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- August 3-4, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Belt Line Conference Center, 200 E. Belt Line Rd.



NEWS TO KNOW

DHS Class of 2015

With about 525 graduates on June 4, the Class of 2015 earned \$7.5M in scholarships including 25 full academic and 34 full athletic signees. Students will be attending Stanford, TCU, Wisconsin, Morehouse, Texas, UNT, SMU, Texas Tech, BYU, Nevada, San Diego State, Kansas, and more plus Navy and Marine commitments. Among them are state art winners, thespians, athletic trainers, UIL debate and robotics competitors, journalists, athletes, entrepreneurs, agricultural scientists and more.

Did you know?

DeSoto ISD offers both state qualifying and tuition-based Pre-K programs for our students? This summer renovations will be completed on the **Amber Terrace Discovery & Design Early Childhood Academy** with a staff day care, PPCD and Pre-K programs in one location to maximize best practices and resources for early childhood education for all students. We will start with a quality foundation for every child to be prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

New Leadership



Homer Webb, III
Principal, Alternative Education Campus and WINGS Dropout Prevention and Recovery

Did you know DeSoto ISD encourages reading and academic activities all summer long?

This year we have a special **Summer Edition of DeSoto ISD Read NOW!** with amazing prizes for students in all grades including ice cream parties, gift cards, movie passes, tablets, laptops and much more! If you missed the launch event June 15, you can still participate! Simply visit the website and click on summer reading! Complete the registration form to be in the program and begin logging your reading through *Achieve 3000* or *Accelerated Reader*.



Eagles Football 2015 - Wearing the Brand

With a #5 national ranking and top pre-season state ranking, the DeSoto Eagles are poised for a fantastic season. Here how the season will play out:

August 29, 4 p.m.	Arlington Martin @ Newsome Stadium, Mansfield (ESPN)
Sept. 5, 2 p.m.	IMG Academy (FL) @ Eagle Stadium
Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.	South Oak Cliff @ Eagle Stadium
Sept. 17, 7 p.m.	Cibolo Steele @ Mary Hardin Baylor, Belton
Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.	Grand Prairie* @ Eagle Stadium
Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m.	Mansfield* @ Newsome Stadium, Mansfield
Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.	South Grand Prairie* @ Eagle Stadium
Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.	Cedar Hill* @ Longhorn Stadium, Cedar Hill
Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.	Midlothian* @ Eagle Stadium
Nov. 5, 7 p.m.	Duncanville* @ Panther Stadium, Duncanville

* District Games; Bold = Home Games

Calendar

July 3-July 17 - Administration Closed
Monday, July 27, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room
Saturday, August 8 - Back to School Fair, DeSoto HS, 600 Eagle Drive
Monday, August 10, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room
Monday, August 24 - First Day of 2015-16 School Year

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ON THE COVER



Ray Pollock found playing golf to be a stroke of genius.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Southwest Friends!

I received encouragement recently from an unlikely source! I found an intriguing article in *FD*, entitled: "How to Think." Jenna Scatena quoted five highly educated, well-known thinkers regarding boundaries and productivity in technology. My takeaway gems:

"Our brains are not computers. They were not designed to run multiple apps at once. We actually achieve more when we do less ..."
(Christine Carr).

"Research suggests it takes at least seven minutes to see how a conversation will unfold" (Sherry Turkle).

"Essentially we are living at the speed of light rather than the speed of life. To change ... give yourself a break: go offline in order to bring productivity back online" (Pico Iyer).

"One of the most powerful tools we can give ourselves is the ability to regulate how much our thoughts freak out our bodies ..."
(Golbe Kamarei).

I encourage you: have some actual conversations this month.

Beverly

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SouthwestNOW Editor
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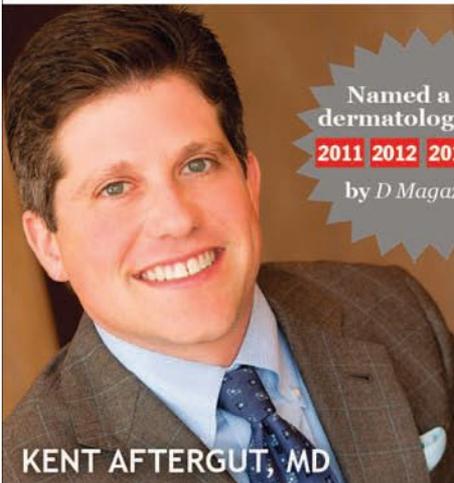
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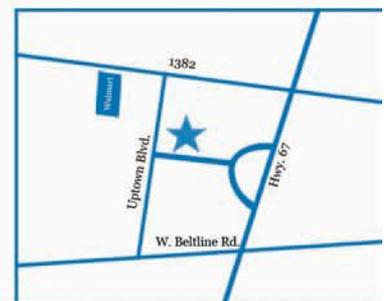


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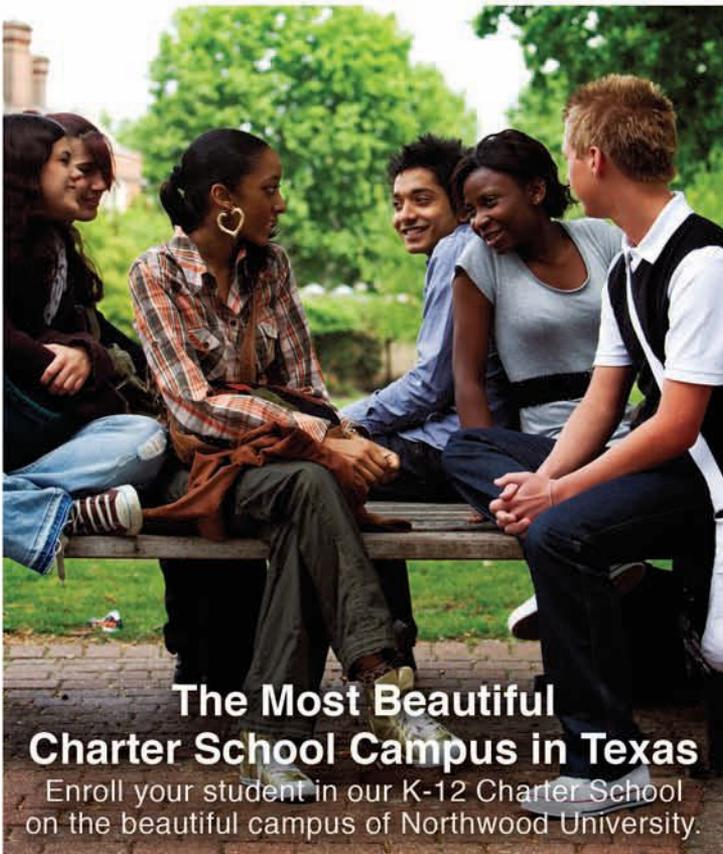
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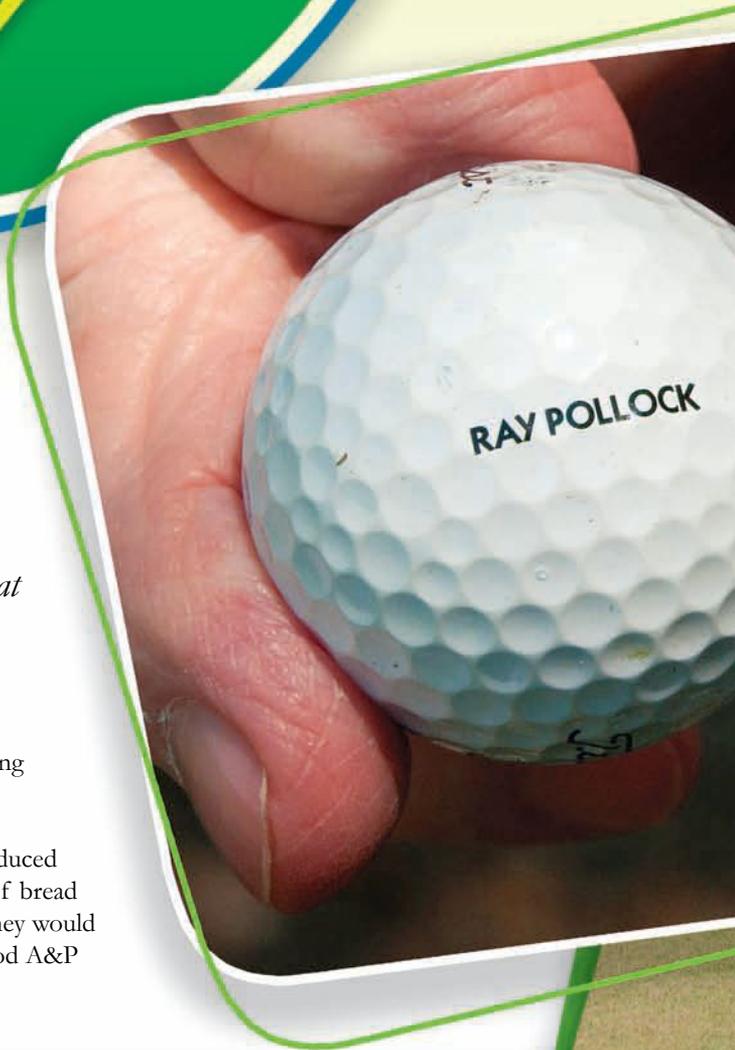
His Age

— By Dianne Reaux

Ray Pollock is an interesting gentleman. He's a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, and he is an avid hook 'em horns alum. His professional career included working as an IRS agent, a CPA and an attorney, and he also had the privilege of serving in the United States Navy. Along the way, Ray developed a love for golf, which he still plays twice a week. Ray enjoys a full and active life, and at the age of 95, he shows no signs of slowing down.

Ray wasn't born in Texas, but like many others who found their way to the Lone Star State, he got here as fast as he could. In his case, he and his family moved here in 1925 from Washington, D.C. "I can remember leaving Washington with my mother and siblings as we traveled to Dallas on the choo-choo train," Ray recalled.

His earliest memories include their first Texas spring storm, which produced hail the size of baseballs, and walking to the corner store to fetch a loaf of bread for a nickel. When his family needed more than an armful of groceries, they would take the family's 1928 Nash, two-door sedan and head to the neighborhood A&P grocery store.



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think golf
saved
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"When I was older, I attended Adamson High School in Oak Cliff," he stated. "As a child, I had aspirations of being Knute Rockne, the legendary University of Notre Dame football player and coach. I wasn't a big guy, but football was a passion for me." At that time, trying out for the team was a big deal for Ray. "Making the team was important to me, and for a little guy, I'll modestly admit, I was pretty good," Ray bragged. One of his fondest memories is being on the Longhorn Texas touch football team. "We won the gold medal for the Texas touch football championship during my senior year in 1941."

Upon enrolling in college, Ray didn't have a specific career path in mind. "When I decided to major in business, I didn't know if I would have a career in that field. Back then, I just wanted to get a college education," he admitted.

While he was a senior, WWII started. "During that time, UT Austin changed its rules for seniors," Ray explained, "and they waived our second semester of classes, so you could graduate and serve in the military." Ray had a college degree in business administration, but he was colorblind and wasn't sure the military would accept him. They did, however, and he entered the United States Navy as a Carpenter's Mate 3rd Class.

Ray served with the Seabees, a construction battalion formed during



WWII. "I had the opportunity to travel all over the world," Ray shared proudly. He was stationed in California, Hawaii and Reykjavik, Iceland. "They sent me to Harvard for three months, and when I completed school, I received my commission as an ensign in the Navy Supply Corps. It was one of the proudest days of my life," Ray recalled, smiling fondly at the memory.

After six years of active duty, Ray transitioned from full-time naval service and joined the reserve unit in Dallas. "I started working as an IRS agent, and I studied for the CPA exam," Ray stated. Finding community property law confusing, he enrolled in the SMU law school (Dedmon School of Law) and took evening classes.

While studying at SMU, Ray passed the CPA exam, received his law degree and passed the bar exam. His academic success and diligent work ethic led to a distinguished career, which included working for Prince, Harris, King and Company; Arthur Young, and he became an early tax partner with Ernst & Young. "I was responsible for business relationships with key executives in large companies like Texas Instruments, Frito-Lay, Republic Bank and Trinity Industries," he shared.

Not only did Ray handle corporate responsibilities, the personal relationships he developed created opportunities to

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manage the personal finances and taxes for several key executives. "I had a knack for maintaining the confidences of my clients. I was a support person, and I worked extremely hard to be technically proficient with my responsibilities. It was fulfilling work, but it was extremely stressful." Ray often credits his job for leading to his love of golf.

Ray didn't discover golf until he was around 40 years old. "I really think golf saved my life," he shared. "I was working my butt off, and never getting caught up. But one afternoon, my boss told me to meet the other executives on the golf course. I'd never golfed before, and I didn't want to go. But I went and shot a 154, which won me the booby prize for the highest score," he said smiling.

During that outing, Ray fell in love with golf, which led to taking lessons. With practice, he learned to swing and "catch the ball on the screws," a term used to describe perfect contact with the ball. "I joined the country club pretty quickly, and started making time to practice and play. It gave me the chance to get away from the pressures of the office."

That was over 30 years ago, and his love of golf has never wavered. For about 20 years, Ray has been a member of Thorntree Country Club where he continues to play twice a week. Harold Brown, a golfing buddy, has known

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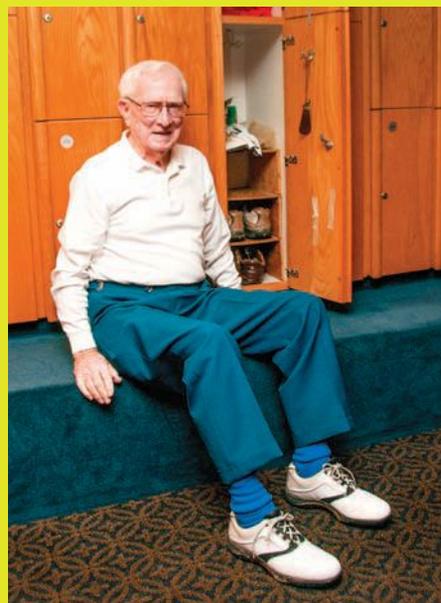


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Ray since 1974. "Ray was with Arthur Young in Dallas, and they conducted audits for Republic Bank when I was president of one of their subsidiaries," Harold explained. "My boss introduced me to Ray the first day I was on the job. I believe he wanted me to know that someone was always looking — there was to be no hanky-panky!"

"Ray is held in high esteem by many Thorntree members, including me," Harold shared. "Most people have never seen anyone still playing golf at 95, and Ray shoots his age or better about half the time. Late last year, Ray hit a hole-in-one, which is a major accomplishment for any golfer."

Ray once said he wanted to behave here on earth, so he could have a caddy up in heaven. But with the spry pace Ray keeps, heaven is just going to have to wait as he continues to enjoy the thrill of playing the game he loves. **NOW**



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Back to School 2015-2016

It's not too early to get ready for the 2015-2016 school year. The first day of school is Monday, August 24, 2015. 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 www.duncanvilleisd.org.

Registration in Three Easy Steps

- 1 Go online to the district website, www.bts.duncanvilleisd.org.
- 2 Complete Online Registration
- 3 After completing registration, you will receive an email if you need to attend Document Review. You can attend Registration Document Review at your child's school August 6 - 12. Visit bts.duncanvilleisd.org for dates and times.

The 2015-2016 Academic Calendar is available and can be downloaded from the district website on the Calendars page. Below are some of the important dates for the upcoming school year.

Report Card Dates for 2015-2016

Grades K- 6

October 30, 2015
January 22, 2016
April 8, 2016
June 10, 2016 (mailed)

Grades 7-12

October 23, 2015
January 8, 2-16
April 1, 2016
June 10, 2016 (mailed)

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"I was in excruciating pain everyday and had a lot of muscle weakness in my left leg. When you are in constant pain, your mood is bad and your outlook is poor—life just isn't the same. After a visit to Spine Physicians Institute, Rivera said he decided to undergo another back operation with Dr. Sethuraman. "It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I put my faith and trust in him, and he did exactly what he said he would do."

-Marco Rivera

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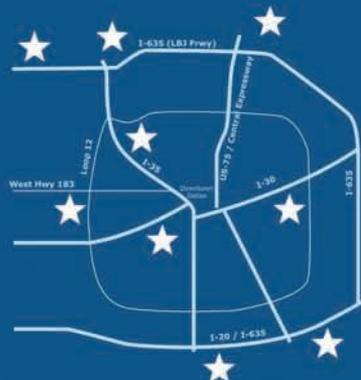
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Getting Involved



— By Beverly Shay

In nine months a lot can happen — babies grow to viability within the womb and by 9 months of age, a child will have developed definite opinions about what tastes good or when sleeping is desirable. Traditional educational years span nine months. Another nine-month achievement can be graduating from a Leadership Southwest class designed to birth leadership.

Leadership Southwest began in 1985 with 23 people. Since then over 1,035 business and community leaders have completed the program sponsored cooperatively by the Chambers of Commerce from Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster and Oak Cliff. “Leadership Southwest is designed for the development of tomorrow’s leaders and community volunteers on boards, councils, and commissions by making significant contributions to the future of Southwest Dallas County,” states their website. Many graduates serve on local chamber, hospital, zoning, economic or school boards, city councils or in elected positions.

“Each of the monthly classes offers a unique twist to motivate leadership,” said Reese Collins, DeSoto citizen, critical repair manager for Habitat for Humanity and incoming chair of Leadership Southwest. Reese, a Dallas native, graduated from Bishop Dunne Catholic School. He attended the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, on an academic scholarship. “My business management and real estate degree have been put to use working for Habitat for Humanity,” Reese remarked. “I heard about Leadership Southwest through my job.” He completed LSW in 2012.



Patricia Coleman (current chair) passing the gavel to Reese Collins.

“At the end of the day, leadership brings us closer together and helps us to work through our differences and see our common goals.”

“I feel LSW unites communities through those who want to have an impact,” Reese added. “I was shy and hesitant and often felt I did not belong. These classes built my confidence. Now I believe I can make a difference. I learned hope is not a strategy. The course pushed me to take risks and made me a better person.”

Monica Chumley, originally from El Paso, is the executive assistant for the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce. She worked for years as an administrative assistant and spent seven years as a stay-at-home mom. “All this time, I have helped those over me look good, but I



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felt I was somehow less than they were,” Monica rather candidly remarked. “I really wish I had taken this class when I was younger. This class focused me — I discovered and identified some of my passions! I love volunteering and working with kids, especially those who may



feel detached from their families. I have learned to collaborate and strategize with other groups to bring in those who may feel outside. Now I know leadership isn't about hierarchy — it's about relationship and partnership!”

Tiffanie DuBoise graduated from Portland State University with a major in psychology and a minor in business and communication. She has worked in human resources for an interior design company and insurance companies, contract HR jobs and a wireless communication company in Oregon. In March 2014, she became HR manager for Consolidated Data Services (in Irving) supporting 400 employees nationwide. Tiffanie joined Young Professionals after making her home in Cedar Hill and learned of LSW from Michelle Rodriguez, executive director of LSW. “Texas is very different from Oregon. This class gave me insight into the Southwest area, what is needed and what channels will enable us to truly change and enrich our communities,” Tiffanie admitted. “I learned what goes on behind the scenes of communities, the value of going deeper and looking for long-term impact by working with other cities, their leaders, getting to know my own

community leaders and future leaders, as well as how it all works together.”

Tiffanie recommends this course because it impacted how she sees her job and the future of Cedar Hill and surrounding areas. “It’s not every day you get to be in a room with city managers,

police officers, professors, business owners and individuals at all stages of their careers — from seasoned veterans to those just starting out. We’ve become friends,” Tiffanie stated.

She also likes the volunteerism aspect. “Our class project was collecting snack and hygiene items for children, which we donated to Amazing Grace for their work with foster children, as well as items for the DeSoto Food Pantry.”



Reese, Monica and Tiffanie each commented on the applicable nature of what they’ve learned in LSW. Dr. Larry Terry from University of North Texas was truly a class favorite, presenting case studies on conflict resolution, vision and strategy and communication. “As chair



Distinguished Leader Award Honoree Maranda Auzenne making her speech.

of the Cedar Hill Young Professionals, I have been able to apply the lessons on civic engagement to help grow our organization,” Tiffanie remarked.

Michelle has witnessed individuals grow and become more involved in their respective communities. The relationships they establish will carry into the next

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chapter of their lives. Leaders aren't necessarily at the front of the stage. They can work behind the scenes at a common goal by motivating others. She is excited to be a part of such a dynamic group of leaders who are making a difference in the Southwest.

Barry West, chief operations officer for Life School of Dallas and board member of LSW, added this: "Leadership Southwest has offered numerous Life School participants an opportunity to learn more about the communities we have campuses in. It has also connected Life School leadership to other servant-minded members of the community who



have hearts to lead and improve lives. We appreciate how this program is making strides to be an even bigger participant in giving back to the cities it serves."

LSW students were thrilled with their day at the state Capitol in Austin. "We were able to see firsthand how motions are brought before the state house and senate," Monica recalled. "We also had classroom time regarding lawmaking processes for educational and transportation bills." Another favorite for Monica was Justice and Law Enforcement Day. "We met all the police chiefs. Each were people persons and had a deep love for their communities. Charles Smith, a former lieutenant with the Duncanville police department and currently the Duncanville assistant city

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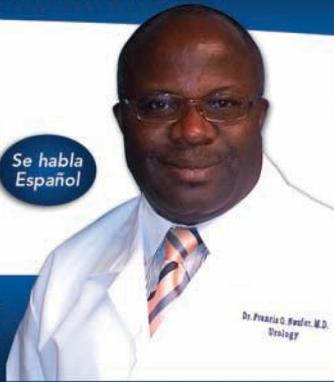
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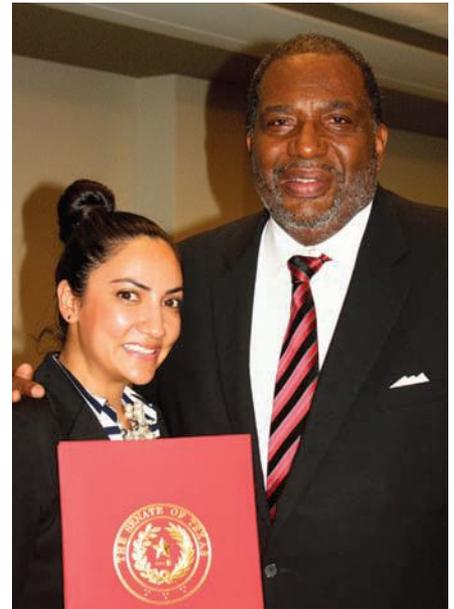
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manager, also spoke in regard to police officers and current events.”

This month, Leadership Southwest celebrates 30 years of exposing people to government processes, city administration and avenues of service opportunities. The courses have been designed to help individuals identify and focus on their passions, to apply what they are learning. “If you join,” Tiffanie explained, “you will expand your network, engage with amazing people and gain invaluable knowledge.”



Monica noted they had all drawn closer by getting to know other leaders from other cities. “At the end of the day, leadership brings us closer together and helps us to work through our differences and see our common goals,” Reese added. “Come join us if you want to grow in leadership skills. You will find yourself wanting others to get involved.” **NOW**

Editor's Note: To enroll for the next session or become a sponsor, contact Michelle Rodriguez at (214) 535-8818 or admin@leadershipsm.org.



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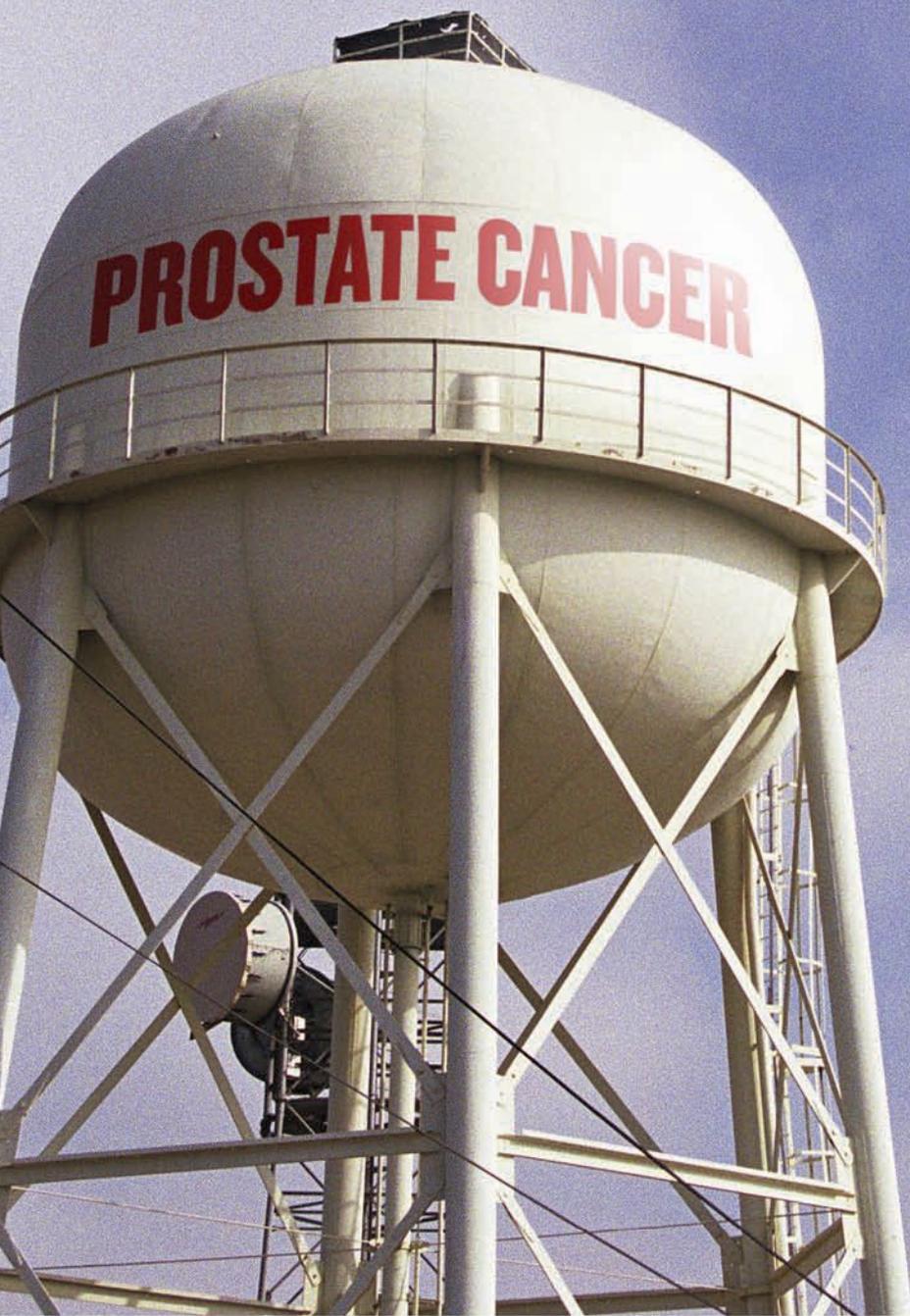
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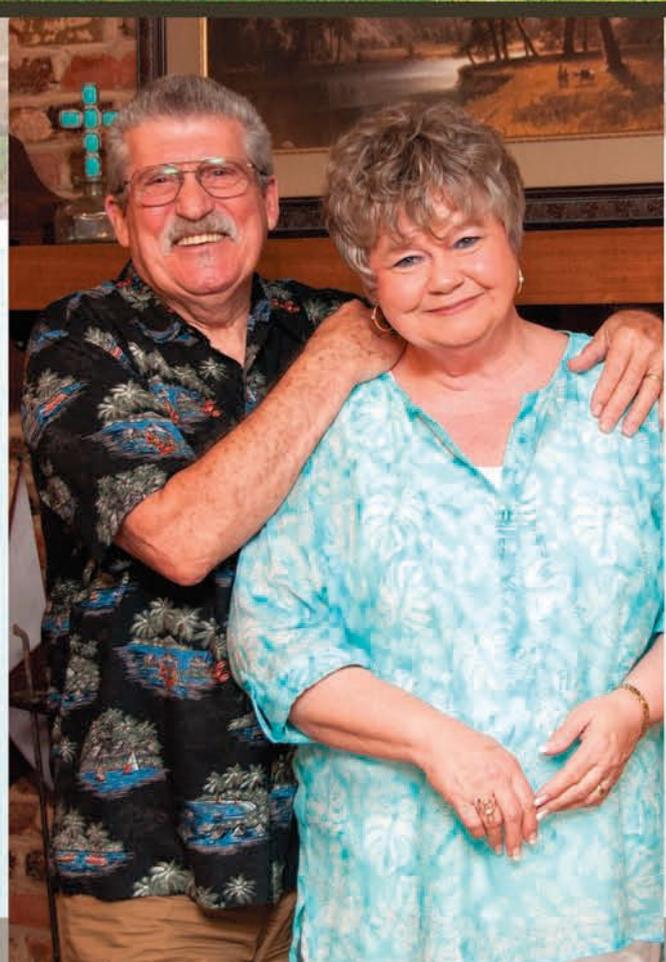
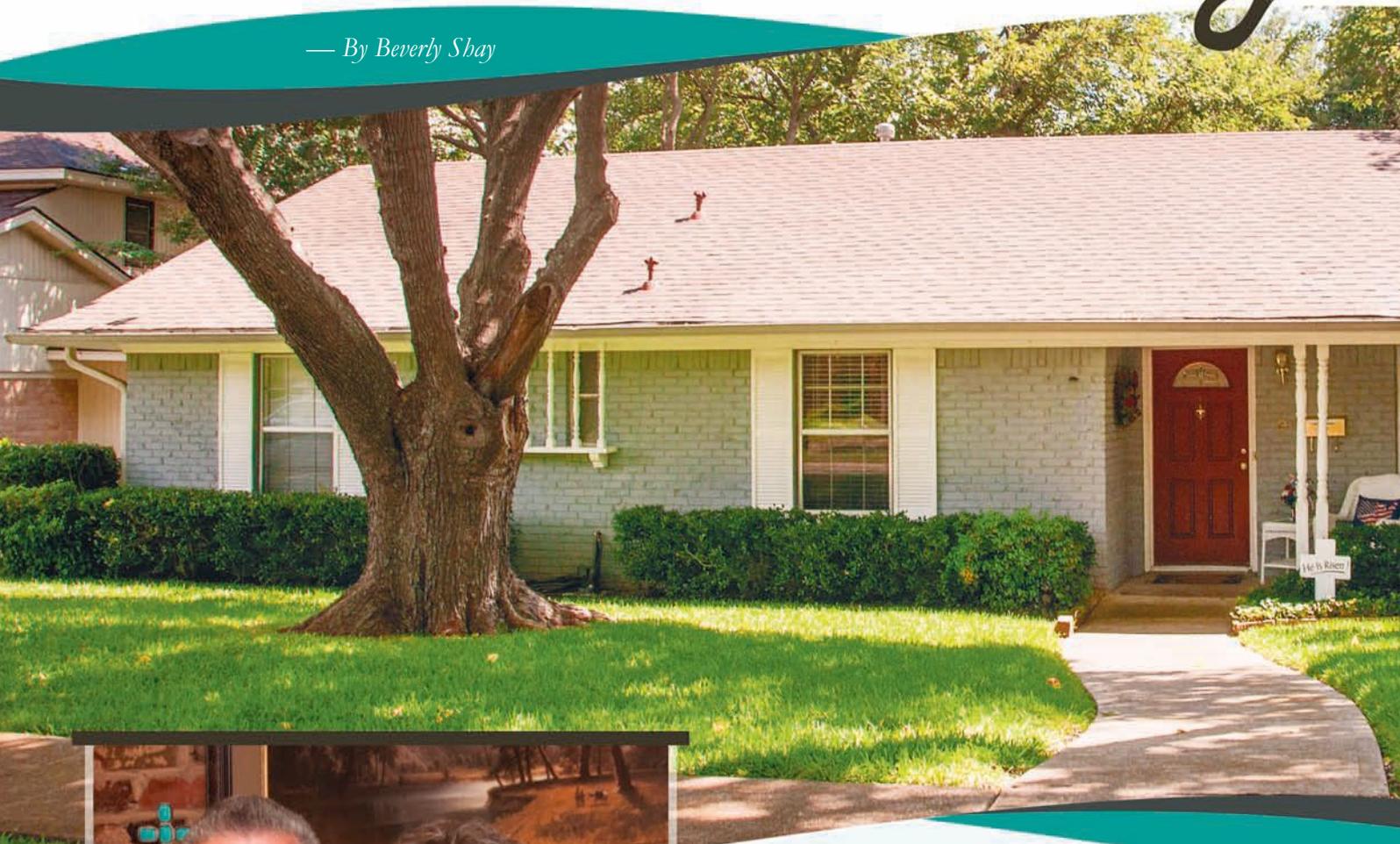
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Perfect for *Hosting*

— By Beverly Shay



At times, it's hard to tell if a home is just right for the people or the people are just right for the home. Either way, Wally and Lana Gail Hoskins have found the right home. "We looked at dozens of homes. None of them was the right one," Lana Gail recalled. "Cutting through the neighborhood on our way to church, we had passed this house many times, and it always caught my eye. Noticing the For Sale sign, I called the Realtor and found it was off the market, even though the sign stayed up another month. I called again and discovered the contract had fallen through the night before." Wally and Lana Gail went to look at it on July 3, 2008, and closed on the 31st.

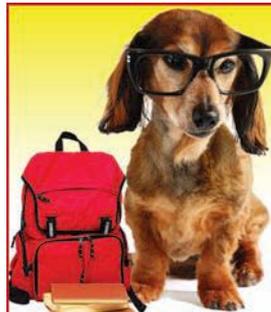
Wally spent a long portion of his life in Los Angeles and lived in Albuquerque for seven years. He came to Dallas to

AT HOME WITH Wally and Lana Gail Hoskins



attend Christ For The Nations Institute in January 1983. When he graduated in December '84, he moved to Duncanville where he has lived ever since. Lana Gail grew up in Oak Cliff but has lived in Duncanville off and on since the '70s. "We met when her son, Jimmie, was a senior at DeSoto High School and working at Payless Cashways, where I was also working," Wally reminisced. "I was so impressed with Jimmie because he was honorable to his mom." One day when she came into the store, Lana Gail met Wally.

"But it wasn't until five years later, when we were both at a Super Bowl party hosted by Payless that we really saw each other!" Lana Gail exclaimed.



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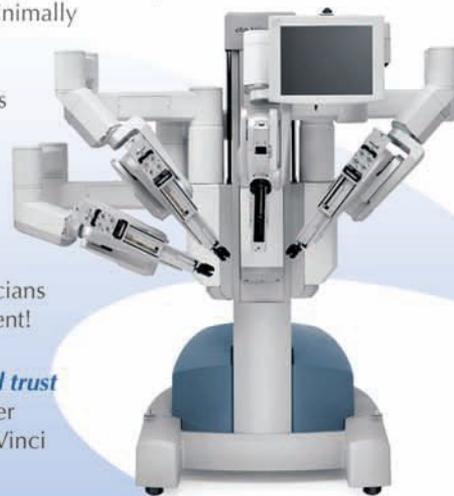
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“Like the song lyrics say — one kiss was all it took,” Wally shared. “We had our first kiss that night and fell in love. Even though I stumbled through a dance, we danced again.” They married six months later and have been happily in love for 24 years now.

For about 13 years, they lived in a 1,200-square-foot duplex, where they served as property caretakers. Both of their moms passed away within six months of each other, leaving them

some money, so it was a good time to buy a home. In 2003, Wally and Lana Gail became a part of South Gate Fellowship, where Wally now serves as an assistant pastor and is one of the rotating ministers who speak at Champions Cove during their Sunday morning gatherings.

“This house is perfect for hosting fellowship gatherings and small Bible study groups, being it is so close to the church. We’ve had up to 30 people here, and with the open flow of the rooms, there is plenty of space,” Lana Gail remarked. “One of the nicest things happened before we even moved in, people from the church came and prayed over our home, dedicating it to the Lord.” Not only is their home close to the church, it is also close to Champions Cove where Lana Gail is employed as a senior living specialist.

Much of the home, they have left the same. The neutral-toned living room has paneled walls, a brick fireplace, laminate wood flooring and a comfy brown



leather couch and loveseat. The large bay window has a built-in ledge. The room opens into a dining area, where the built-in china cabinet houses treasured gifts. Most of the rooms and even the hallway feature built-in cupboards. Storage is definitely not an issue in the 1,726-square-foot, ranch-style home built in 1969.

“The builder included a lot of detail in the two china hutches and the kitchen cabinets with added inset spindles,” Wally remarked appreciatively. They have redone the floors in three rooms and built a new deck in the yard. “Some of the painting done by the former owner was rather interesting,” Wally added with a chuckle. The guest room is their



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Texas room, complete with a Texas quilt and an antique chiffonier from the estate sale of a friend's mother. The mini wardrobe features a long cupboard for hanging clothes on one side and five drawers topped with a mirror. The piece fits exactly along a narrow wall space between the room's entry and the Jack-and-Jill bathroom door. "We had to paint the wainscoting white after ridding it of the odd wallpaper that didn't match the sky and clouds (which they kept) above the molding," Wally said.

On the other side of the Jack-and-Jill bathroom is the man cave cum study, once painted a bright orange with lots of mirrors. The calmed-down decor is far more suited to the office Wally has created for reading and studying. Two pencil sketches of an Apache Indian chief and a maiden hang on one wall.

Throughout the home are sweet little touches Lana Gail has made — each one perfectly fitting the space available. The hallway features a hall stand with an etched mirror with hooks for hats and a cane. The bricked hallway leads from the bedrooms to the entry where a very narrow sofa table serves the vestibule hosting several "little fat birds" Lana Gail really likes. Along with the built-ins, pocket doors are found throughout the home. One unique feature is the double-sided hall bathroom. Shut one pocket door and the 90-degree turn leads to the master bath. Both "sides" of the bathroom feature sinks and vanities with the shower/tub and commode serving both. A surprisingly large master bedroom done in neutrals and burgundy has a view of the backyard.

A spacious kitchen is one step up from the dining end of the living room. Plenty of countertop space aids in hosting the many buffet meals they serve. "We'd like to replace all the countertops next," Wally remarked. Bar stools add seating on the

nook side of the kitchen with its new stone floor and farmyard knickknacks. The nook also opens to a huge separate laundry room and panty. The backyard can be reached through French doors opening from the opposite side of the breakfast nook. “The nook and the patio are where we live,” Wally stated. The patio has bright pink chairs, a patio set and grill. Beach signs from their vacations enhance the relaxed ambience along with a lovely yard bordered from the alley by a nice hedge.

On the other side of the driveway is another section of yard. “In the warmer months, we like the deck on this side because it’s cooler — the breeze is better. Shaded by two trees, a bench, some snails and a fire pit converted to a planter in an ivy patch, are serenaded by three wind chimes.



Whether you spend your time inside the lovely gray brick house with its red front door or outside, you’re sure to find the perfect place to visit with the gracious hosts of this delightful home. “It’s a practical home surrounded by trees and so well-insulated,” Wally added. “Obviously, the home was built for entertaining, and we love having guests over.” **NOW**

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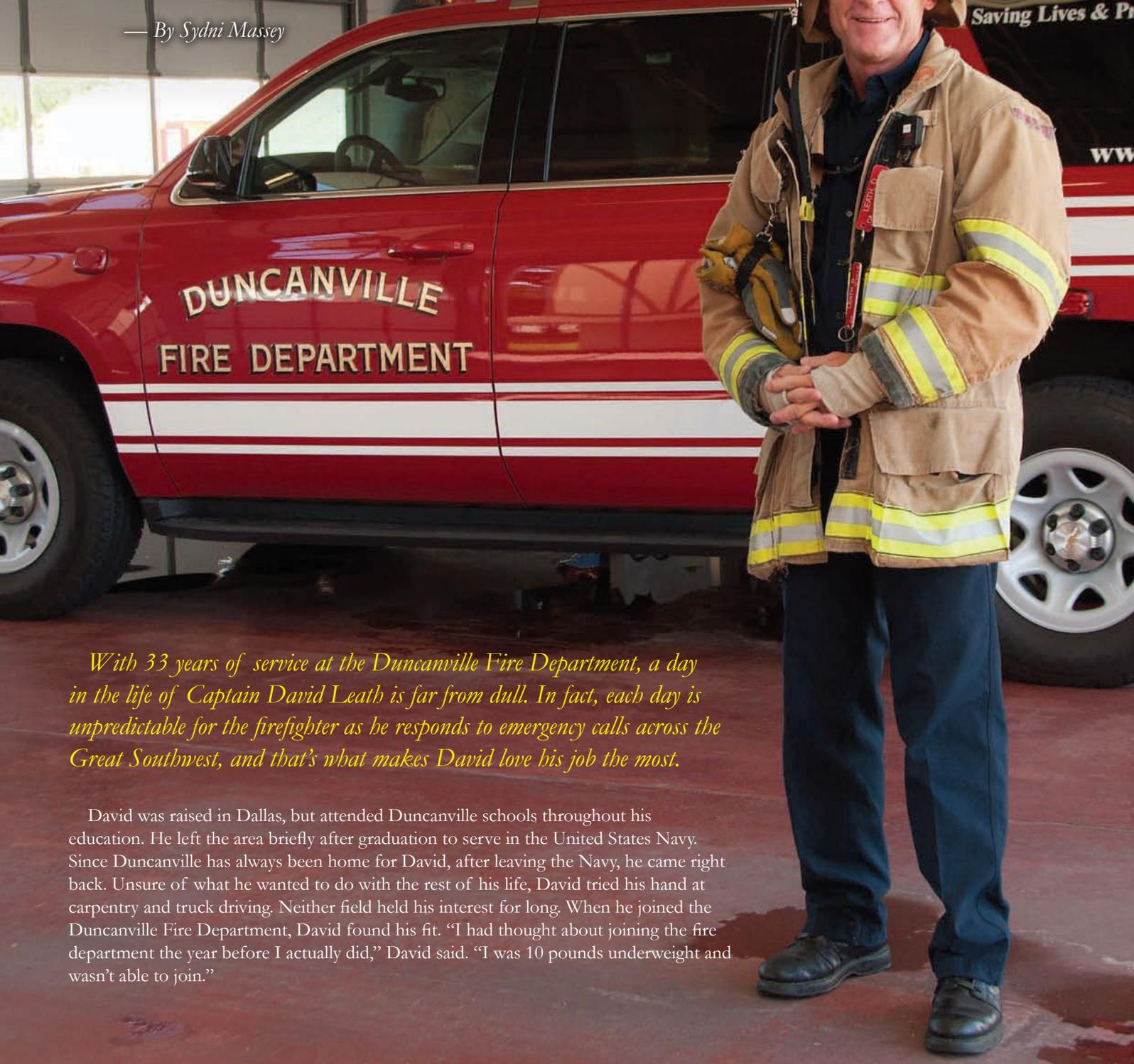
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TOUGH

— By Sydni Massey



With 33 years of service at the Duncanville Fire Department, a day in the life of Captain David Leath is far from dull. In fact, each day is unpredictable for the firefighter as he responds to emergency calls across the Great Southwest, and that's what makes David love his job the most.

David was raised in Dallas, but attended Duncanville schools throughout his education. He left the area briefly after graduation to serve in the United States Navy. Since Duncanville has always been home for David, after leaving the Navy, he came right back. Unsure of what he wanted to do with the rest of his life, David tried his hand at carpentry and truck driving. Neither field held his interest for long. When he joined the Duncanville Fire Department, David found his fit. "I had thought about joining the fire department the year before I actually did," David said. "I was 10 pounds underweight and wasn't able to join."



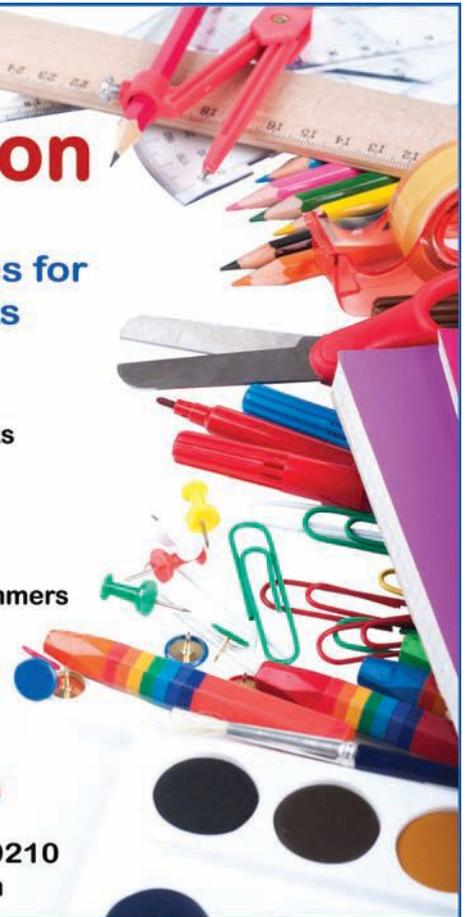
In 1982, David applied only to the Duncanville Fire Department and got the job. Thirty years ago, applicants applied for the job and once hired, were sent for training. In order to get hired today, applicants must complete schooling and certification prior to applying. David's initial instruction consisted of four months of basic training and Emergency Medical Technician school, followed by five months of paramedic school. "The training has changed a lot over the years," David said. "Technology is getting much more advanced. Paramedic

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training is far more detailed than it was when I first went through it. With the addition of more drugs and technology, it takes longer to train.”

Training never stops for firefighters. With new technologies routinely being added to their lifesaving procedures, firefighters spend a lot of time in the classroom and on the field. As a firefighter, David could investigate fires, but not arsons. To get the teaching necessary to work arson cases, David attended Cedar Valley College to obtain a Peace Officer certification. “I still worked while I went to school,” David said. “I would work for 11 hours and then go to class for four more hours. Duncanville has three arson investigators. Most cities only have one, so we are lucky.”

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In 1995, David was promoted to driver, and in 1998, he became a captain. After he completed his Peace Officer certification, David became a battalion chief and fire marshal in 2001. He stayed in that position until 2009, when he returned to his position of captain. He is also currently serving as president of the Duncanville Fire Fighter Association. "I demoted myself back to captain and joined the crew again," David said. "I haven't once regretted it. As the fire marshal, every day was very similar, and a lot of the time it was a desk job. It was a lot different than what I had been doing previously."

Working on shift means every day will be different, which is one of the main reasons David loves his job. Duncanville has 52 firefighters between two fire stations, and David has worked at both. Each shift is 24 hours on and 48 hours off. During those 24 hours, the crew stays busy by checking equipment, training, doing maintenance, performing demonstrations, working out and continuing their education. Throw in emergency calls, and the day is packed. "In the early days, we would respond to one or two calls a day," David said. "Today each station will make eight to 12 runs each. They keep us busy around here."

The camaraderie the guys share on shift is another one of David's favorite aspects of the job. Despite their busy schedules, the guys occasionally have time to play video games or basketball. David describes his working condition like living with six or seven other people. They work, sleep, hang out and eat all on the same schedule. Sleep is a tricky thing



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"In the early days, we would respond to one or two calls a day. Today each station will make eight to 12 runs each. They keep us busy around here."



as a firefighter, and it is never a guarantee. Since they work 24 hours straight, the crew tries to find time to sleep, but calls seem to always interrupt. "My sleep schedule is messed up," David said. "Anyone who knows me knows I love to sleep. We get a couple of calls a night while on shift, so I make up for it on my days off."

While fighting fires and responding to emergency calls is a big part of David's life, it isn't everything. David began his career married with no children. Now he has five children and six grandchildren. They all attended DeSoto or Red Oak

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schools and haven't traveled too far from the area. "All six of my grandkids are from only two of my children," David said.

On his days off, David can most likely be found on the lake fishing. He loves being outdoors and spends as much of his free time there as possible. David's fiancée, Cheri, has a house on the lake, and they spend a lot of time there. The couple went to high school together, but didn't connect until much later. They are getting married this fall. "When I retire, I want to be on the lake," David said. "I'll probably move to the lake before I retire and ride my motorcycle in on the days I have to work."

Motorcycles have been a part of David's life since he was 12. In 1972, he got a little, old dirt bike and hasn't stopped riding since. David graduated up to sports bikes and now he rides a Harley. Over the years, he has had eight different bikes. His Harley is only 2 years old and already has over 25,000 miles on it. It's David's transportation method of choice, and he rides it everywhere he can. Cheri enjoys riding just as much as David, so it doesn't take much convincing to get her to go along on a trip. Last fall, they went on a ride with friends to Missouri. David also likes to take trips to motorcycle rallies around the country. "I've been to Sturgis a few times," David said. "Every year I go to the Rot Rally in Austin. Sadly, things got busy this year, and I didn't make it."

Whether on or off the job, David lives a life filled with excitement, and he wouldn't have it any other way. He has a lifetime of stories from his job, some that most people wouldn't believe. He lives each day knowing that nothing is too weird to surprise him anymore. **NOW**



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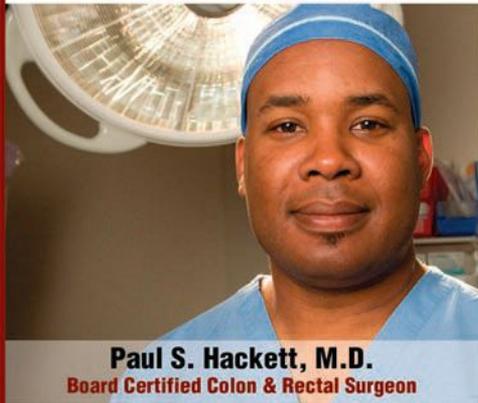
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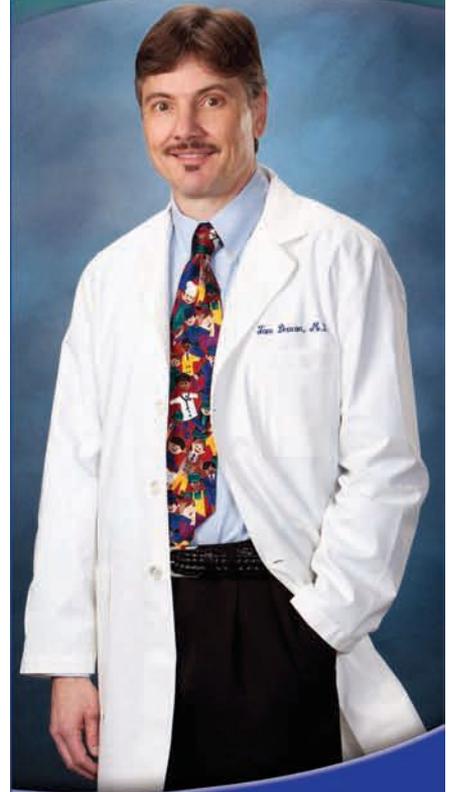
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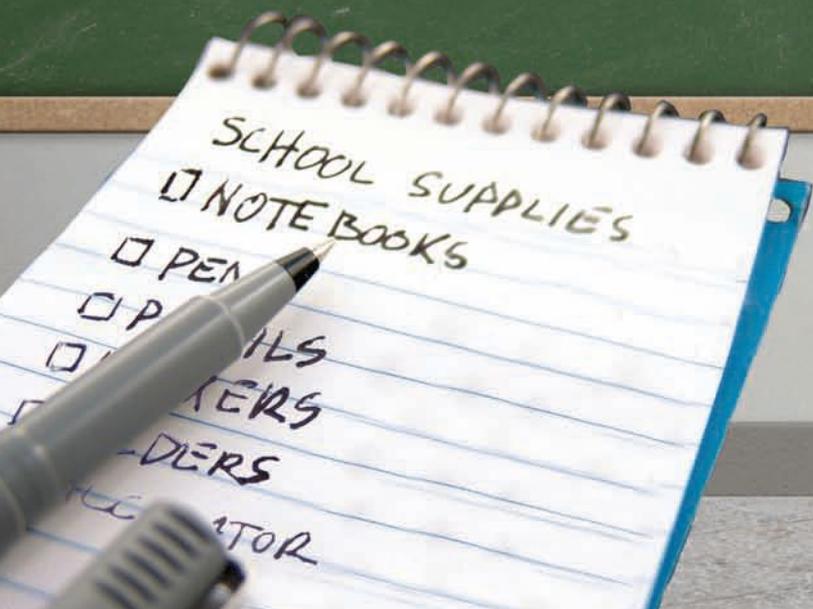
— By Melissa Swedoski

Summertime in Texas means outdoor fun, vacation or camps. It also means back-to-school time, right in the dog days of August. From new outfits and haircuts to new schedules and freedom never before had, there are plenty of challenges to be handled. While you remember the true investment of education, it's best to prepare ahead for both expenses and changes.

Shopping Season Helpful Hints

The long-standing tradition of back-to-school shopping means new clothes and shoes, braces and glasses, pencils and paper. Whether there's one student in the family or many, budgeting for expenses is imperative, and research is necessary when purchases are technology-related. According to the National Retail Federation, families spent approximately \$670 on back-to-school items in 2014. This year's numbers will likely increase, as electronic items continue to be part of the supply list.

Summer style will still be in before fall fashion takes over, but as most parents are aware, today's students live in the digital age, so they will be watching retailer websites and social media to see what's trending, what's out of style and what's fresh this fall.





Tips for back-to-school shopping:

- **Start early and pace yourself.** Since certain items will always be on the list, parents can buy over time and spend less.
- **Use shopping apps and websites.** Most retailers, both large and small, have websites or are on social media, and they send out notifications when they have sales. Using retail and coupon apps can help parents stay abreast of the sales.
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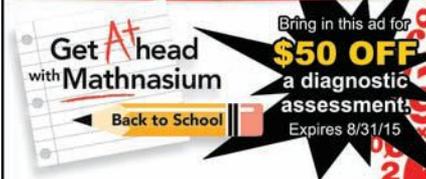
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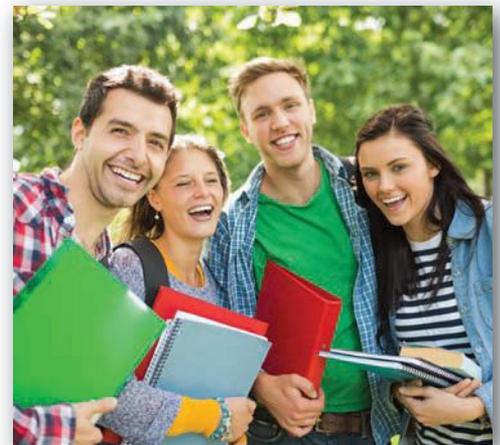
their grade level and family rules. It never hurts to go by a beauty counter in a local store for a makeover and/or instructional session.



Some of the technology-related items you might need:

- 8GB or higher flash drive
- AA batteries
- Graphing calculators
- Electronic device for assignments and research such as a tablet or a desktop or laptop computer
- Cellphone or smartphone

Mark your calendar for tax-free weekend from August 7-9. As in previous years, clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 are exempt from sales taxes for the weekend. This also includes items bought online, by telephone or by mail. Shoppers can even use layaway plans to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.



College Students

For first-timers or returning students, supplies are often purchased on an as-

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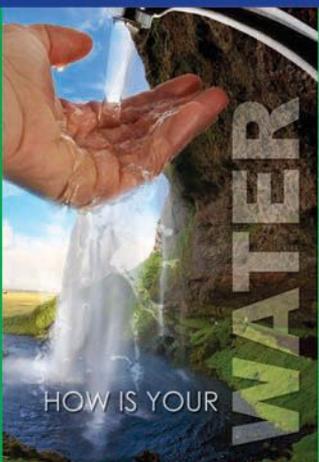
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needed basis. They will need electronic devices for their coursework, as well as notebooks and pens. Keep in mind that supply needs will change as the school year progresses.

Clothing based on the location of the college is important, so keep in mind if the weather will be warmer or colder than the student may be accustomed to at home, and plenty of fashionable, casual clothing is the norm for college students.



There's also the need to have dorm furniture to make living a little more comfortable, as well as personal grooming items, since many students will likely be sharing bathroom space for the first time. Try not to fall into the temptation of taking too many keepsakes from home, since there will be a limit on the amount of storage available, as well as display space.

Finally, some students may be considering getting their first credit/debit card or parents may be providing them with an emergency credit card. Parents should be sure to have a healthy conversation with them about spending habits and what constitutes a moment of real need, which would necessitate its use.

From transitioning grade levels to new schedules and time management, going back to school presents many new challenges. Be sure to talk about handling emotions that come with tougher coursework, along with changes in friendships and relationships. Finding new bus routes or walking to school can be intimidating for young children, so parental support is paramount. Be involved with your child's decisions, and he or she will be more willing to share the journey with you. **NOW**



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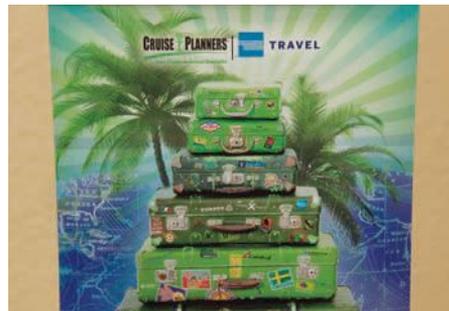


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Time to Take a Trip

Whether by land or by sea, Cruise Planners will help you make your dream vacation a reality.

— By Beverly Shay

Eric and Tiffany Perry have enjoyed traveling and vacationing together ever since they married. Eric, a Dallas native, earned his bachelor's from Prairie View A&M University in business and marketing management, worked in Houston and Memphis and ended up in Kentucky where he met Tiffany. Tiffany, a native of Kentucky, was a respiratory therapist who traveled around Kentucky, Ohio and then took a contract job in Houston. Although they met in Kentucky and dated for a time, they lost touch. Eight years later, they met again in Houston and married in 2005 after dating for two years. Cedar Hill has been their home for eight years now.

“We both loved to travel and had a wonderful travel agent, who helped us with trips from 2005 to 2012, when he unfortunately passed away,” Eric shared. “He had been so good, we had recommended him to family and friends. For the next two years, all our friends were calling us and asking us to help them plan their trips. It dawned on us that this was something we really liked to do, so we looked into what it might take to make this a business.”

The Perrys’ research led them to purchase a franchise with Cruise Planners. Now the question is: Why use a travel service when you can find so much for yourself on the Internet? “The

Business **NOW**

answer is simple and is also why we bought into this franchise. Cruise Planners is so large they can buy thousands of sailings at a tremendous savings, which they pass on to us. They have access to deals and packages not available to the general public," Eric explained.

"And," Tiffany added, "we will be your personal advocate to handle any change of plans that may come up, help with specific accommodations, as well as personalizing your trip to fit within your budget." The Perrys went through extensive training at the corporate headquarters and have completed ongoing training programs with various vendors and resorts, such as Sandals and Disney, as well as multiple cruise lines.

"When a new resort or cruise ship is opened, we are invited to spend time there, so we can often give you a firsthand evaluation of many destinations or travel venues," Eric stated. "We know how we want to be treated and what has been exceptional to us, so we work hard to ensure you will have the same type of experience."

Cruise Planners presents more than just cruises. They offer land packages with options, such as guided tours and extended before and after trips. They provide a payment plan, trip insurance, reminders for getting passports and advice on what to wear or bring. "Not only do we pass along the savings and deals of a corporation, we offer the personal touch of seasoned travelers. Even if a large group is traveling, we can make discreet individual payment options," Eric confided.

"Travel agents do not add to an individual's cost. We are paid by the vendors we represent. So whether you are looking to plan a honeymoon, a destination wedding, a girls' vacation out, a family reunion cruise or a holiday trip, we can help you find what fits your budget," Eric said. August is a good time to begin planning your holiday trips or your spring break adventure. All-inclusive resorts make very memorable trips, especially for the budget-conscious travelers, because once you've paid for your trip, your only expense will be your souvenirs. Excursions can be purchased along with trip packages. Eric and Tiffany invite you to check out their website and/or give them a call soon. **NOW**

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Two beauties, Rachel Proctor and her niece, Jaya Lee, pause for just a moment during their July 4th celebration.



During a recent anti-theft event held by the Duncanville Police, Doug Sisk applies an identifiable number for tracking the seats to help get them returned to the owner if a car is stolen.



Cedar Hill Chamber welcomes Batteries Plus Bulbs with a ribbon cutting.



Sylvia Villarreal, Dr. Ted and Jan Hamlin, and Rick and Rhonda Hensley enjoy a wonderful retirement party in Dr. Hamlin's honor following 50 years of service to Duncanville and the surrounding areas.



David Williams poses with his lovely wife, Brooks, who won the hat contest at the Cedar Hill Gala held at Lone Star Park.



Peggy Anderson, Lana Filgo and Anita Williams join Karen Weinert Haines (second from left) as she is recognized for 25 years as a member of the Cedar Mountains Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



Brandon Borner stands with his brother, Corey, the DeSoto football star whose spine was injured on that same field seven years ago. Corey spoke to kids during football camp.



Con Funk Shun, featuring Michael Cooper and Felton Pilate, entertain the Fourth of July crowd at the joint Lancaster/DeSoto event.



Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Dallas Bass Hookers Fishing Club, host the annual Kid Fish Tournament with over 200 kids participating!

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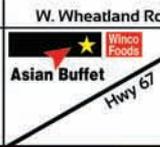
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Critical Choices Precede Retirement

As retirement looms, crucial financial and lifestyle decisions you may have put off for years suddenly assume more importance. You no longer have decades to decide whether you'll keep a large house with its upkeep costs, whether your current level of debt is appropriate or whether to pay off your mortgage.

Before you actually hang up your career, it's time to do some real planning. You might begin with lifestyle decisions, although these, to a large extent, depend on the financial foundation you've built. While these are personal decisions, successful retirements share at least one common element — they are rooted in reality, not fantasy.

Consider some possibilities. Will you plan to relocate? Or do developing family or financial considerations make that idea less attractive? Do you need to maintain and insure more than one vehicle? Do you expect to travel extensively in your early years of retirement, when you may be healthier and more likely to accept the rigors of travel?

Finally, can your lifestyle plans be supported by your portfolio? If not, now is the time to make adjustments rather than later. Anecdotal evidence shows that retirees who scale back their expectations are far happier in retirement than those who wake up already retired and find they can't really do all that they had planned.

Retirement Bottom Line

You've been marshalling your finances for years, and while you may have had intermediate goals, funding a pleasing retirement lifestyle has probably been a long-term objective. As you near your last day on the job, it's time to make adjustments.

First, you may want to realign your portfolio's asset allocation, especially if

you've been an aggressive investor with a high tolerance for risk. In retirement, your time horizon is shorter, recovering from major market downturns is more difficult — and you'll probably want a regular income stream to pay your bills.

Your retirement could be lengthy, so if your wealth is sufficient, you may consider dividing your portfolio into two parts. One would be devoted to producing a regular income, while the other would be allocated for growth. Ideally, this part of your portfolio would help you overcome the effects of inflation, which, historically, at least, has moved along at approximately 3.1 percent per year.

As you calculate how much you'll need, keep in mind that retirement specialists suggest drawing down no more than 4 or 5 percent of your portfolio each year, to give it the best chance of supporting a long retirement. Remember, part of your annual income will come from any required minimum distributions (RMDs) the IRS requires you to take from your traditional IRA assets.

No matter what your decisions, the time to work toward them is before your retirement party. Call your financial advisor if you have questions or need assistance in your planning. **NOW**

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Jonathan Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.

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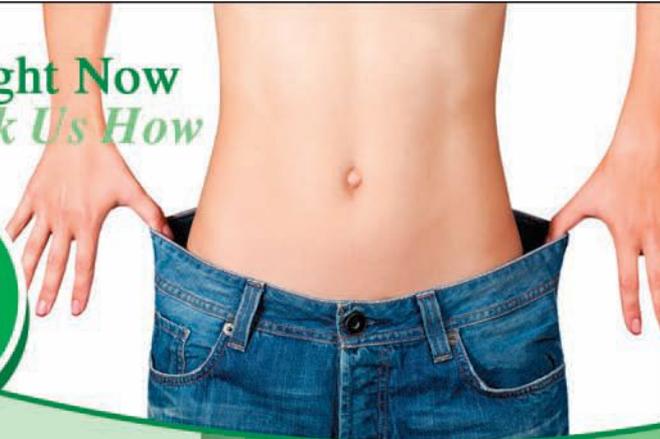
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August 3, 4

Preregister for DS ISD Back-to-school Fair (**Aug. 8**): 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Belt Line Conference Center, 200 E. Belt Line Rd.

August 4

5th annual Teacher Appreciation/Seminar Day: 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., International Museum of Cultures: free lunch/info about museum's educational programs, Discovery Boxes, integrating social studies into reading and math, cultural craft and specific instructional activities tied into TEKS. Must register: (972)-572-0462.

August 5

Clear your criminal record: 6:00-7:30 p.m., DS library. Presented by Ify Seals.

August 6

Mayor Franke's Prayer Breakfast: 7:30 a.m., CH Rec. Ctr. alhatley@yahoo.com.

Teen Smart Money Workshop: 3:00 p.m., DS library. Financial stewardship with hands-on

budgeting/planning/entrepreneurship. Must register: (972) 230-9661.

August 7, 14

Jam to Give: 7:00-9:00, Hillside Village, CH. Free concert series benefitting charities. **7:** Buster Brown Band (funk/soul) for Two-Wins Foundation; **14:** Forte (jazz) for CH Education Foundation. (972) 637-6300.

August 8

DeSoto ISD Back-to-school Fair: 9:00 a.m.-noon, DS HS. Backpacks/supplies for current DS ISD students; free immunizations, fun, food, games and prizes.

August 10 — 14

Step Up Your Game Camp (ages 7-18): 9:00 a.m.-noon, CH Rec. Ctr. Former NBA All-Star Sidney Moncrief with Rec. Ctr./CHAT focus on fitness, personal skills, general nutrition and relationships. Pricing and discounts: (972) 293-5388.

August 14

CHAT Old School Benefit Concert: 7:00-11:00 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr. Dinner, dancing and Eban Brown. Cost: \$40/individual; \$70/couples. (972) 742-1971.

August 15

Dog Jog and Paws in the Pool: 7:30 a.m., Crawford Park, CH. Dog Jog 3K for humans with/without dogs, followed by 2nd Annual Paws in the Pool. Benefits Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter. Jog: \$12/dog; pool: \$3/dog. (972) 291-5130.

August 20

Congestive Heart Failure Workshop: 3:00 p.m., Methodist Charlton. Nutritional ideas, Q&A, physical activity options, recognizing depression. (214) 947-9694.

August 21

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

August 29

Snake Spectacular at Dogwood Canyon: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 1206 W. FM 1382, CH. Learn snake behavior and how to identify species. Donations welcome.

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In the Kitchen With Claudia Kingston

— *By Beverly Shay*

For Claudia Kingston, a senior vice president of Prosperity Bank, cooking is something learned from family members and passed on to family members. She enjoys antiquing and has all of her mother's cookbooks. "I really appreciate an old cookbook or recipe," Claudia shared. "I am also addicted to collecting Hall Jewel Tea Autumn Leaf china."

Claudia likes inventing recipes. "My biscuit recipe was developed over three months of Sundays. It was a good thing my son liked biscuits, because until I liked the biscuit's taste, the recipe wasn't perfect," she admitted. "My all-time favorite recipes list ingredients as a can size, like a 303 can size or a five-cent candy bar size. You have to know the weight to make it taste right!" **NOW**

LaLa's Buttermilk Biscuits

Makes 1 dozen biscuits.

- 3 cups flour
- 3 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1-2 cups buttermilk

1. Mix first 4 ingredients in a mixing bowl. Cut butter into tiny cubes; blend into flour with a pastry cutter. When mixture is crumbly, slowly add buttermilk, mixing together using a fork. Mixture should form a ball when completely combined.
2. Turn ball out onto a floured countertop; roll out and cut biscuits. Place biscuits on greased pan and bake at 425 F for 20 minutes.

No Chili Powder Pinto Beans

- 4 cups dry pinto beans
- 16 cups water (divided use)
- 1 large or 2 small onions, chopped
- 4 garlic pods, chopped
- 12 oz. salt pork, scored criss-crossed
- 2 jalapeño peppers, seeded and chopped
- 4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 Tbsp. Mrs. Dash Original Seasoning Blend
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1. Place beans in a large Dutch oven. Sort through and remove any bad beans. Add 6 cups of water and quick boil. Drain in a colander and return beans to pot. Cover with 8 cups water and cook on high until boiling. Add onion, garlic and salt pork to

pot; reduce heat to medium and cook 1 1/2 hours, stirring frequently.

2. Continue adding water as needed. About 2 hours into the cooking, add peppers, tomatoes and seasonings. Continue cooking 3-5 hours.

Gran Gala Cake

Cake:

- 3/4 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1 5.1-oz. plain or French vanilla instant pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 cup Gran Gala Triple Orange Liqueur

Sauce:

- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 3/4 cup Gran Gala Triple Orange Liqueur

1. For cake: Preheat oven to 325 F. Flour Bundt pan and sprinkle bottom with pecans. Blend remaining ingredients with an electric mixer on medium for 2 minutes. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake for 45-55 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes.

2. For sauce: Combine all ingredients. Pour over cake while cake is still in pan.

3. Cool cake an additional 45 minutes before removing from pan.

Corn Casserole

- 1 8.5-oz. box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- 1 15-oz. can whole-kernel sweet corn
- 1 15-oz. can cream-style corn
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 sweet red peppers, chopped
- Several green onions, chopped (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Add ingredients in order, mixing well with each addition. Place in a 2-quart casserole dish.
2. Bake for 30-60 minutes (when fork is inserted and not much is pulled out, cooking is completed).

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