ingredients thoroughly. Shape into 4- to 6-ounce patties, wrap individually then freeze. When ready to cook, place a small amount of canola oil in pan or spray a non-stick pan with no-stick cooking spray and sauté burgers to desired degree of doneness. Eat them on buns as "burgers," make Poor Boy Sandwiches or serve with a starch and vegetable.

PEPPER GARLIC ROMANO SALAD DRESSING

- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 oz. garlic, very finely chopped
- 1/4 oz. cracked black pepper
- 3 oz. Romano cheese, grated

Combine ingredients well and serve.



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Reverse Mortgage A Way to Financial Freedom

— By Cliff Boyd

There are a lot of reasons to get a reverse mortgage, but they all have one thing in common: A reverse mortgage simply gives you financial freedom. If you've worked hard for a comfortable retirement, but the cost of living is getting in the way, a reverse mortgage can help. Here are some the best reasons for getting a reverse mortgage:

YOU'D LIKE TO STAY IN YOUR HOME, BUT YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT.

Your income is fixed, but the cost of living is on the rise. Gas prices, the cost of food and household bills make everyday living tough to enjoy. If rising expenses are pushing you out of your home, a reverse mortgage can help. You

could get the money you need to cover your expenses and live comfortably in the home you love.

HEALTH CARE COST

Good health is your first priority, but with the rising cost of prescriptions, doctor visits and in-home care, retired homeowners are finding it harder to afford. For some, there can be no better reason for a reverse mortgage, which can help you get a handle on your medical expenses by freeing up the money you put toward your mortgage for the past 20 plus years.

Common uses for the proceeds of a reverse mortgage include:

• HOME IMPROVEMENTS.

Are your plans for your home bigger than your budget? Home improvements and repairs are expensive. A reverse mortgage can give you the same

advantage as a home equity loan, but without a mortgage payment. You'll be able to better maintain your home, landscape or build that dream addition so you can better enjoy your home.

• LIFESTYLE ENHANCEMENT.

When you planned for retirement, did you plan for high gas prices or rising food prices? If you're like most of us, your vision of retirement was a lot different than what you can afford with the rising cost of living. A reverse mortgage can help get that dream back for you, whether you want to travel, visit family or just live comfortably.

• SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME.

If you're not yet retired but are not making enough to cover the rising cost of living, a reverse mortgage can be a great supplement to your income. Why be forced to downsize when you



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can live better in the home you love?

• **HELP FAMILY MEMBERS.**

Had you hoped to send a family member to college? Do you want to provide your heirs money right now? A reverse mortgage is a great financial tool to help you realize that dream. Remember, your proceeds can be used however you wish.

Can You Qualify for a Reverse Mortgage?

Here's your check list:

- You must be on the title for your home.
- The youngest of the married couple must be 62.
- You need to have significant equity in your home if it is not free of all liens.
- No credit check.
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Sometimes the market reacts poorly to world events, but just because the market reacts doesn't mean you should. Still, if current events are making you feel uncertain about your finances, you should schedule a complimentary portfolio review. That way, you can make sure you're in control of where you want to go and how you get there.

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When Doctors Suffer From TMJ Disorder, This is What They Do...

— By Dr. Lesa G. Ansell, D.C., R.N.

Pain or tenderness in the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is known as TMJ Disorder. This is the joint located on each side of your head in front of your ears, which is responsible for allowing movement for chewing, talking and yawning. Approximately five-15 percent of the U.S. population suffers from pain associated with TMJ according to the National Institutes of Health.


Aside from the pain of TMJ, people may experience a clicking sound or grinding sensation when opening their mouth or chewing. Others may experience limitation of movement as well. Other signs and symptoms of the disorder

include: headaches, neck aches, aching pain in/around the ear or face, locking of the joint, uneven or uncomfortable bite or swelling of the side of the face.

Because this joint combines a hinge action with sliding motions, it is one of the most complex joints in the body. Within the joint, there is a disk which helps absorb extra pressure within the joint. TMJ Disorder can occur when this disk moves out of place or deteriorates, when the cartilage lining the joint is damaged by arthritis, trauma to the joint occurs or the muscles of the area are spasmed from overuse or from chronically grinding the teeth.

When the TMJ is misaligned, it creates a painful pressure and stretching of the associated sensory nerves. Many treatments are available to treat this disorder. Chiropractic treatment treats the condition by getting to the source of the problem. Chiropractors are trained in realigning all joints of the body, not just those of the spine. Other available treatments include night splints for teeth grinding, pain relievers, antidepressants and muscle relaxers to treat the symptoms, corrective dental procedures and surgery if none of these treatments work.

Some of these cases will resolve without treatment. There are some self-help techniques you can try at home, such as: maintaining good jaw posture, avoid over-using the jaw muscles, massaging the tight muscles, hot and cold therapy and relaxation techniques. If your problem persists for more than a couple of weeks, consult your chiropractor, dentist or doctor. A joint that remains misaligned for long periods becomes weakened, which can lead to a more permanent, or more serious condition.

A few more things to consider are risk factors. TMJ Disorder is more common in women between the ages of 30 and 50. Family history is important as well. This is mostly due to the presence of a congenital deformity of the facial bones. Trauma to the face, fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis also increase your risk. If any of the risk factors or symptoms are present, the best approach is to have early evaluation and intervention by a trained professional. 

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Weep, Creep

and Leap!

— By Nancy Fenton

Are you planting yet? Flowers, shrubs and trees are only going to be as beautiful as the care given to them merits. This includes planting! The old wives' tale about perennials, shrubs and trees "weeping, creeping and leaping" makes sense if you watch your plants and think about it.

All plants need to be planted in our clay at ground level or a bit higher, so they do not start out with soggy feet. The roots need to be loosened from that tight ball they get in while in those little pots. I have even taken a knife or spading fork to them if they are in a giant ball! You can see why they might "weep." Just the shock of planting can set some back for quite a while. New plants need a good cover of mulch (three-four inches) to protect them from heat and drought. If your plant is very small, just take the mulch up to within two inches of the plant until it grows a bit, then move it on in closer. Trees need to have the mulch pulled back from the trunk at least two-three inches to lessen the possibility of fungus or disease.

I am watching a certain tree right now. It did not do much last year or the year before, but I hope it will have established itself and be ready to "leap" up and grow like mad this year. If it does not, I may have to do some digging and check out roots. If they did not get unwound, they will still be growing round and round. That tree will not be very stable (watch out for high winds) plus it will exhaust all the food and water in that confined area. Not a good situation for the tree!

If you are planting annuals, be sure and loosen up the roots as you put them in the ground. Those tight little squares do not do much for water and food acquisition. Our plants really are pretty resistant and can take a bit of handling if given a good soaking.

Farmers' Market begins in May, so I may see you there! **AYOIII**

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April 2009

Community Calendar

Every Monday and Tuesday

Cedar Hill Recreation Center presents Caliente Salsa: 8:00-9:30 p.m. Monthly Fee: \$50, for ages 12 and older. Learn the Salsa, Cha Cha, Rumba, West Coast and Fast Step Swing, Lindy Hop, Latin Hustle and other popular club scene line dances!

Every Wednesday

Rotary Club of Cedar Hill: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at CH Recreation Center, 310 East Parkerville Road.

Every Wednesday and Friday

Preschool story time at CH Library: 10:30-11:45 a.m. (972) 291-7323.

Every Saturday

Cedar Hill Recreation Center presents Star Force One, a dance program including tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, song & dance and competition dance teams. Beginner to advanced classes: 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for ages 2-adult. Ballet and tap classes are also available for special needs children. Register at Rec. Center.

First Mondays

Readers on the Hill Book Club: 7:00 p.m. at CH Library (972) 291-7323.

First Tuesdays

Duncanville Education Committee: 11:30 a.m. at Chamber office. (972) 780-4990.

First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants' free informational sessions: 5:30 p.m. (972) 842-2999.

First and Third Wednesdays

Duncanville Business Interchange: 7:30 a.m. at Chamber offices.

Fourth Mondays

Duncanville Board of Directors meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Chamber offices.

Fourth Tuesdays

Duncanville Chamber Champions Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. at various locations.

Second and Fourth Mondays

Texas Ladies Networking: 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Ryan's Grill, Waxahachie. (214) 587-1221.

Second Tuesdays

Duncanville Governmental Affairs meeting: 8:30 a.m. at Chamber offices.

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

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Cedar Hill Lions: Noon-1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, 915 Old Straus Road. (972) 291-0651.

Cedar Hill City Council meeting: 7:00 p.m. 285 Uptown Blvd.

Second Wednesdays

Cedar Hill/Duncanville Early Childhood PTA: 10:00 a.m. at Cedar Hill Hope Lutheran Church, 917 N. Straus Road.

Duncanville Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. at various locations.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Cedar Hill Business on the Hill: 7:30 a.m. at Chamber offices.

Third Mondays

Duncanville Executive Board meeting: 4:30 p.m. at Chamber offices.

Third Thursdays

Duncanville Fun After Five: 5:00-7:00 p.m. at various locations.

ABWA — Empowering Women Express Network monthly meeting: 5:45 p.m. at Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle, Midlothian. Please visit www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org to RSVP for dinner or for more information. Guests are welcome.

Visual Artists of Cedar Hill (VACH): 7:00-9:00 p.m. from September through May at the Z.B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. VACH is open to all artists and anyone interested in learning more about the visual arts. Check our Web site at www.thevach.org for more information.

April 4

Cedar Hill Senior Center's annual garage sale: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. If interested in having a booth, call (972) 291-5353. We will begin accepting donations on March 30; all proceeds benefit the Senior Citizens Center in Cedar Hill. Come; browse; join in the fun!

April 6

Northwood University hosts prospective students for a day of class observations, campus tours and interaction with faculty and the campus community in a program called My Mondays. Register online for My Mondays at <http://www.northwood.edu/forms/admissions/tx/mymondays/>.

32nd Annual Double Eagle Golf Classic. Registration: 7:30 a.m. Shotgun: 9:00 a.m. Thorntree Country Club, 825 W. Wintergreen. Contact the DeSoto Chamber at info@desotochamber.org for more information.

April 7

Cedar Hill Museum of History presents Paleontologist Charles Finsley: 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Library.

April 8

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful presents rain barrel classes: 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. Instructors Pam and Rick Daniel teach how

to save money by making your own rain barrel to capture rain water for personal use. Cost is \$30/person for materials and instruction. Contact Josh McLerran (972) 291-5126, ext. 2818 for more info or to sign up.

April 9-11

Jerusalem Marketplace Interactive Passion Play, Windsor Park Baptist Church, 750 W. Pleasant Run Rd. DeSoto. (972) 230-3000.

April 15-20

"Cost of Freedom" American Veterans Traveling Tribute at Grimes Park, 500 E. Centre Park Blvd., DeSoto, 75115. Contact DeSoto Chamber (972) 224-3565 or info@desotochamber.org.

April 17

Northwood University advertising professor Jack Allday will be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, "Cost of Freedom": 12:00 p.m. at Grimes Park, 500 E. Centre Park Blvd. in DeSoto.

April 18

Epsilon Sigma Alpha Theta Pi Chapter presents its 15th anniversary Cancer Awareness Race at Lake Side Park in Duncanville. One-mile walk begins at 8:00 a.m.; race begins at 8:30 a.m. Save by pre-registering individuals or a team. E-mail: esarace@sbcglobal.net or phone: (972) 296-9898.

Teacher Job Fair: Duncanville High School open to candidates for teaching positions in Duncanville Schools.

April 23

The Young at Heart Adults senior group at Holy Spirit Catholic Church: 11:00 a.m. at the Holy Spirit Community Center, 1111 Daniel Dale in Duncanville, presents the Upswing Band, under direction of Sandy Barrows, playing rock, swing, jazz and Latin music of the Big Band Era. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share. Contact Veronica Houston at (972) 298-4971.

June 6

Mid-Way Regional Airport Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m. Event and parking are free; breakfast costs \$6/adult; one child under 8 eats free with paid adult breakfast. Open to public: classic airplanes and fighters, plane rides, remote control model flyers, The Classic Swing Band and more! Call Tammy (972) 923-0080.

June 19-21

DFW Summer Balloon Classic, an Aviation Extravaganza at Mid-Way Regional Airport, Midlothian/Waxahachie, Texas. Admission: free; parking: \$10 Web site: www.summerballoonclassic.com.

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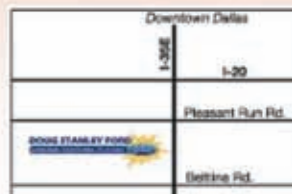


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