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# EAGLE EXPRESS



## Accelerating Expectations 2020

### Spring STAAR Testing Schedule

DeSoto ISD is preparing students for the final STAAR tests in May. This is the state's measure of how well a student is learning, compared to each other and themselves the previous year. Remember to make sure students get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before testing.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Assessment Window - May 1-5 | May 8 - Gr. 3-4, 6-7 Math              |
| • Algebra I EOC             | May 9 - Gr. 3-4, 6-7 Reading, Eng. III |
| • Biology EOC               | May 10 - Gr. 5, 8 Science, Algebra II  |
| • U.S. History EOC          | May 11 - Gr. 8 Social Studies          |

### SUMMER 2017

## BRAINGAIN

DeSoto ISD offers a plethora of summer school, enrichment programs and camps for students of all ages. Magnet Bridge camps are scheduled for magnet students.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Grades 9-12    | June 5-23 - Summer School, Credit Recovery and Acceleration - \$125 per session; EOC Camp - FREE |
| Grades 6-8     | June 5-22 - Summer School, Grade Replacement \$125 or 2 for \$200                                |
|                | June 5-15 - STEM/iSTEAM Camp, \$25 (Gr. 5-9)   |
|                | June 9-30 - Field Trip Fridays, price varies   |
|                | June 5-15 - TSI Prep for 7th-8th graders   |
|                | June 5-30 - GREAT: Gang Resistance Education and Training, FREE (Gr. 5-7)                        |
| Grades K-5     | June 5-23 - Summer School, ESL, ESY, STAAR SSI   |
|                | June 5-30 - Camp Explore, \$75 per week  |
| Sports Camps   | - Tennis, boys and girls basketball, football, baseball and volleyball camps!                    |
| Summer Feeding | - June 5-30, July 18-29 (DHS only in July)   |
|                | 7:15-8 a.m. Breakfast; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch   |
|                | Locations: Amber, Cockrell Hill, Woodridge, West MS, DHS   |

### Calendar

- May 1-3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. - Pre-K and Kinder Round-Up, Civic Center
- Friday, May 5, 5 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony, DHS
- Saturday, May 6, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. - Election Day
- Tuesday, May 16 - Eagle Olympics, DHS MPC
- Thursday, May 18, 6 p.m. - Volunteer & Partner Appreciation Reception, DHS
- Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, May 30, 7 p.m. - DHS Graduation, Eagle Stadium
- Thursday, June 1 - Last Day of School, Early Release

### NEWS TO KNOW

#### KINDER AND PRE-K ROUND UP

Pre-K and Kinder Registration May 1-3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the DeSoto Town Center. For eligibility criteria and items needed to register, visit [www.desotoisd.org](http://www.desotoisd.org)

#### HALL OF HONOR INDUCTION CEREMONY

The DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony for the Class of 2017 will be held Friday, May 5 at 5 p.m. at DeSoto High School. The event is free and open to the community.

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- Sharon Sternes (posthumously)

#### BOARD ELECTION

The DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees Election will be held Saturday, May 6 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting runs April 24-May 1 (times vary) at Disciple Central Community Church.

Candidates are:

- Place 3: Karen Daniel (i), Jeremy Woods, Van Stripling, Demetric 'Dee' Brown
- Place 4: Jerry Hall (i), Tiffany M. Clark, DeAndrea Fleming, Krystal Denise Sams
- Place 5: Aubrey C. Hooper (i), Darrell W. Porter, A'Londa L. Barber, Laneshia Jordan





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## ON THE COVER



Students dig into gardening  
at Ruby Young Elementary.

Photo by Shane Kirkpatrick

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## Editor's Note

*Dear Friends,*

May is filled with celebrations both serious and silly. Cinco de Mayo may not be a big deal in Mexico, where the Battle of Puebla is barely noticed, but it's a huge cultural celebration here. So if you are Mexican-American or have lots of friends who are, it's time to party!

Mother's Day is just around the corner, so start planning how to honor yours. But did you know Brother's Day is also this month? Both my brothers live in the cities served

by *SouthwestNOW*. Here's a shout out to both you guys!

Armed Forces Day for all those serving, and Memorial Day, for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, are both this month. It's time to raise your flag to honor the men and women who serve.

It's National Physical Fitness Month, so it's time to go for a jog, or pull a fire truck for charity, which will be happening at Armstrong Park in Duncanville on May 20. I'm planning to be there. How about you?

Oh, and May the Fourth be with you!

*Adam*

Adam Walker

*SouthwestNOW* Editor

adam.walker@nowmagazines.com

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CONCERT DATES

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# SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

— By Rick Mauch

*A little more than two decades ago, Patty Wallace had an idea for a garden for the students at Ruby Young Elementary, a magnet school in DeSoto. That was 1994, and now it is flourishing more than ever as it continues to grow. "It's ongoing. We try to add something new each year," Mrs. Patty Wallace said. Mrs. Wallace got the idea from a project the city of DeSoto did years earlier that she helped with. Residents and the community came together and worked for an entire weekend to construct a large wooden playground. "It was so much fun, and I knew we could do the same type of project at Ruby Young. Only this time it would be a garden," she remembered. Hammers, saws and shovels worked from sunup to sundown to construct five raised beds, two in-ground flower beds, an arbor, a birdhouse pole and house, an iron gate and two picnic tables. It was hard work, but it was a great experience.*

Years later, the garden had to be moved due to renovations. "Looking back, it's probably a good thing we moved. If we had stayed in that one spot, we would have limited ourselves. It's nice to see how much we have grown and to remember all the fun times we've spent in the garden. Many students have played a part in making this what it is today," Mrs. Wallace explained.



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Now the project is actually two parts. In between two building wings is the first phase that was moved and added to, which is about 150 feet long and 30 feet wide. Just across a driveway outside the fence is the second phase, which is about the length of a football field.

The first part features eight beds, a concrete pond, a patio area and a couple of benches created in an Eagle Scout project that also convert into picnic tables. The second part includes a greenhouse that is 20 feet by 30 feet. And amid it all is a plethora of vegetables and flowers. There are Brussels sprouts, broccoli, spinach, cabbage, tomatoes, even kale and turnips. There are apples, peaches, a fig tree and blackberries. Name it, and it's probably growing there. And if not, odds are they'll have it in the future.





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They have a weather station to teach youngsters the importance of understanding weather and growing things. There is a certified monarch butterfly station. "When the butterflies make their way through DeSoto, they can stop here," said Jerry Bradford, a local attorney who, like Mrs. Wallace, is a member of the Dallas County Master Gardener's Association.

In another part of the school is a rainwater harvesting station. In fact, the entire school has a "green" mentality.

A walk through a courtyard area reveals the school's resident bunny, Bernard. Of course, he's a favorite with the students. "Sometimes his wife, Bernice, will show up with him," Mrs. Wallace said with a laugh.

The school cafeteria will often use vegetables grown in the garden. There's also an agreement in the works to supply the DeSoto Food Pantry. "This is a chance for our kids to share what they grow with our community and to experience community service," Mrs. Wallace said.

"This is a special place because the kids like being out here," Mr. Bradford said.

Take, for example, fifth-grader Danielle Arnette and second-grader Isis Morato. They both belong to the





Garden Club that meets each Thursday from 4:00-5:30 p.m., and they work in the garden every chance they get. "I like nature. It's just fun to work with all the plants and vegetables," Danielle said. "Sometimes I'll see a rabbit walking around. It's just nice to get out and experience nature."

And, sometimes they take those experiences home. Families and children work together to enhance what they learn at school. "My grandfather gave me a tomato plant, and we grew some nice tomatoes," Danielle said.

By coincidence, tomatoes are Isis' favorite item from the garden. She likes the variety they offer in a dining experience. "They taste good a lot of ways. You can even eat them alone, just them," Isis said. "The garden is fun. We grow plants and learn how they grow. We also grow plants at home."

The garden's popularity has developed to the point where the folks around DeSoto are helping in a variety of ways. The pond was built with funds from a DeSoto ISD Education Foundation Grant. The city of DeSoto has supplied mulch and compost. "The city has been a great partner," Mrs. Wallace said. "They always come through for us."

In 2011, the school received the One Community Grant through Region 10, allowing them to build several more beds. In 2015, Mrs. Wallace won the WFAA Eco-Educator Award. There have been many adults over the years who have helped with the garden. Along with Mr. Bradford, others include Luthrine Starling, also a Master Gardener, and Mr.

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Peter Sohn, a fourth grade teacher. “I’ve been fortunate to always have principals and an administration who supported this project,” Mrs. Wallace added.

Mr. Bradford believes the main reason the garden has lasted so long is simple — the happiness it brings to the children who tend to it throughout the school year and even in the summer is apparent. “There’s nothing that compares with seeing that light bulb the moment a kid realizes they’ve done something special,” he said.

Mrs. Wallace said most of the funding for the garden comes from the Parent-Teachers Association, about \$1,000 per year. Students also held a showcase this past December and sold produce and pansies grown in the greenhouse. In the spring, the students will hold a true farmers market. They will be responsible for growing and selling items from the garden.

The next project for the garden will be a covered area, perhaps through a grant, and then Mrs. Wallace would love to add a chicken coop. “Chickens would be so much fun, and our students would learn so much from them,” she shared.

The garden has become generational. Siblings are passing along knowledge and their garden experiences to younger brothers and sisters. There are cases of the children taught years before who are now sending their children to Ruby Young, and they are getting the chance to work in the garden, too,” Mrs. Wallace said. “I don’t know if I’m surprised that the garden is still flourishing, but I’m happy. You get enough people outdoors enjoying what they do, and great things are going to happen.” **NOW**



# Heart of Our Hometown

Photos by Cindy Williams at Exquisite Photoz



*Dennis Fisher*

A native Texan, who has lived in Duncanville, TX since 1984, Mr. Fisher has raised four children, Tim, Paul, Connie and Courtney, and is a loving grandfather to seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He spends a great deal of time with his visually impaired grandson, Christopher, who also happens to be a talented piano player. Together they often visit hospitals, nursing homes and local eateries. When not with his grandson, Mr. Fisher enjoys staying in shape and spends time at the gym.

Mr. Fisher studied chemistry at the Southern University of Louisiana and has also received continuing education from several educational institutions, including a gas and oil certification from the University of Tulsa. Throughout his career, Mr. Fisher has been able to use his vast knowledge and skills to help the community, most notably, the clean-up of the Trinity River through the chemicals and devices that he created. He retired after 25 years from Proctor & Gamble, worked as a local tax accountant for over 40 years, and created the computer system used by Crisco Oil and Shortening.



*Earle Jones Jr.*

Mr. Jones and his lovely wife of 50 years, Barbara, made a home for their two sons, Earle and Gerald, in Duncanville, Texas where they lived in the same house for 45 years. He is a doting grandfather to his three grandchildren, Reagan, Grayson and Neesha.

Mr. Jones was honorably discharged after serving in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1958-1964, and went on to receive a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Marketing from Arlington State College, known now as The University of Texas at Arlington. He received a certificate in real estate from Southern Methodist University and worked as a real estate broker for 40 years, specializing in commercial real estate.

Among his many distinguished achievements, Mr. Jones was responsible for \$115 million in new development for the City of Duncanville as a Contract Director of Economic Development. He served as Chairman of the Board for the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce for 2 terms and as Chairman of the Board for the Duncanville ISD Education Foundation for 3 terms. Mr. Jones was named Duncanville's "Man of The Year" in 2010. He also received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President George W. Bush for his service to the Duncanville Police Department.



*Eugene Hudson*

Born and raised in a small town of Oklahoma 97 years ago, Mr. Hudson has lived an exciting life full of love and service to his country and community. He joined the Navy in 1940 at just 20 years old, so he could travel and see the world. Mr. Hudson bravely served during World War II, and attributes his safe return from the war to the many nights his father spent on his knees praying for his son. After over 30 years of service, Mr. Hudson retired from the Navy with the distinguished rank of Senior Chief Boatswain Mate.

In the late 1970's, Mr. Hudson and the love of his life, Mary, built their beautiful home in Duncanville. In their 57 years of marriage, they created a legacy of 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Throughout his retirement, Mr. Hudson has enjoyed working his large garden, and giving the fruits of his labor to the members of the Wheatland United Methodist Church that he has attended for 52 years. He has continued his service to the community by volunteering at the local food bank and delivering Meals-on-Wheels at 86 years old.

If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in a Heart of Our Hometown article, please contact Heritage HomeCare at: 972-283-8124.

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# Welcome

— By Adam Walker



*Pulling up to Grace Taylor's home, you are greeted by a front yard that says someone cares. Scattered among the big trees, flowerbeds in constant bloom and along the walk, you find white iron lampposts, the mailbox, lawn chairs, urns and trolleys filled with planters and a white wooden arbor. Grace loves her yard and is more than willing to talk tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, roses and wisteria. "I put my heart in my bougainvillea, because it blooms in the summer. The outside is my living room. You can take my house, but I must have my yard!" she laughed. But then she admitted the reason she goes to the gym for aerobics and yoga is to stay strong for her gardening!*

Entering the house, you realize that Grace's heart may be in her garden, but her heritage and her history are inside the house. The hall table in the entry shelters a pair of





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klompen, Dutch wooden shoes, which is the first of many hints of Grace's Dutch heritage. Grace moved from her native Netherlands to Canada when she was young, and then to New York where she worked at Burrough's Electronics as a research technician building integrated circuits for Col. John Glenn's space capsule. "When the first attempt to launch failed," Grace remembered with a smile, "the engineers all said, 'See Gracie? It's all your fault!' They were only joking. It wasn't my circuits that failed." Col. Glenn's capsule went up on the second attempt, and Grace continued building integrated circuits for seven years.

Grace spent much of her life in northern climates, but Texas summers didn't scare her off. She admitted to



missing the flowers that grow everywhere in the Netherlands, but said, "Holland, Canada, New York — they were all cold. Texas is my home now. I'm not leaving until the Lord takes me home. The people here are friendly and kind. Nowhere is as great as Texas."

Although Grace lives far from her place of birth, family is important to her. An entire wall in her hallway is filled from floor to ceiling with photographs of generations of family. She has photos of all her children. "They cover

everything from university professor to truck driver!" The wall, which her children refer to as "the wall of shame," includes pictures of all her grandchildren, of course, but also photos of her parents, grandparents and even her great-grandparents who hid Jews in their hayloft during World War II. "The father of that family had already been taken to Bergen-Belsen, but they hid the mother and the children there. Then someone would come to the house and say, 'The clock will be ready at 11:00.' That meant

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the Germans would come to search at 11 o'clock, so the family must be moved."

Also in the hallway, Grace displays two large examples of her mother's intricate, embroidered crewelwork. On the way to the living room, Grace has displayed another bit of family history, her grandfather's barometer, which like many of the clocks in the house, made the flight from the Netherlands on her lap.

There are more clocks in the sunken living room — some with family connections, but others, like the French set on the built-in shelf by the fireplace, are antiques she found in shops in the Netherlands while visiting family. "That one is very rare, because the pieces often got separated. I was lucky to find all three pieces together!" In the shelf on the other side of the stone mantel, Grace has displayed some of her cousin's Dutch blue-on-white porcelain paintings, and on the hearth, next to a copper Russian samovar, sits another small pair of klompen. "I remember when we were children. We wore klompen every day, for running and jumping rope. Our parents worked very hard, but everyone was poor. We would get tired of our klompen because the paint was chipped, or dull, so we would throw them on the ground to break them. Then our parents would have to buy us new ones, bright blue or red or orange. It was a terrible thing to do!"

The ceiling of the living room is one of its most interesting architectural features with dark wooden beams forming a tic-tac-toe grid across the recess in the middle of the room. Between the baby blue and gold draped windows stands a curio cabinet filled with family mementos: her grandfather's tobacco box; her grandmother's tin coffee measure; her father's pocket watch, pocket knife and bicycle repair kit; and dolls her mother made from bottles and dressed in Dutch costumes she knitted, which she sent







to missionaries around the world. Also in this cabinet sits a set of tea cups she prizes. "Those belonged to Tante Corrie," she said referring to Corrie ten Boom, a famous Christian author and speaker who spent time in concentration camps for hiding Jews.

Grace works as a chaplain at Methodist Charlton Medical Center, dispensing comfort and praying for patients during difficult times. "God gives me words to calm people, to make them feel good, dry their tears and put a smile on their faces." She also hosts Bible studies in her house, but that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Grace and hosting.

Her dining room may not be huge, but there's plenty of room for a table that seats 12, and space to set up another table alongside it for her famous game nights. "People call this the game house! I love to have big groups of singles from church over to play board games. I have a whole stack of them!" On the wall in the dining room hangs a water color painted by her sister.

The tidy galley kitchen features granite countertops and a row of decorative Dutch tiles near the ceiling. An antique coffee grinder is mounted near the stove. A set of pewter spoons hangs on the wall next to examples of the 3-D art done by another of Grace's cousins, just opposite the big wooden heart that proclaims her *#1 Mom*. And the refrigerator boasts as many pictures and magnets as space allows!

In the front bedroom, which is decked in rust and gold, Grace has an antique Dutch lamp made from a marble statue and a set of pictures of her and her daughter in Dutch costume. "When my daughter grew up, she took her daughter and had pictures made at the same place. These pictures are very special to me."

The backyard features more garden space and room for more entertaining whether it's summer barbecues, swim parties, luaus or movies under the stars. "Whenever I know a group is wanting to have a party, I say, 'Have it here. There's plenty of room!'" **NOW**

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# Summertime Is Easy

— By Zachary R Urquhart



*Every year, kids excitedly await the last school bell before vacation begins. And every year, a week after school is out, kids all around can be heard saying parents' least favorite two words, "I'm bored." But using this helpful guide, you can fill your summer with new, fun and, sometimes, free activities.*

## *Sign up for camps!*

- *Dance around town.* Every summer, there are dozens of local dance, cheer and art studios that offer one-week camps. These camps often double as a trial for prospective new patrons, so they are a great way to spend a week





and, at the same time, to see if there is long-term interest. Ask your friends what weeks they are signing up for, so your child will know some people when they arrive the first day.

- *Be a good sport.* Most high schools offer sports camps for youth up through middle school. These camps are a good way for high school coaches to meet future athletes, but they are also great for kids to learn fundamental skills,



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technique and strategy. While seeing kids that may eventually play for them is a bonus, schools do not limit attendance to those in their zones, so you can get football speed training from recent state champion coaches, or technical work from some of the most esteemed soccer coaches in the state.

- *Check dates.* With the number of studios, schools and private entities offering camps for all different ages and skill levels, you will want to spend some time looking for the right fit. Whatever else you do, though, make sure you know when the registration deadlines are. While some might extend registration with an added payment up until the day of the camp, staffing and equipment considerations may make others hold to a solid deadline, so do not let missing a postmark date keep your kid from the camp they want.

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## *VBS, by many names.*

- *Look for schedules.* With so many churches offering vacation Bible schools to the public, the first step needs to be looking for a calendar of the offerings. While you will not always find one codex with every option, you might call your city hall to see if they have something consolidated. You can also reach out on social media. There are Facebook pages where people throughout the area post their church's activities. VBS may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and, generally, goes for four to five days, with some churches using the following Sunday service as a grand finale.

- *Ask your friends.* There are literally hundreds of programs offered by local





churches throughout the summer. It is not difficult to schedule a different vacation Bible school every week for a few months, if you are so inclined. Ask friends which ones they have tried, and find out what types of activities each one offers. Some churches do simple activities in the park, and you can show up for just a few days. Others, though, will require registration ahead of time, as they have professional instructors in various fields come to make the activity portion as great as possible.

- *Figure out the code.* These days, different churches take different philosophies when it comes to VBS. VBX typically means the kids will have one specific activity that takes a lot of their time. Kids' Camp denotes more of a camp atmosphere, with varied activities mixed with the study portions. VBS in the Park is often an outreach seeking to bring in guests from nearby areas throughout the week. And traditional VBS normally blends Bible stories with songs, crafts and large group games.

*Free is a great thing.*

- *Movies in different places.* While many movie theaters offer cheap summer showings once a week, usually for films that have been out for a year or longer,



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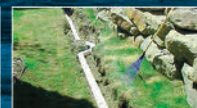
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cities often run special movie days and nights throughout the summer, sometimes in local parks or at other outdoor venues. Most local libraries show movies as often as once a week in the afternoons. Because these city events are planned well in advance, they are advertised weeks before showings, so a quick check of your city's website will give you all the details you need.

• *Libraries have more than just books.*

In addition to family-friendly movie showings, most public libraries ramp up a full slate of summer activities. From bringing in magicians and other performers, to presenting informational sessions on a variety of topics, your local library is probably a great spot for free family fun, while you get out of the sweltering Texas heat. If nothing else, you can grab a summer reading log and have your kids earn treats and prizes for opening books during their months off from school.

• *Free events with memberships.*

If you have passes for local zoos, botanical gardens or museums, be sure and check out their catalogue of events. While they always offer exciting exhibits, most places add a few seasonal specials to entice new families. If you are not a member yet, it may be worth spending \$100 or so for a yearlong membership that lets your entire family have access to special activities, concerts and, usually, even gets you passes to bring friends along for a visit.

The summer can be a great, relaxing time to break from the routine of school and work, but it can sometimes turn into an exhausting endeavor trying to keep your kids from the doldrums of too much free time. With trips to these great local spots, you can be sure your summer is one to remember. **NOW**



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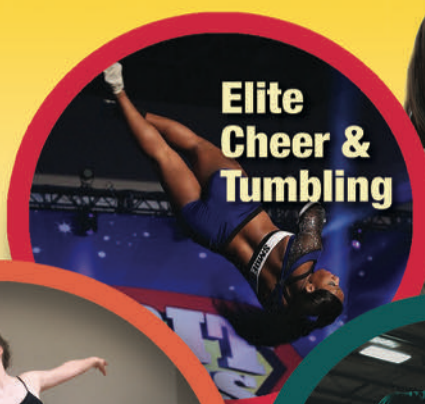
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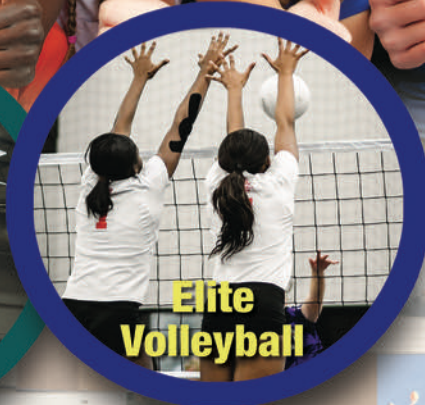
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Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



New materials arrive and sell out daily at The Last Inventory.

# SURPLUS MATERIALS, DEEP DISCOUNTS

*Contractors and DIYers can find the supplies they need at The Last Inventory. — By Adam Walker*

Four years ago, The Last Inventory was just a dream that started in Tony Portugal's garage. Tony had been an installer for years when the idea for the company was birthed. "At the end of every job, there was all this leftover material," Tony explained. "The GM on one job was counting up the leftovers at the end, which they couldn't return. He said, 'It's like the last inventory!'" And with that, Tony knew he had the name for a business. He started the company in his garage with \$600. Soon after that, his cousin and business partner, Ryan Dotson, joined the team. Now they have grown to a 12,000 sq. ft. warehouse on I-35. They purchase the remaining inventory from high-end jobs, as well as overstocked and discontinued items from companies all over the country, and resell them at less than 50-percent of the normal cost, often well below wholesale.

At The Last Inventory, they don't hire traditional sales people. They hire experienced installers or train new employees how to install the different materials. "We want our employees to understand the materials and how to work with them. Our employees don't work on commission, so there is no hard sale," Ryan said. "We want friendly employees, with a no-pressure environment. The materials and prices sell themselves."

Tony was the youth pastor and Ryan the benevolence pastor at their church when they decided to spend a couple of days living on the streets in Dallas. From that came a relationship that resulted in hiring a homeless man, who now has his own home, as one of their employees. "We have given opportunities when others wouldn't. We think it's important to give people the opportunity to work," Ryan explained. Tony and Ryan use



## Business **NOW**

some of the profits from their business to fund orphanages in Haiti and dig wells in Guatemala. "This business has never been about making profits. The bottom line is not the goal. It's not the product. It's the people," Tony explained. "Money spent here goes to positive causes. It's about impacting lives, providing a launching pad to better lives."

The Last Inventory specializes in high-end flooring, but carries everything you need for your remodel or new build, from floor to ceiling: tile, countertops, cabinetry, fixtures and hardware. "We have an increasing inventory of non-flooring items. We sell to contractors and DIYers, also," Ryan explained.

**"THIS BUSINESS HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT MAKING PROFITS. THE BOTTOM LINE IS NOT THE GOAL. IT'S NOT THE PRODUCT. IT'S THE PEOPLE."**

Due to the sources of their inventory, it changes daily. Once an item sells out, it's gone. "If you see something you like, buy it now," Tony encouraged.

"But don't worry. Tomorrow, we'll have something different," Ryan promised.

Tony and Ryan have an unusual customer service motto for The Last Inventory: "The quality of our merchandise will never be as important as the value of our character." It's not a philosophy that you find every day, but it's working for these cousins. "We've been doing really well just on word-of-mouth advertising, because our customers are satisfied," Tony claimed. "Our ad in *SouthwestNOW* is really our first experiment in paid advertising." If you are interested in checking out this ever-changing warehouse of ideas for your project, Tony and Ryan have one simple bit of advice: "Come and see!" **NOW**



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*Xi Rho Beta honors Judy Casey as their Chapter Sweetheart.*



*Lynne Cornegay volunteers at the DeSoto Police Department.*



*The Eaglettes win multiple awards at the Showtime International Contest.*



*Dustin Dauenbauer and Jennifer Henderson man the NOW Magazines table at the Flavor of Duncanville.*



*TXU donates trees to DeSoto's North Elerson Park.*



*Duncanville High School principal Tia Locke-Simmons receives the Mavis Knight Community Educational Excellence Award from the Tri-Cities NAACP.*



*Retired Fire Chief Charles Ray Sims receives the Lifetime Achievement Award.*

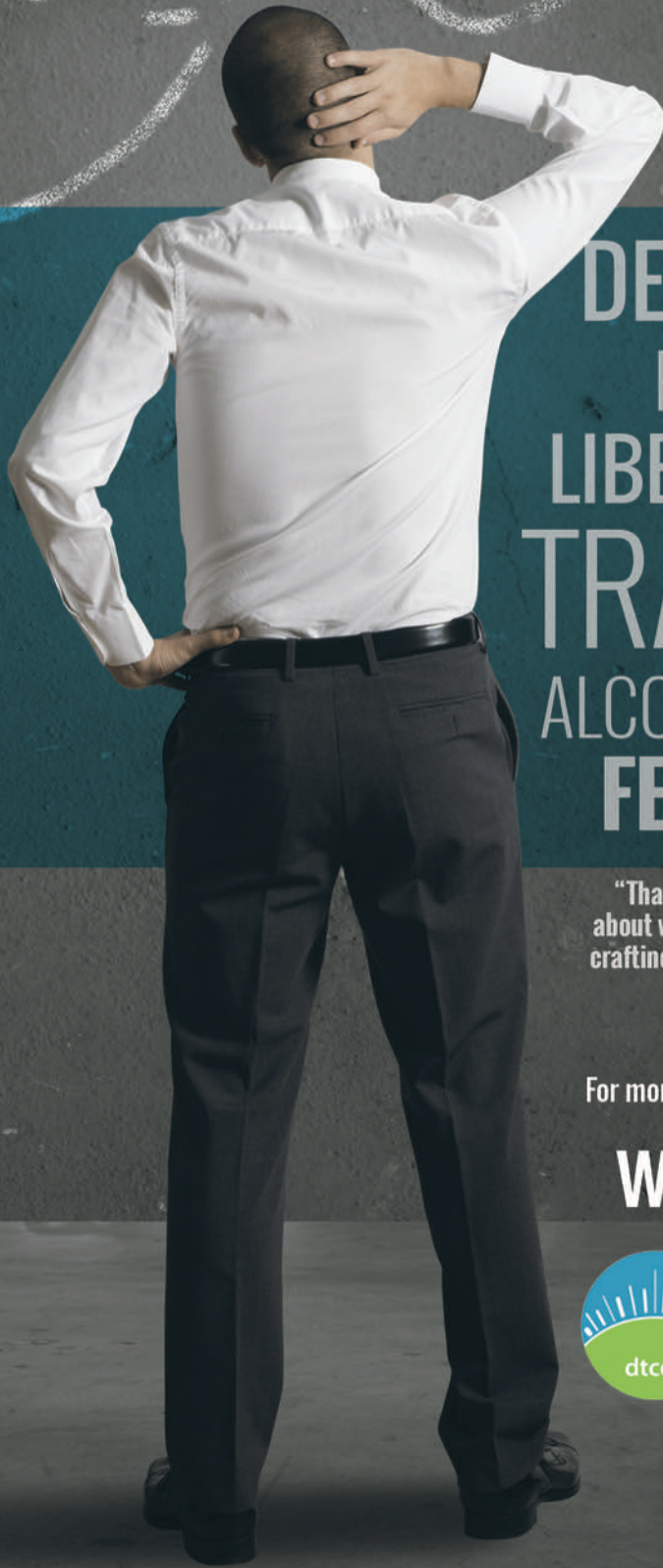


*Janessia Hunter rounds up shopping carts at Kroger.*



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# Give Mom a Gift to Help Her Financial Future

With Mother's Day around the corner, you might wonder if you should go beyond chocolates and flowers this year and give Mom something that can help her far into the future. What sort of financial gift can improve her life?

You could, for instance, encourage your mother to fund her IRA. As long as she has any earned income, she is eligible to invest in a traditional or Roth IRA (although a Roth IRA does have income limits, which, if exceeded, will reduce and eventually eliminate contributions). In 2017, the IRA contribution limit is \$5,500, or \$6,500 for individuals 50 or older. Traditional IRA contributions may be deductible, depending on one's income, and earnings can grow tax deferred. Taxes are due upon withdrawal and withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10-percent IRS penalty. Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, but earnings are distributed tax-free, provided an investor has had the account at least five years and doesn't start taking withdrawals until age 59 1/2.

You can't contribute directly to your mother's IRA, but you can give her money to use for that purpose, if she chooses. And since she has until April 17, 2018, to fully fund her IRA for the 2017 tax year, your gift now may help make it that much easier for Mom to "max out" on her account.

Here's another suggestion: Consider helping Mom pay one or two months' worth of insurance premiums. It's possible that your mother is paying for multiple insurance policies, like life insurance and disability or long-term care insurance, so any financial help on your part would be valuable.

You might also want to give Mom some tips on how she can help maintain her financial independence throughout her life. If she ever needed some type of

long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health aide, the costs could be extremely high, and Medicare typically pays little of these expenses. So you might want to connect your mother with a financial professional, who can provide strategies for protecting her from long-term care costs.

Here's one more suggestion: Give a gift to a charitable organization your mother supports. Even though you're making the gift in Mom's name, you should be able to reap some benefits yourself, even apart from the good feelings you'll get by helping a charitable group. As long as the charity has 501(c)(3) status (named after the section of the Internal Revenue Code that governs such groups), your gift can offer you tax advantages. On the most basic level, a gift of cash can earn you a tax deduction. So, for example, if you are in the 25-percent tax bracket, and you give \$1,000 to a qualified charity, you will be able to deduct \$250 from your taxes.

You may be able to get even more tax benefits if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, to a charity. If you give appreciated stocks you've held for more than one year, you can deduct the value of the securities, based on their worth when you make the gift — and neither you nor the charity will have to pay capital gains taxes on the donated investments.

Your mother has done a lot for you. This Mother's Day, show her you appreciate her efforts. **NOW**

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



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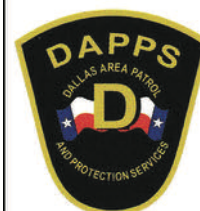
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### May 3

Duncanville Women's Club Luncheon: 11:00 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Duncanville. Class Act tap dancing group will perform. Contact Judy at (214) 732-2261.

### May 5

Cinco de Mayo Celebration: 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library. Mariachi music, crafts and food!

### May 6

Lights...Camera...Action: 11th Annual Mother and Son Dance: 7:00-9:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. for photos), DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Ste. B. Call (972) 230-9651 for tickets (\$15 each).

### May 9

Rain Barrel Workshop: 9:00 a.m., Zula B. Wylie Library. Presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Water University. Build your own working rain barrel.

### May 13

Head for the Hills: 8:00 a.m. (6:00 a.m. registration). Four bike routes 10, 20, 40 and 60 miles. Register online at [www.HeadForTheHills.org](http://www.HeadForTheHills.org).

19th Annual Corsicana Airshow: Gates open: 8:30 a.m.; start time: 11:00 a.m., Corsicana

Municipal Airport, 9000 Navarro Rd., Corsicana. Visit [www.coyotesquadron.org](http://www.coyotesquadron.org) or call Dan Summerall, (903) 467-7170.

Our Sunflower Friends 3rd Annual Golf Tournament: 8:00 a.m. shotgun start, Country View Golf Course, 240 W. Beltline Rd., Lancaster. Call Vicki Grady at (469) 226-3080, or visit [www.tinyurl.com/osfgolf](http://www.tinyurl.com/osfgolf) for information.

### May 19

Rock the Library at Hillside Village: 7:00 p.m., on the village green. Texas country musician Big Joe Walker playing. Bring a lawn chair to sit back and enjoy.

### May 20

Fire Truck Pull: Registration: 9:00 a.m.; start time: 10:00 a.m., Armstrong/Kidsville Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Fundraiser for Special Olympics. For information, contact Doug Ray at [dray@sotx.org](mailto:dray@sotx.org) or Officer Doug Sisk at [dsisk@duncanvillepd.com](mailto:dsisk@duncanvillepd.com) or (972) 780-5027.

### May 25, 26

DeSoto Art League Show (art drop off): Noon-5:00 p.m., **May 25**; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., **May 26**, DeSoto City Hall Atrium, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. No late entries. Bryan

Reynolds, (469) 337-8367, [24breynolds@gmail.com](mailto:24breynolds@gmail.com), [dalspringshow@gmail.com](mailto:dalspringshow@gmail.com).

### May 26

Richmond Punch: Violinist of our Time: 7:30 p.m., DeSoto City Hall Atrium. Free.

### May 27

Honey Tour Bike Ride: 6:30 a.m., Centennial High School, 201 S. Hurst Rd., Burleson. \$25 per rider before **May 15**, \$35 at-the-door. For information, [honeytour.athlete360.com](http://honeytour.athlete360.com) or (817) 295-6121.

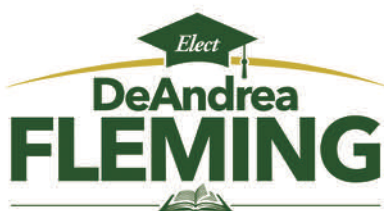
### June 1 — 27

DeSoto Art League Show Reception and Awards: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., DeSoto City Hall Atrium, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. No late entries. Call or email Bryan Reynolds, (469) 337-8367, [24breynolds@gmail.com](mailto:24breynolds@gmail.com), [dalspringshow@gmail.com](mailto:dalspringshow@gmail.com).

### June 3

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. Call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com) for ticket prices and information.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [adam.walker@nowmagazines.com](mailto:adam.walker@nowmagazines.com).*



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## In the Kitchen With Dawnitha Henry

— By Rachel Smith

Spending a lifetime watching her aunt, who adopted her, cook mouthwatering food, Dawnitha Henry gained a talent for baking. “My aunt owned a Soul Food restaurant in Tacoma, Washington,” she said. “I learned many of her secrets.” As her own children grew up, Dawnitha listened to their advice on how to perfect her dishes. “They said, ‘Maybe you should try this or that,’” she recalled. “And most of the time, it worked!”

However, baking isn’t her only specialty. She was also a seamstress, making bridal gowns and bridesmaids’ dresses. “I made my daughter’s outfits and her friends’ prom dresses, too,” she beamed. She also loves to garden. “I enjoy studying plants to see what will grow in Texas,” she said. “But I plant what will grow in my backyard.” **NOW**

### Italian Cream Cheese Cake

*Cake:*

- 2 cups sugar**
- 1 stick butter**
- 1/2 cup shortening**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla**
- 5 eggs, whites and yolks separated**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 2 cups flour, sifted**
- 1 cup coconut (optional)**
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, coated with**
- 1 Tbsp. flour**

*Icing:*

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla**
- 1 stick butter, softened**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**
- 1 lb. box powdered sugar**

**1. For cake:** Combine sugar, butter and shortening together until fluffy; beat in vanilla. Add egg yolks one at a time, beating after each addition.

- 2. Stir soda into buttermilk. Alternate adding buttermilk mixture and flour to the sugar mixture until all of both has been incorporated. Stir in coconut and pecans.**
- 3. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold egg whites into batter.**
- 4. Bake in 3 greased, floured and lined 9-inch pans at 350 F for 25 minutes. Note: Do not open oven door until 25 minutes have passed.**
- 5. For icing:** Combine all ingredients; ice cake.

### Sweet Potato Pie

- 6 medium-size sweet potatoes, boiled**
- 1 stick butter, melted**
- 2 1/2 cups sugar**
- 1 can Eagle Brand Milk**
- 3 eggs, beaten**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla**
- 2 tsp. allspice**
- 2 tsp. nutmeg**
- 3 Tbsp. cinnamon**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 2 9-inch traditional pie shells (not deep dish)**

- 1. Peel sweet potatoes; whip until lumps are gone. Clean beater to remove the string from potatoes.**
- 2. Mix in melted butter, sugar and milk. Add eggs, vanilla and seasonings; beat well.**
- 3. Pour mixture into both pie shells; bake at 350 F for 50 minutes, or until center is set.**

### 7UP Pound Cake

*Cake:*

- 3 cups sugar**
- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter**
- 6 eggs**
- 3/4 cup 7UP soda**
- 2 Tbsp. lemon extract**
- 3 cups flour**

*Icing:*

- 1 cup powdered sugar**
- 2 Tbsp. 7UP**
- 1 tsp. oil**

**1. For cake:** Cream sugar and butter together until light and fluffy; add eggs one at a time; beat well. Mix 7UP and lemon extract together. In a separate bowl, mix flour with soda mixture, alternating small amounts of both, beginning and ending with flour. Mix just until blended, scraping bottom and sides of the bowl. Pour into well-greased Bundt pan; bake at 325 F for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Let stand 15 minutes before turning out.

**2. For icing:** Mix all ingredients together until smooth; drizzle over cooled cake.

### Turtle Cake

**1 Duncan Hines Swiss Chocolate Cake Mix**

- 1 14-oz. pkg. caramel candy**
- 1/2 cup butter**
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand Milk**
- 1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped**
- 1 bottle HERSHEY’S Chocolate Syrup**

**1. Preheat oven 350 F. Prepare cake mix per package instructions. Pour 2 cups batter into greased 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes.**

**2. In heavy saucepan, mix caramel, butter and milk on low heat; stir until smooth. Spread evenly over cake; pour remaining cake batter over caramel mixture. Top with pecans; return to oven and bake 30-35 minutes longer, until cake springs back to the touch. Let cool.**

**3. Drizzle HERSHEY’S chocolate syrup over cooled cake.**



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