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

Southwest NOW
Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville
MAGAZINE

August 2009

Coaching the Coaches

A Cultural Bent

Never a Dull Moment

The Eye of the Beholder

At Home With Adam and Jami McCain

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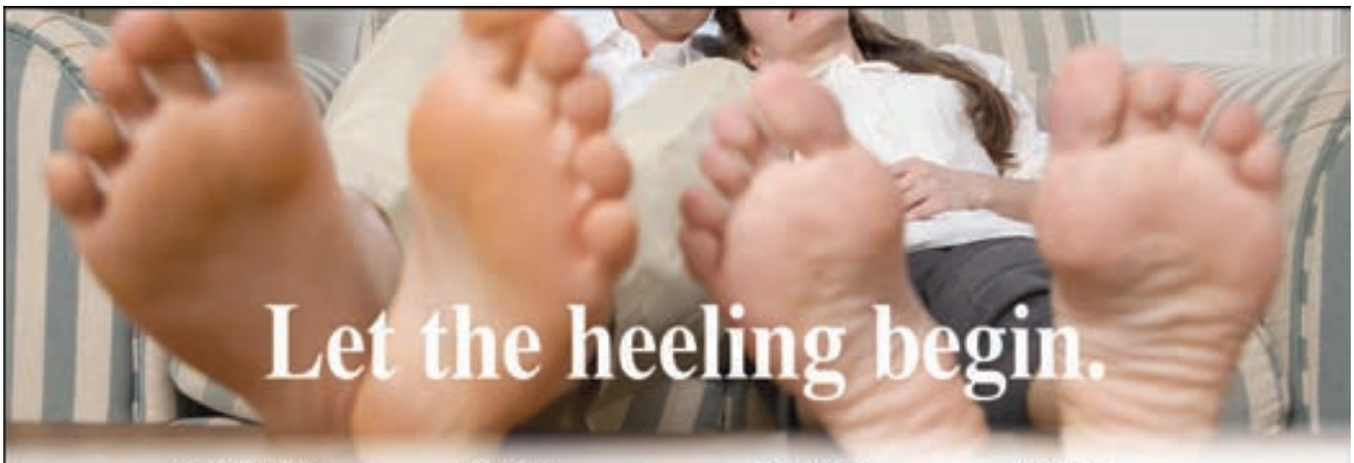

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Photo by Joshua Scott Armstrong.
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of $35 per year or $3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 283-1170 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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Editor's Note

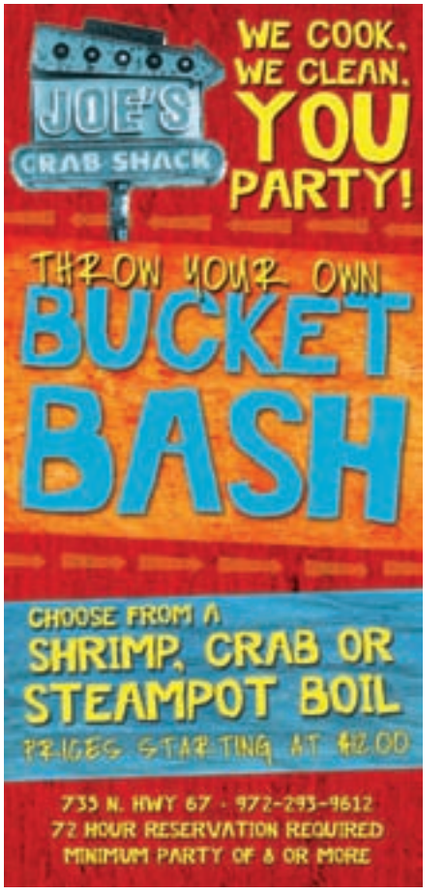
Greetings, Southwest Friends,

First of all, let me extend a heart-felt apology to Jim and Debby Baugh and all in the communities, particularly DeSoto, for our most unfortunate error in misnaming the city manager and his wife as the Jim and Debby Ball on the cover and in the home feature of our July issue. A corrected version of the article has been posted on our Web site, www.nowmagazines.com. To view it, just click on "Online Editions" and then on the link to our archived editions.

Well, it is August. Summer reading programs and vacations are coming to an end, and school is beginning to sound like a good idea to parents whose children have been using the B word: *bored*.

I hope all of you will enjoy the magazine this month and find time to support the services and products provided within our communities. A special thanks to all who advertise with us, we could not have our magazine without you.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor



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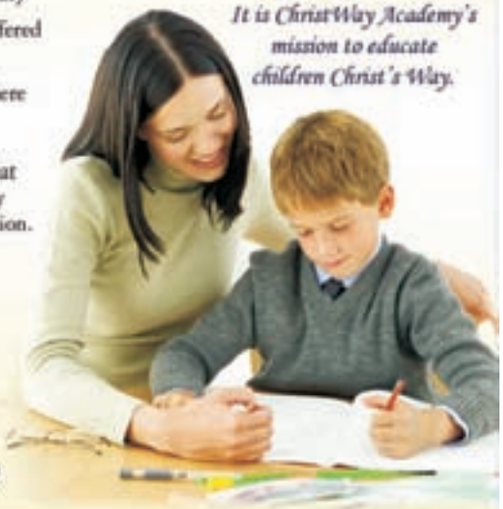

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Coaching the Coaches

— By Beverly Shay

The concept of community dominates the mindset and work of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). This ministry is based on the understanding that coaches spend more time with their team members than teachers, youth pastors or school guidance counselors and usually interact with students in ways that even their parents often do not. For that reason, one of the main focuses of FCA is to support and serve coaches and their families, strengthening their leadership skills, their ability to communicate with students, parents and teachers, as well as listening and meeting any of the coaches' personal and family needs.

"We have found that coaches have greater influence on and interactions with kids on a daily basis than just about any other leadership figure in the students' lives," related Danny Noah, Cedar Hill resident and Southwest Dallas director and community ministry assistant leader of the Greater Dallas FCA. "So they often hear more and observe more about what is going on in their students' lives. They see how they relate to the other kids; they hear their responses to classroom lessons and situations; they see them in their struggles to fit in, to excel, to juggle grades and sports. These coaches have the opportunity and ability to guide the thinking and behavior of both individuals and the team as a whole. We feel it is very important that these coaches receive consistent input and encouragement."

The FCA, the largest Christian sports organization in America, has been in existence since 1954 for the purpose of equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference in their local communities by impacting those involved in sports with the message of the Gospel. They teach biblical principles of leadership, respect, personal value, integrity and ethics, which enhance both the individual and the team.

"We operate under the 'four Cs,'" remarked Danny: "Coaches, campuses, camps and community. Our primary goal is to come alongside coaches to add our support to their efforts to be good authority figures; you could say we serve as pastors to the coaches. Secondly, we seek to affect school campuses as a whole. We do this primarily through 'huddles,' weekly student-led gatherings apart from team practice. The huddles provide an occasion for students, who have been in leadership training, to share their faith, validate their team members and build up team camaraderie. We see these student leaders as the engine, with the coaches acting as a steering wheel," Danny commented.

"Thirdly, we provide a variety of camps — leadership camps, designed to train students to lead campus ministries, as well as sports camps and clinics that teach specific skills

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in baseball, basketball, football and soccer. Camps are staffed by statewide FCA staff members and local coaches who 'volunteer' their time and skills," Danny remarked with obvious admiration and appreciation. "Camp also provides the coaches a chance to relax with their families, as well an opportunity to receive after having given out so much.

"Our fourth is a big one: getting the community involved both through sponsoring kids' camp costs and getting local churches involved in discipling new and young believers by bringing them into a church body where they can further grow in their faith. The Duncanville Lions Club has been active in sponsoring kids to camp, and adult booster clubs also raise sponsorship funds and provide Bibles, as well as other community leaders," Danny further enumerated.

Last year, the southwest FCA leadership wanted to create something that would allow the students involved in the FCA a chance to publicly present what had been going on in their huddles and their lives. They came up with the FCA Southwest Classic during the Cedar Hill/Duncanville football game. They presented a halftime video of the students' testimonies. Students from Cedar Hill worked a booth at one end of the stadium and students from Duncanville worked a booth at the other end, both receiving donations to

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help send students to camp. "At the end of the game, students from both teams prayed together. It was a powerful demonstration of the unity that comes through Christ even between strong rival teams," Danny stated. "We will be doing this again at the Cedar Hill/ Duncanville game held at Duncanville High School on October 16."

Danny served as a youth pastor at Kiestwood Assembly of God Church in Oak Cliff for 14 years prior to becoming a part of FCA. "Working with teenagers involves making yourself available, more than coming to them with a set agenda. I attended a campus ministry conference and came back with a lot of ideas," Danny recalled. "As I made myself available to serve local campuses, the door opened to offer some after-school, sports-centered programs at the church. I can now see that God used my youth ministry experience to lay the groundwork for my work in and through the FCA. Supporting the coaches was a natural next step in helping the kids."

The FCA's support of coaches includes establishing coaches' Bible studies similar to those found in church ministry, but specific to sports and coaching elements. Weekly devotions are sent via e-mail to all participating coaches. Danny remarked, "When you think about it, a coach who works for 20 years will likely impact 15,000 kids. So we multiply our efficacy by

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impacting the coaches, who often put in 80-85 hours a week during the sport season."

Forty out of the 60 schools in Danny's territory are active in FCA programs. The integrity and high standards of the FCA over the years

grants them huge liberty on school campuses. "People recognize the name and the history of the organization; for that reason very few restrictions are put on our ministry among the students. Between the favor of God and the wisdom shown in the manner of approach to school authorities, we have been granted before- and after-school time slots on the campuses," Danny related.

Throughout the summer, Danny has been focusing on local camps. The FCA offered a free football camp for middle school students put on by head coaches in the Dallas Independent School District. FCA provided character training aspects and lunches came from Chick-fil-A. Even the Dallas Cowboys helped out.

"Kids are seeking relationships they can trust, role models to demonstrate realistic self-esteem and help them through the season of their life where they are developing their identity," Danny stated. "By influencing and supporting both male and female coaches of various sports, we are helping to provide secure, stable role models, as well as teaching the kids leadership skills and spiritual truths that will serve them throughout their lives." NOW

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Never a Dull Moment

— By Amanda Madden Pitt

Mel Rapp's personal motto is, "Don't pass up the opportunity to meet someone new." When he retired after 37 years of service in Parks and Recreation, first in Dallas, then in Flower Mound and finally in DeSoto, Mel realized he had a second life to live. At the core of that new life were countless people to meet and opportunities to take advantage of. In fact, many of his adventures have turned out to be more meaningful than Mel ever imagined.

"I worked for the city of Dallas for 14 years, and I ran recreation centers, parks, pools, recreation programs and special events. I did that and really enjoyed it. Then I had the opportunity to go to Flower Mound in 1986 as Park and Recreation director. When I went up there they had virtually no parks and no recreation system," he recalled. "I had one-and-a-half employees — so few staff that you would give the orders what to do, then you would go to the other side of the desk and receive them! It was a real learning experience. We received a

"Don't pass up the opportunity to meet someone new."

national award from the Department of the Interior for the trails we built that connected open space, parks, schools and businesses all together."

The first adventure of the new era of his life revolved around Mel's hobby, golf. "I retired in 2006, and I got a volunteer job at Stevens Park Golf Course as a marshal. What you do is ride around the golf course and assist the players {by} making sure they're staying on the cart paths that they're supposed to; that they're going to the

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right hole when they're supposed to; and not getting too close to the creek," Mel said. Golfing is his favorite thing to do besides spending time with his wife, Brenda. "Golf brings everybody together from all walks of life. It's kind of like eating barbecue down at Sonny Bryan's. They don't care whether you're the president of the medical school or whether you just came off of a tow truck. It doesn't make any difference. You're there, playing and having a good time. We're all together."

However, for this DeSoto resident, golf is more than a game. It is an opportunity to help charities in need, which is exactly what he has done for the past five years through the annual golf marathon he founded at the golf course. "One year, we golfed for multiple sclerosis. This year we wanted to help soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan," he added, "and I think we'll be doing this for several years to come." This year's marathon begins at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 2 and lunch will be provided by Benavides Restaurant & Cantina.

After being a golf marshal, Mel craved other new adventures. "I did that for a year-and-a-half, then decided I needed something to pay for the increased gasoline cost." So he went to work for a car auction, got his commercial driver's license and worked with the city to receive his irrigation systems license, swimming pool license and backflow prevention

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license. For a change in scenery, he also decided to substitute teach grades K-9. "I like substitute teaching. I figured next year, I'd just do eighth grade and below, because the ninth-graders are bigger than me," he said smiling.

With the help of Amber Terrace Elementary School employee Cindy Aitken, Mel set up a science lab for students. "I inventoried the entire science lab, and one of the teachers

and I picked out experiments — about two months of science labs. They taught the kids everything from erosion to what's an electrical circuit. It was stuff that I'd had working knowledge of," he said. "One day, I had some of the 'problem' kids," Mel recalled. He told the students, "Before you come in, go out there and get me two leaves out from under that magnolia tree and a couple of twigs. They said, 'What are we going to do?' I said, 'Come on, we're using special microscopes today.' We got in there and we were looking at things under the microscope. Time went by in a hurry. From that day on, those kids would come up to me and say 'Mr. Rapp, are we going to do science lab today?' All they needed was somebody to just work with them and give them a little something different."

One of Mel's favorite science projects was an edible earthquake experiment. "We used graham crackers and chocolate cake icing. We'd have them break their graham crackers apart and put

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them in the peanut butter, then have them move this one and that one about a quarter of an inch and see what happened. The molten rock down in the core of the earth is between all of these plates, and if one moves, it makes another one move, and that's what causes earthquakes. Then they got to eat it when they got through," he said.

In addition to supporting the community, Mel has always supported his family and helped make their dreams a reality. "Our son, David, had cystic fibrosis when he was born and he was very fragile starting out, so we didn't want to put him in day care," said Brenda, a nurse practitioner. "Mel worked two jobs so I could stay home with him." When David began to improve, Brenda decided she was ready to return to nursing. "I've always worked in autonomous positions," she said. "I went through graduate school as a clinical nurse specialist. That never really fit. I didn't like it. Then Mel started to ask me, 'When are you going to go back to school?'" Finally, she took that step and has been a nurse practitioner for 16 years. "Mel has always been supportive of my goals," she said. Today, the Rapps' only child is happily married at 29 years of age. "Not bad for a kid who was supposed to die the first night he was here," Brenda added.

After three years in retirement, Mel does not plan to quit looking for new adventures anytime soon. "He's just always wanted to drive an 18-wheeler," Brenda said. "The guy that has the [trucking] school is an acquaintance of Mel's, so he let him take classes free, because he just thinks Mel's fun."

"Maybe if I get some experience, then I'll be able to do some short runs to Houston or San Antonio or something like that," Mel laughed, "so I'm working with someone to see if that might happen." NOW

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A Cultural Bent

— By Beverly Shay

When Mary Fae Kamm came to work at the International Museum of Cultures in 2001, she discovered just how well-kept a secret the museum unintentionally was. As the director of community development, she acquired the task of making people aware of the museum's existence and persuading them to come. "My initial goal of telling 20 people a day would only inform 4,800 people a year, when I actually wanted to tell tens of thousands to come," Mary Fae admitted.

Some of you may be wondering, *Just what is a museum of culture?* According to Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, *culture* is defined in part as: the act of developing the intellectual and moral faculties especially by education; enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training; the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief and behavior that depends on the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations; the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a racial, religious or social group.[1]

While all these definitions are substantial aspects of the museum's focus, the part most epitomizing Mary Fae's desires for the museum is learning and transmitting knowledge of various global peoples to succeeding generations. "I want people, especially young people, to understand all cultures share common denominators. That understanding will bring us closer, toward common global goals of peace throughout our world," Mary Fae emphasized. The world peace she seeks is not that of beauty pageant fame. Her passion is for the museum and its rotating displays to portray not cultural differences, but cultural uniformities: "Everyone wants the same thing for their children and the next generation. They want the best; they want safety and plenty, as well as better education and opportunities than they themselves had. By understanding that, we will work more quickly together toward the common goal," she remarked.

Oó Lala Chandail Rosé (torso) by Elizabeth "Sissy" Bingham

"I actually came here the first day the museum opened in 1981 to present a letter of congratulations on behalf of my boss, then-Congressman [Phil] Gramm. I later served on the museum board and brought many friends and relatives to tour the museum," she recalled. Her years living in England, Korea, Washington, D.C. and other places during her husband's 28-year Air Force career had broadened her world awareness and aided in the development of her public relation skills. Prior to working for the museum, Mary Fae had recently retired from her position as director of constituent services for Senators Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison. Between her military and political "education" Mary Fae has definitely learned how to get things done.

"Initially, my job [at the museum] was a mix of creating

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awareness and raising funds. We used direct mailings and faxes to seek donations and community involvement. E-mail really cuts down the time needed and increases your range of contacts," she grinned. "I knew the importance of local community groups, such as the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and tourism

Texas Native Fairy Tree
by Barbara Dybala

committee. Local newspapers and the Pan-Asian Chamber in Arlington have all helped to inform the public and raise sponsorship/grants for the yearly children's summer day camps," Mary Fae enumerated. One of these camps, the Travis Day Camp, is the only anthropology camp in Texas. Four week-long camps, offered for children who have completed grades K-6, feature different cultures each day, including sessions about language, food, a culture-appropriate craft and games.

To draw both school tours and adult attention, the museum offers permanent displays, such as: homes from New Guinea and Lakota Sioux Indians; life-size figures of indigenous Papua New Guineans; language, clothing or lessons from American Indians and various items from the Congo, Mexico and China. There are also periodic

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DeSoto Independent School District

eagle express

DeSoto ISD Back to School - August 24

Minor changes for DeSoto ISD students in 2009-10

As DeSoto ISD plans for the 2009-10 school year, some minor changes will be taking place that will affect students, parents and staff. Middle school hours will be extended 15 minutes at the end of the day to now end at 3:45 p.m.

The district has added MP3 players and iPods to the list of unacceptable items on campuses. Items found on campus will be confiscated and returned under the prohibited items policy.

State laws continue to mandate student attendance and impose penalties on students and parents for excessive tardies and absences.

School Hours

Elementaries: PreK-5th grades	8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Middle Schools: 6th-8th grades	8 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Freshman Campus: 9th grade	7:30 a.m.-2:54 p.m.
High School: 10th-12th grades	7:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m.

Registration Information

New student registration at each campus - August 11-21, 2009, 8-11 a.m., 1-4 p.m. Enrollment will take place at the individual campus. 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:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Immunization Records
- Proof of Residency - Parent must show a current Texas ID and current utility receipt and a signed affidavit of residency (forms available at each school)
- Report Cards (if applicable)

Prekindergarten Program

A child is eligible for Pre-K if the child is age 4 on or before Sept. 1 and:

- family qualifies for free/reduced-meal program or
- is unable to speak or comprehend English or
- is a homeless child or
- is the child or an active duty member of the armed forces or member was injured or killed or
- has been or is in conservatorship of the state.

Child Nutrition (Breakfast and Lunch Information)

DeSoto ISD makes nutritional breakfast and lunches available for all students. Menus are available at school and online.

Prices for 2009-10: All students breakfast: $1.25
Elementary lunch: $2.15
Secondary lunch: $2.40

Free- and reduced-meal programs are available for eligible students. Contact the Child Nutrition office for requirements.

Transportation Services

Transportation is available for students living two or more miles from their home schools. For more information and routes, contact your school.

Student Uniforms

DeSoto ISD has standard dress guidelines for all grades and all campuses. In general, students must wear white, forest green, gold or black tops and khaki, black or DeSoto plaid bottoms. Changes were made in 2008 to footwear, belts and coats. For the complete policy, visit destotoisd.org.

Immunization Requirements

As of March 5, 2009, there have been changes to the immunization requirements for those students entering Kindergarten and 7th grade for the 2009-10 school year. Please check the DeSoto ISD or State Department of Health for requirements by grade.

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.

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.

Inclement Weather Alerts

In the event of inclement weather, DeSoto ISD officials will notify the media prior to 6 a.m. of the day in question. In addition, the district utilizes an alert system to contact all DeSoto ISD families.

Excellence Achieved

- Over $1.5M in scholarships by 2009 graduates.
- Above state average Advanced Placement Student Participation, Student Graduation Rate, Attendance Rate and SAT/ACT Participation.
- 2009 5A Boys Basketball State Champions.
- 2009 Winter Guard squad placed 7th nationally at the Winter Guard Internationals
- 2008 5A Girls Basketball 2nd in State.
- 2007 State Champions in Girls Track and Field; 2008 2nd Place.

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New Initiatives

DeSoto ISD continues to strive for academic excellence and the results show excellent improvement in district schools, subjects and sub-groups. District scores improved in 24 of 27 categories – five categories increased by double digits! Many district and campus TAKS scores are at an all time high and are continuing to rise each year. We are anticipating several schools return to TEA Recognized status and the continued efforts of others to join them next year.

The district had many additional successes this year including a seventh place national finish for the DHS Winter Guard squad, over $1.5 million in scholarship dollars and the 5A Boys Basketball State Championship.

This fall, DeSoto ISD will be launching several new initiatives and programs – notably the districtwide Positive Behavior Support Initiative in collaboration with Region X and Dr. Randy Sprick of Safe and Civil Schools, and Eagle Experience – a DeSoto ISD-guided before- and after-school program at all seven elementary schools.

The Positive Behavior Support Initiative, shown successful in three district schools already, guides each campus to develop a positive behavior program specifically to rewards those who follow the rules and correct the small percentage of disruptive students.

Statistics show, in schools as in society, 90 percent of the problems are caused by five percent of the population. PBSI's purpose is to essentially "teach" those five percent how to behave, thus decreasing disruptions and increasing student learning for ALL students.

The Eagle Experience will offer families a campus-based before- and after-school program for their children. Eagle Experience will be consistent with school day curriculum, taught by district teachers with a vested interest in each student's achievement, to give the most beneficial program for our students.

For more information, visit our Web site at desotoisd.org

calendar

Saturday, August 8, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Back to School Fair, Freshman Campus
August 11-21 - Registration at each school
August 21-23 - Tax-Free Weekend
Monday, August 24 - First Day of School
Monday, Sept. 7 - Labor Day Holiday
Monday, Sept. 28 - Student State Fair Day
November 23-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 21-Jan. 1 - Winter Break
January 15 - Teacher Preparation Day
January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 15 - Staff Development Day
March 15-19 - Spring Break
April 2 - Teacher Preparation Day
May 31 - Memorial Day Holiday
June 3 - Last Day of School

www.desotoisd.org

DeSoto ISD

Back to School FAIR!

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

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- School supplies and backpacks for DeSoto ISD students! *(DeSoto ISD students only; limited to supply available)*
- Immunizations, physicals and health screenings
- DeSoto ISD and community resources for students and families!

HOW TO SIGN UP!

- Preregister August 3-6, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Board Room, 200 E. Belt Line Rd.
  - 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

A collaborative effort of DeSoto ISD, Big Brother Big Sisters, the City of DeSoto, DeSoto Chamber, Community and Churches!

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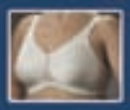

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temporary displays. One such recent display was a sculpture show of works done by Texan artists (April 6-May 15), exemplifying the part of the definition of culture as: enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training, as well as acquaintance with and taste in fine arts. As we all know, Texas is a culture unto itself.

Seventy sculptures running the gamut of mediums from bronze and marble to wood and dichroic glass to mixed mediums and steel were scattered across the grounds and throughout the museum. The show featured artists from the Texas Sculpture Association (TSA). Some truly amazing pieces were on display, including a sombrero created by Murray Stein out of 1,110 pieces of 12 (unstained) species of domestic and tropical woods. Many of his "turned" wood pieces are replicas of American Indian pottery. "My three passions are my wife, working with wood and classical music appreciation," Murray reported at the museum's

Guard Dogs
by Carolann Haggard

artist reception this past April.

Another hand-forged item that was displayed was by Jay Silber of Kestral Ridge Forge. Jay is a blacksmith that has been practicing his skill for over 35 years, having bought his first

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blacksmith shop at the age of 15. For 20 years, he maintained his day job as a geophysicist and I.T. manager and then decided to blacksmith full time. "Art doesn't really pay your bills," said Jay, for whom quality and creative design always come first. His hand-forged items range from furniture to pure art while remaining useful, practical and artistic, according to his Web site. One of his displayed pieces, *Jacki*, part of a collection depicting past and present friends, is an interpretative rendition of various blacksmithing skills representative of his friend's unique character traits.

Other pieces, such as Jessica Burnham-Hinton's *Manbel*, was easily, though eclectically recognized as a mermaid, although she was constructed of welded steel and found metal (otherwise known as scrap). "All my life I have been an artist, but I have only been welding for two years. I find I really enjoy using old stuff to reconstruct something new," Jessica remarked. Her mermaid incorporates a car fender, a meter box, an old shovel, a blue air tank and hair of expanded metal — the grid work often found on old grills or outdoor tables.

Nan Phillips, president of the TSA offered realistic figurative nudes. "I love the human body because it speaks of truth that clothing masks; the muscles and bone structure reveal truth," related Nan, who also creates and teaches glasswork.

Most cultures, both past and present, record their "take" on life through art or even music. The museum's most recent exhibit displayed some 70 pieces from 11 countries belonging to Homer DeFord entitled, "Mechanical Music Machines," spanning the 1790s — the 1920s. With all that is going on at the museum, no matter when you visit, Mary Fae guarantees you will find a cultural experience. NOW

[1]http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/culture

BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH

At Home With Adam and Jami McCain

— By Jaime Ruark

At the end of a winding road, a lovely two-story home sits in front of a beautiful lake vista. No one could possibly tell the McCain family has only lived in the sprawling house just short of two years; in that time they have completely redone a home, which was previously abandoned and treated quite poorly. A little love and a lot of elbow grease has turned the house that was once missing doors and inhabited by snakes, spiders and bees into a busy, bustling and happy home.

Adam and Jami McCain felt strongly they should live in the Cedar Hill area because of their ministry, a subject both speak about with genuine openness and excitement. “We’re in

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full-time ministry, and we both felt in our hearts that this is where we should be," Jami shared. "We just love it out here. It's so pretty and there's so much space between the houses." Adam is the director of Christ For The Nations Institute (CFNI), a Bible college, and travels full time for its mission organization, Global Youth Net. He is away from his family often, making his time at home with their three sweet children, Cohen, Moriah and Adelyn, 11, 8 and 2 respectively, that much sweeter. Adelyn, a rambunctious toddler with the smile of an angel, rules the roost.

Small-town Louisiana natives, the McCains love the culture and friendliness of Cedar Hill. "We used to do most of our shopping in Arlington, and then Jami started coming more this way and just fell in love with the area," Adam recalled. "We bought offices in downtown, just down from Babe's. We just love the feel of the town; it's big enough to support anything we need to do, but small enough to feel like family. We go into our favorite restaurant, David's Seafood, and we just love always seeing people we know."

The couple believes in trusting their lives to God's plan and have often been amazed at how quickly and concisely He has directed their path. "We sold our last house an hour-and-a-half after I stuck the 'For Sale' sign in the yard," Jami laughed. "It wasn't even on the market yet. The house was pretty much torn apart because I was getting it ready to go on the market, and the next thing I know, someone is knocking on the door." An offer was made the next day, and two whirlwind weeks later, they moved into housing on the CFNI campus and began looking for their new home.

With two-and-a-half acres of lush landscaping, endless trees and a 20-mile panoramic view of the lake, the five-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath house has come a long way from its burned-out, abandoned beginnings. "This house was a foreclosure, and it sat empty for six years. There weren't many other

houses on this street for a while, so people would have parties here. Apparently, someone had access to it and would rent it out without permission, plus people just squatted here," Jami said, showing pictures that document the transformation. "There were parts of the house that were barely touched and then other parts that were just trashed." Hardwood floors, installed by Adam, make it hard to envision the huge burned hole that once marred the living room floor.

The McCains moved in a week before Jami had Adelyn. The first few months brought one adventure after another. "The back door had been busted out and everything outside was so overgrown, so there were snakes and all kinds of critters living here," Adam remembered. Jami continued, "We had a hive of bees behind the wall in the master bathroom. We thought we had gotten them all, but one week when Adam was out of town a storm came through and all of a sudden there are hundreds and hundreds of bees coming out of the wall. It was wild!" The family has worked together, with Cohen cutting grass and Moriah helping to paint, to make the house not only livable, but to transform it into a lovely home.

Jami, who calls her style eclectic and "lets the style just go with the house," has labored over the walls, many of which

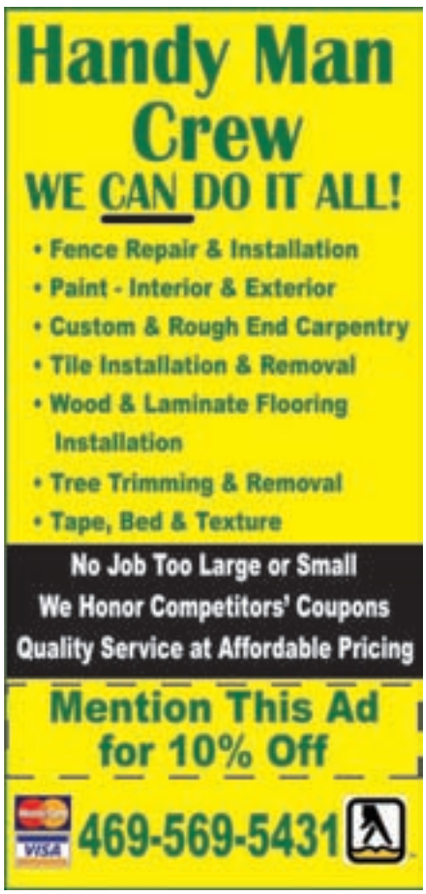
were previously covered in outdated, patterned wallpaper. Now each room has its own personality. Adelyn lives in bright pink vivaciousness — with white accents — a color that Jami laughingly admitted "makes Adam sick." Dancing girl Moriah has vibrant blue walls to showcase her purple curtains and Barbie Pegasus decor. The spacious kitchen, which was covered in apple wallpaper, is now a Ralph Lauren suede color, brightened by white cabinets and windows that open to the wraparound deck and endless view of nature.

With such a large house and so many rooms, Jami is thankful to be able to fill her house with furniture that has been lived on and loved. "In Louisiana, there are a lot of antiques, so we have a lot of that, which is why most of what you see isn't in perfect condition," Jami said. "We also have a lot of things passed down through family. The dining room table was my grandfather's. I have my great-grandmother's couch and a lot of our chairs were my grandmother's." A large coffee table, with its many drawers, is a perfect example of a need being met almost before it was even expressed. "God is good. So much of what we have was given to us, and it just always seems to be exactly what we need," she added.

The master bedroom and bath represent many more hours of work. Jami is especially proud of how the space turned out. The darker greens, browns and blues she has chosen make the space feel calm, a get-away from the busyness of their life. "I tend to go with earth tones because they feel inviting," she said. "Of course, one of my favorite things is the his-and-hers walk-in closets. They're huge."

Jokingly called "McCain Manor," the house is the meeting place for the people involved in their ministry. Along with their live-in houseguest and former CFNI student, Elizabeth, the McCains' live the challenge they daily set before their students, church family and friends. "We feel like people sometimes say they want to do something, but then they lack the resolve to follow through," Jami expressed. "You can't go on a mission trip to Africa if you can't first pick up trash on the side of the road in Cedar Hill. We challenge people to bring heaven to earth right where they are, to start in their own community." NOW

Editor's Note: Photo of the McCain family by Joshua Scott Armstrong. www.1000wordsmedia.com. Used with permission.



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The Eye of the Beholder

— By Beverly Shay

"I'm really just an amateur," protested Laura Hallmark as she shared her all-but-amateur photos. While some define an amateur as one lacking experience or competence, an amateur is actually one who pursues something for the pure love, joy and fun of it. In Laura's case, her love of photography is evidenced in the exquisite shots she captures. "What excites me most is finding the shot actually captured what I saw," Laura enthused. "I seldom go out with an agenda or specific plan; in fact, I make it a habit to have my camera with me all the time, because you never know what might strike you as a great photo."

Laura began her day job in the DeSoto city offices three-and-a-half years ago as assistant to the city secretary. Now she is the city secretary. Her job demands ebb and flow around elections and various government activities. "Having seven bosses (the mayor and six council members) can be challenging at times, especially as one or two of them change each year, but I like my job," Laura remarked. Laura and her assistant, Kisha Morris (public records coordinator), handle elections, public records, keep city documents, as well as oversee the records management program. Kisha is the one who let Laura's photographic talent "out of the bag."

While excelling in her job, it is Laura's photography interest that feeds her artistic need. "I always liked taking photos. My first real exposure to photography came in middle school while working on the school newspaper. Assigned to cover the photography and shop classes, I was given a camera and then shown how to use the dark room to develop the campus pictures I had taken. That really caught my interest," Laura reminisced.

Photography did not truly become a hobby until about 15 years ago, when her dad gave her a Yashica 35mm, which he had purchased in Vietnam. "It came with a 200mm telephoto lens weighing about five pounds. Even with its limitations, experimenting whet my interest. With my first paycheck at this job, I bought a digital camera to take more artistic shots, which I could enlarge," Laura remarked. "I have taken 2,923 photos since last August; a thousand were taken in Italy last November."

Sometimes, the smallest things capture Laura's eye and come under the scrutiny of her camera lens. She entered three photos in the DeSoto Art League's Juried Art Show displayed at the Town Center from May 29-July 31. Her photo of a water drop delicately hanging from the tip of a leaf is entitled, *Quenched Thirst.* The photo of a stairway leading to a bright blue door of a gold building overlooking a cove in Italy is called *Scala a Paradiso,* or the stairway to heaven. "It sounded better in Italian than English. The hardest part of showing photos is naming them," Laura admitted. She titled a photo of a torn screen door on an old house caught by her camera, *Days Gone By.*

"I love my digital camera, but although able to view my shots on the camera, seeing them on the computer is like opening up a wonderful surprise on Christmas morning," Laura smiled. She continued to display photo after photo of things which have caught her

SWNAug09p30-31arts.qxd:ENJun05p32-33Arts.qxd 7/22/09 11:11 AM Page 31

eye, such as irregularly laid paving stones in Rome with a smashed long-stem rose, called *Forgotten Love*.

"I'm really pleased with the photos I took in Italy. One particular day while my mother was painting, I went into the village and took random shots. That afternoon, while I painted, my mother took the camera. As we viewed each other's work, we found we had both taken photos of the same doorway framed differently. That illustrates for me how differently we each see the same aspects of life and how beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Although our photos were of the same shot, the different lighting and angles produced completely different perspectives," Laura reflected. "When we returned and I showed the photos around, people either found hers or mine more appealing for varied reasons. What was most fun was hearing why they liked one or the other more — they were seeing what we had — what a thrill!"

Laura's godmother is a professional portrait artist; Laura also credits her mother with "giving me her creative, artistic streak. She paints as a hobby." Laura's daughter, Jordan, just graduated from high school and Laura explained, "She, too, is creative. She's torn between politics and fashion merchandizing, but she will be creative at whatever she does." Laura's son, Jacob, is going into first grade. "He had use of a camera one day and took some pretty fair shots," she laughed.

"In an alternate universe, if I had time, I would love to be an event planner, doing the hands-on stuff," Laura confessed. "But this job lets me channel my artistic side occasionally by planning banquets with themes and making the centerpieces and floral arrangements." She displays her photos under her maiden name. "My professional side is Laura Hallmark, but I wanted to let Laura Grenadier out, too. So that name represents my artistic side," she said. NOW

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Pleasant DENTISTRY

— By Beverly Shay

Going to a dentist does not always arouse the warm, fuzzy feelings connected with a pleasant outing. However, having a dentist who goes out of his way to listen to his patients, waylay their fears, put them at ease and give them the best care possible goes a long way toward changing a dentist visit into a pleasant experience.

"I actually find it fun to diagnose dental problems and provide solutions that often change the way a patient perceives themselves. Cosmetic dentistry, in particular, is very rewarding," confided Dr. John Knowles, D.D.S., specializing in family and cosmetic dentistry. "I treat patients of all ages — from the time they can sit completely still in the chair to seniors, providing everything from cleaning to rehabilitation of every tooth in their mouths, if necessary," said Dr. Knowles.

"Most of the time, the issue is to control apprehension, more than pain," commented the good doctor with an affable grin. "Whether that means doing treatment in stages to make it more affordable, providing oral surgery right here in the office or coming up with a method that will furnish the needed change with the least invasive process, our aim is to provide gentle, quality care the way our patients want it. I am definitely not into high-pressured sales."

In fact, Dr. Knowles finds it intriguing not only to fix dental problems, but to create an atmosphere of comfort throughout the care that will, in essence, "fix them" as well. "People are very aware of their looks and how they think people perceive them when it comes to their smile and/or dental imperfections. I endeavor to treat them as people rather than income potential. We treat the whole person not just their mouth," he informed.

In reality, what patients do at home when it comes to brushing and flossing is more important than what Dr.

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Knowles can do for them at the office. "Dr Pepper is one of the worst drinks because of the amount of caffeine and sugar. Sugar and acidic drinks are not only cavity-producing, but they are hard on the gum line and tooth enamel. I tell my patients, 'I can't give you new teeth, only God can do that, but I am here to fix problems which have arisen,'" Dr. Knowles remarked. "Genetics does play a part in the proclivity to dental problems. Usually, people are more prone to either gum problems or cavities, but not both. I recommend flossing once a day, brushing twice a day and seeing your dentist at least every year, if not more often."

Straightening teeth has more options these days with the advent of Invisalign®, which makes use of custom-made, clear aligners, which can be worn with virtual invisibility and removed for eating and cleaning teeth. "No uncomfortable, irritating metal or brackets are involved, and a new aligner is made every two weeks or so to gradually straighten crooked teeth undetectably," commented Dr. Knowles. This product

is especially popular with teens and highly recommended by dentists and orthodontists worldwide, both for efficacy and lack of hygienic problems common to regular braces.

Dr. Knowles and his staff of four have seen about 3,000 patients at his office over the past two-and-a-half years. Located at 216 Dalton Drive in DeSoto, their hours are Mondays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesdays through Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call (972) 274-2900 to set an appointment for hygienic or restorative care. NOW

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• A ribbon cutting, top left, was held at Bakery on a Hill. • Chef Scott of 1st Class Kids, top center, presented an entertaining program at the library to children of all ages. • Jill Holley, top right, welcomed 75 Chamber Night Out attendees while holding her granddaughter, Brynlee, as her son and daughter-in-law, Blake and Jennifer Beecroft, looked on. • Cedar Hill Council Members, bottom left, proudly announced that the city had received the 2009 Tree City USA recognition award. • Dr. Lesa Ansell, bottom right, presented a welcome basket to Billie Johnson, office manager for H&R Block.

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• Blessed for Less Retail Shop owners, Joetta and Charles Wills and daughter, Latrisa Rogers, top left, accepted their Chamber plaque from Chamber president Cammy Jackson. • Classmates, top center, tied ribbons on the small tree they planted in memory of Kaylinn Ortiz, as her family looked on. • Students, top right, worked in the computer lab during the DeSoto ISD summer ESL Enrichment Program. • City of DeSoto payroll supervisor Linda Sharp, bottom left, enjoyed a weekend fishing trip at Joe Pool Lake. • Attorney General Greg Abbott, bottom right, posed with Corey Borner, and his mother, Charlotte Borner, during a recent visit to Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation.

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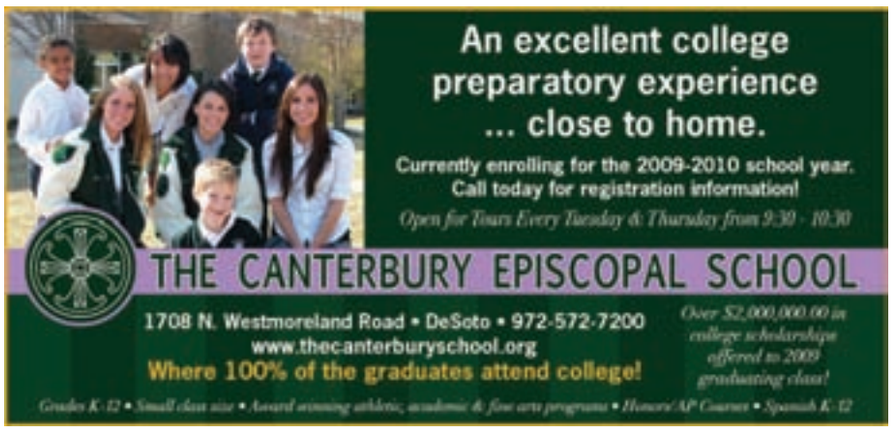
• Sabrina Davis, pictured with PACE school principal Keith Butcher, top left, received her scholarship during the graduation ceremony. • The *NOW Magazine* winning bowling team made up of Chris McCalla, Linda Dean and Beverly Shay, who was standing in for Steve Hansen, top center, smiled for the camera. • A ribbon cutting, top right, was held at Republic Glass and Mirror. • The "Girl Talk" event, bottom left, proved women can mix fun with serious subjects as evidenced by audience laughter. • "Project Duncanville Day," bottom right, saw 180 volunteers gathered to contribute over 650 hours of valuable service to the community.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

In the Kitchen with Judy Dickerson

Being a retired schoolteacher and rearing six children has given Judy Dickerson many experiences to place under her belt. After living on a ranch in Kansas, she moved to Texas and spent 20 years with Cedar Hill Independent School District and 15 years involved in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. "I have very fond memories of teaching," she recalled. "Watching a child's light go on let me know that my efforts to get him or her to learn were successful."

Judy and her husband, Dave, are very proud of their five sons, daughter and grandchildren. "I was inspired to cook by some very hungry, small mouths to feed. Boys never seem to get full," she said. "When we lived on the ranch in Kansas, I also fed the ranch hands on a regular basis." NOW

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

MT. DIABLO

One of our family's favorite appetizers. I usually double or triple the recipe.

1 cup sour cream
1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 cup guacamole (or guacamole dip)
1 cup Colby cheese, grated
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1/2 cup tomatoes, finely diced with their juice
4 1/4-oz. can black olives, chopped
tortilla chips

Mix together sour cream and 1/2 package taco seasoning. Use a large platter; start by heaping guacamole in middle of platter. Cover guacamole with sour cream mixture. Next, cover with two cheeses. Drizzle diced tomatoes as though they were molten lava; garnish with drizzles of chopped olives. Surround "mountain" with chips and serve. This is a terrific dish to take somewhere and assemble there. I put ingredients in plastic bags or containers because once "mountain" is built, it does not travel well.

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

1 cup onion, chopped
1 Tbsp. oil
3 cups chicken, cooked, diced
4 1/4-oz. can chopped green chilies (hot or mild)
1/2 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
1/2 lb. cheddar cheese, shredded
12 flour tortillas
1 12-oz. can cream of chicken soup
2 8-oz. containers sour cream

Sauté onion in oil; add chicken, chilies and 2/3 of each cheese. Heat tortillas in microwave just long enough for them to be pliable (about 30 seconds to 1 minute). Combine soup and sour cream. Put a small amount of soup and sour cream mixture on each tortilla. Divide chicken mixture evenly among tortillas and roll tortilla. Place in a greased 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Pour remaining soup mixture on top of enchiladas. Garnish with remaining cheeses. Bake 20 to 30 minutes in a 350 F oven. These can be frozen before baking to prepare for a large group or a busy day!

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

2 cups chicken, cooked, diced
2 cups celery, diced
1 cup pecans, chopped
2 tsp. grated onion
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
1 cup frozen peas, drained

TOPPING:
1 cup grated cheese
1 cup potato chips, crushed

Mix all ingredients together, adding peas last. Cook 15-20 minutes in a 350 F oven. Remove from oven; add topping of grated cheese and potato chips. Return to oven for 10 more minutes. Serves 12.

BLOND BROWNIES

My mother's favorite cookie.

1/2 cup butter (or margarine)
1 cup light brown sugar (packed tightly)
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
pinch of salt
1/2 cup pecans
1/2 cup chocolate chips

Melt butter in a heavy saucepan; add sugar. Let cool. Stir in egg and vanilla. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Add nuts and chips if desired. Bake in a greased 9 x 9-inch pan in a 350 F oven for 25 minutes.

"THOSE LITTLE CHEESECAKES LIKE AUNT JAN MADE"

2 8-oz. packages cream cheese
1/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
24 vanilla wafers
1 can cherry pie filling

Combine cream cheese, sugar, eggs and vanilla; beat well. Place one vanilla wafer into a double-thick cupcake paper liner in muffin tin. Fill 1/2 to 3/4 full of cheese mixture. Bake 10 minutes at 350 F; cool. Top with cherry pie filling. Yields 24.

BACON POLES

This is one of the easy "appetizers" our kids loved and could help make when they were small.

bacon
breadsticks

Wind strips of bacon around bread sticks. Place on a broiler pan and cook at 350 F for 10-12 minutes until the bacon is crisp.

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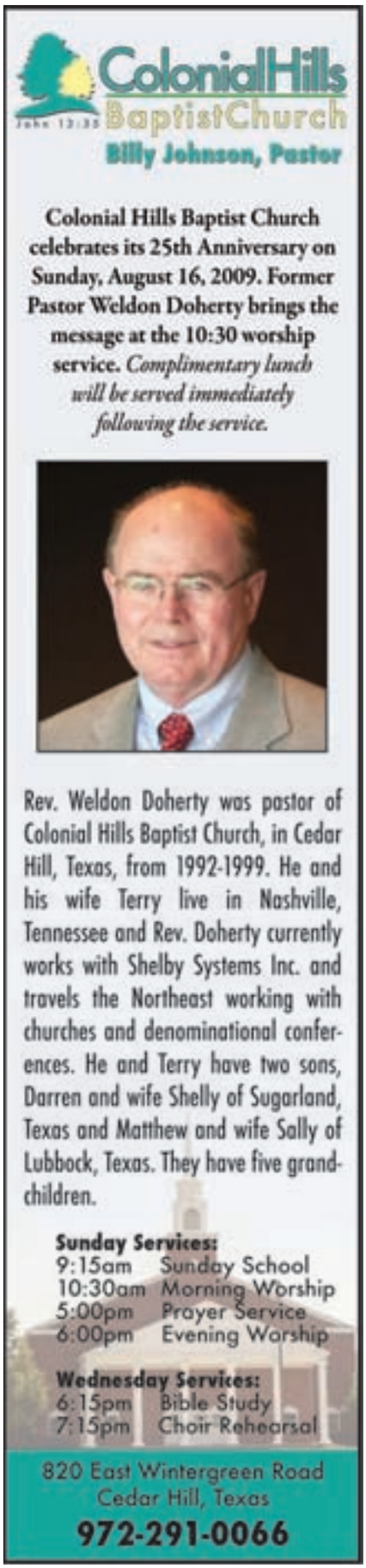
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Colonial Hills Baptist Church celebrates its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, August 16, 2009. Former Pastor Weldon Doherty brings the message at the 10:30 worship service. Complimentary lunch will be served immediately following the service.
Rev. Weldon Doherty was pastor of Colonial Hills Baptist Church, in Cedar Hill, Texas, from 1992-1999. He and his wife Terry live in Nashville, Tennessee and Rev. Doherty currently works with Shelby Systems Inc. and travels the Northeast working with churches and denominational conferences. He and Terry have two sons, Darren and wife Shelly of Sugarland, Texas and Matthew and wife Sally of Lubbock, Texas. They have five grandchildren.
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10:30am Morning Worship
5:00pm Prayer Service
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Wednesday Services:
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Finance NOW

Get Educated About Investing

If you have children at home, you're no doubt aware that it's the traditional back-to-school time. But even if your days of parent-teacher conferences are in the past, or even in the future, you can still find a place in your life for education — and you might want to start by educating yourself about investing.

To get the most out of your investment education, ask yourself these questions:

- **What are my goals?** Your financial goals should drive your investment decisions. You probably have short-term goals, such as making a down payment on a home or paying for a vacation, and long-term goals, such as saving for your children's college education or building resources for your retirement. Once you've identified your goals, you can create an investment strategy to help achieve them.
- **What is my risk tolerance?** Self-awareness is important in every aspect of life — including your approach to investing. As you create your investment portfolio, you need to understand your own views on risk. Would you consider yourself an aggressive investor — that is, someone who can accept a relatively higher degree of investment risk in exchange for potentially higher returns? Or are you a more conservative investor — someone who is willing to take lower returns in exchange for lower potential risk? Or perhaps you're a moderate investor, less risk-averse than some but less aggressive than others. However you'd characterize yourself, it's essential that you factor in your risk tolerance when choosing investments. Otherwise, you'll likely end up causing yourself needless worry over your investment portfolio's performance.
- **When should I make changes to my investments?** Once you've built an investment portfolio, you shouldn't leave it on "autopilot." Over time, you most likely will need to add new investments or sell others. However, try to avoid selling quality investments just because their share price has dropped — they may still have good long-term prospects. In general, you should sell an investment under certain circumstances. For example, if your goals have changed, you may find the need to sell some investments and purchase others. You may decide to sell an investment if it's no longer what it was when you purchased it. For example, maybe you've invested in a company whose products are less competitive than they once were, or perhaps the company belongs to an industry now in decline. And finally, if your

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portfolio has become "overweighted" with certain types of investments, you may decide to sell some of them to bring your holdings back into balance, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

• **Whom should I consult for help?** You can do a lot to educate yourself about investing — but when it comes to making the right choices for your future, you may need help. A professional financial advisor who is familiar with your family situation, short- and long-term goals and investment preferences can help you build and maintain a portfolio that can help meet your needs.

The investment world can be complex, so the more knowledge you have on your side, the better off you'll be. Take the time to learn as much as you can about investing. It's an education that can pay off in the long run. NOW

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4-D Ultrasound — A "Womb With a View"

— By Dr. Donald Blair

"Miracle" technology now available

Four-dimensional technology gives new meaning to the term: "Here's looking at you, kid." Almost every parent spends those first few months wondering whom the new baby will resemble. Until recently, most parents had to wait until delivery day for the answer. But now, thanks to advanced technology that offers four-dimensional imagery of the new baby, curiosity can be quelled months before the birth.

A small fraction of OB/GYN offices now offer the amber-and-gold images of tiny faces, hands and feet — as well as an opportunity to view movement. This new technology provides a window, which allows us a glimpse of the baby that touches both minds and hearts. It provides patients a "womb with a view."

Depending on the position of the baby at the time of the ultrasound, expectant parents can clearly see their baby's movements as well as hair, facial features, fingers and toes. The images can be saved to digital files and given to the parents on a CD to share with family members and friends. Traditional ultrasound images are 2-D and also show internal organs like the heart and lungs, making the images difficult for the untrained eye to interpret. 4-D is shorthand for "four-dimensional"— the fourth dimension being time.

Though available commercially since the 1960s, ultrasound was not widely accepted until the mid-1970s, when additional advances in technology began bringing better image quality. Manufactured by GE Medical Systems, 4-D technology allows your doctor to visualize internal anatomy moving in real-time. For example, doctors can follow movement patterns of fetuses, allowing them to draw conclusions about their development including identification of some birth defects, such as soft tissue defects.

Other uses include:

- **Determining fetal age**
- **Analyzing fetal development**
- **Evaluating multiple and/or high-risk pregnancies**
- **Detecting fetal abnormalities**
- **Detecting structural problems with uterus**
- **Detecting placental abnormalities**
- **Detecting abnormal bleeding**
- **Determining ectopic pregnancy and other abnormalities of pregnancy**
- **Detecting ovarian tumor/fibroids**
- **Locating the placenta**

In addition to its obstetrical uses, the ultrasound system can also be used for breast imaging, interventional urology and general imaging. Ultrasound is a safe, non-invasive exam that does not typically require any exam preparation. Still, please consult with your physician first on any requirements.NOW

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August 2009 Community Calendar

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Visual Expressions Creative Arts School's summer art camps for children ages 5 and over and for teens. Contact Jennifer at (972) 293-1117 or info@veartgallery.com or visit www.veartgallery.com.

Register for adult softball, kickball and volleyball at the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation office Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., at 285 Uptown Blvd. (972) 291-5130. www.cedarhilltx.com.

All Summer
For Cedar Hill Recreation Center's summer programs, visit www.cedarhilltx.com.
For DeSoto Recreation Center's summer programs, visit www.ci.desoto.tx.us.
For Duncanville Recreation Center's summer programs, visit www.duncanville.com.

Mondays and Tuesdays
CH Recreation Center presents Caliente Salsa: 8:00-9:30 p.m. Monthly Fee: $50, for ages 12 and older. Learn the Salsa, Cha Cha, Rumba, West Coast and Fast Step Swing, Lindy Hop, Latin Hustle and more.

Tuesdays
Senior Access Tai Chai classes: 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Methodist Charlton Medical Center. Cost is $6 to learn ancient art of combining exercise, stretching and balance. Light refreshments included. (214) 947-4628.

Wii games, chess, Cranium, dominoes and other games available for teenagers: 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Zula B. Wylie Library meeting room in Cedar Hill. www.zulabwylielib.org.

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

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

Fridays
Walking program: 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Conference Room 6. (214) 947-4628.

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

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

First and Third Wednesdays
Duncanville Business Interchange: 7:30 a.m. at Chamber offices.

First and Second Fridays
Line dancing in the Methodist Charlton Medical Center auditorium: 11:00 a.m.-noon. (214) 947-4628.

Second Mondays
Diabetes Management Support Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Methodist Charlton Medical Center auditorium. (214) 947-7262.

Second Tuesdays
Dallas Area Writers Group: 7:00 p.m. at CH Library. www.dallaswriters.org.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays
Cedar Hill Lions: noon-1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, 915 Old Straus Rd. (972) 291-0651.

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

Second Saturdays through November
Monthly Classic Car Show benefiting Bridges Safe House in Cedar Hill: 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Sabor A La Mexicana Restaurant and Tortilla Factory in Duncanville, one block south of I-20 at Cockrell Hill and Skyline, directly behind the Red Lobster. Membership not required to enter. No age limits on the cars. Trucks and motorcycles welcome. Contact Bobby Kight at (972) 742-9233 or Toni Kight at (972) 742-3377.

Third Saturdays
Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at J. W. Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln., beside West Intermediate School. Free. Bring own telescope or use ours. (972) 291-1505.

August 4
Summer Movie Series: *Prince Caspian* (Rated PG): 2:00 p.m. Location: DeSoto Public Library children's area, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Cost: Free.

August 6
Fifth Anniversary Celebration at The Ranch at Cedar Hill: 5:30 p.m.–midnight, featuring wonderful food, live music, beer and wine tasting, Mystery Dinner Theatre, clowns and face painting for the children and more. Call (972) 291-4530. www.the-ranch.biz.

August 6-30
Seven Guitars by August Wilson presented by the African American Repertory Theater at The Corner Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. Matinees at 3:00 p.m.; evenings at 8:00 p.m. Contact: (972) 572-0998. Cost: Matinees $15; evenings $20.

August 12
Duncanville Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon: 11:30 a.m. at Methodist Charlton Medical Center auditorium, 3500 W. Wheatland Rd. Sponsored by Mountain View College. Keynote speaker: Kay Ray. Open to public. Reservations required. $20/person or $200/table of eight. (972) 780-4990. Carmen@duncanvillechamber.org.

August 13
3rd Annual Fashion With Flair style show and luncheon presented by New 2 You thrift store and the Cedar Hill Food Pantry: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. Featuring Amy Allen and Traphene Hickman. Cost: $15. Proceeds benefit the food pantry. Tickets available at the thrift store. Contact New 2 You at (972) 293-2822 or the food pantry at (972) 293-0411.

August 15
City Wide BBQ Cook-off: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset Dr. in Cedar Hill. Contact Michelle Johnson at (972) 533-0909 or events@n2ncedarhill.com.

August 15-23
Friends of the Duncanville Public Library Annual Book Sale: Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

August 16
Colonial Hills Baptist Church, 820 E. Wintergreen, Cedar Hill, celebrates their 25th anniversary. Former Pastor Weldon Doherty will bring the message at the 10:30 worship service, with Vernon Scott, former music director, leading the music. Complimentary lunch served immediately following the service. Former members and guests are cordially invited to participate in this memorable occasion and stay for lunch. Nursery provided.

August 29
Annual Fishing Tournament at Briarwood Park in DeSoto.

September 6
Kick off to Free Day of Yoga community class: 5:00-6:30 p.m. at One Arts Plaza in downtown Dallas.

September 7
3rd Annual Free Day of Yoga daylong events. Visit www.freewebs.com/dallasfreedayof yoga for DFW or www.elliscountyyoga.webs.com or call Lisa Ware (214) 532-0776 for free classes in Midlothian, Red Oak, Waxahachie, Ovilla and Red Oak.

September 13
The Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter and Tri-City Advisory Board's fundraising gala at Enchanted Memories on the Hill, 1331 S. Cockrell Hill Rd. Cost: $55. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. (972) 291-1198.

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TRINITY
Women's Center

From left to right: Dr. Gayle Smith-Blair, Psychiatrist; Dr. Cealee Thomas, OB/GYN;
Dr.Catherine Thomas OB/GYN; Sharon Roberts, WHNP; Gina Vincent, WHNP; & Dr. Donald Blair OB/GYN (behind)

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Dr. Cecily Jones, OB/GYN

Accepting new patients

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