

Southwest

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M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2016

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Mr. Community

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Jacquetta Haygood

Taking Charge

Rising Above

Eclectic Style With
Hometown Heart

Dining Deals

In the Kitchen With
Jocelyn Smith

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- **FREE** supplies & backpack for DeSoto ISD students!
- Free shots for all students
- Games, prizes & fun

PRE-REGISTER:

- DeSoto ISD students **ONLY**
- **ONLINE** July 18-Aug. 6 desotoisd.org
- **LIVE** July 20-21, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Board Room, 200 E. Belt Line Rd.



Back to School for 2016-17!

DeSoto ISD welcomes students - new and returning - to the DeSoto Eagle family with open arms and exciting opportunities for this school year!

- **Early Childhood, Pre-K Registration** - **daily**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Admin. Bldg.
- **New Student Enrollment (K-12)** - **Aug. 9-19**, 8-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m. at school

FLYING START (*Enrolled Secondary Students*)

Students in grades 6-12 (and parents) are invited: orientation, ID photos, back-to-school parent packets, bus routes, proof of residency, shot records, etc.

Middle Schools

- Tues., August 16 Last name A-F - 9 a.m.-noon; Last name G-L - 2-5 p.m.
- Wed., August 17 Last name M-Q - 9 a.m.-noon; Last name R-Z - 2-5 p.m.

DeSoto High School / Freshman Campus

- Mon.-Tues., August 8-9 Details online or contact the campus
- Sat., August 13, 8:30 a.m. *Make-Up Flying Start Day*

GOALS NIGHTS (*Open House and Meet the Teacher*) - **6:30-8 p.m.**

All students and parents are invited to Goals Nights - outlining the expectations for the student, class, campus and district for the next year!

- Thursday, August 18 - All Elementary Schools
- Tuesday, August 23 - All Middle Schools
- Thursday, August 25 - DeSoto High School



BACK TO SCHOOL CHECK LIST

- Online Registration for Returning Students (Enroll New Students)
- New Clothes
- School Supplies
- Get a Haircut
- Updated Shots & Sports Physical
- Lunch Account Money
- Attend Flying Start & Goals Nights
- Join a Club or Team
- Be Ready to Succeed!

NEWS TO KNOW

FOUNDATION GOLF

Join us on Monday, September 19 at 9 a.m. for a great day of golf at Thorntree CC supporting the DeSoto ISD Education Foundation. For information, call 972-223-3791.

FOOTBALL SEASON

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Calendar

Saturday, Aug. 6, 9 a.m. to noon - Back to School Fair, DHS, 600 Eagle Drive
Monday, Aug. 8 - Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Board Room
Friday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m. - Football Scrimmage & Eagle Gear SALE! Eagle Stadium
Monday, Aug. 22 - First Day of School; Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. - Football vs. Jesuit, Eagle Stadium
Monday, Sept. 5 - Closed for Labor Day Holiday

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ON THE COVER



*The Hendersons
proudly back the blue.*

Photo by Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Everyone!

This is an exciting month! Individuals and families are getting their last weeks of traveling in. This is also the month when teachers transition to new schools, families transition to new homes, and I will transition to Africa.

Ten years have come and gone with an invitation to minister in Africa. A dear pastor friend and his wife have prayed for God to allow me to join them in their work. Circumstances have deferred my travel, but not this year.

While serving as *SouthwestNOW* editor, I have made many new friendships, including one with minister and author, Fanny Minnitt. Her latest book found recognition with an African pastor and his wife, resulting in an invitation for Fanny to bring a team of ministers to Africa. As it is, both pastors will be hosting a conference and revival.

So, soon you will enjoy meeting the new *SouthwestNOW* editor, Abby Rich, and I will enjoy Africa and continue doing God's work. As many of us are getting older, we see the seasons become shorter. As each of you have encouraged me, I now encourage you to live every day to the fullest and put nothing off for tomorrow. For we are not promised tomorrow.

As always from my heart and pen,

Jo

Jo Monroe

SouthwestNOW Editor

joanne.monroe@nowmagazines.com

P.S. Send your story leads to Abby at abby.rich@nowmagazines.com.

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Mr. Orlando Riddick, Superintendent

2016-2017 Online Registration Opens August 8th

Enrollment forms for returning and new students will be available online beginning August 8. Students living outside of the CHISD attendance zone may apply to attend a selected CHISD school.

**For all forms and more information,
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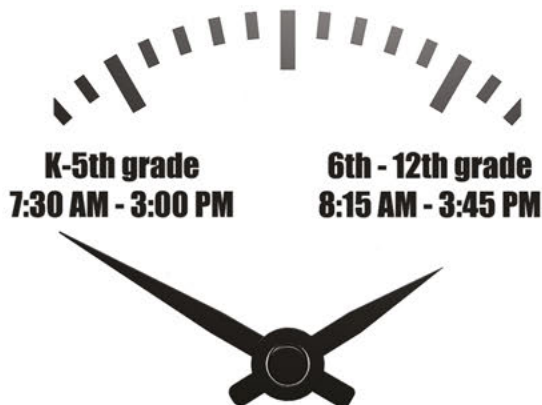
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2016-2017 Standardized Dress Code

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MR.

— By Rick Mauch



COMMUNITY

The lessons his paternal grandmother offered have helped Peter Henderson throughout his life. It paid for Peter to listen to his grandma. “My dad had it ingrained in him by his mother Ineeze, a devout Roman Catholic, the importance of civil obedience and civil responsibility,” Peter said. “She, in turn, insisted that he ingrain that in his children, and in no small way she helped him do that,” he added with a chuckle. “To this day, some 60 years later, it’s in me. It’s part of the fabric of who I am.”

The latest project for Peter, aka Pete, is being the new president of the DeSoto Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. He took office in January, and true to his

reputation, he has tried to spark a fire in the organization. Since taking office, regularly attending members have expanded from 22 to 38, but he wants more — lots more. “Historically, there have been as many as 80 members, and we’d love to regain those membership levels,” Pete said.

“He works hard, and we get him for free,” said DeSoto Police Chief Joe Costa, with a smile. “That’s his DNA. He loves to help. When people see people like Peter out there, it makes a difference. It gives the community a sense of comfort to know folks like him have confidence in the police. It’s a testament to him.”

The organization has been around since the early 1990s and is a volunteer group. Over the years, they have given the DeSoto community over 5,000 hours of service. In fact, it was part of that service that attracted Pete to the organization in 2014. “I was at Wal-Mart one day, and as a disabled vet, I went to park in a handicapped space,” he said. “Then, this young man came running out and jumped in his car, which was parked there. The



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next week the same thing happened, and I saw the DeSoto Citizens on Patrol issuing citations. It was through that incident that I was introduced to the organization."

The DCPAAA and COP assist the community and police department in a variety of ways. Among the things they do are help with senior symposiums, patrol neighborhoods and assist in neighborhood watches. "Heck, I was doing those things anyway, so I got involved," Pete said.

Although serious health issues forced his retirement in the spring of 2014 from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pete had extra time. He had no doubt where to use it. "Since, I wasn't ready for a fishing bank or a rocking chair, I knew volunteering in the community was something I could do and something that I would love doing," he said.

Pete bears the name of his maternal grandfather, who was a member of



“WHEN PEOPLE SEE PEOPLE LIKE PETER OUT THERE, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.”

a former U.S. Army Buffalo Soldiers battalion in World War I. This is a group that still inspires Pete, and he commemorates it with memorabilia on his game room wall. “My granddad was part of an American Expeditionary Forces unit that cleared forestry for allied troops,” he said. “They were on the front lines, got shot at, yet were mostly equipped with trenching tools and had no real artillery. Still, they worked hard, fought hand to hand on many occasions and made a big difference.”

Hopefully, no member of the DCPAAA or COP ever gets shot at. But, they do help pave the way for police officers in the community through their support. “There’s training in understanding police work, court proceedings and handling firearms,” Pete said. “And being president can be demanding, but I’m an empty nester.”

Pete grew up in Detroit, where he learned early on one of the great lessons

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of life from his parents: "Stand for something, or you'll fall for anything." As a teen, he had a chance meeting with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through his grandmother. Though brief, it helped shape his passion for social justice. "He wasn't yet the prominent figure he came to be, but I knew there was something special," Pete said.

He had that same feeling years later when he encountered another famous individual. Like before, it was brief, but impressionable. "I was in the Navy, in Rome, in 1989, and Pope John Paul II was making his way through the streets in his famous Popemobile," Pete recalled. "He blessed the crowd on the corner where I was. I immediately got to a phone and called my grandmother. She talked about it the rest of her life. Her grandson got blessed by the Pope!"

Pete's career in private sector finance, health administration at the VA, and in the U.S. Navy have taken him to many cities around the world. He attests to having lived a blessed life, even though it was on a Navy ship where a freak accident gave him a knee injury that he said still "hurts like the dickens most days."

Pete lists many community involvement projects that began long before he and his wife, Denise, moved to DeSoto five years ago. They include: the Citizen Academy of the DeKalb County Police (Decatur, Georgia), Shelby County Sheriff Citizens' Academy (Memphis, Tennessee), Rotary International, 100

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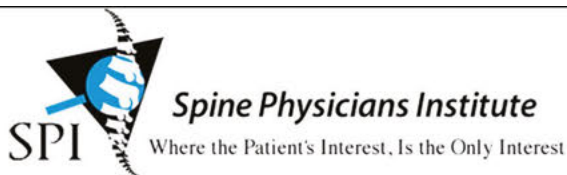


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Pete Henderson and his wife, Denise, are very happy with their accomplishments.

Black Men of America, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Habitat for Humanity, and being a national spokesman for Real Men Cook Charities.

"To know that he's active in Texas is not a surprise," said Audrey Newsome, a director at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "He has very high character. It was always a joy to work with him."

Among his goals for the DCPAAA is coordinating an advanced skills defensive driving course through the police department. He's also committed to becoming a COP trainer for the electronic citation system used for issuing fire lane and handicapped space tickets. "The judge can call up the photo on his computer in court," he said. "With the evidence in a picture, it makes for a stronger case."

But the main goal is to enlighten the community about the real work of the DeSoto PD. For example, Pete regularly speaks to citizens of all ages, handing out "Junior Police" badges, and he works the front desk at the DeSoto PD most Friday mornings. "We're ambassadors for law enforcement," he said.

Frank Styles of the Georgia State Patrol said DeSoto is fortunate to have such an ambassador. "His attitude, his laughter, sense of humor and his ability to get along with everybody regardless — those are such great qualities to have," Frank said. "He knows how to get people on his side."

And though he's moved a lot, DeSoto may well be his final stop. His sisters have relocated to the Metroplex, and one of his two sons is a chef in Fort Worth. "DeSoto fits. It's homey," Pete said. "And we've got a lot of great things we want to do helping our police department." **NOW**



BACK TO SCHOOL KICKOFF 2016

The first day of school is August 22, 2016

It's not too early to get ready for the 2016-2017 school year. Online registration began in July, and we want to help your family be prepared. Detailed information and instructions are available on the district website at duncanvilleisd.org

Registration in Three Easy Steps

- 1 Go online to the district website, duncanvilleisd.org, click on "Parents" and "How to Enroll and Register"
- 2 Complete Online Registration
- 3 After completing registration, you will receive an email if you need to attend Document Review.

Campus Document Review Dates

PreK	August 1 August 2	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm 8:00am - 12:00 pm	DHS Shine Performance Hall
Elementary, Intermediate Middle	August 3, 4 & 5 August 8 & 9	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm	All Campuses
12th grade 11th grade 10th grade 9th grade All grades All grades	August 3 August 4 August 5 August 8 August 9 August 10	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Duncanville High School



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William Jameson could have been an astronaut. Instead, he decided to work on changing the world, while staying on it. "I like building stuff that's on the Earth," the former Duncanville High School valedictorian and recent Harvard graduate said with a chuckle. "In school, I took one of those tests about your career path. Astronaut was the No. 1 hit, and engineering was No. 2."



ING RGE

— By Rick Mauch

William chose engineering, and it ultimately led to his degree from, arguably, the world's most prestigious university. But then, he already knew before the test that engineering was his first love, thanks to an opportunity that presented itself earlier. "Through my Boy Scout troop out of Duncanville, we operated and managed Reindeer Manor Haunted House [in Red Oak]. Through that, I got hired by my scoutmaster to help do construction work on his house," William said. "He taught me how to wire a house. I thought it was really cool. I got a feel for putting things together."

And now, at 22 years old, William's begun putting his post-college career together in Chicago, all the while looking for chances to make the world a better place. He took a job with McMaster-Carr Supply Company, where he is in the software management training program. "After nine months of training, you're told which department you'll be in and which team you'll be with," he explained.

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One team he'd definitely like to continue to work with is Engineers Without Borders. He got heavily involved with the group while at Harvard and is hoping to find an opportunity to re-connect in Chicago.

While at Harvard, William was a leader for two years on a water distribution project in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to the work he and his team did, the rural community with whom they were working now has access to clean drinking water. William said his main contribution was helping design an electrical control panel. "Just getting on the ground and meeting people whose lives you're helping change for the better is the greatest feeling," William said. "I am looking to get involved with Engineers Without Borders as a professional leader with one of the local Chicago colleges."

Chris Lombardo, William's academic advisor at Harvard, was also his faculty advisor on the Engineers Without Borders project. He said such passion as William possesses can lead to a better world for all of us. He added that the project, which began in the Dominican Republic, has now been expanded to Tanzania. "It's been amazing to watch him grow over the past three-and-a-half years," Chris said. "He's obviously a very smart and intelligent person, and with his passion





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for the things he's interested in to create a positive impact on the world around him, the sky's the limit. He's a very capable and thoughtful leader, and makes an impact on all those working with him."

And William is not afraid to go against the grain and challenge expectations. Though he lives in DeSoto, he opted to go to Duncanville, where his mother still teaches bilingual kindergartners. (He was never in her class.) Also, while Massachusetts Institute of Technology was his first choice, he followed his instincts and went to Harvard when they came calling. "I heard back early from MIT that I'd gotten in, and I thought, *Whoa, I've got to start planning*," William said. "Then, I heard back from Harvard in the spring, and said, 'Now I've got to make a decision.'"

Either way, he was Cambridge-bound. He'd never even been to Boston. Yet while he lived on campus all four years at Harvard, he experienced the differences between Texas and the extreme northeast. "Public transportation is great. I could get anywhere I wanted," he said. "But we had some huge snowstorms, and real estate in Cambridge is incredibly expensive. Plus, they make it part of the Harvard experience, living on campus. It's a part of your identity. My class ring has a crest of the Adams House, where I lived for three years."

He also experienced one of the most frightening moments in Boston lore. He was nearby on campus when

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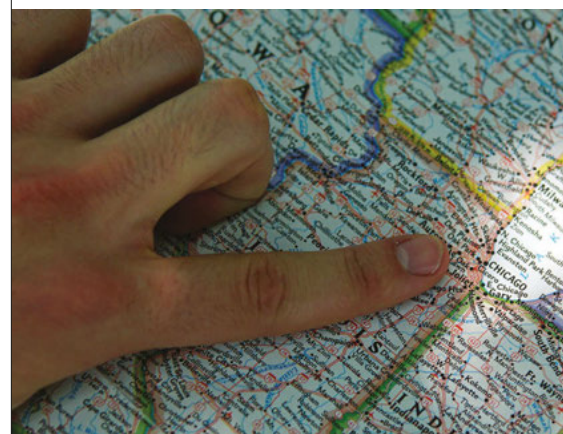
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the bombing occurred at the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. "They locked down the campus while they were chasing him around for a couple of days," William said of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the bombers. "They chased him to Watertown, a neighboring town of Cambridge. We were like, 'Whoa, this is happening right here, just across the river.' Though I felt pretty well protected on campus, it was crazy that it was so close."

William's talents extend beyond engineering. He's played piano since second grade. He also sang tenor in the Harvard University Choir. "I'll find a church choir in Chicago, and I'm taking my electronic keyboard to plunk out a tune here or there," he said.

In high school, he played tennis for four years, helping the team reach regional competition. At Harvard, he played pick-up soccer for four years, a sport he plans to continue playing. "I'll definitely keep playing soccer. I love it," he said. "Maybe I'll play some tennis, also. I still have my racquets."

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William chose engineering, and it ultimately led to his degree from, arguably, the world's most prestigious university.

And he's seen and worked in various parts of the world on the way to finishing his college degree. As a freshman, he spent the summer in Buenos Aires studying the Spanish language. As a sophomore, he worked for AT&T in Dallas during the summer as a software developer, and he spent the summer of his junior year working at Goldman Sachs in New York as part of the architecture/infrastructure team. "I worked expanding a broker-dealer entity in Mexico, coming up with numbers and estimates," he said.

"He always had such a great can-do attitude, which I'm sure had a big part in him accomplishing what he has," said Trent Sellers, Duncanville High School tennis coach. "I would bet there's some big things in the future for him."

Once he gets settled into his new position, William plans to return to school to work on his master's degree. He's trying to decide between electrical engineering, urban planning or civil engineering. "I can see myself working on a city power grid or designing power chips," he said. He also wants to raise a family. And though he says not anytime soon, he "definitely wants to have kids."

And, of course, not just any house will do when you're an engineer, he noted with a chuckle. After all, who better to work on a fixer-upper than an engineer? "That could be fun," he said. "After all, it's what got me started." **NOW**

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From Humble Beginnings

— By Debbie Durling



AT HOME WITH *Norvis and*

Norvis and Jacquetta Haygood, along with their children, Keelan and Keeambre, and the family pets, Mya and Ros, live in a majestic, castle-like home situated in the elegant Lake Ridge area of Cedar Hill. For two years, this home has been their haven, as Norvis enjoys his retirement from over 20 years in the military and Jacquetta works as a school administrator in the Mansfield ISD.

Norvis and Jacquetta came from very humble beginnings. They are both the youngest — he of seven children, she of eight children. When remembering their moms, strength and courage



Jacquetta Haygood

characterize the conversation. Norvis, raised on a farm, remembers a mom who kept her land and grew the groceries. Even at 61, he found her fixing a leak on the roof on one of his visits home. Jacquetta's mom was very resourceful with sewing, cleaning, cooking and doing whatever she could to make ends meet for her family. Sometimes that would involve travel, which meant picking up eight kids and all their belongings and heading out to another town or state.

Norvis joined the Army, became an audiologist and served the military as a doctor. He shared how he met Jacquetta

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after moving to Dallas. "I hesitantly joined my friend at the mall one day," he said. "While waiting for him, I looked down to the first floor and saw this angelic person, not walking, but floating" Norvis could not believe his eyes.

After seeing her pass three times and begin to exit the mall, he decided he must meet this "angel." He raced to the same exit, and then realized he needed a reason to follow a stranger out to the parking lot. So, he approached her and said, "The mall security asked me to follow you out to make sure you got to your car safely."

"Let me tell the other side of the story," she smiled. "I was coming out of

an abusive relationship, had a broken hand and went to the mall because my friend insisted I get out of the house."

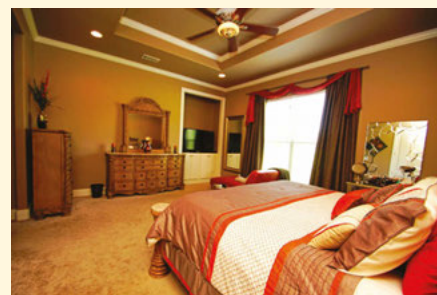
They laughed and Norvis looked over at Jacquetta like he was still looking at an angel after 18 years. The first time he took her out, he only had \$8 in his

pocket. "She wanted to go to El Fenix, so I told her I wasn't very hungry. I ate the chips, so I could afford her meal," Norvis smiled. That was an investment that he's never regretted.

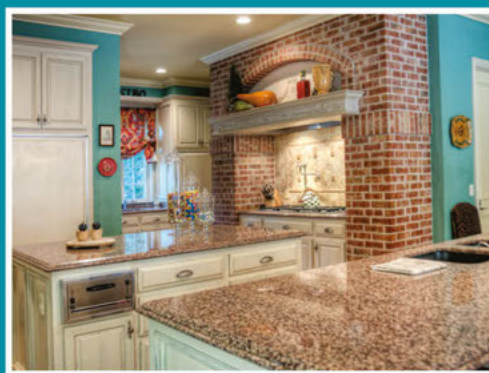
After they were married, being in the military required traveling and moving from place to place. Finally, after Norvis retired, they landed in Lake Ridge in a home of their dreams.

A tower from the ground to the second story houses the front entry at the ground level and Norvis' office on the second level. The beautifully stained wood door opens and a large brown sofa with rich, ornate wood trim waits to greet the weary

traveler. To the left is the formal dining area, which has a doorway leading into the front side of the kitchen. To the right, a stairway with iron spindles swirls up to the second floor. Straight ahead the elegant hallway that leads to the open concept kitchen, breakfast and living areas showcases a nook to the left with a ceiling-to-chair-rail built-in mirror. Below the mirror is a marble-top entry table with the couple's wedding portraits displayed. Earth tones enhance the calm and peaceful home. The walls are a beautiful, rich brown-beige with coordinating tile, wood and carpeted floors. Black marble with copper-colored flecks rests on medium-dark toned cabinets with beautiful design features. Raised panel



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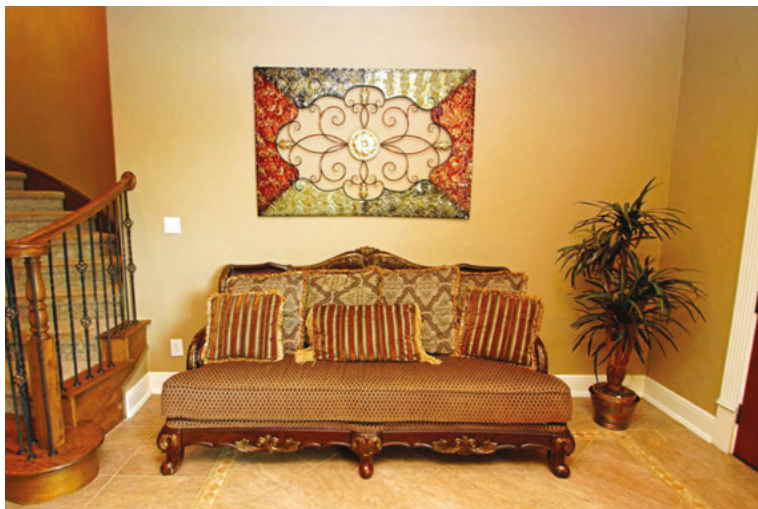
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doors bring an elegant atmosphere to this warm, inviting kitchen.

The master bedroom is downstairs off the hallway to the right, before entering the open living area. A stately bed with ornate carvings and columns sets the tone of this room as a retreat for royalty. The master bath has double sinks that sit under marble, which sets off the vanity. The shower is glass encased with beautiful stone tilework that continues around the jetted garden tub and under the frosted glass window.

Upstairs, there are three more bedrooms. Each of their two children enjoy a bedroom and half-bath to themselves and share a Jack-and-Jill style bath area. A theater room, complete with plush seating and a large screen provides the family with hours of entertainment. A large family/work/game room is open to all the rooms on the second floor, exiting to an outdoor balcony, which overlooks the front yard and drive.

Norvis' office has three large windows, which look out over the front yard and the neighborhood. His desk faces the windows, so he can enjoy the view as he works. The walls of the office are lined with framed degrees, awards and momentous items. One of those is a frame, which encases the honors and medals that Major Norvis Haygood received in his years of service. Jacquetta, now finishing her doctorate in education, also has plaques and framed accomplishments in the office.



Recessed ceilings, crown moldings and inset nooks are all marks of the extra elegance this home provides for the owners. Plans are in the works to add on a large multicar garage to house Norvis' collection of vintage cars. They are also planning to enlarge the master closet, as well as the back patio, which will lead to a pool.

One of the best parts of the home is the neighborhood. "A house-warming party is what brought us together at first," Jacquetta remembered. They were able to meet a lot of people in the neighborhood and realized they all enjoyed being together. They began walking five or six miles together daily. The group of friends soon grew to 15 families. They decided to do their own walk/run-a-thon and donated the money they raised to someone who was battling cancer.

Progressive Christmas dinners, grill parties, picnics and summer salad kick-offs are among the types of gatherings they enjoy together. Now, they decide on a theme each month and get together for fellowship, food and fun. "I have always told my husband I wanted a home I could entertain in, and now we have it," Jacquetta admitted.

Norvis and Jacquetta are people of hospitality, faith and service. Point of Light Church is their chosen place of worship. Passion fills her being as Jacquetta shares the work she gets to do each day with teachers and students. While Norvis could open his own practice as an audiologist, he finds fulfillment in working with the men of the military and plans to return to his field to serve veterans in the future. A heritage of strong parents, grounded faith and humble beginnings has helped them appreciate what they have. They enjoy giving back, by giving of their talents to help others. **NOW**

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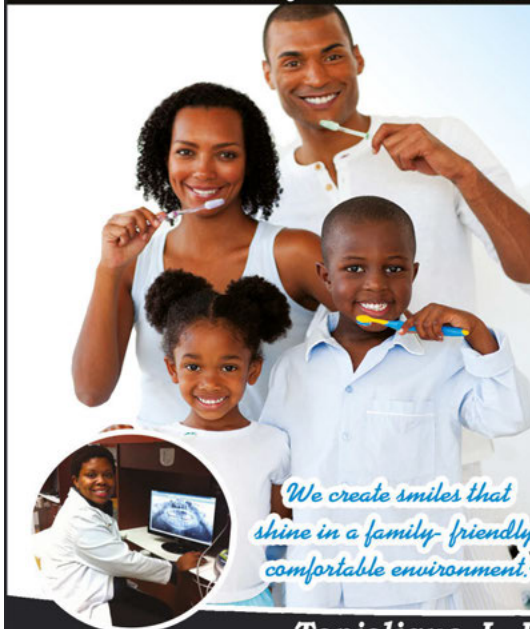
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Rising Above

— By Debbie Durling

Julia Harris was born with a heart condition called tetralogy of Fallot. The odds were slim that she would make it if a corrective surgery was not scheduled immediately. This congenital heart condition is one that involves a defect in the heart valve. Only a few days old, she faced her first open heart surgery, and within a month she faced her second. Although she was too young to remember the surgery, the undeniable scars are still there as a reminder.

During Julia's seventh grade year, her parents enrolled her in Trinity Christian School. It was in her middle school years that more physical issues began in the form of extreme pain in her legs. She was diagnosed with scoliosis. However, it was also discovered that the valve replacement from infancy needed to be repaired. On January 25, 2011, another open heart surgery ensued.



After recovering, she endured two more surgeries to correct the scoliosis in September of the same year. "I struggled with a painful recovery, tons of home-sickness and insecurity about the scars on my body," Julia recalled. "Trinity was a good school for me to attend, especially during this time," she said. She definitely was not forgotten.

At only 12 years of age, Julia not only had to recover from physical challenges, but she also had the challenge of being successful in school. She spent weeks in the hospital the year of her surgeries. However, she had a strong sense of determination to persevere and continue to be an exceptional student. While in the hospital, classes and tutoring were provided to help continue her studies while not enrolled in a traditional school setting.

Many times while battling with her struggles, she would think and cry out, "Why me?" Her friends were in sports and other activities that she was not allowed to participate in because of her delicate conditions. The biggest struggle for Julia was the recovery, because she did not feel secure in her own body. "I felt like my scars would repulse people, or they [people] would become overly protective of me," she admitted. "Without the support of my family, friends, school and the healing power of my Savior, Jesus Christ, not only would I still be ill, but I would not have accomplished the achievements I have today."

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Julia has more than just made it through. She has excelled while battling the great hurdles put before her. She was chosen to receive the Ruth Award, by Trinity, for displaying qualities similar to the biblical character, Ruth. Other accomplishments include being inducted into the National Honor Society, elected into student council, Honor Roll and awarded other outstanding student awards. Even one of her art pieces was featured in Trinity's High School Art Showcase.



She considers being inducted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists in Boston, Massachusetts, one of her greatest accomplishments. While at the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists, Julia was able to observe a live surgery being performed. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity also included meeting the first full-face transplant recipient, as well as a live message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Many new experiences were afforded her from the medical community, which she will never forget. The greatest contribution of this event was the confirmation it brought concerning Julia's potential career and passion in medicine.



She is the daughter of Pastor Julius and Danita Harris of Point of Light Church, located in Cedar Hill. She has a strong family with strong faith. "We wouldn't let her feel sorry for herself for long," Danita said. "When she would go through down times, we would pray, read the Word and get her busy on things that would keep her going." They would practice being positive and looking up to God, and not focusing on the circumstances. She said her parents have drilled into her that she *can* and *should* always do her best.

Worship and praise music continues to be a major source for rising above what could have pulled her down. Julia listens to uplifting music of faith and triumph wherever she goes and always had it with her during hospital stays. Music has been so influential that she has written several of her own praise songs in honor of her faith and triumph over the formidable times in her life.



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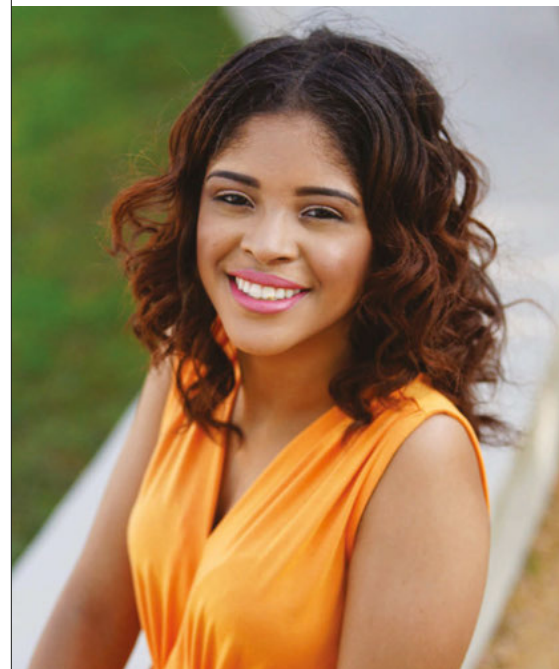

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“My faith and an attitude of gratitude have definitely pulled me through,” Julia said. “Every day, without fail, in one or more of my classes at Trinity, teachers and students prayed for me.” Weekly chapels kept her focused on her faith and not on her illness. Memorizing the Word of God has kept her grounded in the plans she feels the Lord has for her life. She realized that she was surrounded by people who care, and being thankful for her prosperity took the place of complaining about the challenges.

Spending so much time in the care of physicians and researching about her conditions have caused Julia’s fascination with the medical field. Television documentaries concerning the medical field are part of her pastime viewing. Her short-term goal is to enroll at Stephen F. Austin State University and major in biology. After graduation, she hopes to be accepted into medical school to pursue a career as a physician. “In this

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field, I hope to reach out to others like me," she said, "especially children who are faced with great physical and emotional hurdles that cause them to be isolated from a normal childhood and, sometimes, hospitalized for long periods of time."

Reaching out to help others who are struggling is already a priority in her life. She was recently able to volunteer at the Mark Cuban Heroes Center, where she assisted members with various tasks. Even her senior trip to Costa Rica was one of outreach. Julia, along with her fellow senior classmates at Trinity, worked in schools, prayed for kids and ministered in services. Her favorite part of the trip was a mountaintop cabin experience, where she was able to view across the entire city of San Jose. It was peaceful and somewhat symbolic of where she chooses to live in her spirit, rather than in the pit of despair.

She also gave her testimony in Costa Rica in hopes of encouraging others to push through their difficulties and overcome. "If others are going through a struggle, I want them to know they can come out of it victoriously. God can bring you through it," Julia said with sincerity and purpose. There is no doubt that this outstanding teen is headed in a direction that will bring light and life to others. While at times her faith was shaken during her struggles, she realizes that it is her struggles that are propelling her into a future with unlimited possibilities to make a huge difference in the lives of many. **NOW**



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Houston Street Outfitters

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(972) 293-6883
www.houstonstreetoutfitters.com
Facebook: Houston Street Outfitters

Special Note:

Shop will be closed for building renovations. Customers are asked to call or visit the website for further details.



Find your chic fashion at Houston Street Outfitters.

Eclectic Style With Hometown Heart

Houston Street Outfitters takes pride in dressing folks and giving back. — By Sara Edgell

For the past 13 years, Gina Daskocil has owned and operated a chic, fashion forward boutique in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill. After spending years working on the wholesale side of fashion as an independent rep for manufacturers, she decided to put her know-how to work for herself, so she planted business roots in the same town she called home. She knew what was on trend, how to get the merchandise and how to style it to make women not only look great, but feel great as well. With her free-spirited, Bohemian vibe, Houston Street Outfitters has been a premier and independently owned boutique since day one.

One of the most important factors that makes the store so unique is the number of “give back” brands Gina keeps in stock. In addition to the widest selection of Tom’s footwear in the area, the store also features items by JOYN, Sseko, 31

Bits, Raven & Lily, The Giving Keys, Aid Through Trade and blankets by Sackcloth & Ashes, among many others. “These brands contribute either monetary donations or a one-for-one item donation to a certain group of individuals in need, or they employ individuals who need work,” Gina stated. “Almost everything in the store other than the clothing gives back to something close to my heart in one way or another. That’s huge to me!” Houston Street Outfitters is the only authorized Brighton dealer in Cedar Hill, and sterling silver jewelry by Waxing Poetic is also a customer favorite.

While these products keep the store in a perpetual state of giving back, Gina works hard to make sure the store is also in a perpetual state of evolution in order to keep up with the wants and needs of her clientele. “The staff and I really listen to our

customers," she stated. "We try very hard to provide unique things that can't be found just anywhere."

Therefore, Gina goes to market at least five times a year, but not just in Dallas. She travels to Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York as well, and always keeps a watchful eye out for items that are distinctive and original. She also makes it a point to buy from smaller companies and designers who are not widely known. The purpose is to avoid carrying inventory that can be found in other local stores. "I am constantly seeking what is new," she explained. "When a brand hits a chain store, I typically stop carrying it." This ensures that every time a customer visits the shop, they will always find a new treasure that is not only comfortable and versatile, but one of a kind.

Houston Street Outfitters has been a premier and indepently owned boutique since day one.

Another cool characteristic of the store is the staff's eagerness to help style customers, or help them find that perfect piece to complete or complement an ensemble. "We have a lot of customers who will bring in a top or a pair of shoes, and we are pleased to help them coordinate or accessorize it just right," Gina said. Sometimes that means introducing shoppers to trends, cuts and styles outside of their comfort zone. "So often, I hear someone saying how they can't pull a certain look off, but really it's all about how you style your garments. Knowing how to pair things with the right pieces is important," she smiled. "That is my favorite part of what I do. Helping someone find their style — I just love that!" **NOW**

EST. 2003

houston street outfitters

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Stephen and Nathan Duitsman ride unicycles in the Duncanville Fourth of July parade.



Great fun networking with Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce at Henderson Chicken on Pleasant Run Rd.



Filmmaker John Macras, CCP Coalition Coordinator - Cedar Hill Aqapito Chavez and author Fanny Minnitt discuss IMPACT.



Michael and Milissa Douglas enjoy a summer afternoon with friends.



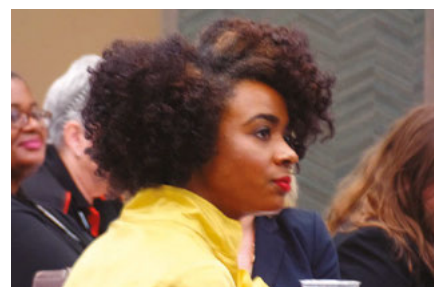
Amanda Skinner, CEO and executive director for the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce.



Council members Candice Quarles and Dick North in front of the camera.



Four of the five panelists at Be A Wonder Woman in Business luncheon.



Rachel L. Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem of DeSoto.



Charles Pest Control is welcomed to the Cedar Hill Chamber.



Wonder Woman in Business Luncheon panel member Sandi McDermott speaks to attendees.



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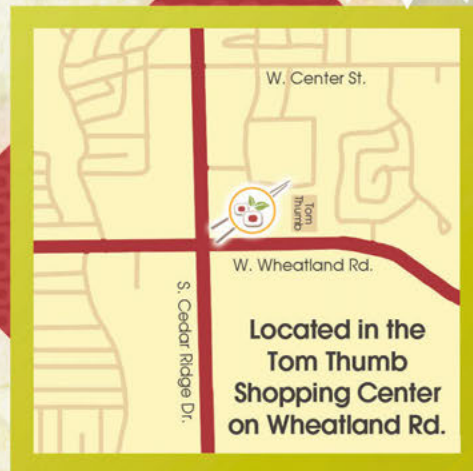
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August 5

JAM to Give summer concert featuring the Buster Brown Band: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Village Green at Hillside Village, 305 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. Suggested donation items includes canned goods and benefit Duncanville Outreach.

Free outdoor viewing of Disney's *Zootopia*: 8:30-10:30 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

August 6

Dallas Patriots Fall Baseball Tryouts: 10:00 a.m., 7U-13U; 12:30 p.m., 14U-18U. For more information or to register, visit www.dallaspatriots.com.

August 7

Dallas Patriots Fall Baseball Tryouts: 12:30 p.m., 7U-13U; 3:00 p.m., 14U-18U. For more information or to register, visit www.dallaspatriots.com.

August 11 — 13 and 18 — 20

Faith County: 8:00 p.m. curtain, Duncanville Community Theatre, 106 S. Main St. Reservations recommended. Call (972) 780-5707 or email boxoffice@dctheatre.org for reservations.

August 12

Summer Moonlight Movies presents *Charlotte's Web*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. Concession stand on-site. For more information, call (469) 309-4111.

August 13

Paws in the Pool-ooza: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Crawford Park Pool, 401 Straus Rd., Cedar Hill. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Tri-City Animal Shelter.

Midlothian Texas Arrowhead Show: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center. Admission: \$5, children 12 and under are free. For more information on vendor table prices, set-up times and lodging accommodations, call Harold Hughes at (972) 921-8555.

Backyard Blast: 6:30-10:00 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Great food, live music, vendors and games. Free entertainment. Bring a lawn chair.

Trucks 'N Tunes: 6:00-10:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

August 18

Waxahachie Auction: 7:00 p.m., 212 S.

Rogers Street. For more details, visit www.waxauction.com.

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.wd5ddh.org.

August 20

Duncan Switch Street Market: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at Main St. and Center St., Duncanville. Vendors, food and fun. For more information, call (972) 780-4990 or email hilda@duncanvillechamber.org.

August 26

Beneath the Stars Poetry Slam: 7:00 p.m. Free concert: 8:00 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. For more information, call (972) 230-9648.

August 27

Paws in Paradise: 6:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, Midlothian. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased online, at the Ellis County SPCA shelter or at Grant and Weedon, CPA's office. Tropical attire is encouraged. Event includes a diner and silent and live auctions. Proceeds will go to benefit the Ellis County SPCA.

September 3

DeSoto Arts Live presents The Original Lakeside, 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., DeSoto Town Center Amphitheater, 211 E. Pleasant Run. Contact Kathy Jones at kathy.jones@desototexas.gov or call (972) 230-9648.

Ongoing:

Third Mondays

DeSoto Public Library Book Club: DeSoto Town Center Complex, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 230-9661.

Fourth Mondays

Living with Diabetes: 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, Cedar Hill. Learn life skills, suggested in living with diabetes.

Tuesdays

Square Dance Lessons: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. For more information, call (469) 644-0785 or email Ciff_dweller@aol.com.

DeSoto Senior Center Golden Voices Choir: 9:00 a.m., Senior Citizen Center, 204 Lion St., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 230-5825.

First Tuesdays

Good Morning DeSoto: 7:30-8:30 a.m., DeSoto Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (972) 224-3565.

Wednesdays

Adventurers: 10:30 a.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, Cedar Hill. This program for children ages 3-6 will foster a lifelong love of reading by engaging in story time and STEM activities.

Thursdays

The Quilters: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library. New quilters are welcome. If you or someone you know has a quilt top they would like hand quilted, please call (972) 230-9661.

Youth Tellers: 5:00-6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library. Children in grades 3-6 are invited to learn fun and exciting ways to tell stories.

Tiempo de Historias en Espanol: 5:30 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd. For more information, call (972) 780-5050.

Second Thursdays

Business on the Hill: 7:30 a.m., Texas Trust Credit Union, 109 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. Networking and meeting new neighbors.

Third Thursdays

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center (County Farm), 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. Talk-in on the 145.410 machines. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.wd5ddh.org or contact: Sharon Wrobel, at (972) 978-8256.

Third Fridays

Senior Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Hopkins Senior Center, 206 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Cost \$5. For information, call (972) 298-0667.

Second Saturdays

Tail Wagging Tutors: 1:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, Cedar Hill. Children of all ages are invited to read aloud to friendly, trained dogs from the Dog Training Club of Dallas County.

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

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In the Kitchen With Jocelyn Smith

— *By Jo Monroe*

Jocelyn Smith is from Detroit, Michigan, but her family originates from Alabama. “My grandmother and her seven sisters brought their recipes and ‘country’ way of cooking to the North,” Jocelyn said. They had fried chicken for breakfast, lunch and dinner, always with grits with cheese and beefsteak tomatoes. Jocelyn was a tomboy and stayed away from the kitchen, other than for meals.

A military background provided Jocelyn an opportunity for cooking experimentation with simple dishes like eggs and sausages. “When I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, there were two choices — eat chow hall food or learn to cook. I chose the latter,” she recalled. Many of her crew would show up when she made breakfast. Here are her favorite recipes from her Southern breakfast feast. **NOW**

Fried Potatoes and Onions

2 Idaho potatoes

1 medium Vidalia or yellow onion
(Vidalia are the best because of their sweet flavor.)

1 medium garlic clove

1/4 to 1/2 cup Canola or vegetable oil

Lawry’s Seasoning Salt or Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning, to taste

Pinch black pepper

Pinch paprika

Pinch Italian seasoning

1. Rinse potatoes; dry with a paper towel. Peel the skin off and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices.

2. Peel onion and rinse; dry with a paper towel. Cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Slice or mince garlic.

3. Cover the bottom of a 2- to 3-inch-deep frying pan with oil. Heat until oil is hot.

4. Place vegetables into the pan slowly and carefully. (Oil can pop if the potatoes and onions are wet or dropped too fast.) Turn the potatoes every 3-5 minutes until they are soft and the onions are sautéed.

5. Season to taste with Lawry’s Seasoning Salt or creole seasoning. Add remaining spices and stir.

Breakfast Pork Chops

Lemon juice (optional)

6 thin boneless pork chops

Paprika, to taste

Black pepper, to taste

1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoning Salt or Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning

2 Tbsp. virgin olive oil

1 clove garlic, chopped

1. Using lemon juice or tepid water, rinse and thoroughly clean the pork chops.

2. Once well rinsed, lay pork chops flat on

a cutting board; tenderize by gently stabbing with a regular table fork 12-15 times.

3. Season pork chops very lightly on each side.

4. Pour olive oil onto a flat griddle or into a large, heavy skillet. Heat to medium.

5. Add chopped garlic. Fry pork chops and garlic for a total of 5 minutes, turning each chop halfway through the cooking time, until brown on both sides. (They are very thin, so don’t overcook them or they will be dry.)

Scrambled Eggs With Cheese and Mixed Peppers

3 small sweet peppers (orange, yellow and red)

2-3 eggs per guest

1/8 cup unsweetened almond milk
(Do not use sweetened milk.)

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese, or to taste

2 pinches sea salt

2 pinches black pepper

1 1/2 Tbsp. Land O’Lakes Unsalted Butter

1. Wash peppers and remove the tops.

2. Cut peppers into halves; remove seeds and slice into 1/4- to 1/2-inch cubes.

3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk remaining ingredients, except butter, together. Add peppers and stir.

4. Heat a large frying pan on medium heat. Add butter and allow to melt. Pour egg mixture into the pan. Stir continually using a spatula or wooden spoon to prevent eggs from sticking or burning.

5. Eggs should be done in less than 3 minutes and ready to serve.

Beefsteak Tomatoes

Tomatoes are absolutely necessary to complete a Southern breakfast!

Beefsteak tomatoes

Sea salt, to taste

Black pepper, to taste

1. Thoroughly rinse tomatoes; pat dry with a paper towel.

2. Cut tomatoes into four 1/4- to 1/2-inch slices.

3. Season with sea salt and black pepper and enjoy!

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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