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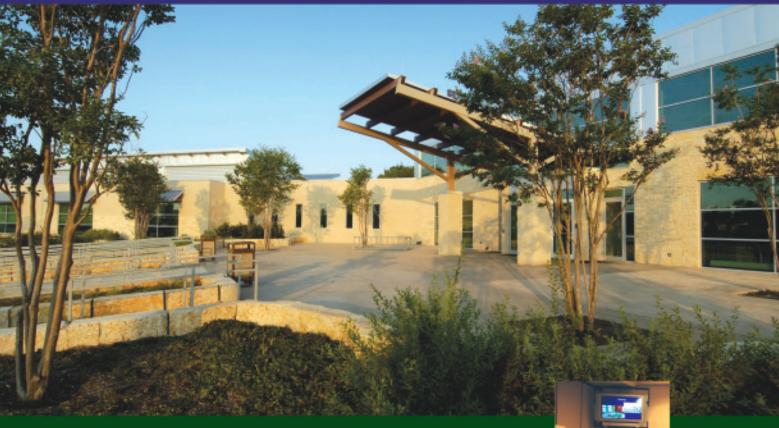
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On The Cover

Guitarist Krisz Simonfalvi has a passion for presenting the relevance of faith through music.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

Editor's Note

Hello, Southwest Friends,

August has never struck me as a really exciting month, so I did a little (very little) research to see what is special about August. I figured we were off to a good start with

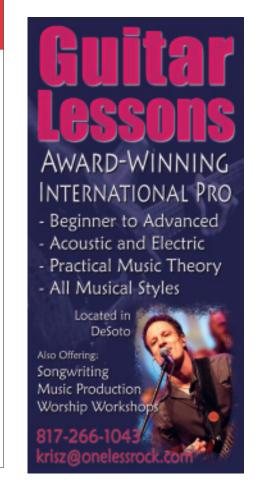
August 7 being National Kid Day and American Family Day, but then I figured someone must have found August as uninspirational as I had, and they just made a bunch of stuff up.

Check it out: 8 – National Waffle Day; 9 – International Art Appreciation Day (reasonable); 11 – Play in the Sand Day (now we're talking); 13 – International Lefthanders Day; 15 – National Relaxation Day (nice); 17 – Joke Day; 19 – National Potato Day; 22 – National Tooth Fairy Day; 23 – National Sponge Cake Day; 24 – National Peach Pie Day (mmm!); 25 – National Banana Split Day; 28 – Dream Day; 30 – National Toasted Marshmallow Day.

Yep, there you have it – someone was seriously bored, and now you can pick your favorite "holiday" and live it up. Grab your copy of *SouthwestNOW* on August 15, find a place in the shade and give the day your best non-effort.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor



















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I used to tell my children, "God will allow you to grow up where you will be best prepared to fulfill the destiny He has planned for you." In my mind that meant the best environment possible. For Pat Ford, her childhood did prepare her for her destiny, although most would not define the environment or the circumstances as anywhere near the best possible.

"My mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and we had a hard life as I grew up rather poverty-stricken in southeast Oak Cliff. I turned to drugs and became a teenage mother at 16, which is why I am working with youth now," Pat declared. "I hope to prevent others from choosing the route I did, and help those who already have."

The turning point for Pat came when she was 25 and had lung surgery to repair damage caused by smoking. "When I came home, and the tube they had put in my side fell out in the shower, I cried out to God, asking Him to heal me, promising if He did, I would serve Him the rest of my life," she recalled. "I had been attending two Bible studies, one with my dad at the Seventh Day Adventist church and another with Jehovah Witnesses. I soon joined my father in attending the Seventh Day Adventist church in Oak Cliff."

Pat completed a nursing assistant program, a career path she

continues to pursue, feeling it is part of the Lord's purpose for her within the community. She learned community service from her church's involvement on the streets, meeting, befriending and providing food, clothing and furniture to the needy. The Dallas Recreation Center manager in Oak Cliff asked Pat to start programs similar to those of the Pathfinders Club at her church. So she has organized classes in praise dance, mime, drums and community choir. Her church club purchased center memberships for kids to participate in the programs.

But Pat, a Cedar Hill resident, was not content to work only in Oak Cliff. She can spot young people in need anywhere, and she is not content to see a need and do nothing about it. Every weekend, she rotates the youth she brings to her home for oneon-one loving and mentoring, adding five to nine kids to her own houseful.

"What I really needed was a center, a place bigger than my home, where more kids could come at one time," Pat remarked.

She certainly is not shy or hesitant about seeking, finding, involving and partnering with sponsors, such as: UNT (the University of North Texas), Albertsons, Tom Thumb, Texas Rangers (they donate tickets), KGGR 10.40 AM radio and Job Core. After much searching, she acquired property in Lancaster.

"I began the arduous work of cleaning up the property, which had been vacated for some time and needed lots of renovation. I worked every free moment I had, on my own, with my family, with the kids staying with us," Pat stated matter-of-factly. "When one of my patients asked about my weekend plans, I told him

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Cedar Hill WOW-

I would be bringing nine children with me to a health fair. I told him about my nonprofit ministry and my need for a licensed general contractor in order to receive help from Job Core. He introduced me to Daryl Gibson, a contractor, who then introduced me to Matt King, an architect. Both of these men have offered their services free of charge."

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Pat related. All of these things she has been doing all along in Oak Cliff, in her church, in her home. Those who know the intricacies and work involved in acquiring nonprofit status agree that something of a miracle, or at least huge favor, occurred when Pat got her 501(c) (3), nonprofit status for her ministry, Dallas Community Fellowship, Inc. (DCFI) in only three weeks.

"I have so many people to thank. Three women have helped with grant writing: Lois, LaVerne and Carolyn, who is also a CPA. Michelle McKamy, occupational therapist, and Brenda Patrick head up our health and physical fitness team. I don't want to leave anyone out," she paused. "My husband, Bobby, is hugely supportive and takes care of the finances for me."

"I knew what I was getting into when I married Pat 18 years ago," said Bobby, a giant of a man, whose soft-spoken manner clues you in to the deep heart of compassion hiding in his chest. No great wonder they got together. "People told me

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Cedar Hill NOW

I had my work cut out for me when they heard we were planning to marry. But I don't mind. Her passion and persistence have opened doors for us we never thought would open," Bobby remarked.

Pat further explained, "I can't see someone hurting without helping, because I remember when I did not have what I needed. Every night when I lie down to sleep, I can say, 'Thank you.' The rest of my life is His. I don't want to do anything else but serve God and His people. I am still learning to go to God with the worries that come with such a big vision, but I keep confessing He will meet all my needs, and He has. I am still growing in grace."

Pat believes the children, especially inner-city children who have only known poverty and not much in the way of parenting, need to be kept busy and introduced to healthy exhaustion through physical exercise, trips to nature trails and lakeside activities. "We also teach the kids hygiene, caring for their bodies physically and eating right, something they can't do much about for themselves. But they need to know. We always try to reach the parents, as well, getting them into GED and parenting classes. When we learn of the family needs, we try to provide or at least connect them with those who can," Pat stated. "Seeing their home life helps you understand why these children are often headed for trouble."

Her volunteer staff instills leadership skills and a sense of responsibility in a variety of ways. Children are trained in office skills and are involved in teaching drums, mime and drama. Henry Wilson, of Humane Housing, will be teaching kids remodeling skills, and Russell Thompson of Succeed, will work with middle-school children, teaching them business and entrepreneurial skills. "It is crucial to catch kids at this critical age and teach them about setting goals for their future," Pat remarked. Simply stated, this woman and her staff believe and act as they do because, as Pat often states, "Our children are our greatest assets."

Editor's Note: For more information about this ministry center, visit http://www. dallascommunityfellowshipinc.webs.com/.

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— By Katrina D. McNair



If you ever find yourself in need of the expertise of a local fire department or ambulance personnel, you will find someone with more than just the knowledge of how to put out a fire or tend to a wound — if they are graduates of the DeSoto Fire Academy. The DeSoto Fire Academy is approved by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for the training of future firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Located on a stretch of Wintergreen Road, the Academy was created in 1980, and its current facility was built in 2006. The facility, at roughly 6,000 square feet, has three classrooms, a resource library, a break room and a large outside area known as the "drill field" where students practice extinguishing fires, extracting people from overturned cars and more.

Joe Brown, training center coordinator, has been a firefighter for 30 years. In college, he aspired to be a school teacher, but was able to secure employment only as a substitute teacher. One day, a friend suggested he look into becoming a firefighter. Though he initially balked at the idea, his friend was persistent and now he cannot imagine doing anything else.

His original passion for teaching is part of the reason the Academy stands today. When DeSoto was in need of further training for recently hired firefighters, Joe and other firefighters took on the task of teaching. "We would train in what used to be our bedroom [at the station]," Joe remarked. "We kept on doing it, and other departments would ask, 'If you all are having class, can I send my recruits over?""

From there, the idea took off. "I was very fortunate to get the support of the city fathers," he said. "They gave me the funds to build. It used to be in one room, this size, at the old fire station," he said, pointing to a single training room. "I guess they took notice to what was going on and what we were doing. I went to ask them about getting some showers in there one day and they said, 'Let's sit down and talk."' That talk led to the creation of the DeSoto Fire Academy.











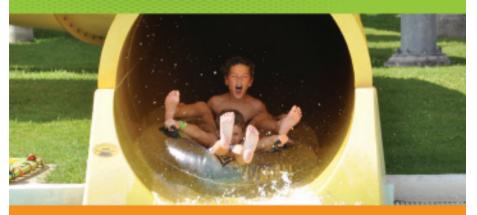
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DeSoto VOW

According to Joe, there are roughly 12 training facilities for firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in the North Texas area. As in real estate, one of the selling points of the DeSoto Fire Academy is its prime location and their ability to produce graduates of some of the best training around. "South of the

"YOU'VE GOT TO PUT YOUR MIND TOWARD THE FACT YOU'VE GOT TO HELP PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE."

Trinity, there is nothing like what we have here," he said. "We're not as big as some, but [as to] our facility and its location — we're unique in that aspect." To date, Joe estimates 1,500 to 2,000 students have graduated from the Academy, with classes lasting 16 weeks. At this time, roughly 22 instructors teach at the Academy.

As far as training, the drill field, with its four-story tower, gives students a place where they can practice much of what they may encounter once they are employed with a fire station or ambulance service. "We can simulate anything out there," Joe said. "We have the ability even to go underground, and use that to simulate conditions where we have to rescue people who are trapped underground. We utilize the drill field as much as we can." Joe Pool Lake also serves as a training site for practicing water rescues.

Students Torey Matthews and Jennifer Valdez, both 24, explained while the location of the facility was a definite plus, there was more that went into their decision to attend the DeSoto Academy. "I heard from people about the facility here," Torey admitted. "And having the night classes was a plus. It's very convenient for someone like me who also works full time while I'm training. The Web site was very informative."

Jennifer, who also works full time and takes advantage of the night courses, was swayed by the school's reputation, but also appreciates the camaraderie of her classmates and their desire to see each other succeed. Though she was intimidated being the only woman in her class, she said her classmates have been nothing but supportive. "At first I doubted it, but they treat me like a sister," she said. "One thing that has





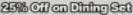
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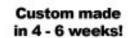
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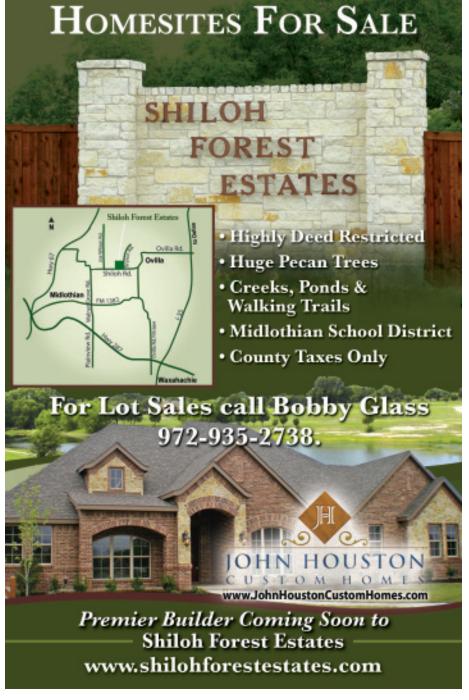
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DeSotoNOW

really inspired me is when we do our PT (physical training), all of them are cheering me on and tell me, 'Good job!' when I'm finished."

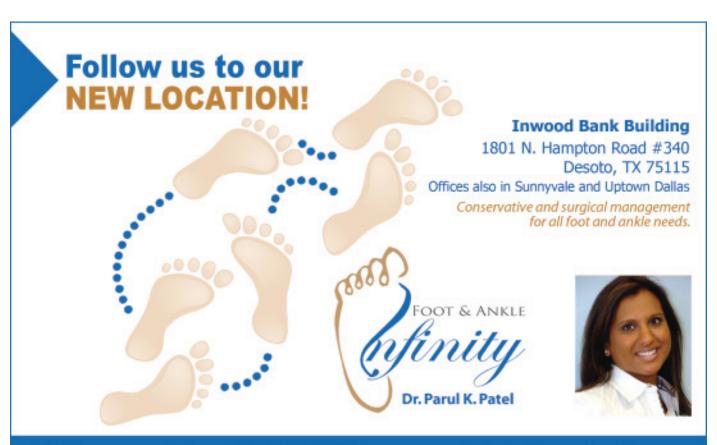
"We all look out for each other," added Torey, who is also the class president. "Everybody here is your family."

An additional benefit of training at the DeSoto Fire Academy is provided via a partnership with Cedar Valley College. Once enrolled in the Academy, students are dually enrolled in Cedar Valley and earn credits through the Continuing Education Division. These credits can be used as Life Experience Credits for an associate and/or a bachelor's degree at colleges and universities.

To encourage local students to look to their own backyard for training, a scholarship offered to DeSoto High School graduates is available to pay for tuition and protective fire gear. Tuition for the Academy is currently around \$2,200, and the cost of full protective gear (boots, helmet, jacket, gloves, etc.) can cost as much as \$1,700. Though equipment is available for leasing through the school, the scholarship is invaluable for a student in need who wants to make firefighting and emergency services their career.

The scholarships, one offered for firefighter trainees and one for EMT classes, have gone largely unused since their inception eight years ago; only three students have taken advantage of them. "We are contemplating broadening it a little bit more," Joe said, acknowledging the scholarship availability makes the school much more appealing to those who live outside of the DeSoto area.

Beyond teaching the students how to put out fires, check vital signs or conduct water rescues, Joe wants the students to embrace their role as public servants. "We pretty much tell students we are going to turn out a complete package," he said. "To me, it's back to basics. Yes, sir; no, sir. Yes, ma'am; no, ma'am.' You've got to be respectful. You've got to put your mind toward the fact you've got to help people, regardless of who they are. A lot of these kids don't know that. I tell them, 'You might as well start thinking this way — there is no I. You always have someone you have to look out for, other than yourself." TOW



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Duncanville WOW



Founded in 1970, the Duncanville Women's Club (DWC) initially was social in purpose. "At first it was called the Newcomers Club, and women were considered active members for only two years; then they were designated as associate members," remarked Marge Dellert, a member since 1982. "It was a way to welcome women into the neighborhood. Only women living within the boundaries of the Duncanville Independent School District were eligible for membership."

- By Beverly Shay

The group has made many procedural changes over the years, the major ones being elimination of limited active membership, changing the six-month term of office to a one-year term and opening membership boundaries to include the greater southwest: Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Midlothian, Red Oak, Ovilla, Grand Prairie, as well as women from Dallas.

"Our main event is the joint monthly meeting, featuring a luncheon, program and business, held at the Golf Club of Dallas. We invite authors, musicians, theater people, columnists," explained Mary Hayton, who joined in 1983, ticking off remembered speakers on her finger. "Rosemary Rumbley is a great favorite. Oh, and we've done fashion shows. At our 40th anniversary celebration this year, Coldwater Creek provided clothing, which some of our members modeled."

Activities include such things as games, cards, bridge, quilting,

heritage (history) and book discussions. "Really it just depends on who is interested in what. Those with a specific interest can invite others with the same interest to their home for coffee and an activity. All individual activities, except for field trips, are in people's homes," explained Mary. "You really get to know each other in the smaller groups." Of the approximately 125 members, most are upwards of 40 with a nucleus of 30-40 women who regularly participate in activities.

Their motto? The women paused, looking at one another, and then Mary served up an answer they were all pleased with: "Let's eat! Eat and talk," she amended. They all agreed just about everything they do involves food. "It's because we have such wonderful cooks."

"An experienced DWC member can always eat and talk at the same time," quipped Betty Michalski, who joined the group in 1990.

"Our purpose has developed as well," Betty was quick to point out. "While we continue to meet socially and provide numerous activities to meet various interests, we also are very much involved in outreach to the community. Each December, we have a silent and live auction and we raffle a quilt (our largest fundraising item) made by our quilting group, to raise funds for next year's community service projects, such things as donating school supplies to the Duncanville Outreach Ministry and supporting the

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Welcome Aboard!



The 2010-2011 school year is just around the corner, and Duncanville ISD is preparing to embark on another year of engaging educational adventures. We look forward to welcoming approximately 12,500 students on August 23,

and hope that you'll join us! Registration will be held the first two weeks in August. Students new to the district and all students entering grades 7-12 are required to attend registration; returning elementary and intermediate students (grades K-6) are automatically registered and are not required to attend registration prior to the first day of school.

New Students, Elementary/Intermediate (Grades K-6): August 4-11 Register at the school zoned for your residence

All Students, Middle School (Grades 7-8): August 4-8

Register at the school zoned for your residence

All Students, DHS and PACE: August 3-13 Register at the school zoned for your residence

Starting school for the first time?

Duncanville ISD's Pre-K Roundup will be held August 2-3. Complete registration information can be found online at the district's website.

Be Prepared for the Big Day

FREE immunizations will be offered on August 2 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm at Reed Middle School. The shot clinic is available to all Duncanville ISD students.

Parents/guardians must accompany their student and bring the student's shot record. Shots are given on a first come, first served

basis and are provided by CareVan in association with the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department. For a list of other immunization clinics, please visit our website.



DUNCANVILLE COACH REPRESENTS TEXAS ON THE NATIONAL COURT

Duncanville ISD is proud to announce that the Athletic Department is receiving some national attention, Athletic Director Cathy Self-Morgan was recently named the National High School Girls Basketball Coach of the Year for 2010. Each year, the National High School Coaches Association selects 20 coaches from around the country to represent 13 different boys and girls sports. Self-Morgan is this year's only Texan. "It is very humbling, and I appreciate the honor,"

A 31-year coaching veteran, Self-Morgan just completed her 10th season at Duncarville, finishing 33-4 and leading the Pantherettes to the regional finals. She has an impressive career record of 844-191. In addition to coaching. Self-Morgan assumed the duties of district Athletic Director in 2009.



OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD



Congratulations again to the Duncanville ISD Class of 2010! Approximately 650 students received their diplomas in June. Valedictorian Nesreen Hamed (right) will attend Texas A&M University in the fall to study chemical engineering. Salutatorian Rebekah Root (left) plans to study musical theatre at Quachita Baptist University.

Going for the Gold

The United States has lost its bid to host the 2016 Olympic Summer Games, but one Duncanville ISD student will soon fight to bring an Olympic title home to the US. DHS junior Curtis Brown will sail for Team USA in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Held in Athens, Greece, the 13th Annual World Summer Games will host 7,500 athletes from 185 nations, competing in 22 Olympic-type sports. Brown says his competitive spirit is pushing him to go for the gold. "I want to win and not lose. It's inside of me, I can feel it."

Duncanville athletes have advanced to the past two Special Olympics World Summer Games. Alumnus Kendrick Lawrence was a gold medalist in the 2007 World Games in China, and Natalie Brooks competed at the 2003 Games in Ireland.

Special Olympics

Read more about these and other stories at: www.duncanvilleisd.org







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Duncanville MOW

Duncanville Community Theatre." The other women began listing other places, causes, events where they have donated funds, time and support.

"We planted bluebonnets along I-20 some years ago, and provided sandwiches for those building the wooden playground known as Kidsville in Armstrong Park," Marge said.

"We also provided a room of carpet for the Hopkins Senior Center and contributed a kitchen to Brighter Tomorrows in DeSoto," mentioned Linda Fletcher, who had been sitting quietly, albeit nodding frequently.

Various other DWC trivia was thrown out: their oldest member is 101; some special events, like their casual international evenings or theatre evenings have included husbands; when the group was younger, they held a swim party so their young people, home from college, could meet. Many of them are still close friends.

"I remember that swim party," Marge chortled. "Some younger kid threw a water balloon over the fence, and it landed right in the chocolate cream pie, which splattered on everyone! That's what loosened things and sparked conversation."

"The casual international nights are so much fun!" noted Mary. "We choose a country and a menu of that country's cuisine and e-mail recipes to the others who are coming; everyone brings something, and we all eat together. We invite as many as can be seated at a given house, sometimes 24 or more. It's one of our most popular groups and a great way to welcome newer members."

"We've published three cookbooks over the years," Marge said. Switching gears, she added, "Many of our members are retired school teachers, so they bring in interesting skills and ideas. What's so good is you can be involved at your own pace. There's no requirement as to how many or how few activity groups you participate in. We just want to provide lots of venues to be with others."

One consistent favorite is playing Mah Jong. Since you really do need to learn how to play before you can join in, they have a group that gives lessons. "I like it because you don't have partners so you



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don't feel as though you are letting anyone down. But it is a really fun game," stated Linda. "And, of course," she added with a mischievous grin, "there are always snacks."

Marge, still recalling activity groups which had not yet been mentioned, said, "One of our groups makes baby quilts for Children's Hospital and Afghans for critically ill children."

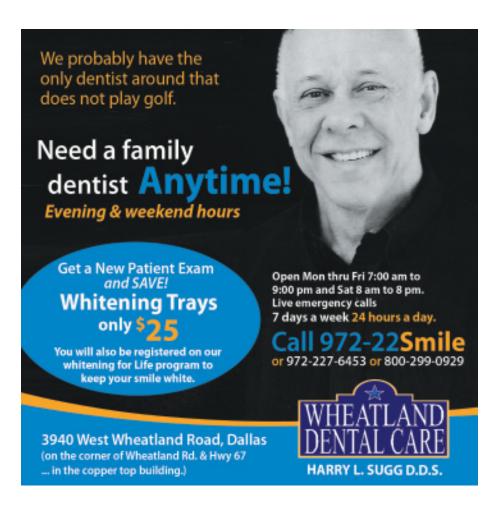
"I joined a book discussion group. I had seldom read fiction before that, but we have had some fascinating discussions," said Betty. "Which reminds me; we have donated large print books to the senior center and sponsored ESL [English as a second language] groups at the Duncanville Library."

"I really enjoyed a cruise we went on; it wasn't really sponsored by DWC, but several members and some of their spouses went. Because we already all knew each other, it made the cruise all that much more enjoyable," Mary remarked. "I think that's what I like best — the relationships and friendships you make." All the other ladies nodded.

"Another notable project," began Marge, who seems to be the self-appointed historian and librarian of knowledge, "was a quilt demonstration at the Harvest Fest. The quilt, on which some 20-25 members were working, depicts Duncanville's history through photos printed on fabric. Later it was donated to the Duncanville Library where it now hangs."

Marge had prepared a list of field trips (headed Special Events): Kimball Museum, Wine Tasting, Pocket Sandwich Theater, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Garden Party, Sea World in San Antonio, among many others.

In the words of their current president, Sharon McGinnis, "The dynamic of the DWC has always amazed me. So many women with varying personalities, accomplishments, talents interests and yet, like the quilt the DWC crafters prepare each year, all the pieces come together in an awe-inspiring mosaic of color and beauty. DWC is a 'force of nature' in that it keeps its membership highly engaged with a variety of wonderfully entertaining pastimes, as well as community service projects." ***YDW**





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Open Houses set for fall

The DeSoto Independent School District will open its doors to more than 9,200 students on Monday, August 23, the first day of classes for 2010-11. Meet the Teacher / Fall Open Houses are a time for parents and students to meet the school staff, acquaint themselves with the school facility as well as go over campus and classroom procedures and expectations. Families can also receive district handbooks and other information about the upcoming school year.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

DeSoto ISD Elementary Schools

Thursday, August 19 6:30 - 8 p.m.

East and West Middle Schools

Thursday, August 19 6:30 - 8 p.m.

McCowan Middle School

Thursday, August 26 6:30 - 8 p.m.

DeSoto Freshman Campus DeSoto High School

Tuesday, August 31 6:30 - 8 p.m.

District earns Financial GOLD

DeSoto ISD has earned a Texas Comptroller GOLD Leadership Circle Award by scoring 15 of 15 possible points on the ratings criteria. "Gold" highlights those entities that are setting the bar with their transparency efforts. DeSoto ISD provides constituents with access to annual budgets, monthly check registries and financial reports in easy-to-read, comprehensive formats. The district has added the GOLD Leadership Circle Award to the district Web site as well.

School starts August 23

School Hours of Operation

Elementaries (K to 5th) 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

(PreK: AM - 8-11:15 a.m.; PM - 12-3:15 p.m.)

 Middle School (6th to 8th)
 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

 Freshman Campus (9th)
 7:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

 High School (10th to 12th)
 7:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Registration Information

New student registration at each campus from August 10-20, 2010 from 8-11 a.m., 1-4 p.m. A child is eligible for Pre-K if the child is age 4 on or before Sept. 1 **and** qualifies for free / reduced lunch, is homeless, does not speak English or is a child of an active member of the armed forces. A child must be age 5 on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten and age 6 to enter first grade. Please bring the following for each child:

- · State-issued Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Immunizations Records
- Proof of Residency Parent must show a current Texas driver's license or Texas ID card and current gas, electric or utility receipt and a signed affidavit of residency (forms available at each school)
- · Report Cards (if applicable)

Breakfast and Lunch Information

The DeSoto ISD makes nutritional breakfasts and lunches available for all students. Menus are available at each school, online and monthly in the Focus newspaper. The free- and reducedmeal program is available for eligible students.

Code of Conduct and Student Handbooks

DeSoto ISD students and their parents are responsible for reading and understanding all policies outlined in the DeSoto ISD Code of Conduct as well as each campus student handbook. Any violations will be disciplined in accordance with the policies and the law. The Code of Conduct is online at www.desotoisd.org.

Student Dress Guidelines (Uniforms)

DeSoto ISD has a uniform dress policy for students in all grades and at all campuses. In general, students must wear white, forest green, gold or black tops and khaki, black or DeSoto plaid bottoms. District administrative staff will have complete and final judgment on all matters concerning interpretation of the student uniform dress code. The complete policy is available online at www.desotoisd.org.

Student UIL Athletics

Seventh- through twelfth-graders are eligible to participate in UIL competitive athletics. All participants must have physicals, parental acknowledgment forms, and emergency information on file before the first practice.



Eagle football is here!

The DeSoto Eagle Football Team is gearing up for another spectacular season! With two games being played during unique situations, the Eagles are ready to strive for excellence and a run into the playoffs!

Tickets for the Arlington Bowie game at Cowboys Stadium on Labor Day - Monday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. - are on sale now at the Eagle Athletics Office for just \$15.00. This game is part of the Kirk Heiberstreit Varsity Football Series that also includes Trinity, Cedar Hill and Skyline games.

On September 10-11, the Eagles will be hosting the first ever Florida vs. Texas High School Football Showcase. Over two days, four match-ups will decide which state has the best high school football program. Texas teams include State Champions Abilene, Madison and Denison facing Florida teams Cocoa, Glades Miami Central and Miramar - all powerful programs! A four-game pass is just \$35. Individual games are \$12.00 for adults and \$10 for students. Buy tickets online at www.texasvsflorida.com.

Season tickets for the regular Eagle home games are also on sale and include the DeSoto vs. Miramar game.

2010-11 EAGLES FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Fri., Aug. 20	6 p.m. Scrimmage / Meet the Eagles
Fri., Aug. 27	7:30 p.m. @ Leander
Mon., Sept. 6	7:30 p.m. Arl. Bowie @ Cowboys Stadium
Sat., Sept. 11	7:30 p.m. vs. Miramar, FL
Fri., Sept. 17	7:30 p.m. vs. Stony Point
Fri., Sept. 24	7:30 p.m. @ NOAH Homeschool (Tulsa, OK)
Th., Oct. 7	7 p.m. @ N. Mesquite
Fri., Oct. 15	7:30 p.m. vs. Tyler Lee (Homecoming)
Fri., Oct. 22	7:30 p.m. @ Mesquite Horn
Fri., Oct. 29	7:30 p.m. @ Mesquite
Fri., Nov. 5	7:30 p.m. vs. Longview (Senior Night)

Saturday, August 7, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - DeSoto Rotary Back to School Fair, Freshman Campus

August 10-20 - Registration at each school

August 20-22 - Tax-Free Weekend

Monday, August 23 - First Day of School

Monday, Sept. 6 - Labor Day Holiday; DeSoto vs.

Arlington Bowie at Cowboys Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 10-11 - Florida vs. Texas Football Showcase

Monday, Sept. 27 - Student State Fair Day

November 22-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 20-31 - Winter Break

January 14 - Teacher Preparation Day

January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

February 21 - Staff Development Day

March 14-18 - Spring Break

April 22 - Teacher Preparation Day

May 30 - Memorial Day Holiday

June 2 - Last Day of School

www.desotoisd.org

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Saturday, August 7 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Freshman Campus

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HOW TO SIGN UP!

Preregister August 2-3,
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Belt Line Conf.
 Center, 200 E. Belt Line Rd. (in back)
 - Current DeSoto ISD families will be verified by name and school
 - New DeSoto ISD families - bring parent ID, a current utility bill and each student's birth certificate

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James and Linda Zander



This Old House

— By Katrina D. McNair

Walking across the expansive front porch of David and Nancy Anderson's home, guests are welcomed by a cheerful front door with a charming pineapple-shaped door knocker. Once inside, no expansive foyer or winding staircase can be found. Rather, you will walk into a home paying homage to a different era, one which takes you back to an older time in Cedar Hill history.

Nancy and David, married for 36 years, reside in the historic Brandenburg House in Cedar Hill. Believed to have been built in 1888, the house is named for a prominent Cedar Hill banker named Robert Brandenburg. After purchasing the house in 1914, Brandenburg lived there until the 1950s. Although it traded hands several times, the Andersons purchased this gem in 1984. At the time however, their gem was very much a diamond in the rough. "Oh, it was in terrible condition," said Nancy, a retired urban planner consultant. The house had actually been condemned and took over two years to fully restore. Squatters had occupied the home as well.



"We drove past it and kind of looked at it, but I said, 'I'm not living in it,'" she laughed. However, both Nancy and David, who is a retired civil engineer, are avid antique collectors and share an interest in historic preservation. They found the house and the joy of restoring it, too tempting to resist.

The house itself resembles a Victorian country home, very popular throughout the 1860s until about 1910. Aside from the welcoming front porch, two white



wooden chairs offer a comforting place to sit, and the eight windows, with their white lace curtains along the front of the house, allow glimpses inside. The outside boasts a modest amount of gingerbread trim.

To the left of the original front entry staircase is the home's parlor. Decorated in shades of rich red and royal blue, the room features replicas of the home's original floors. In addition to several furnishings gathered from family, the room displays an antique love seat set, originally owned by Nancy's paternal grandmother, featuring beautiful inlaid ivory trim. David, an accomplished cabinet maker, created many pieces throughout the home as well. One of







the most striking items he created for the parlor is a tall case clock, called an eight-day clock. The clock is hand-wound by David each week. An antique cello also occupies space in the room. "The cello was built in Prague in about 1917. But, I don't play it anymore," he laughed. There is also a stunning display of small owls, a favorite collection of Nancy. Nancy occasionally tickles the keys of a piano also found in the parlor. "We already had a lot of the antique furniture and the pieces Dave had made," Nancy



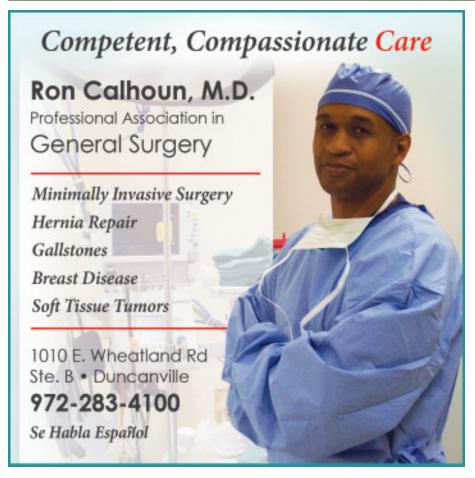
explained, "so we've tried to fit those into the house."

Across from the parlor is David's study. His historically accurate reproductions fill the room. Of particular note is a left-handed, writing-arm Windsor chair, similar to one designed and used by Thomas Jefferson. Antique lamps adorn the desks and cabinets in the room, as does a large map that David purchased in Brazil. A 100-year-old concertina, resembling an accordion, is also in the study. Upon finding evidence



a fireplace and chimney once existed in the study, the Andersons rebuilt both, according to original dimensions they discovered at the roof line and in the wall framing. There was no indoor plumbing, so that too was added during the restoration.

Past the staircase, the downstairs hallway leads to a dining room, the kitchen and off to the side, a bright sun room. The pine table in the dining room dates back to 1860. A hanging Victorian kerosene lamp fixture has been





















electrified. The kitchen, now filled with modern appliances, still retains an Old-World look, with wood cabinets, fixtures and the home's original windows. A small patent medicine bottle, resting on a window sill, was discovered under the house during its restoration. In the sun room, the couple has a Texas day bed aligned against one wall. Resembling a trundle bed, the piece gives the room a slightly rustic feel. A brass and copper light fixture hangs from the ceiling, while an antique pine chest serves as a coffee table. Five windows allow an abundance of sunlight to illuminate the room.

The Southern yellow pine stairway leading to the second floor is lined with lithographs of old farming equipment. At the top of the stairs, it is immediately noticeable how low the railing is — perhaps to one's knees — in comparison to today's railings. The ceiling height in the upstairs area, which features the master bedroom, a guest bedroom, bathroom and a room used as Nancy's study, is fairly low at about seven-and-a-half feet. The guest bath features an old-fashioned claw foot,

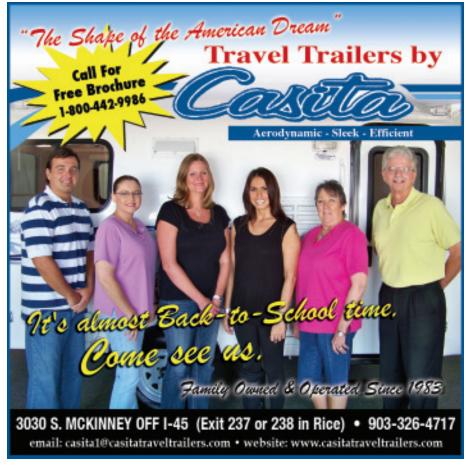
cast-iron bathtub with brass finishing, which the Andersons found in a shop in Evant, Texas. "Though we don't specifically travel to locate our finds, we seem to always come home with something. I don't want to call them junk shops or antique shops," she said smiling, "but you drive in the back country in Texas and you'll find a shop that has old things." Prints created by the couple's oldest daughter are also in the guest bath.

Calming shades of blue and white decorate

the guest bedroom with its queen-sized bed. A contemporary spread adds a modern touch in contrast to the formality maintained by a walnut chest of drawers. The couple's master bedroom was created by combining two original smaller bedrooms. Family photos line a shelf across from the bed David built. An enclosed claw-foot tub and an antique-style medicine cabinet accent the master bath.

The Andersons' home was recognized as a historical property by the city of Cedar Hill in 2009, with a plaque from the city now adorning the porch. "We debated about whether to go for the historical designation from the state or the nation. When you do that, you're limited on what you can do to the house on the exterior. We didn't know what we might want to do later, so we didn't go for it," Nancy explained. "But the city's historical designation doesn't limit you that way." Though the Andersons may not know what they want to do later, rest assured it will be historically accurate and lovingly done, just as everything else within the home has been done thus far.





Around Town NOW



Northwood University students play basketball before this year's final exams.



Door prize winners for Chamber Night Out's "Christmas in July" pose at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.



Megan Lynch smiles at the July 4th Red, White and Pool Celebration.



The Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce welcomes Alpha Omega Plumbing with a ribbon cutting ceremony.







Several residents dress as cows in honor of Chick-Fil-A's Cow Appreciation Day.

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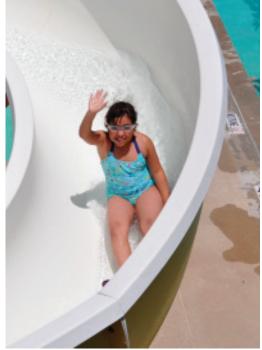
Coaches from various schools pose at the announcement of the Florida vs. Texas High School Football Showdown location.



Winner of the Mayor's Annual Cow Chip Toss, Ellis Sherman, shows off his trophy with his friends.



Bobby Waddle, Roy Orr, Honorable Yvonne Davis and Honorable Wade Emmert pose during Mayor Waddle's farewell party.



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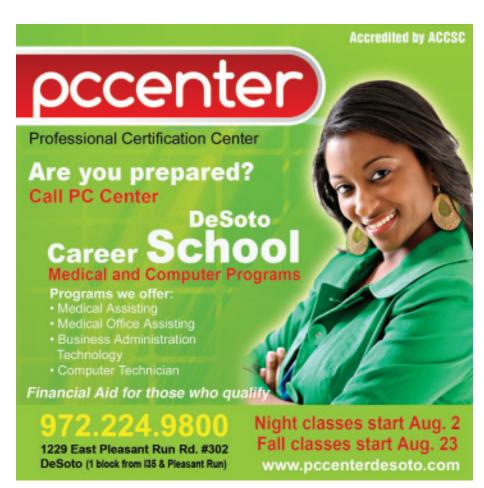


New councilman James Zander takes a picture with Marjorie Ford and Linda Butts.



Lions Club members and friends celebrating the 4th. Back row: Karen Ewing, Karen Victory, Karel Anne Tieszen and Sheila Penner. Front row: Bobby Hill, Terry Webb, Regent Jo Ann Caussey and Sandra Jo Raz.







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Around Town MOW



Paul Studebaker proudly wears the crown for winning "Ugly Lion" of the Year. The Acuna Family enjoys the Stars & Stripes Festival.





NOW Magazine Bowling team member Chris McCalla takes a break during Duncanville Bowling for Business.

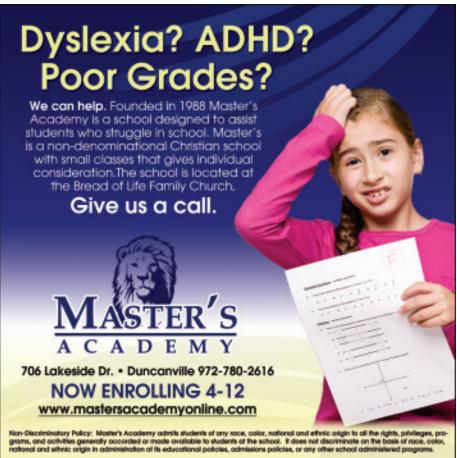


Guests gather at the 2010 Civic Auction Kick Off Party at Kitchen's Deli in the Ben Franklin Apothecary.



Ms. Classic Duncanville Geneva Brightmon dresses up for the Yankee Doodle performance at the Stars & Stripes Festival.







ArtsNOW



Strings Attache

Krisz Simonfalvi will never fulfill the anonymous quote, "Most of us go to our graves with our music still inside us." Music has spilled from his soul since he was 6. Until he was 13, he played classical guitar. Krisz was surrounded by a very musical family. His brother is a classical flautist. Krisz studied piano, choir and music theory. "Everyone wanted me to become a concert guitarist, but I wanted to play sports, so I convinced my dad to let me, because I didn't want to do music anymore," confessed Krisz, who is a native of Hungary.

"My father told me I should do whatever I chose to do with the same commitment as I gave to music." So Krisz switched to competitive flatland freestyle BMX. "I made it to the 1991 world championship in Denmark, placing fourth in my category," Krisz grinned, recalling how he had given his full commitment.

Krisz received a foundation in truth at the church his father pastored in Budapest. His "hugely creative and musical" eldest brother, Zsolt, also influenced Krisz's life. Yet Krisz did not really develop a heart for worship until Zsolt, who had gone through a rebellious phase, got saved around the time Krisz was 15. "His life changed drastically, giving me a shocking display of the Gospel in action. I found myself seeing truth for the first time, wanting my life to also reveal the truth I knew," Krisz admitted. "When Zsolt died from leukemia a few years later, I realized just how influential he had been.

"Sitting in church one day I wondered, If the guys I rode BMX

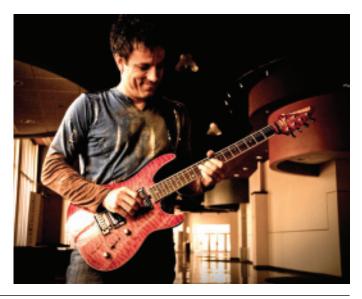
with were to come here, would they find the message relevant? I knew then I needed to come back to music as a means of presenting the relevance of faith," Krisz related. Pretty much self-taught from that point on, Krisz soon started his first rock band, "which went through several incarnations, creatively blending several genres of music." The band members, Hungarian except for their lead singer from Detroit, were part of a group called YWAM (Youth with a Mission) based in Budapest, serving central Asia and Europe. "At the time, we were the most groundbreaking Christian band in Hungary, with song lyrics considered progressive and challenging in Europe.

"I wanted my music to be culturally and socially relevant, able to connect with people on a personal level, while retaining and growing in artistic creativity," Krisz recalled. While the band's momentum built, Krisz's personal life was on the verge of its own momentum, one that would change his direction and location.

Krisz's first trip to the United States was to be best man in his brother's wedding in 1996. Lisa, a young native of DeSoto, was the maid of honor. Their immediate interest in each other was mutual and they married in 1998. Initially, they lived in Budapest, where Lisa learned the language and culture of Hungary. "Hungarian is a very complex language, probably closest to Finnish, not Germanic as many might expect," Krisz explained. "Lisa speaks it fluently; it is our language at home."

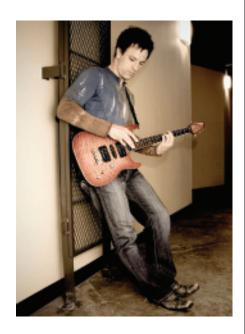
In 1999, they moved to the States for Lisa to finish school. "After praying, we felt it was time to lay everything down and see what new dreams the Lord might give me," Krisz recalled. "It was a real change, leaving the urbane culture of Budapest and settling in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. There Lisa chose to attend Ouachita Baptist University, due to the strong music faculty, and I was introduced to American culture. We never did find a church where we felt at home."

Returning to the Dallas area in 2001, they lived first in Euless, then moved to DeSoto, where they felt they "had come home." Having his brother's and Lisa's families nearby added to the comfort. "Arkansas didn't have much going on musically, but I had learned the creative audio-editing deejay side of music; the arranging and production part."



ArtsMOW

Best of all, they returned to Lisa's home church, Trinity Church of Cedar Hill, where Krisz joined the worship team, volunteering as music director of arrangements and rehearsals. He also joined a Denton-based band called Ben Zephyr in late 2002, touring regionally. Their last album, *Red Means Go*, was



produced by Sam Taylor, who has worked with ZZ Top and Third Day, before the band dispersed in 2007. Since then, Krisz has concentrated on music production, starting a studio in his home, and teaching private acoustic and electric guitar lessons.

One huge highlight of his musical journey was placing second out of 10 top entries in a nationwide contest, which drew thousands of applicants: Guitar Player's Guitar Superstar on September 12, 2009. He received a standing ovation from a very prestigious panel of judges. "Of course, it was an amazing experience personally, but the best part was the Kingdom recognition. Being the only musician representing Christianity in the competition gave me the opportunity to show believers can write and perform artistically creative songs which portray the voice of the culture and the voice of God," Krisz remarked. "I believe we should not be 'Christian musicians,' but musicians who live out Christ's principles with integrity, honesty and authentic artistry and talent."







Business **MOW**



Glenda Kay's Gifts & Collectibles

226 W. Daniels Duncanville, Texas 75116 (972) 296-9898 glendakay@glendakays.com Shop online: www.GlendaKays.com

Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Glenda Kay Tankersley loves helping people find just the right gift. Some of the many unique crosses Glenda creates from wire and vintage jewelry.

A Place to Dawdle

A place to shop, relax, be inspired and leave refreshed. — By Beverly Shay

"For 20 years I dreamed about having a little house I could make into a store; a pleasant place with a pleasant atmosphere where men and women could shop and rest and be refreshed," Glenda Kay Tankersley remarked. "People I met while selling Avon in the '70s and '80s convinced me of a need for this type of place."

Glenda's dream has come true through a lot of hard work and a lot of faith. "I call it my gift from my two fathers," she smiled. "My earthly father bought it, but my heavenly Father provided the dream and the fulfillment." Glenda's Hill Country-type gift shop is everything she hoped it would be.

The inviting shop, which opened in September 1999, located just off Main St. in Duncanville is indeed a treasure trove of gifts, trinkets, Texas items (including Texas Tech, A&M, UT Austin and, yes, OU!), Tyler candles, children's clothing and

accessories, numerous baby gift sets and ever-so-many crosses. Glenda, whose only retail experience was at age 16, worked for 14 years in accounting and merchandise incentives for a travel company. Looking for a change, she decided to pursue her dream.

"I couldn't have done it without the help of my husband, Michael. He remodeled the house (an eight-month project), which used to belong to my brother-in-law. I thought my mom would manage the shop, but one week before we signed on the property, my mother was diagnosed with colon cancer, and I became the full-time manager," Glenda recalled. "But mom and dad were in the shop daily until they passed. This is the best inheritance I could have received."

All four of Glenda's daughters have worked with her in one way or another over the years. In fact, the many crosses found throughout the store were her daughter's idea. "I may have the

Business

best selection of crosses in the Best Southwest area," Glenda considered. "I make the wire ones with vintage jewelry myself and can customize them with broaches or jewelry people provide. Glenda also sells vintage jewelry, wreathes and key chains, as well as some postcards and magnets.

"Due to my own experience with breast cancer, more than ever I desired the shop to be a place of comfort and ministry. I am happy to help customers select just the right card or gift from among our plaques with inspirational sayings or my hand-stitched pieces," Glenda shared.

One of her daughters sews the sundresses and play clothes, and also makes headbands and barrettes. Fancied-



up flip-flops can complete the outfit. All sorts of decorative items and stuffed animals for boys' and girls' rooms round out the children's area.

The shop's kitchen is filled with colorful ceramic pieces, dishes, wine stoppers and embroidered tea towels. The bathroom displays Tyler Candle Company lotions and soaps along with embroidered hand towels, inspirational plaques and painted windows.

"Another of my daughters creates bracelets and stationary, while yet another worked in the shop for quite some time. My family has been very supportive," Glenda beamed.

If you are looking for a unique and perfect gift, be sure to stop by in September, as Glenda celebrates her 11th anniversary with various specials. Even if you have been in the shop before, you will want to shop again. Every time you turn around there is something new to discover, and you will leave refreshed and inspired. "I really love what I do. I love Duncanville. But most importantly, I feel I am doing what God has directed me to do," Glenda stated. Will





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Who's Cooking WDW

In The Kitchen With Faye Blackmon and Duncanville High School Culinary Students

Since she was a young girl, Faye Blackmon has loved to cook. She learned most of her basic cooking from her homemaking teacher, Miss Hawkins. "She inspired me to continue my studies in home economics," Faye recalled. "Positive feedback on my cooking was an incentive to continue."

Faye now enjoys teaching many talented students in culinary arts at Duncanville High School. The program is balanced between teaching theory, practicing skills and preparing for future education in culinary arts or even entry-level work. The class caters many different events, with several students who run businesses and participate in culinary competitions. This year, 24 participated at the regional level, with 11 moving up to state competitions. "We really stay busy," she explained. "We did not have any winners, but we got lots of experience!"

— By Faith Browning



CINNAMON ROLLS

Yields 8 dozen rolls. This is our most famous recipe and easy to reduce to a family-size recipe: just divide by four.

2 qts. warm water 2 cups granulated sugar 2 cups powdered milk 1/2 cup instant yeast 1/4 cup salt

6 eggs

7 1/2 lbs. all-purpose flour

1 1/4 lbs. shortening

1 cup cinnamon

8 cups sugar

1/2 cup butter, melted *ICING:*

1 lb. confectioners' sugar

1/4 cup melted butter (Use real butter since it makes the best tasting icing.)

1 tsp. vanilla

1/4 cup milk or cream (This is flexible since you have to decide how thin you want the icing to be. If you want to use to ice a cake, use only 2 Tbsp. of liquid.)

- 1. Place warm water in the bowl of a floor mixer. Using the dough hook, start the mixer on low. Add the sugar, milk, yeast, salt and eggs. Mix until slightly blended.
- 2. Add about one-half of the flour to the mixture in the bowl and continue beating on low speed. Add in the shortening and continue beating on low. Gradually add in the remaining flour and when it is absorbed, mix on second speed for about 3-4 minutes or until the dough is smooth and elastic.
- Remove the dough from the mixer bowl and place in greased pan. (We use baking spray, like Pam.) Place in a warm place; cover and let set until the dough doubles in bulk.
- 4. Punch down the dough, turn it out on a floured board and cut into eight equal pieces, or if you want to "scale" it (cut into exact segments), each piece will weigh a little less than 2 pounds. Let the dough rest for about 5 minutes and then roll out into rectangular shapes about 20 x 16-inches. 5. Combine cinnamon and sugar. Brush with melted butter or margarine and sprinkle with

5. Combine cinnamon and sugar. Brush with melted butter or margarine and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Roll each of the eight dough rectangles up, then cut into 12 rolls per piece.

- 6. Place on 18 x 26-inch baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Return to warm counter and allow the rolls to rise again until they feel soft and spongy. Place in a 375 F regular oven or 325 F convection oven and bake until lightly brown and done, usually about 15 minutes in the convection oven and 25 minutes in a regular oven.
- Combine icing ingredients. Remove rolls from oven and spread icing over the top while rolls are still warm.

SOUR CREAM CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Vegetable oil

12 corn or flour tortillas

2 cups cooked chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces or shredded

1 med. onion, chopped

1 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, grated SOUR CREAM SAUCE:

1/4 cup butter

2 Tbsp. flour

1 can or 2 cups chicken broth

1 cup sour cream (can use light)

2 jalapeños, seeded and chopped. (Handle carefully; do not touch face or eyes to avoid irritation.)

- 1. If using corn tortillas, heat about 1/8 to 1/4 inch oil in a large skillet and soften each tortilla by dipping it in hot oil; drain on paper towels. For flour tortillas, warm in oven or microwave.
- 2. Fill tortillas with chicken, onion and cheese. Roll up and place in a large shallow pan, seam side down.
- 3. Melt butter in 1 1/2 qt. saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour with a wire whisk. Remove from heat; whisk in broth, a little at a time, and stir until smooth. Return to medium heat and cook until sauce is thickened and smooth.
- 4. Whisk in sour cream and cook until hot, being careful not to boil or sauce will curdle. Add jalapeños. Pour sauce over enchiladas; bake 20 minutes at 350 F. Makes 6 regular-size servings.

COUNTRY VEGETABLE SOUP

3 cups canned tomatoes, diced 1 cup beef stock 4 cups hot water 2 tsp. beef base

6 oz. chopped onion

3 oz. carrots, julienned

3 oz. celery, medium diced

12 oz. potatoes, medium diced

3 oz. okra, sliced

1 ear fresh corn, cut off the cob

Salt and pepper, to taste

- 1. Place first four ingredients in a large stockpot and start at high heat until mixture comes to a boil.
- 2. Add onion, carrots, celery and potatoes and simmer for 15 minutes.
- 3. Add okra and corn to the soup and continue cooking until all vegetables are fork-tender.
- 4. Salt and pepper to taste: garnish with a slice of lime and serve hot. Yield: 3 quarts or 12 1-cup servings.

BREAKFAST EXPRESS BURRITOS

This recipe is from Breakfast Express, one of our student-run businesses.

16 10-inch flour tortillas

1 lb. sausage

24 eggs

1/2 cup milk

2 tsp. salt

2 tsp. sait 2 tsp. pepper

1 lb. cheddar cheese, grated

32 oz. salsa, portioned into 2-oz. portion cups

- 1. Place tortillas in the steamer for 5 minutes or until completely heated, hold at 140 F.
- 2. Cook sausage until completely done.
- 3. While the sausage is cooking, mix eggs, milk and seasoning until well-blended. Add egg mixture to the sausage and continue cooking until the eggs are soft cooked. Place about 1/2-3/4 cup of filling and 1 oz. grated cheese in the heated tortilla and wrap. To wrap, place the filling in the middle of the tortilla, fold the bottom half of the tortilla over the filling and tuck in the sides. Continue folding until the burrito is complete. Wrap in a foil wrapper and place in a warmer to stay hot.
- 4. Serve a portion of salsa with each burrito order.

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

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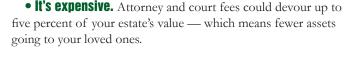


TOD Agreement Can Reduce Hassles for Heirs

Among the reasons you work hard all your life may be so you can leave something to your children, grandchildren or other family members. So, naturally, you'd like to make it as easy as possible for your heirs to take possession of those assets you want them to have. And that's why you may want to consider establishing a Transfer on Death (TOD) agreement on certain accounts.

Once you've established a TOD agreement for your account, ownership of the assets held in that account pass directly to the designated beneficiaries, bypassing probate. Why is this important? Because probate has three major drawbacks:

• It's time-consuming. If your estate has to go through the probate process, it could easily take a year or more for your assets to be distributed to your heirs.



• It's public. The probate process is open to everyone. This means anyone can obtain a copy of your will, the names and contact information for your heirs, the inventory of assets and other documents filed as part of the probate proceeding.

As you can see, you've got some good reasons to avoid probate — and a TOD agreement can help. Of course, a TOD agreement can't meet all your estate-planning needs. While it may be particularly useful in helping you bequeath specific financial assets, such as stocks, bonds and other assets held in your brokerage accounts, it can't help you deal with estate taxes or address other complex estate-planning issues.

And that's why you also may want to consider creating other estate-planning tools, such as a revocable living trust. Similar to a TOD agreement, a revocable living trust allows you to leave assets to your heirs without going through probate. Furthermore, when you set up a revocable living trust, you can control your assets during your lifetime and determine how they will eventually be distributed to your heirs. You could, for example, have money distributed to your children or grandchildren in installments, over a period of years. Many people like having this ability, especially if they are unsure of the money management skills or maturity level of their heirs. Plus, a properly established revocable living trust will carry out your wishes if you become incapacitated. Be sure to consult with your legal advisor to see if a revocable living trust is appropriate for you.

While a TOD agreement can't take the place of all estate-planning tools, it can complement them. And a TOD agreement offers another feature that can prove valuable: flexibility. Specifically, you can revoke or modify your TOD agreement at any time in response to changes in your life or family circumstances.

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SCOLIOSIS

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

It could not happen at a worst time — a diagnosis of scoliosis right before puberty. Scoliosis is an abnormal sideways curvature of the spine. The progression of the atypical curvature happens most often during the growth spurt of the teenage years. Children commonly compare themselves to others and a condition that causes physical deformity such as scoliosis can severely impact the emotional well-being of a young person on the cusp of adulthood. At a time when they struggle with normal body-image issues, they must now

face the prospect of contending with a condition that will alter the physical shape of their body.

The most common type of scoliosis is Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS). Idiopathic means the cause is unknown although there is some evidence of hereditary factors contributing to this condition. Many children with AIS do not experience pain. It is when the spine curves beyond its normal range that the child and others will notice a problem. A beginning clue that something is wrong may be one leg seeming to become

longer than the other one, which would cause clothing not to fit properly. When bending over, the curvature of the spine is more noticeable as one shoulder is higher and protrudes more than the other one. There will be visible curving of the spine to either the right or the left. A serious case of scoliosis can alter the chest cavity and affect the person's breathing capacity. Left untreated, the deformity could become severe; however, with proper treatment there is a good possibility that progressive curvature can be stabilized as the child grows. A brace properly prescribed and worn will help the condition from worsening. The brace may have to be worn until skeletal maturity and the bones stop growing. In some cases, surgery is necessary to straighten and provide support for the spine.

As the spine curves and becomes more noticeable, the child's body image shifts also. Significant psychological distress may be noted. Some children complain of feeling isolated socially and not having many friends. A treatment plan for the physical condition should consider their emotional well-being as they often have low self-esteem. Providing a support group for pre-teens and teens would give them an outlet for their frustrations. In addition, speaking with other kids who have successfully undergone treatment and/or surgery could give them a great boost of confidence.

It is important for parents to understand all of the risks and benefits associated with any treatment plan. Understanding what is happening gives the family more options for an optimal outcome.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.



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Outdoors MOW

GETTING YOUR TREES READY FOR WINTER

— By Nancy Fenton



Did you notice how many limbs some of the trees lost this year? Let's talk about what happens when trees are not pruned on a regular basis. The worst case scenario would be for a rather large branch to drop through your roof or on your car! The second worse incident would be for the falling limbs to take out electricity or close bridges and roads. We may not like it, but our local utility companies and counties have to pick up the slack when safety becomes an issue. Let's face the reality; tree trimming can be a costly procedure, and if we do not do it ourselves, someone has to.

The county and the utility companies do not cut the limbs over your roof, but they do protect the lines that power our homes as well as the roads on which we drive. They have a lot of territory to cover, and it is an economic reality that they will move through as quickly as possible. Each one of us could pick up the cost of having our trees trimmed the way we want it done — as long as the safety issues were addressed. All it takes is a plan and a phone call to the utility or the county. Hey, it saves them time and money, so they would be delighted to see the homeowner/landowner take care of it.

Most of the trees around our homes are the slow growing, beautiful ones like live oaks, maples, burr oaks and pecans. Hackberry trees, poplars and cedars are fast-growing and short-lived. Even though they may look awful when the utility or county workers are forced to cut them back, they will cover the road again in two years if not "whacked back" again. Of course, any landowner has the option to trim back any trees on their property. The county and utility companies only do it to keep us safe on our public roads. The pictures taken on our public county roads may look bad right after the trees are trimmed in the spring, but drive back by in the summer months, and you will see lush growth everywhere.

This is the month to start scheduling your own tree trimming if you do not do it yourself. The first freeze is usually around Thanksgiving, and you do not want to be cutting on your trees anytime after October 1. The trimming stimulates growth, and you do not want the freeze to really damage your trees. Call a licensed and insured tree service now to get on their schedule, and get ready to sit back and smile as others scurry to repair roofs, get electricity turned back on and even to get out of their driveways when the big storms come!

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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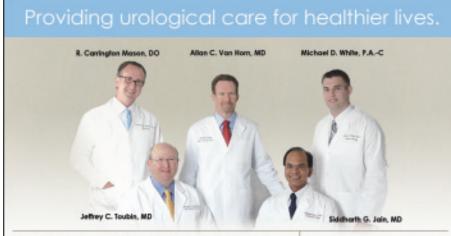
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Happening NOW

Mondays

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 6:30-7:30 p.m. first three Mondays; last Monday: support group: 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

Second Mondays

Diabetes Support Group: 6:00 p.m. at Methodist Charlton. (214) 947-7262.

Tuesdays

Senior Access Tai Chai classes: 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Methodist Charlton. Cost: \$6. (214) 947-4628.

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 6:00-8:00 p.m. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Second Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays Through September 1

DeSoto library's computer classes: 6:00-7:00 p.m.: 4th: Logging in and using the library's wireless connection; 11th: Using the computer desktop; 18th: E-mailing and e-mailing with attachments; 25th: Searching the Internet; September 1st: Searching the library's database. Registration is required and can only be made the week before each class at (972) 230-9661. DeSoto Library card required. Cancel if unable to attend.

Thursdays

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 4:00-6:00 p.m. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Free Immunization Clinic for ages 2 months to 18 years, sponsored by CareVan: 5:00-7:00 p.m. (no appointment necessary) at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 689-8285. (Clinic runs through Nov. 16.)

Third Thursdays

Visual Artist of Cedar Hill (VACH): 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Creative Arts School for ages 18-plus, 1435 N. US-67 S. (at The Ranch).

Fridays

Walking program: 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Methodist Charlton, conference room 6. (214) 947-4628.

First and Second Fridays

Line dancing in the Methodist Charlton auditorium: 11:00 a.m.-noon. Reservation required: (214) 947-4628.

Second Saturdays

Baby Boutique Resale: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Sound Options Pregnancy Services (972) 230-8101.

Third Saturdays

Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at J. W. Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln. (972) 291-1505.

Ongoing

DS library is offering free adult literacy classes in partnership with Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF). One-on-one classes taught by trained volunteers at the library. Stop in or call (972) 230-9661. More volunteer instructors needed; call OCBF (972) 228-0872, ext.1600.

All Summer Long

Duncanville Recreation Center, 201 James Collins Blvd. is offering numerous fitness and enrichment programs for children and adults, including CPR training, ZUMBA, yoga, self-defense training, karate, dance and cheer, ballet, fencing, guitar, scrapbooking, swing dancing and more, which can be found at www.duncanville.com/recreation. Note: now closed on Sundays; Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CH Rec. Center programs and camps: free summer food, sticks for kids golf, mad science camp, modeling, basketball, beyond physical fitness, chess, teen design, art, belly dancing (for women only). (972) 293-5288 for details, dates, cost and registration.

Through August 9

Tennis lessons for children ages 4-16 at Crawford Park, 401 Straus Rd. (Mon.-Thurs. mornings). Fee: \$35/week (4 lessons). www.cedarhilltx.com or (972) 291-5130.

Through August 13

Free summer food program (Mon.-Fri.) for children 17 and under at the CH Rec. Center; breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.; lunch: 12:30-1:30 p.m.; snack: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

N.I.A. Kids Youth Service Organization, Inc.-sponsored free lunch and snack program (Mon.-Fri.) for children and youth 1-18 years old at 901 N. Polk, Suite 380, DeSoto (between Beauty Town and Dollar General). Lunch: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; snack: 3:30-4:15 p.m. Groups of 10 or more must call ahead (972) 228-8381.

Through August 22

Crawford Park Pool in Crawford Park, 401 Straus Rd., Cedar Hill open: 7 days/week: 1:00-6:45 p.m.; senior swim: 12:00-12:45 p.m. daily. Cost: \$2/person per entry; \$50/individual season pass. Lessons/party rental available: (972) 291-5130.

August 3

Duncanville Library presents Sandy Shrout's puppet show: "The Three Little Pigs": 7:00 p.m.

August 5 and 19

Come CHAT with us; join the Cedar Hill Action Team as they link information of all the after-school activities available for the children: 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room of the Government Center. (972) 742-1971.

August 9

Cedar Hill library's Family Reading Night with surprise celebrity reader: 6:30 p.m.

August 19

Cedar Hill library presents a program on diabetes entitled "Lifestyle Steps to Help Manage your Diabetes": 6:30 p.m. presented by MERCK at no cost. Please call (972) 291-7323, ext. 1313 a week ahead to register.

August 13

Flick –N- Float: 8:00-10:00 p.m., at Crawford Park Pool, 419 Straus Rd, Cedar Hill. Cost: \$2/person. Relax, swim, float on your raft and enjoy family-friendly movie, *Shrek I*; pizza and other tasty foods for sale. (972) 291-5130.

August 14

Join the Duncanville Recreation Center and Library in celebrating 10 years: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Open house all day with cake and refreshments, face painting, class demos, raffle and door prizes and a Professor Brainius Show. 201 James Collins Blvd. (972) 780-5070.

Lancaster's 2nd Saturday on the Square presents Back-to-school Festival: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at City Park, 211 W. Beltline Rd. featuring BSW Idol auditions for all ages, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. All singers welcomed. Event held on September 11. Call (214) 912-6573 or (214) 774-7503 for more information. Other children's activities also available. www.2ndsaturday.volasite.com.

August 24

CH library Computer Basics: 2:00 p.m. and Research Your Competitors/Target Your Job Search with ReferenceUSA: 7:00 p.m.

August 28

Kid's Fishing Day: 9:00 a.m.-noon. at Briarwood Park, 1625 W. Belt Line Rd. for children 14 and under; must be accompanied by adult. Registration begins August 11 at DeSoto Recreation Center; cost: \$5. Bring your own gear; no license required. Prizes for largest fish caught according to age. (972) 230-9651.







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From left to right: Dr. Conlee Thomas, OB/GYPS; Dr. Cocily Jones, OB/GYPS; Dr. Goyle Smith-Blair, Psychiatrist (behind); Dr. Catherine Thomas, OB/GYPS; Dr. Donald Blair, OB/GYPS (behind); Sharon Roberts WENP; & Ginn Vincent WENP

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