

# Southwest

Cedar Hill | DeSoto | Duncanville

M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2014

# NOW



## Finding Her Game

Coach Cathy Self-Morgan is more than a winner

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At Home With Ed and Judy Purcell

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Second Chances

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Transformation Process

In the Kitchen With Terri Kordsmeier



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## CROSS THE LINE: Choose to be the BEST!



### New Hall of Honor inductees

On May 2, the district announced the DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor Class of 2014 – recognizing two DHS Alumni Hall of Fame inductees and two DeSoto ISD Distinguished Service inductees at the event. The Alumni award criteria included special achievements and honors in the individual's career, and community service or contributions to society. The Service award weighed support and service specific to DeSoto ISD and to education in general, as well as fostering an education-valued community.

#### DeSoto High School Alumni Hall of Fame

- David Plott - Class of 1974 - International journalist
- Casey Printers - Class of 1999 - Pro football, author, speaker

#### DeSoto ISD Distinguished Service Award

- Pamela DeBorde - DeSoto ISD teacher, coach, athletic director 34 years
- Kathy Goad - DHS teacher, WINGS Supervisor 28 years

### District Teachers of the Year selected

On May 6, DeSoto ISD recognized the 2013-14 district retirees and then the campus teachers and employees of the year before announcing the DeSoto ISD Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year! The district teachers will compete in the regional competition later this year.

- Secondary Teacher of the Year - Dana Nabors, McCowan MS
- Elementary Teacher of the Year - Kim Looney-Walker, Ruby Young ES
- Employee of the Year - Kanina Johnson, McCowan MS



### Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.** - DHS Graduation, Eagles Stadium

**Friday, June 6** - Last Day of School, Early Release

**Monday, June 9** - Summer School starts

**Monday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.** - Board Meeting, Board Room

**Friday, July 4** - District Closed for Independence Day Holiday

**July 7-18** - District Closed for Summer Shutdown

**Saturday, August 9** - DeSoto ISD Back to School Fair

**Monday, August 25** - First Day of School

### News to Know

On May 10, DeSoto ISD held **School Board Elections** for Place 3, 4 and 5. Those elected this year will hold their board position for three years until 2017. New members were sworn in May 27.

#### RESULTS

##### Place 3:

- |                  |     |       |
|------------------|-----|-------|
| • Inga Henderson | 116 | 8.9%  |
| • Karen Daniel   | 674 | 51.9% |
| • Kenzie Moore   | 508 | 39.1% |

##### Place 4:

- |              |     |       |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| • Curt Krohn | 576 | 46.2% |
| • Jerry Hall | 671 | 53.8% |

##### Place 5:

- |                  |     |       |
|------------------|-----|-------|
| • Aubrey Hooper  | 713 | 57.3% |
| • Sandra Wheeler | 532 | 42.7% |

#### Track Teams both claim State 3rd Place

The DHS Boys and Girls Track Teams finished the year both claiming State 3rd Place titles at the State Meet. Both teams saw success in several individual events, vaulting both teams to third place state titles for 2014.

#### Boys State Champions

Chevis Armstrong - 110 meter hurdles

4x200 Relay Team - Trevin Chambers,

Nick Orr, LaDarren Brown, London Dunn

#### 4th Place

Saige Revell - Long Jump

#### Girls State Champions

Alexis Duncan - 100 meter hurdles

Kira White - 200 meter dash

#### 2nd Place

Camry Grigsby - 800 meter

Latyria Jefferson - high jump

#### 6th Place

4x400 Relay Team - Aleyh Christoper,

Camry Grigsby, Mariah Crawford,

Shaporria Montgomery

McCowan Middle School has been awarded a \$3,000 **MetroTex Association of Realtors grant**. The funds will be used to purchase equipment to create and host a weekly 30 minute math show. Students will use technology to create shows involving math problems and real-world applications. They will learn about creativity, video production and teamwork.



1 PETER 5:6-8

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June 4 • Richard Stevens

*God still cares that He is known as  
The Creator  
Gen 1:1*

June 11 • Robert Stapleton

*God still cares about Mankind  
2 Peter 3:9*

June 18 • Ivie Powell

*God still cares that we obey (only) Him  
1 John 5:3*

June 25 • David Rechlin

*God still cares that many teach  
false doctrine  
Titus 1:9-11*

July 2 • Robert Dodson

*God still cares WHEN we sin against Him  
Isaiah 59:1-2*

July 9 • Jim Laws

*God still cares about repentance  
Acts 17:30*

July 16 • David McElwain

*God still cares about forgiveness  
Colossians 3:13*

July 23 • Mike Bonner

*God still cares that we love one another  
Ephesians 5:30-32*

July 30 • Hubert Smith

*God still cares about marriage  
1 Corinthians 7:1-2*

August 6 • Mike Crosby

*God still cares that we worship Him  
AS HE DESIRES  
John 4:21-24*

August 13 • Willie Alvarenga

*God still cares about the Lord's Church  
Matthew 16:18*

August 20 • Bob Moss

*God still cares about baptism  
1 Peter 3:21*

August 27 • Bill Burke

*God still cares about our salvation  
Romans 5:8*





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## ON THE COVER



Cathy Self-Morgan is not only an extraordinary coach, she's a classy lady with a win-win mentality.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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## Editor's Note

*Hello, June Bugs!*

I figured it was time once again to see what the world at large celebrates in June. As usual, the offerings range from serious to goofy to you've-got-to-be-kidding. Here are some of my favorites: Aquarium Month, National Accordion Awareness Month and National Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month — yum!

Celebrate June 4 as Applesauce Cake Day. The first Friday of this month is National Doughnut Day. Make plans to celebrate the 19th as World Sauntering Day, and before you flip on your shades for Sunglasses Day on the 27th, indulge on the 22nd for National Chocolate Éclair Day.

I've never been sure who gets paid to designate these "special" occasions, but they could surely be added to the list of people with weird jobs. If you have a hankering to consider a new career, try one of these: odor testers, fortune cookie writers, oyster floaters, pet food testers or dice inspectors!

*Beverly*

Beverly Shay  
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# FIND HER GA

— By Sydni Massey

*Cathy Self-Morgan, tall and gangly, found her identity when she picked up a basketball in the fourth grade. In that moment, Cathy became forever tied to basketball, going on to have a successful collegiate basketball career and now as one of the greatest high school varsity coaches in the nation.*

Standing taller than anyone in her class and having a mouth full of braces, Cathy didn't know where she fit in. Once she began playing basketball, she grew into her own and found a level of popularity she had never experienced before. In sixth

grade, Cathy sealed her fate as a basketball coach when she realized her own coach had the best job in the world. "My coach came to school every day in her warm-ups and played sports all day," Cathy remembered. "I couldn't think of anything better to do. I tell my husband, Jack, I have never worked a day in my life, but have been going to school for 53 years."

Cathy grew up in Jourdanton, Texas, south of San Antonio. As a small town, the high school had a team for both the boys and the girls, unlike many large towns that only had teams for boys. This small-town opportunity opened up a bigger door for Cathy when it came to college. After graduating, Cathy attended Temple Junior College on a basketball scholarship for one year. The next year she attended The University of Texas at Austin





# NING AME

as one of the first women on athletic scholarship. Cathy earned several recognitions while playing at UT, including Most Valuable Player and the Scholar Athlete Award. Off the court, Cathy excelled in academics, graduating *summa cum laude* with highest honors in 1977 from UT and then attending Texas State University San Marcos where she earned her Master of Education in 1984. She was inducted into the UT Women's Hall of Honor in 2004.

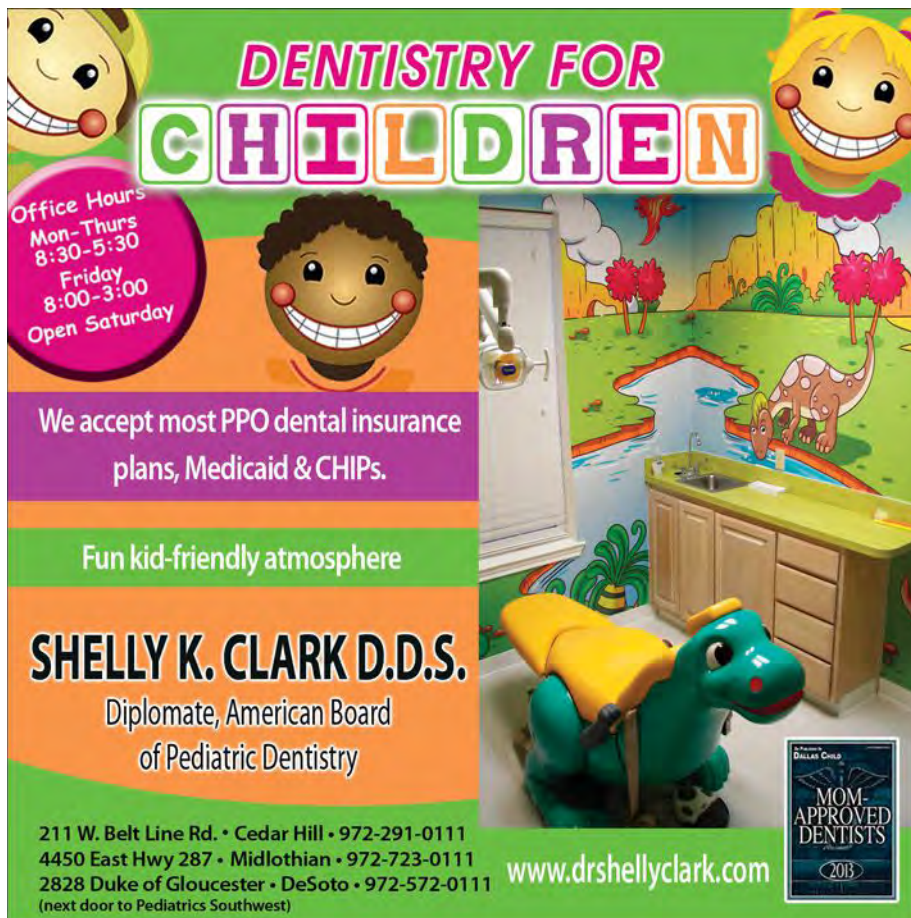
"I discovered a whole new side of myself when I started playing basketball," Cathy said. "It became my identity. I was blessed to get to play during high school, because a lot of girls didn't have the opportunity at that time. I was able to go to school on a scholarship and play the game I loved."

After graduating from UT, Cathy took her first coaching and teaching job at Pflugerville Junior High School. One year of coaching at the junior high basketball level made Cathy realize she needed to get to the high school level and fast. "My one year at the junior high level has given me the greatest appreciation for our junior high coaches," Cathy said. "They teach the players how to get on and off the bus, how to behave and the basketball skills they will need to be successful on a high school team. One year was enough for me, and I will never take my junior high coaches for granted."

After Pflugerville, Cathy coached Austin's Westlake Chaparrals for 22 years, leading them to three state championships. She left Westlake for







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the chance to be the head coach of the Duncanville Pantherettes and assistant athletic director. Each of the 13 seasons Cathy has coached the Pantherettes,



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her team has made it to the playoffs, winning three of the five state championship games they have played. During her varsity coaching career, Cathy has a record of 987 wins and only 200 losses. *The Dallas Morning News* named her Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2013.

*USA TODAY* named her the National Coach of the Year in 2013. In 2014, she was named National High School Girl's Basketball Naismith Coach of the Year and the Pat Summit Women's Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year.







In the 35 years she has coached, Cathy has never had a losing record.

Winning records, state championships and undefeated teams fill Cathy's résumé, but the work she is most proud of is seeing the groups of girls that join her team grow up before her eyes. For the past 35 years, Cathy and her group of coaches have trained their players to become strong, hardworking, independent and self-sufficient young women. Just as they were invested in as young girls, Cathy's varsity team gives back to the young girls in the community. Knowing the importance of training



them when they are as young as fifth grade, Cathy's team volunteers their time teaching basketball skills to the elementary and junior high girls.

"We teach the girls they are part of something that is bigger than anything

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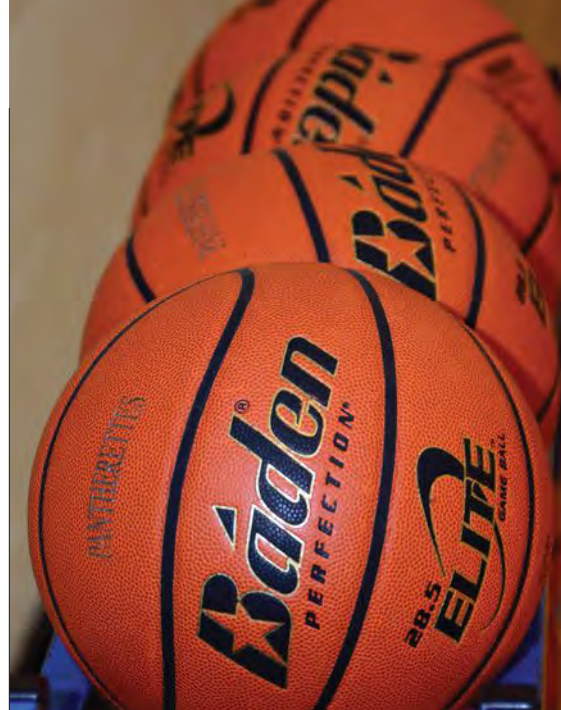
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they can do on their own," Cathy said. "My favorite part of coaching is seeing them buy in to being part of a team and then growing up before my eyes. The legacy we have here at Duncanville is so great that the girls work really hard to be a part of it. They give back so the legacy can extend past their time on the team, because once you are a Pantherette, you will always be a Pantherette."

Five years ago, Cathy became Duncanville's athletic director. She spends all her mornings attending to



those responsibilities and then after lunch puts on her coach's hat and works with her assistant coaches and team. Days rarely end before dinner for Cathy and often last late into the night. She does not take summers off and is even busy during the off-season, traveling to watch her team play on weekends in a league not associated with the school. "Our girls love to be on a team together," Cathy said. "They made the decision to stick



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together in the off-season a few years ago, and my husband, Jack, and a skills coach, Erion Harris, coach them. UIL rules don't allow me to coach or help them in the off-season, but I'm at every game to cheer them on."

Even with a busy schedule during the year, Cathy and Jack have discovered a way to spend more time with each other. He announces and plays music for all of the Pantherette home games and goes on the road with them to keep the books at every away game. They travel together on those rare free weekends to see their three daughters and eight grandchildren.

**"I HAVE NEVER  
WORKED A DAY IN MY  
LIFE, BUT HAVE BEEN  
GOING TO SCHOOL FOR  
53 YEARS."**

At the end of every day, they retreat to their quiet home where she likes to garden when time allows.

Cathy's work has been a big part of her life, and she does not see it slowing down anytime soon. Often asked whether she will leave high school for the world of collegiate basketball, Cathy's answer is always the same. "I could never be a recruiter for college basketball," Cathy said. "I love working with the girls and training them to be better players and strong women. High school basketball is where I'm supposed to be." **NOW**





# CEDAR HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## CLASS OF 2014 - LONGHORN LEGACY Student Success Profiles



### Cedar Hill Collegiate Senior Virginia Adams

Virginia is one of the top three students in her class at CHCHS and plans to major in chemical engineering or bioengineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Virginia has been offered a scholarship to MIT and will be the first Cedar Hill Collegiate graduate to attend the prestigious school.

After taking three years of Mandarin Chinese at CHCHS, Virginia plans to minor in the language and would like to research tissue engineering. She hopes to one day be able to grow organs for those in need of transplants.

Virginia and 79 of her CHCHS classmates recently graduated with their associate degrees from Cedar Valley College and will receive their high school diplomas on Saturday, June 7, 2014. The CHCHS Class of 2014 has received scholarship offers totalling over \$4.4 million and has logged 48,000 community service hours.



### Cedar Hill High School Senior Xavier Washington

Xavier Washington is a State Champion and an All-American on the football field, but when it came time for him to make his decision on where he wanted to continue his football career, academics was his first priority. Xavier had offers from schools like Yale and Air Force when he chose to accept a full scholarship from Northwestern University, where he plans to major in chemical engineering.

Xavier has a 3.5 GPA and scored a 21 on his ACT. When he made his decision in February, he tweeted "I am a student athlete. My major is academics, and my minor is football, and for those reasons I will be a NW Wildcat."

Xavier was one of 17 Longhorn seniors from the State Championship team who signed college scholarships this year worth a combined \$1.9 million.



## 2014-15 NEW SCHOOL HOURS

**Elementary, Intermediate and Middle Schools**  
7:45 AM - 2:45 PM Student drop-off begins at 7:15 AM

**Ninth Grade Center, Collegiate HS, CHHS**  
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## 2014-15 ONLINE REGISTRATION\* opens on August 8, 2014

\*for returning K - 12th grade students

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### U.S. News & World Report Ranks Cedar Hill Collegiate High School Among the Top High Schools

Cedar Hill Collegiate High School has been named one of the highest performing high schools in the state and nation by U.S. News & World Report 2014 Rankings.



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# A Town Within a Town

— By Beverly Shay

*Perhaps you don't know it yet, but there's a new town in the Best Southwest! Tucked away in an exclusive part of DeSoto exists a MicroSociety called Eagleopolis, complete with a mayor, city council, constitution, university, newspaper (Eagleopolis News!), post office and multiple business ventures. Eagleopolis is a young city, not quite one year old yet. So young, in fact, that the mayor is only in fifth grade! The entire city resides within Northside Elementary School, where Brandon Ward is principal, and the mostly student-run MicroSociety is a fun, relevant, real-life learning transformation.*

Paula Hagan, one of DeSoto ISD's 2011-12 Teachers of the Year, is the instructional coordinator, as well as the MicroSociety program's coordinator, at Northside. "I became a teacher because I wanted to change the world," Paula said with a smile. Over a 10-year period, both in Ohio and here in DeSoto, Paula has taught grades K through fourth. She also has a master's in education administration. "When my husband's job with Lockheed Martin





*Miya believes everyone should have fun with their jobs and learn about the real world, so they will be better equipped when they are older.*

transferred us to the Dallas area," she shared, "I was excited, because of the greater opportunity to get into the administrative side of education here."

Little did she know what that was going to entail. "Dr. Gabrielle Polk, assistant superintendent, took the MicroSociety idea to Dr. Harris, superintendent, after visiting a school that had instituted the experiment," Paula explained. "They chose Northside Elementary and Mr. Ward agreed." This past summer, a team went to San Antonio to learn how MicroSociety works. The





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program demonstrates project-based learning at its best — students finding solutions as they explore problems.

"We set weekly goals to merge fun with educational objectives," Paula informed. "Working with money, banks and incentives shows children the relevance of finding solutions using the skills they learn in math and English." Students campaigned for city council, elections were held, and DeSoto Mayor Sherman was on-hand to "swear in" the Eagleopolis mayor. "We even have a department of economic growth!" Paula added.

A quality control department monitors products created by the students. Products not judged up to par with their standards are sent back to the "drawing board," with the goal of improving student achievement. A micro university provides tutoring. Some other departments include a post office and stationary shop, a department of sanitation for recycling and the photo bucket, which includes photography for student ID badges and bulletin boards. "Our peacekeepers (police) monitor the behavior of students during market days," Paula remarked. Students purchase items needed for creating products at the warehouse. Money spent is earned through attendance and work. The going salary is \$10 per day for most students, with managers and bookkeepers earning \$15 per day.

If this sounds like a big undertaking, it has been! Not only is the implementation an exciting challenge, the schedule is rigorous as well. MicroSociety meets Monday through Thursday from 2:00-3:00 p.m. with time divided between learning MicroSociety skills and techniques mixed with educational goals, creating products for market days and developing business

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ventures. "We are definitely investing in MicroSociety as a long-term implementation here at Northside," Paula enthused.

"Because we want students to understand the relevancy of education, we are excited when



business people and members of the community confirm what the children are learning in MicroSociety," Paula said. "This program actually empowers the children to believe they can change their community." The most difficult part has been organizing the logistics and revamping the classroom schedules to include MicroSociety without losing core class time. The best part is hearing kids talk about "their businesses" with such excitement. "We have over 400 students involved, and hands-down, they love the opportunity to choose and be in charge," Paula emphasized. "They are learning a good work ethic and understanding that it takes work to prepare for real-life occupations."

Clifton Sanders presides as the judge in Eagleopolis. "I went to law school and passed my bar exam with a perfect score," the fifth-grader said. "I have always felt strongly about justice, and I don't like people being wrongly accused. I had to study a lot in law school, learning

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the difference between defense attorneys and prosecutors, as well as civil and criminal law. As judge, I will have the court pay more attention to evidence than opinion, and I will also organize investigative teams with the most up-to-date technology.” Clifton is very articulate and has big goals for his future. “I am a very detailed person,” he confessed, “so I plan on studying microbiology, but I think I would like to be an attorney or paralegal on the side. I believe I will apply to Stanford University.”

Miya Sias ran a very enthusiastic two-week mayoral campaign featuring an M&M-theme: Miya for Mayor. To be allowed the privilege of campaigning, students had to maintain 90 or above in all classes, have a positive attitude and a letter of recommendation from their homeroom teacher. “I printed out and hung my picture in the hallway. My mom helped me make a poster, and I put M&Ms everywhere,” Miya said. “My main duties are working with the city council to make laws for our city. Being a mayor is not an easy job, although it is nice to be acknowledged.” Miya believes everyone should have fun with their jobs and learn about the real world, so they will be better equipped when they are older. Her future plans include learning fashion design.

The students of the constitutional committee, made up of representatives of each home room, came up with a



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pretty impressive constitution. The group helped decide guidelines for running for office, set standards for elections and business development and submitted choices for consideration in naming the city. The constitution includes a preamble, articles detailing the legislative, executive and judicial branches, along with amendments. The preamble reads: "We the students and staff of the city of Eagleopolis at Northside Elementary, in order to give you guidance, to lay down the law and rules so you will know how to do the right thing, to describe your freedoms, to help you work together as a peaceful community, to make sure everyone is treated fairly and equally, do put in place this Constitution for the city of Eagleopolis."

Mr. Ward, Paula, the faculty and children are finding this learning initiative to be a lot of work and a lot of fun. Both Miya and Clifton find only one thing disappointing about the project. "We won't get to be here next year," Miya remarked with a slight frown.

"If only they had started MicroSociety years ago," Clifton sighed. "My least favorite part will be leaving this behind when we go on to middle school." **NOW**

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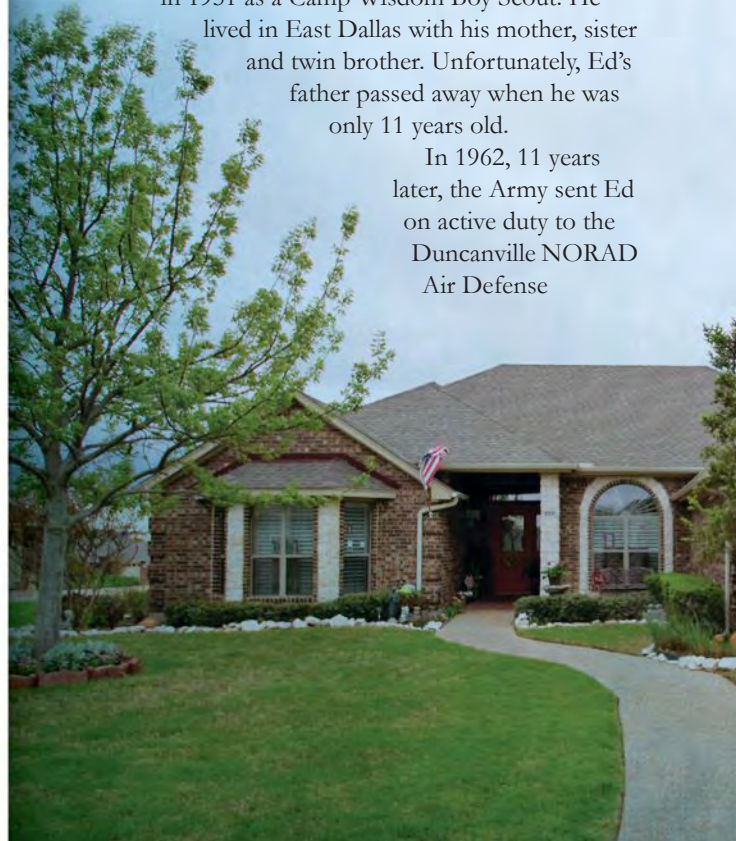
At Home With  
**Ed & Judy Purcell**

*Kissing babies was a great move for former Duncanville Mayor Ed Purcell. He attributes a similar action to winning over his wife, Judy. Ed and Judy met at the viewing window on the maternity floor of Methodist Charlton Medical Center, where Ed commented on the beauty of Judy's newborn grandchild and, in turn, won Judy's heart. "Several mutual friends had been playing cupid trying to match us up, but somehow the timing had never worked," Ed recalled. "One day, Judy decided all the planning and plotting needed to end, and she boldly called me at Compass Bank, where I worked at the time."*

Ed's secretary told Judy he was at a Lions Club luncheon and would be back at 1:00 p.m. About 10 minutes before the hour, Judy's son called and told her he and his wife were at Charlton, and their son was going to be born early. "Before Ed could have gotten the message that I called him, I was headed to the hospital," Judy recounted. "Later in the day, I called Ed back and told him where I was. Next thing I knew he, was at the maternity window with me saying how precious my grandson was. I knew immediately what good taste he had!"

Ed was just a child himself when he came to the area in 1951 as a Camp Wisdom Boy Scout. He lived in East Dallas with his mother, sister and twin brother. Unfortunately, Ed's father passed away when he was only 11 years old.

In 1962, 11 years later, the Army sent Ed on active duty to the Duncanville NORAD Air Defense







Command Headquarters, located where City Hall is today. He decided to make the area his home and eventually became the 11th mayor. Judy and her family moved to the area in 1977 from Irving. "We both lived in Duncanville until 2004, when we built our dream home in Cedar Hill," Judy explained. "Through friends we heard about Cresthaven Village, a gated retirement community, and we just fell in love with it!" The 95-home community's landscaping is kept immaculate by a homeowner's association, leaving them time to spend beautifying the interior and putting in the flowerbeds. They describe their three-bedroom, two-bath, brick-and-stone home as "country comfy."

"Almost all the furniture is antique," Judy pointed out. "We love old things."



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Their most unusual heirloom is probably the 1830 Virginia long rifle that belonged to one of Judy's ancestors. "Both our relatives served in the Civil War, and Judy has one of her ancestor's Union medals," Ed noted.



"Ed's great-great-grandfather served with Sam Houston in 1836 when Texas defeated Santa Anna and became an independent republic," Judy observed with pride. "We have a photograph of him."

Guests are greeted in the home's entryway by a turn-of-the-century hall stand and an old stained-glass window over the door. To the right visitors find a cherry parlor grand piano made in the 1920s and an oak roll top desk. Stained-glass windows can be found throughout the home, as well as hardwood floors in

the entry, living and dining rooms, where a multitude of collected treasures that mean a lot to them are arranged. Judy collects old quilts and displays them throughout the house along with paintings she has painted.

The exhibition of treasures continues into the living room, where a quilt featuring Ed's ancestors hangs over the fireplace. In the living area there is a revolving bookcase that can be officially dated to 1879 because of its furniture patent number. Also in this room are the sled coffee table, a Craftsman tool chest,

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a small lawyer's bookcase and an oak grandmother clock. "Ed collects old radios and banks," Judy noted. "We even have an old brass teller's window installed between the living and dining area." The latter item and others are a nod to the career Ed had in the banking industry. Over the teller's window is an old brass light fixture from Ed's father's dental office.

In addition to two banks in Duncanville, Ed operated two food stores. He has remained busy after retirement as a substitute teacher in the area for 11 years. For three years he was an activity director at an assisted living facility, and today spends a lot of time visiting senior citizens in Tri-Cities, many on the Crescent Place Campus.

"Ed feels very strongly about honoring the 31 heroes in the area who sacrificed for our freedom," Judy said, "and he was instrumental in bringing the War Memorial to Main Street in Duncanville." His doting wife added that Ed is honored to have been the first person to be both president of the Duncanville ISD school board and mayor of the city at the same time.

Judy is retired from Head Start of Dallas, enjoys genealogy research and is currently president of the Cedar Hill Quilters Guild. The couple has even turned their third bedroom into a computer and quilting studio. "I've been quilting for years and doing genealogy research since 1983," Judy admitted.



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"We keep trying to downsize, but are always finding things we love and have to bring them home," Judy added. "Our things look lived in, but we think it makes a comfy and welcoming place for our family and friends."

They share a community club house for parties, which is beneficial since the Purcells have four adult children, nine grandchildren and one more grandchild due on the Fourth of July. "Our family keeps us young!" Judy insisted. "We also have a small Maltese 'guard dog,' loved by all the neighbors. He is like another child."

Ed and Judy have been married more than 16 years. Because Ed had a grandfather who lived to be 100, Judy said she expects plenty of years living in the area where she and Ed fell in love. With neighbors taking turns patrolling in golf carts, along with other Citizens on

Patrol on watch all over Cedar Hill, Ed said there is always someone keeping the community safe and willing to lend a helping hand. "It truly is the best location," he said. "Judy and I are blessed to live happily ever after right here in our dream home." **NOW**



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# Second Chances

— By Callie Revell



*Pastor Mark Sorenson and his wife, Mary, have lived in Cedar Hill for 35 years. Twenty-one years ago, Mark and Mary founded Straight Street Ministries, located on Highway 67. "The name Straight Street comes from Acts chapter nine, when Paul was on a road to Damascus," Mark explained. "Paul was blinded and sent to a street called Straight, so that's where I got the name." Straight Street serves as a halfway house for men recently released from prison. "Our focus is to help them start their lives in a new and different way, to equip them with biblical counseling and a Christ-centered approach to living a new life," Mark said. "Then, they don't have to go back to prison, to drugs, to alcohol or to whatever the problem was. That's what we do here."*

The six-month program gives ex-inmates a secluded and safe place to start over. Most men at Straight Street are paroled directly there. When they arrive, they go through a foundational class before settling in. "After they've been here a couple of weeks or so, they're allowed to look for



and find work,” Mark explained. “When they get a job and begin to make money, they contribute toward their stay here. We help them to budget, so when it’s time for them to leave, they have saved some money.” One of the main goals of Straight Street is to keep the men enrolled in the program out of trouble. “We have a strict accountability as far as their time is concerned,” Mark confirmed. “If they’re not working, they need to be here. One of the problems common to those who have used drugs or alcohol is they’re impulsive and make the wrong choices. If they make the wrong choices in the wrong place at the wrong time, they’ll be in another jam. We try to help them make better choices.”

If an inmate has no place to go after prison, a halfway house like Straight Street can keep them off the streets and on the right track. The men at Straight Street come from prisons all over the state of Texas. “We may get a guy from Huntsville and then a guy from Pampa,” Mark shared. “They’re paroled to Dallas County, and we’re on a list of approved places for them to go. They’ll write us while they’re incarcerated, and we’ll send them a package with the rules and regulations. If they agree, they can come



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here when they're released."

Straight Street is quiet during the day but active at night. "Most of the guys work during the day and are here in the evening," Mark said. In the evenings, the men spend their time in rehabilitation. "We have something going on every night, usually a Bible study," he added. "We also do Celebrate

Recovery on Friday nights. We have a little chapel, and we have a service on Saturday nights." The men meet for devotions every morning before work.

Although the program is six months long, Mark prefers the men to stay at least a year. "At six months, if they're doing well and want to stay, we let them stay another six months," Mark said. "If they're just biding their time



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waiting to do something else, we let them do that.” The more time the men spend at Straight Street, the greater their chances for success. “Most men who go back to prison, go back within the first 18 months,” Mark noted. “If we can get them to stay out a year, they’ve pretty much got that battle over.”

One of Mark’s biggest challenges is helping the men at Straight Street find jobs in the community. “We deal with a lot of guys who don’t have employment skills,” he said. “They’ve been in and out of prison since they were young men. They just never developed any marketable skills. If a guy does have skills, he can usually find a job in his field.” Some employers are hesitant to hire ex-inmates, but many are very supportive. “Of course, we’ve had some guys try a job and screw up,” Mark confided. “If you’re an employer, I can understand the




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hesitation. We do appreciate it when they give the guys a chance.”

Overall, Straight Street has received support in Cedar Hill. “We have good people who believe in what we’re doing, and that helps,” Mark enthused. Some citizens are nervous about ex-inmates in the community, but Mark believes in their potential. “Most of these guys are not bad people,” he observed. “They’re people who have made poor choices and have suffered the consequences of their choices. These people aren’t dangerous. We’ve had very few problems here in 20 years.”

Mark wants the citizens of Cedar Hill to give the men at Straight Street a chance to succeed. “People are afraid of things they don’t know about, and that’s understandable,” he added. “But most of these guys are very good guys who just made some mistakes and want to change their lives.”

Mark believes Straight Street helps keep the community safe. “It takes somebody who has been counterproductive and makes them productive,” he pointed out. “When you take someone who was stealing and doing drugs, and they no longer do those things, it’s crime prevention.” Straight Street gives the men an option

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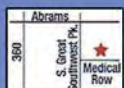
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to returning to their previous lives.  
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time in their lives,” Mark said. “We help  
them break that cycle of recidivism.”

Several men have been very successful  
after their stay at Straight Street, including  
Eldest Whitaker, who has now been  
working for the ministry for 10 years.  
“He’s a very good man,” Mark said. “He’s  
come out of many years in prison. He’s  
changed his life.” Other men have gone  
on to attend college or start families. One  
man stands out in Mark’s memory. “He  
came here, got out, got custody of his  
daughter, moved to Oklahoma, went to  
school, became an auto mechanic, works  
at a dealership and just got married to  
a nice Christian girl, and they’re doing  
well,” Mark said. “There are a number of  
guys who do go back. Unfortunately, you  
can’t help everybody, but it’s worth it for  
the ones who make it.”

Mark knows firsthand how difficult  
it is to recover from a life of addiction,  
and he truly has a passion for helping  
these men. “I used to have a drug and  
alcohol problem myself for many years,”  
Mark admitted. “You can take a man and  
change his environment, but unless *he*  
changes, there’s no change. What worked  
for me is what I preach: I gave my life to  
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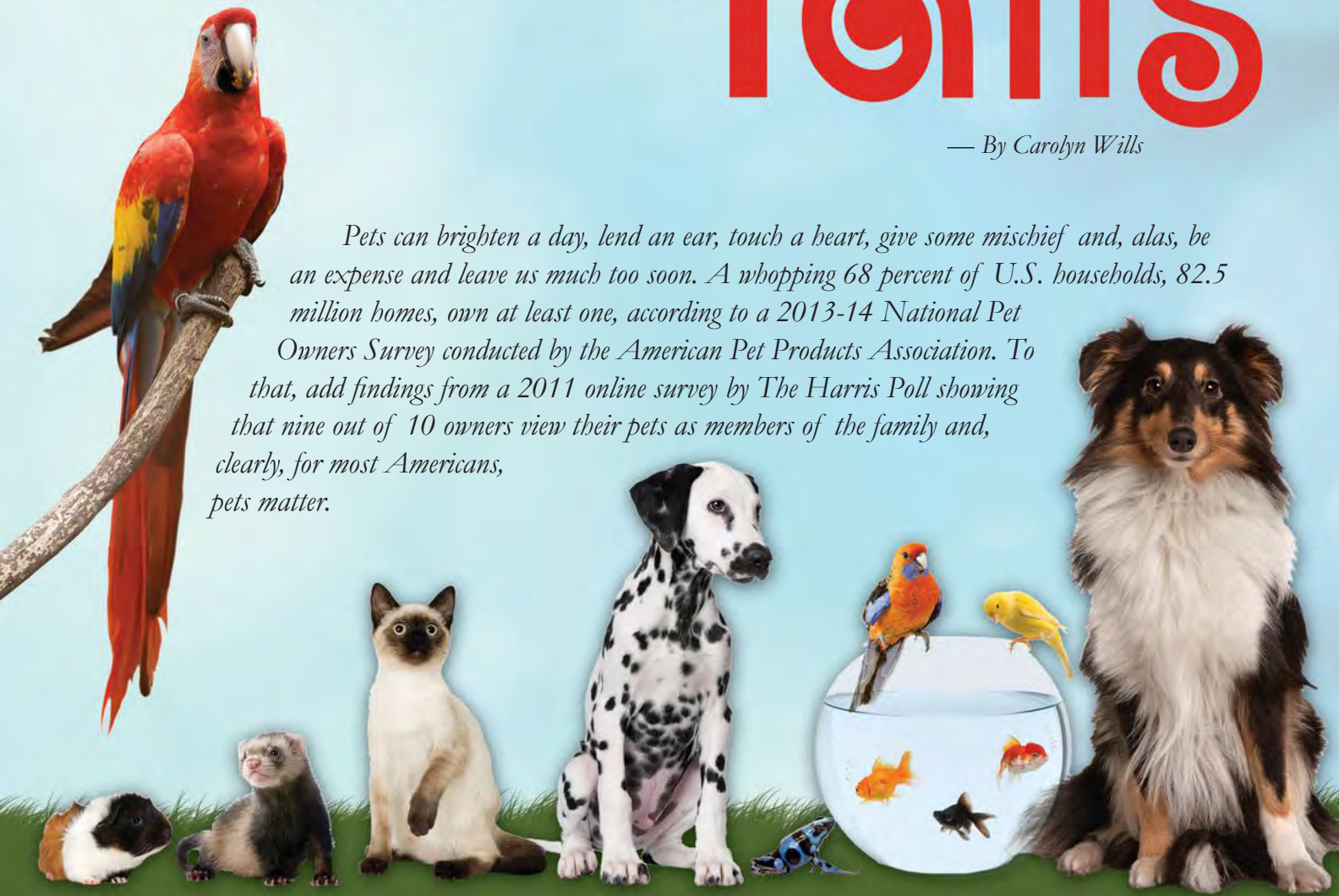
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# Wagging Tails

— By Carolyn Wills

*Pets can brighten a day, lend an ear, touch a heart, give some mischief and, alas, be an expense and leave us much too soon. A whopping 68 percent of U.S. households, 82.5 million homes, own at least one, according to a 2013-14 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association. To that, add findings from a 2011 online survey by The Harris Poll showing that nine out of 10 owners view their pets as members of the family and, clearly, for most Americans, pets matter.*



Anyone who has marveled at a cat, enjoyed the perfect horseback ride or looked into the eyes of an old dog knows the special language between human and animal. On the simplest level, pets are our companions, but they can also be conduits to physical, competitive and/or social outlets. Today, labels like “horse people” and “dog people” are familiar, and clubs, training facilities and activities exist for just about every breed, talent and interest.

Remarkably, Americans care for an estimated 20.6 million birds, 95.6 million cats, 83.3 million dogs, 8.3 million horses, 158.6 million fish, 11.5 million reptiles and 18.1 million small animals. That’s a lot of millions supporting pets, particularly against the realities of their expense and shorter life expectancy.

What, then, draws us to become “pet parents”?

**1.** Having a pet is an opportunity to care for something outside of ourselves. Pets personify unconditional love and a wondrous





connection to nature. They're also great entertainers, and as creatures of habit, can serve as a grounding force in our lives.

2. Health and welfare benefits can be found in pet ownership, too. APPA cites several studies supporting the pet connection as being good for us:



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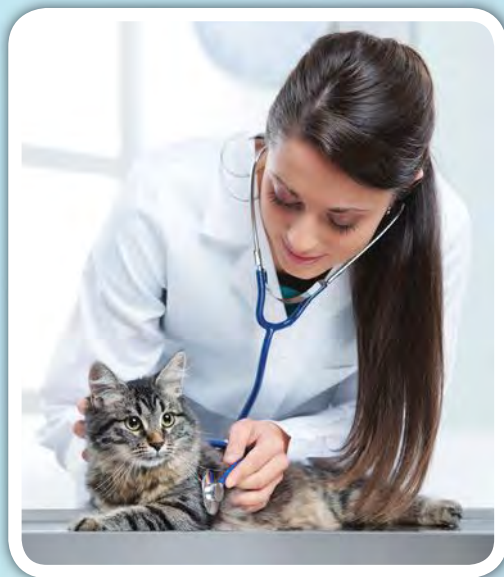



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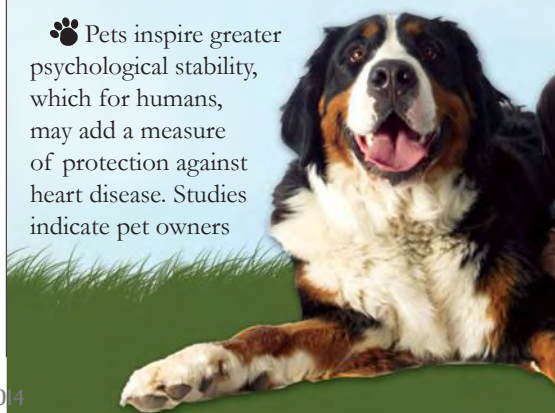


 People with hypertension who adopted a cat or dog were found to have lower blood pressure readings in stressful situations than those who did not own pets. (Dr. Karen Allen, State University of New York at Buffalo.)



 Pets have also been found to be effective at reducing human stress and anger. Walking a dog, riding a horse, petting a cat or any number of activities soothes nerves, provides physical release and promotes relaxation.

 Pets inspire greater psychological stability, which for humans, may add a measure of protection against heart disease. Studies indicate pet owners







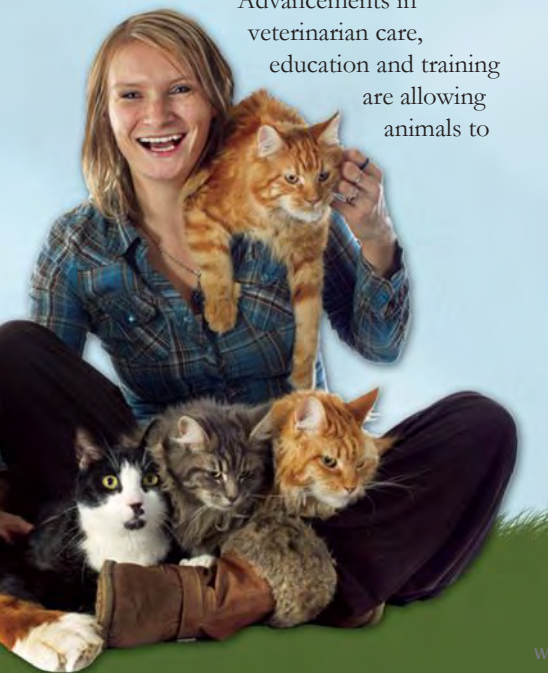
tend to make fewer doctor visits. (National Institute of Health Technology Assessment Workshop: Health Benefits of Pets.)

APPA also notes that autistic children tend to be more responsive when a pet is in the area, and children who have pets often perform better in school.

Senior citizens and dementia patients have shown a tendency to react more positively around pets. Baby boomers have the largest instances of pet ownership, and as they transition to empty nesting are keeping pets longer.

These benefits and privileges come with responsibilities. Truly there is no such thing as a free puppy, and although according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP), about 65 percent of pets are acquired from friends and family for free or at low cost, pet owners must provide medical care and prevention for their pets.

Advancements in veterinarian care, education and training are allowing animals to



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live longer and healthier. Medical care includes such basics as vaccinations, heartworm preventative (in Texas nearly 1-in-45 heartworm tests in dogs are positive), spaying/neutering and might also include microchipping, vitamins and pet insurance. Much, too, has been learned about the importance of dental maintenance.



Currently APPA estimates that, at most, 3 percent of dogs and 1 percent of cats are insured. Investing in pet insurance is on the increase, though, at an expected annual rate of 10 percent and may especially be pertinent for horse owners considering the cost of equine surgery. Annual medical expenses for a dog are generally just under \$1,000 and for a cat around \$650.

Annual costs of pet food, including treats, begin at around \$300. Where this investment ends depends on the sizes and quantity of pets in a household.

Grooming is also essential. Horses need farriers. Dogs and cats require regular grooming and nail clipping and some breeds are best groomed by a professional.

A growing population of pets, awareness of their needs and the





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many options for activities have spurred development in America's pet industry. In 2014, an estimated \$58.51 billion will be spent on pets in the U.S., and that's a lot of billions. Today's pets are being treated to orthopedic dog beds, designer clothing, IQ-raising toys, seat belt systems, automatic water and food dispensers plus a myriad of foods from basic to breed-specific to organic. Travel-related pet services, after-care (burial) services, pet day care, dog parks, pet portraits and products are all in demand.



More than at any time, people have access to pet-specific information via specialized broadcast programming, publications, social media, clinics and events, breed associations, veterinary journals and pet industry studies. Individual pets have gained fame as social media "stars" with their own Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and blogs. As the industry grows and people increasingly grasp the peril of unwanted animals and unscrupulous/uneducated breeders, more rescue operations and organizations are forming and tolerance is lessening toward all abuse of animals.

Thankfully, for those puppies, guppies, kittens, ponies, parakeets, hedgehogs, hamsters or gerbils, bunnies, ferrets, turtles or others fortunate to be adoptees of responsible and devoted pet parents, life in America is good. **NOW**



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# Transformation Process

*Elizabeth Moffitt's consulting and coaching services take businesses to a new level.*

— By Beverly Shay

Growing up as the eighth of 13 children on a large farm outside San Augustine, near Nacogdoches, Elizabeth Moffitt learned early to manage both chores and people. “We were always harvesting something,” Elizabeth recalled with a smile. “We ate what we grew, worked hard chopping wood, feeding animals and tending crops.” This is the same work ethic she brings to her business, The Christopher Quinn Group, Inc., named after her two sons.

Her nearly 10-year-old business provides human resource consultations and services for small- to mid-sized companies. “Often these organizations cannot hire a full-time HR department,” Elizabeth said. “But even with one employee, a human resource professional can offer guidance in the laws and regulations in human

capital.” She coaches either on-site or on-call as needed. “In addition to face-to-face interviews, I use technology to ensure clients’ needs are met to their satisfaction.” To help organizations hire quality staff, Elizabeth begins by developing employment candidates.

“One issue I consistently find as a career coach is people not knowing how to make a good first impression, either in presentation of themselves or their skills,” Elizabeth said. “We work on writing clear, concise résumés; avoiding cliché responses in both written and oral situations; and practical interviewing techniques.” Her coaching helps clients identify transferrable skills and enables them to speak confidently about themselves, so they can advance or obtain employment.



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Elizabeth initially worked for a telecommunications company as a temp. Within two weeks, she advanced to a sales assistant position in which she worked for four years. "I wanted to get into their personnel department as it was called then," Elizabeth explained. "The company paid for both my undergraduate and master's studies in human resources and training. Even though I was married, rearing two boys and working full time, I was able to earn both degrees in four years. I am a person who does not let barriers keep me from accomplishing my goals, and now I instill this same perspective in my clients."

As a recruiter for that company, Elizabeth realized how unprepared many people were. She was repeatedly asked by candidates why they weren't being hired, given promotions or cross-hired within the company. She taught them how to improve their résumés and provided interview coaching. Candidates were grateful to learn how to enhance their communication and presentation skills. "I knew then," she added, "that I could really help a lot of people if I opened my own business."

After 14 years in corporate America, Elizabeth found herself fulfilling a longtime dream: functioning as an independent HR department for companies large and small. Her work involves hiring employees, conducting performance reviews, providing executive coaching and assisting in disciplinary situations. For some clients, she also manages talent acquisition and staff development. For others, she develops their own HR departments from the ground up. Currently, she serves about 15 clients that include land management, security and vending companies, as well as nonprofit agencies, churches and ministries. For executives, she functions as a sounding board to help them determine their companies' goals and strategies, organize their ideas and problem solve so that they are better able to meet the needs of their customers.

Elizabeth wants her clients to walk away with more than they expected. "I teach them to invest in themselves, their business and their future success," Elizabeth said. "I encourage them to break barriers, to acknowledge their worth and growth, and to enjoy the journey. Really, it is a transformation process." **NOW**



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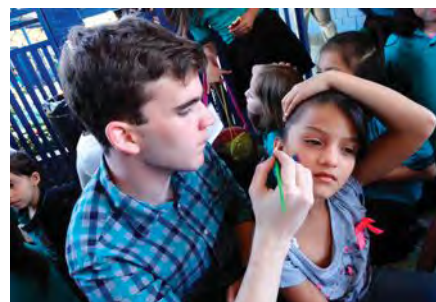




*Yolanda Bledsoe, an operating room nurse at Methodist Charlton Medical Center, is proud of her 8-year-old son, Jerry, who runs for USA Track and Field and recently participated in the National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championship.*



*Adrianna Barfield of Duncanville shows off her mom's top choice on College T-Shirt Day at school.*



*Trinity Christian School senior Michael Creamer paints the face of a child during play time on their senior ministry trip to Costa Rica.*



*Mya Sias (mayor of Northside's Eagleopolis) and Virica Johnson catch a 14-inch catfish at the kids' fishing event in DeSoto.*



*Twenty Kohl's employees help beautify the campus at Meadows Elementary School in DeSoto.*



*Morgan Lee of DeSoto and Jordan Lage of Cedar Hill smile after a cheer performance at their school.*



*DeSoto High School students and TCU Community Scholars recipients Mukamtagara Walker-Williams and Marcus McGarity are happy to receive their awards.*



*Nell Strother, Xi Rho Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi's Woman of the Year last year, presents Linda Stottlemire (left) as 2013/2014 Woman of the Year.*



*During their senior ministry trip to Costa Rica, TCS student Treyvaughn August comforts a child whose house had burned to the ground.*





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# What is Asset Allocation and How Does it Work?

Asset allocation is a technique used to spread your investment dollars across several asset categories. Stocks, bonds, cash or cash alternatives are the most common components of an asset allocation strategy. However, others may be available and appropriate as well. The general goal is to minimize volatility while maximizing return (though asset allocation alone can't ensure a profit or eliminate the risk of a loss). The process involves dividing your investment dollars among asset categories that do not all respond to the same market forces in the same way at the same time. Though there are no guarantees, ideally, if your investments in one category are performing poorly, you will have assets in another category that are performing well. The gains in the latter will offset the losses in the former, minimizing the overall effect on your portfolio. Remember that all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there can be no guarantee that any investing strategy will be successful.

The number of asset categories you select for your portfolio and the percentage of portfolio dollars you allocate to each category will depend, in large part, on the size of your portfolio, your tolerance for risk, your investment goals and your time horizon (i.e., how long you plan to keep your money invested). A simple portfolio may include as few as three investment categories, with a percentage of dollars divided among, for example, cash alternatives, bonds and stocks. A more complex portfolio may include many more asset categories or break down each of the

broader asset categories into subcategories (for example, the category "stocks" might be further divided into subcategories such as large cap stocks, small cap stocks, international stocks, high-tech stocks and so on).

Determining an appropriate asset allocation may be the most important single investment decision you make, because it will likely have more impact on your overall return than the selection of individual investments. Don't hesitate to get expert help if you need it. And be sure to periodically review your portfolio to ensure that your chosen mix of investments continues to serve your investment needs as your circumstances change over time. **NOW**

*This information was developed by Broadridge, an independent third party. It is general in nature, is not a complete statement of all information necessary for making an investment decision and is not a recommendation or a solicitation to buy or sell any security. Investments and strategies mentioned may not be suitable for all investors. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Raymond James & Associates, Inc. member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC does not provide advice on tax, legal or mortgage issues. These matters should be discussed with an appropriate professional.*

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*Todd Simmons is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.*

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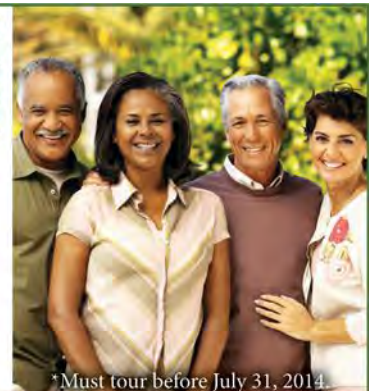
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CH Music in the Park: 8:00 p.m., Valley Ridge Park. **6th:** Outer Circle; **13th:** Island Boogie; **20th:** Phyrework; **27th:** Jukebox Jam. [www.cedarhilltx.com/music](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/music).

### June 2 — August 6

DeSoto Art League Annual Art Show. **June 6:** Artist's Reception: 6:00 p.m., City Hall. (469) 337-8367.

### June 7

Youth Fishing Tournament (ages 4-16): 8:00 a.m.-noon, Village Ridge Park Pond, 2850 Park Ridge Dr. Bring poles; bait/tackle provided. Sponsors: CH Parks/Rec. Dept. and Dallas Bass Hookers Club. (972) 291-5130 or [cedarhilltx.com/fish](http://cedarhilltx.com/fish).

DeSoto's Creekfest: 7:30 a.m.: Fit/Faithful Walk: \$10. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Soul Sistah Expo; 4:00-10:00 p.m. Food, fun, activities and Evelyn Champagne King.

### Beginning June 9

Swimming lessons. [www.cedarhilltx.com/swim](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/swim) or (972) 291-5130.

### June 9 — 26, July 7 — 24

LP Sumer Dance Camp (ages 5-16): **June**

**9-26:** Session 1; **July 7-24:** Session 2. Mon.-Thur.: 12:15-5:30 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr. Register: (972) 293-5288.

### June 9 — August 1

Camp Cedar Hill @ Dogwood Canyon (ages 6-12). Explore canyon via technology, animal encounters, recreation and art: [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com).

### June 9 — August 8

OTG Elite U Summer Basketball Camp (ages 8-17): Mon.-Fri.: 8:30 am-noon. CH Rec. Ctr. Skills, competitions/awards, breakfast/lunch. [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com).

### June 14

2014 Juneteenth Festival: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Armstrong Park, DV. Best Southwest honors Juneteenth: food, entertainment and fun. [www.cedarhilltx.com/juneteenth](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/juneteenth).

### June 16 — 27

Duncanville Community Theatre Kidz Klass: 9:00 a.m.-noon. (972) 780-5707.

### June 20

World's Largest Swim Lesson: 10:00 a.m., Crawford Park Pool. Aiming for Guinness World Record. (972) 291-5130. [www.worldslargestswimlessons](http://www.worldslargestswimlessons).

### June 21

Climb Out of the Darkness: 10:30 a.m., Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 F.M. 1382, CH. For those suffering postpartum depression or pregnancy, childbirth-related issues. [www.postpartumprogress.org/climb-out-of-the-darkness/](http://www.postpartumprogress.org/climb-out-of-the-darkness/).

Hip-hop Summit: 7:00 p.m., DeSoto Corner Theatre. Hip-hop artists, Battle of the DJs, competitions, raffles. Advance: \$7; at door: \$10.

### June 26 — 29

50th Class Reunion: James Madison and Franklin D. Roosevelt High Schools: For details: Jo Evelyn: (972) 754-5710 or Kaylene: (972) 803-8079.

### June 26

Movie Night at the Rec: dusk, CH Rec. Ctr. [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com).

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

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## In the Kitchen With Terri Kordsmeier

— By Beverly Shay

Terri Kordsmeier is an admitted Food Network junkie. “I watch my favorite chefs for hours,” Terri shared. “Thankfully, I have downloaded all the recipes! Both my parents are Italian, and my mom is from Sicily, so I naturally gravitate toward Italian cooking.” Born in New York City, she’s very fussy about her pizza.

“My husband and I love to travel, try out new restaurants and spend time with family,” Terri remarked. “As a new grandma, I can’t wait to teach my granddaughter some family recipes.” Terri, who’s been part of a fire department family since her brother joined the FDNY in 1965, loves her job as administrative assistant for the DeSoto Fire Department. **NOW**

### Strawberry Bruschetta

*This works as either an appetizer or a dessert.*

- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar**
- 1 lb. fresh strawberries, washed and diced**
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves**
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste**
- 12 slices Italian bread**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 1 cup goat cheese, room temperature**

- 1.** Heat vinegar in a small pan over medium-low heat. Simmer until reduced by half; remove from heat and cool.
- 2.** Combine strawberries and thyme; set aside.
- 3.** Add salt, pepper and vinegar. (Let set a couple of hours or overnight if desired to enhance flavors.)
- 4.** Drizzle bread with olive oil and grill or broil on low until browned on both sides. Spread bread with goat cheese. Spoon strawberry mixture over goat cheese.

### Spaghetti Carbonara

- 3 eggs**
- 1/4 cup milk or half-and-half**
- 3/4 cup Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, grated**
- 1/4 cup fresh Italian parsley, diced**
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 3 or 4 cloves garlic, minced**
- 1/2 lb. ham or pancetta, thinly sliced and diced**
- 1 lb. spaghetti, linguini or bow tie pasta**
- 1/2 stick butter**

- 1.** In a small bowl, mix eggs. Add next 4 ingredients; set aside.
- 2.** In a medium saucepan, add oil and garlic; sauté over medium-low heat until fragrant. Add ham or pancetta; heat for 5-10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- 3.** Meanwhile, cook pasta and drain. Return

pasta to pot; add butter, tossing to coat. Pour in egg mixture and stir. Add meat and blend together.

### Mushrooms Parmesan

- 1 lb. mushrooms with 1- to 2-inch caps**
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil (divided use)**
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped**
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped**
- 1/3 cup Progresso seasoned Italian bread crumbs**
- 3 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, grated**
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/8 tsp. dry oregano**

- 1.** Lightly oil shallow 2-qt. casserole dish. Rinse mushrooms; remove and finely chop stems. Set mushroom caps aside.
- 2.** Heat 2 Tbsp. oil over medium heat; add stems, onion and garlic. Cook until lightly browned.
- 3.** Combine bread crumbs, Parmesan, parsley, salt and oregano; add to onion mixture. Turn off heat. Lightly pile mixture into mushroom caps; drizzle remaining oil over mushrooms.
- 4.** Bake at 400 F for 15-20 minutes, until tops are browned.

### Classic Bruschetta

- 8 ripe plum tomatoes, diced**
- 1/3 cup fresh basil, chopped**
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped**
- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar**
- 1 tsp. olive oil**
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper**
- 1 loaf Italian bread, sliced**
- 1/4 cup Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, slivered**

- 1.** In a bowl, toss together tomatoes, basil and garlic. Mix in vinegar, oil, salt and pepper.
- 2.** Drizzle sliced bread with oil; broil on low until lightly browned.
- 3.** Serve bruschetta on toasted bread; top with slivered cheese.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



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