

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

Southwest

Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville

M A G A Z I N E

October 2010

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Cheers
to 50 Years

Engineering
Wizards

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on Stage

ALSO INSIDE:

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So Much to Sew

At Home With
James and Linda
Zander



eagle express

finish strong

District budget approved

DeSoto ISD continues to strive for a balanced budget, but will dip into the fund balance to cover expenses this year. For 2010-11, trustees approved a \$61.4M budget, with a projection of revenues at \$58.6M - thus a deficit of \$2.8M. The adopted budget for 2010-11 included a \$95.00 per month raise for all returning teacher-contract employees - almost 60% of district employees - as mandated by Legislation. In addition, the Board approved amendments to the Budget to give all hourly employees a 2% raise. While administration seriously weighed the budget concerns with the recommendation, in the end it was felt prudent, and the Board agreed, to reward employees for the fantastic job done last year and to maintain a cost of living increase.

In 2006, HB 1 capped state funding for each district at the current amount received per student - for DeSoto that meant \$4,679 per Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA), approximately \$400 per student below the state average. The Legislature had several bills aimed to equalize the funding in 2009, but all bills died and no changes were made.

The approved combined tax rate remains at \$1.49 per \$100 valuation - the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) is \$1.04 and the Interest and Sinking (I&S) debt service is \$.45. With the tax rate remaining the same, most residents will save money since property values are down across the area. The average tax bill will be reduced by \$116.49 based on current valuations.

DHS Homecoming Week - Oct. 11-16

The DeSoto High School Student Council announces Homecoming Week activities for October 11-16 for the entire community to join in! The 2010 theme is *Mardi Gras: The Big Easy comes to Big D*. The school will hold a different spirit day each day and a door decorating contest. Other activities:

- Oct. 12 - DeSoto Youth Advisory vs. DHS Student Council Powder Puff Football
- Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. - Mardi Gras Parade / Pep Rally - Admin. to Eagle Stadium
- Oct. 14 - TAFE Talent Show, DHS Auditorium
- Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. - Eagles vs. Tyler Lee, Eagle Stadium
- Oct. 16, 7 p.m. - Homecoming Dance, DHS cafeteria

Parade entry forms (www.desotoisd.org) and \$10 fee are due Friday, Oct. 8 to DHS STUCO. All community entities are invited to have a float in the parade - youth teams, organizations, neighborhoods, schools and businesses!

- calendar*
- October 11 - Early Release for students
 - October 14, 6 p.m. - Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally
 - October 15, 7:30 p.m. - Eagles vs. Tyler Lee, Homecoming
 - October 18-22 - Red Ribbon Week
 - November 5, 7:30 p.m. - Eagles vs. Longview, Senior Night
 - November 6, 6 p.m. - Seniors Prom (age 55 and up), McCowan
 - November 13-19 - Parent Involvement Week
 - November 13, 11:30 a.m. - Parent vs. Staff Basketball Game and Parent Involvement Fair, McCowan
 - November 22-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday, No school
 - Dec. 21-Jan. 1 - Winter Break

www.desotoisd.org

Free Student Flu Shots

Dallas County
Department of Health
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provide free H1N1 influenza vaccines to all students this October and November. Each campus will offer the vaccine to students with permission forms. The shots are only for students and unfortunately cannot be given to non-student siblings or adults.

"The H1N1 flu continues to be the most prevalent flu virus in circulation today," said Rhonda Dallonso, nursing coordinator for DeSoto ISD. "Vaccination is the best form of protection and each person who gets vaccinated helps fight the flu in our community."

DeSoto ISD is proud to partner in the pilot program with the DCHHS department to provide vaccine opportunities for our students. Watch for details to come from your school.

DeSoto ISD

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Southwest
Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville

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

NOW
MAGAZINE

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On The Cover

James Zander loves the fresh floral arrangements his wife, Linda, creates for their home.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

Editor's Note



Hello, Southwest Friends,

I have to tell you, I love meeting people and writing their stories. Each one is unique, but this month's home interview was the most unusual yet. Arriving at James and Linda Zander's DeSoto home on a very rainy evening, I came in a bit drippy, needing a towel ... not the most professional way to begin! Of course, they were completely gracious. They told me the fascinating story of how they met, fell in love and got married. Just as we were ready to begin the tour of their elegant home, lightning struck a transformer, knocking the power out. So we commenced on a candlelight tour (appropriate for a Halloween home feature), and I later wrote the story of the house I hadn't really seen. Oh the lengths we writers go for a story! (I did get to see it later and verify everything I wrote!)

Beverly Shay
 SouthwestNOW Editor
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Cheers TO 50 Years

.....

— By Carolyn Wills

If you have ever experienced a job transfer, you know the importance of choosing where your family will live. And the first question many parents ask about a community is, “How are the schools?” In Cedar Hill, a group of educators, students, parents and community leaders want to hear only one answer to that question: “Our schools are world-class.”

“The Chamber’s mission is about helping businesses now and in the future,” Board Chairman David Wilson said. “We have a lot of social functions and enjoy great camaraderie; yet the events are also about education, guidance and connection for small to large businesses.” David moved to Cedar Hill about 10 years ago by way of New Orleans and is owner of David’s Seafood Grill & Catering, one of the area’s many distinctive offerings.

Known for its elevation and claim to fame as the highest point from the Red River to the Gulf Coast, Cedar Hill is

often identified by its prominent stand of soaring broadcast towers, abundance of native red cedar evergreens and its proximity to Joe Pool Lake and Cedar Hill State Park. By the latest census, the city’s population is 44,786. In some ways, it is a city of contradictions with old and new construction, small and big businesses, long-timers and newcomers; not unusual for a town experiencing such growth, yet the mix seems to have strengthened this community.

As with many small towns, older buildings have remained, some for their original purpose and others to be transformed. The downtown area is relatively small and quiet. Homes lining the surrounding streets are reminiscent of earlier times and, in places, residential homes give way to country homes on acreage. “My house sits on an acre,” Chamber President/CEO Amanda Skinner shared, “and I am maybe seven minutes from the office.” Amanda has lived in Cedar Hill since 1998; she has been a Chamber member, past chairman and volunteer for years, as well as a professional event planner. One-and-a-half years ago, she became the Chamber president and chief executive officer.

“In 1985, the Chamber purchased an old service station near the center of town,” she explained, “and, in 1987, the renovated space became our new home.”

Today, it is hard to imagine the tree-shaded building on the corner of Texas and Houston streets as anything other than the Chamber offices. “One of the things I love about this community,” David said, “is that we have a great government system. Everyone I’ve had the pleasure of working with realizes the importance of what needs to be done to help people in the community feel safe and for businesses to grow. After moving here, it didn’t take long for me to see why people love to live in this area.” He cites the magnificent Cedar Hill Government Center completed in July 2007 as an example. “This is how leadership works together for the benefit of our citizens,” he said. “Our city and independent school district administration offices are located in this one facility, which is the only partnership of its kind in Texas. The residents and those who do business with the city receive more efficient service. The savings from the combined construction and maintenance is expected to benefit taxpayers.”

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Cedar Hill **NOW**

The \$27.5 million, four-story Government Center represents all that is exciting and new about Cedar Hill. Its exterior is faced with Texas Rose limestone, and much of the trim is made from the cedar trees removed at the site. Cedar is also featured in the breathtaking design of the T.W. ‘Turk’ Cannady/Cedar Hill Room shared by the City Council and ISD Board of Trustees.

Another reflection of this city working together is just up the road. Uptown Village, the impressive 800,000-square-foot commercial development, opened its doors to shoppers in 2008. Cedar Hill’s

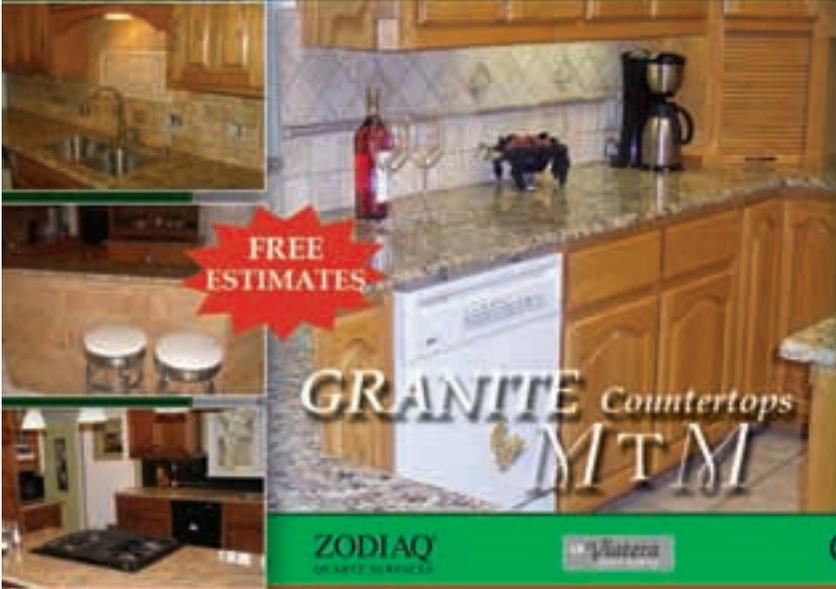


newest partnership is with Audubon Dallas. Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, a \$7.4 million, 270-acre nature reserve located within the Cedar Ridge and Cedar Mountain preserves and Cedar Hill State Park, will open soon to an expected 30,000 to 40,000 annual visitors.

Not surprisingly, Cedar Hill’s commitment to cooperation also extends beyond its city limits. “Twenty-four years ago, Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and Lancaster formed a consortium, a kind of brain trust, called Best Southwest,” David said, “to encourage economic development throughout southern Dallas County. It has recently expanded to include more cities as another partnership that works.”

As for the Chamber of Commerce, “We welcome anyone who benefits from or does business in Cedar Hill,” Amanda said. Chamber committees and task forces consisting of around 400 members, 25 board members and three staff members function year-round. “We are an active membership, including the Ambassadors Committee, which is responsible for

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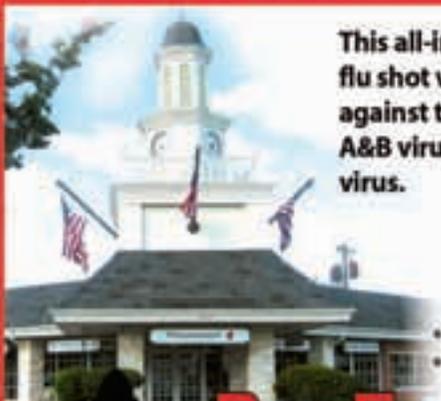
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Cedar Hill **NOW**

welcoming new members and businesses, and the Cutting Edge committee, which is responsible for selecting relevant lunch topics and workshops," Amanda said.

"We're fortunate to have the support of top investors and sponsors like Northwood University, Chick-fil-A and Texas Trust Credit Union." Each year, the Chamber hosts a formal gala and auction, a taste and business expo and a golf tournament to highlight their members.

"This year's gala paid tribute to the 50th Anniversary," Amanda said.

"With the help of many volunteers, we

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

"The Chamber's mission is about helping businesses now and in the future."

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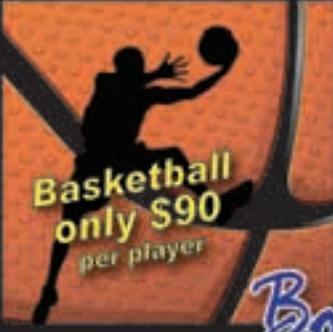
collected photographs of people and events through the decades to produce a DVD and a memory book of the Chamber's history." The DVD was shown at the event and the memory book was presented to past chairmen and prominent Chamber members. "It was fun gathering the pictures and seeing history unfold," she said. "We designed the 2010 Membership Directory to further commemorate the anniversary."

The Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce has contributed half a century of service and in the process, has established a rich history and solid foundation. "We work at keeping a balance on what we provide so that all members are served," David explained. "The progressive thinking of our government fosters good interaction so that our board meetings are usually attended by the mayor, city manager, an ISD representative and the economic development director. We have a committed city council, a devoted city manager and a mayor second to none." With such strong focus and a desire to work together, Cedar Hill has much to look forward to in its next 50 years. **NOW**

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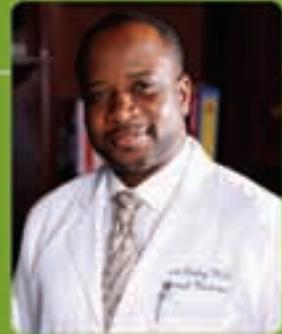
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The call of the stage infected Kimberly Douglas around the age of 6 or 7, initially revealing itself in skits she wrote and acted out for her family. Kimberly, now 30, and her sister Kelli, 27, began their education in Cedar Hill and moved to DeSoto in middle school, both graduating from DeSoto High School. They also both graduated from the University of Houston — Kimberly with a major in theater and a minor in creative writing, and Kelli with a major in corporate communication. Not surprisingly, they have worked together on a children’s musical theater production, which highlights both of their talents.

“I love theater,” Kimberly stated simply. “And I have been fortunate to have been hired by a production company that backs my desire to write and produce culturally diverse children’s

plays with a message anyone can relate to.” But before she arrived at that point in her career, she learned a lot about the stage.

“Kelli and I both loved musicals growing up. We knew the words to almost all the songs. But we noticed there were no black roles or characters, nor any of other nationalities,” Kimberly related. “While I was in college, I never had the opportunity to be in a stage production because they didn’t do any plays with parts cast for blacks. What I did learn was invaluable to what I do, however. I learned to make costumes and set designs.

“Of course, there are black playwrights, but they seldom write universal stories; that was what I really wanted to do. I wanted to celebrate the good differences in cultures and mock the quirks, while addressing current events,” Kimberly shared. The resulting script is a bit wacky, definitely tongue-in-cheek dialogue balanced with catchy tunes and lyrics. *P.I.G.* is a 50-minute hip musical rendition of *The Three Little Pigs*, with original songs and choreography. “It’s definitely not your ordinary fairy tale,”

Kimberly chuckled. “This is something new,” she quoted from the play’s promotional flyer.

How can a story about three pigs deal with diversity? “Well, the play is rather like *Avenue Q* meets *Shrek*,” commented Kimberly. “One of the pigs is Asian, named Chit Ling; another pig is Jewish, named Kosher Bacon, or K.B. for short; and the last pig is black, named Jerome Jamal. So right there, we have diversity. Add to that the big bad wolf, Wolfie, who grew up with the three little pigs, never knowing she was a wolf, and then was kicked out of the house, and you have some very relevant issues going on. Another character is Julio Rabbit, a very Mexican character, who has 47 sisters and brothers.”

One of the songs in the play sums up their message, intoning, “Shouldn’t matter what species we are — kinship is of the heart.” Kelli co-wrote most of the songs with her partner, Frank Moka, who wrote the musical scores. “I wanted to pursue music in college, but I wasn’t ready to make a career of it,” Kelli remarked.

Instead, Kelli became a teacher, finishing

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her first year of teaching eighth-grade reading and English at Faith Family Academy in Oak Cliff this past year. “While I may continue to teach, my goal is to become a songwriter and get paid for it!” she exclaimed. “I already write songs; in fact, I have since high school. I have a whole book of poetry, and I write lullabies for my son, Alexander.”



Fortunately for *P.I.G.*, and certainly for Kimberly, the play is produced by Serafini Pictures of Los Angeles, a company Kimberly has worked at for two-and-a-half years. But even before Kimberly moved to L.A., she wrote *Tunes*, while she was teaching theater in Houston. *Tunes* has been staged successfully in both Houston and L.A. “I am so grateful to my boss, Susanne Bohnet, who has worked on Broadway. She has given me the opportunity and financial backing because she is also interested in children’s plays.”

Susanne Bohnet, co-producer of *Hostage* and producer of *The Matador*, also managed the investment transaction for Cinemedia on *What Women Want*. With Susanne’s backing, Kimberly, who began plotting *P.I.G.* six years ago and wrote it two years ago, came back to DeSoto to give local children the opportunity to experience stage productions in a manner Kimberly had always dreamed of. *P.I.G.* is Serafini’s first theatre production.

Kimberly’s responsibilities for reading scripts and then choosing which ones go further in the process toward productions enable her to work from DeSoto, as well as in L.A. or New York, where she is spending some of her time scouting out the possibilities of staging *P.I.G.* While

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Friday October 8, 7:30PM - 9:00PM - "Birds and Bees (Part 2) — Abstinent, but Educated" Appropriate for girls age 12+. Dr. Pirkle will present the biology behind sex, the importance of abstinence, and answer questions that teen girls may have, but might be afraid to ask.

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Kimberly works at putting together next summer's tours, Kelli and others are working on expanding the musical from a 45-minute version to a two-hour, full-length musical suitable for touring, and hopefully, Broadway.

"The original version was designed for presentation in day care centers and libraries," Kimberly remarked. "To take it on tour, we will write additional dialogue, add characters and more songs." Kimberly has other works brewing in her mind, all of which are cross-cultural, family material. While the stories are geared for children and young people, the humor also includes adults, thus giving families as a whole an opportunity to discuss both cultural and current issues and, at the same time, exposing them to theater, music and art. "I want to give opportunities to children of all backgrounds to both see and be a part of the world of theater," Kimberly said.

"I have really enjoyed working with kids here in the Dallas area," Kimberly remarked, explaining how they began in March with an open casting call for children, ages 8-15, who have strong singing and dancing skills. "I was so glad to find a fellow DeSoto High School theater student, Miracle Foster, to play the lead role of Wolfie. And Rachel Polk, who is only 8 or 9, played the wolf trainer. They really have talent and took to the stage quite well," Kimberly recalled. "I usually play whoever isn't there. Working around families' summer schedules requires a lot of flexibility."

Currently, the play's cast requires 10-15 people, depending on talent. "Our cast in L.A. was smaller, because you have access to so many children who already have professional acting experience and are, therefore, able to take on double roles without being overwhelmed. But our Dallas cast was also amazing!

"Both Kelli and I plan to keep on writing and producing great trans-cultural family productions with roles anyone can play and everyone can watch," Kimberly concluded. She also hopes to book three tours next summer: a five-city Texas tour, a six-city California coast tour and a national tour of at least 15 cities. Now that is an ambitious answer to the call of the stage! **NOW**



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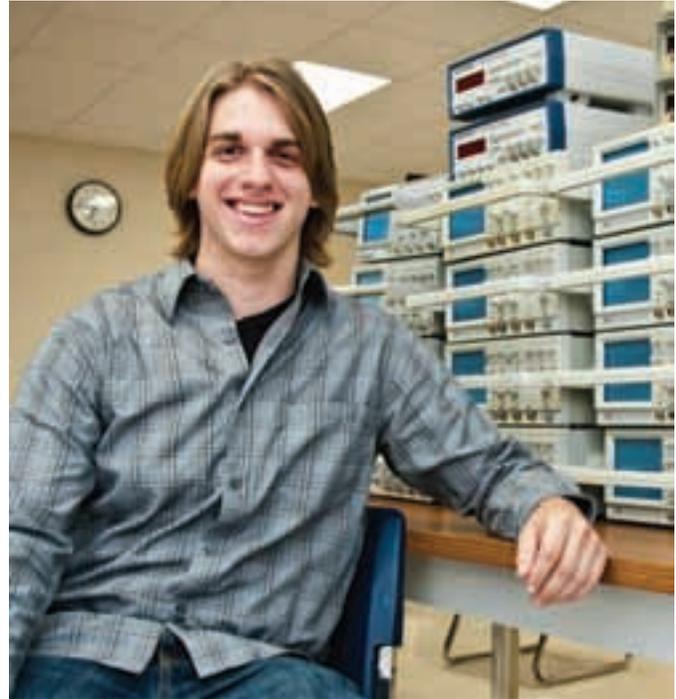
Duncanville High School's cutting-edge career and technology program is unique, due to the sheer number of people operating at state and national levels — more than any other school district. But programs and statistics need to be embodied to tell the real story. Enter Aaron Weberg, 20-year-old, 2008 graduate of Duncanville High School (DV HS).

When Aaron was around 9 years old, he took a summer science program from Jim McMillan, a somewhat eccentric, retired Texas Instruments engineer, who had a vision for turning students onto engineering and electronics through hands-on projects, which were so fun they did not even realize they were learning hard-core principles through applicable skills. The class built computer-programmable robots, which could be remote-control operated, with sensors that enabled directional changes to avoid capture or collision with objects. Mr. McMillan helped them build L.E.D. mini lights and “gotcha circuits.” Aaron’s exposure accomplished just what Jim had hoped for: a budding interest in electronics and engineering, which, fueled by his opportunities at DV HS, led to scholarships and attendance at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

“Aaron came into our engineering program as a sophomore,” recalled Bart Burnett, head engineering academy instructor at DV HS. “He showed an interest in electronics at a higher aptitude than any other student in his senior year, which, along with his high scores at SkillsUSA (he placed 6th nationally), drew the interest of UTD.”

Bart, along with Eric Manuel, electronics and computer instructor, emphasizes three main objectives: what is important is what you do once you leave high school, the need to concentrate on professional ethics and character within the technical environment. Their work has ensured 80 percent of their engineering students go on to technical college, universities or into industry or the military. Duncanville High School students have received one million dollars in scholarships over the last four years. “We concentrate on the person first, then we give them a technical background. Our success as teachers and theirs as students will be measured after they leave here,” Bart explained.

Even though Aaron is an obvious success story, both teachers consider their highest success is when an average student, with no prior experience or even interest, pushes into the program and then gains confidence to take AP Honor classes, like



advanced physics and mathematics. “We work to develop their faith in themselves. We make it interesting so we can get them to listen and take what we teach them to heart,” Bart remarked. “The district competitions help them see the importance of being able to communicate. Book knowledge is not enough.

“The reason we are successful lies not in what we teach course-wise, but in the development of character within the career and technology environment. Eric and I believe in consistency; we start each day the same way, regardless of what may have just happened,” Bart smiled wryly. “We greet each student with a smile and a handshake, looking them in the eye, and we expect them to do the same. In so doing, we offer them respect as an individual and convey that our classroom is a place of business, a working environment. It lets them know what we expect without lecturing them.”

“Then we get on with learning,” Eric agreed. “The purpose of education is not to crunch numbers or produce known results for tests. We give the students parameters of safety and then a problem to work out. We never hand-feed them expected results. Unless they have the chance to fail, they will never succeed. Failure provides a chance to think of another way, to seek another solution. Look at Edison: 1,000 failures before he had a successful light bulb. In the real world, no engineering project works the first time. Being able to handle failure and

still meet a deadline sets them up for success. Learning that for every engineer, two technicians are needed teaches them there are no lone rangers. Seeing Bart and I work together helps *them* work together.”

Eric further emphasized professionalism in the classroom — in teaching, in ethics, in written and oral communication. Aaron



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indicated that professionalism influenced him most at DV HS and enables him on his job now. "My first job on campus was in the president's office at UTD. I had to interact with him normally as a person, but also as an authority; I had to act professionally. Working in the president's office opened up the opportunity to work as a tech specialist in the finance division of the school. The job called for Web design, which I had never done, but I was hired over others with more experience because I could relate and work with everyone, and I could communicate professionally. I don't think they were expecting that from an engineering nerd," Aaron remarked.



Left to Right: Bart Burnett, Aaron Weberg, Eric Manuel.

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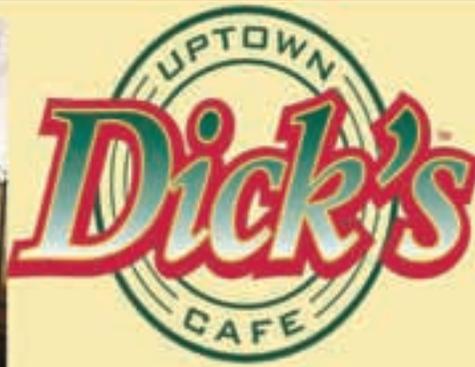
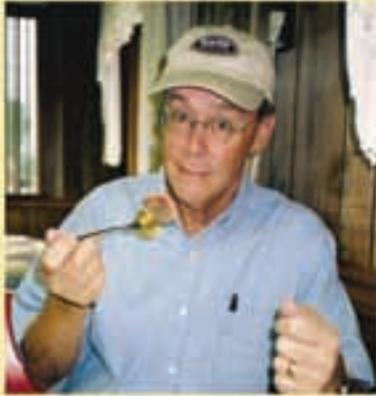
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Both Bart and Eric make an effort to stay in touch with their graduates, because that is where and how they can gauge their success. These contacts have helped Eric to rewrite the TEKS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which they use within their classrooms. Bart partnered with Eric on the organizational part. TEKS prepares students for the SkillsUSA competitions. SkillsUSA serves 300,000 students in 13,000 chapters in 54 states and territorial associations. Membership includes 14,500 instructors and professionals; claiming 9.9 million members.

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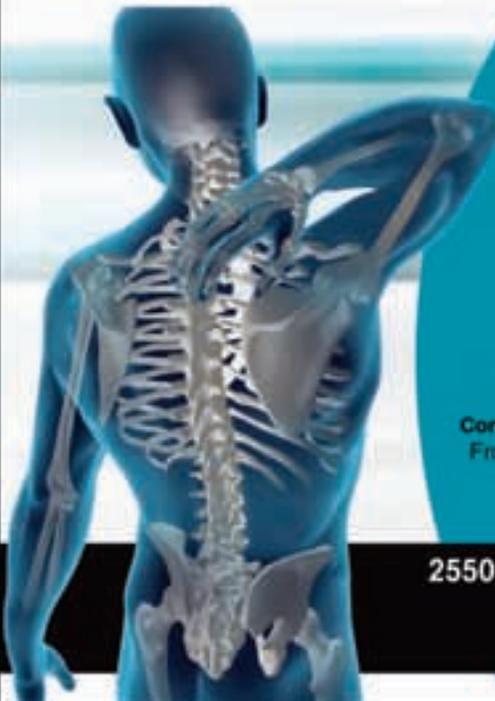
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Bart added, “The students learn to work as teams, making use of and learning from the expertise of others by combining various technical skills.” On the measurement project, they had to recruit and build a team and coordinate their ideas to solve the problem. Sometimes teams are made up of three to four; other times, they could choose only one other partner, always rotating whom they worked with, so they would learn to work even with those they were less inclined to choose. “We always expected them to turn in their projects on time, regardless of complications,” Bart stated.

Obviously, the success of this engineering program is based on the fact both Bart and Eric do not see themselves as merely high school instructors. “We are developing their character and integrity,” Bart re-emphasized, “as well as training them in skills for their lifetime, not just for a passing grade.” **NOW**

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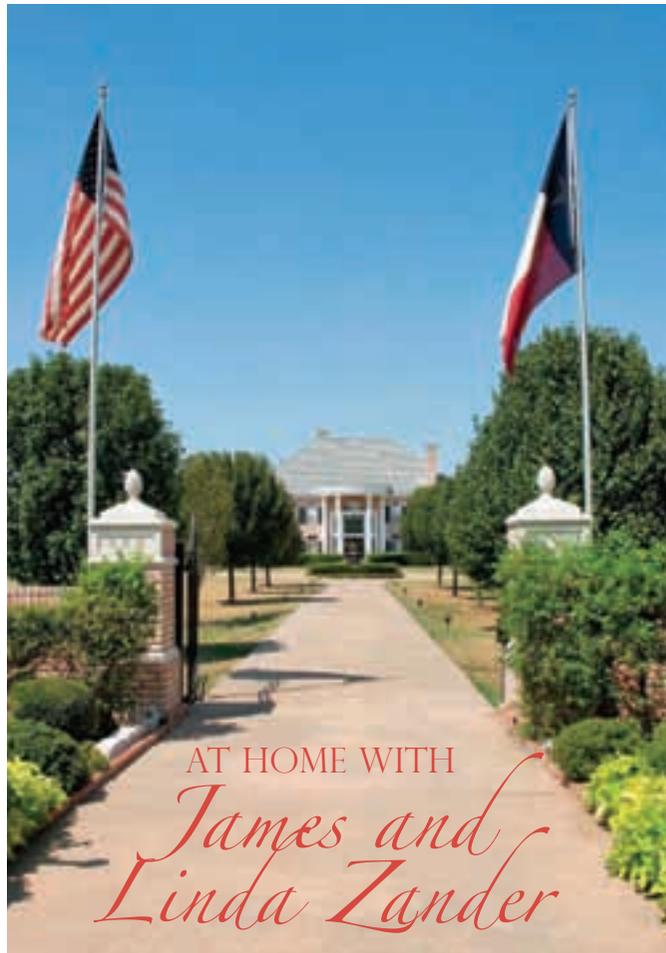
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Home, Home on the Resort

— By Beverly Shay

James Zander wanted a home where he could relax and catch a break from his diligent pursuit of business and dedication to community service, hard though it is to imagine him taking a break. James really appreciates the home Linda created for him. Linda had no idea when she began the project extraordinaire she was designing a resort-inspired haven for herself as well.



James grew up simply, the middle son of four children, with a single mom. James was 15, his sister living in another state and his older brother in Vietnam, when a car accident took the lives of James' other brother and mother. James was hospitalized for three long months, uncertain he would ever walk again. Released from the hospital to foster parents, all James wanted was to go home. "We drove by my house, but a new family was living there. Everything from my family was gone," James recalled.

He finished high school in foster care,



attended the University of New Haven on a scholarship, graduated with a business degree, earned his master's in government from Ohio University and began law school. James left law school due to a long illness. "Here I was, in my 30s, having opened a thriving insurance business in 1983, with a beautiful, brand new home I had built in DeSoto."

About six years ago, James found himself in need of a remodel. A friend suggested a trusted interior decorator. "I had decorated several properties for this client," Linda began. "He asked me to decorate a home in DeSoto. I didn't even know where DeSoto was! It was way, way south of Plano and Frisco. On my way out here, I nearly called it off," Linda laughed.

"The man opening the door didn't match the description I'd been given. But I forgot him as I stepped into the 46-foot-high foyer," Linda said, adding, "I know it's 46 feet because I measured while on a scaffold painting the ceiling." Suddenly James, in all his handsome enthusiasm, came bounding down the stairway. Both the house and the man had Linda's attention. In fact, the home had her full-time attention for the next two-and-a-half years and James even longer.

"What a challenge! What an adventure!" Linda's enthusiasm for the project reignited as she recounted the story. "Literally, there was almost nothing in the house — a lounge chair, a bed, a TV and a table and chair in the kitchen. The entire 10,000-square-foot house was painted white with pale pink carpet. James wanted a luxury hotel look with a backyard resort. Not a single tree existed on the 11-acre property! I plotted, drew plans and provided the estimate for the first phase." Many of the 60 trees Linda planted are palms around the pool.

Seeing Linda's work, James turned the plans over to her. "I love the fabulous transformation she has achieved. I love coming home and never want to leave," James declared. "Linda is such an amazing woman — in leadership, in business, as a wife. I am really very blessed," James stated with obvious sincere affection.

Linda began to add more of her own taste to the home. Somewhere into the remodel romance arrived, and James and Linda began dating. Four years ago, they were married in the very foyer where they first met. "Small and intimate with

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Linda beamed. Wedding photos capture one very happy bride in the arms of an adoring man.

From the foyer a sweeping stairway rises, splitting left and right, featuring a painting of their home done by local artist, Beverly Thompson, a gift to James from Linda. To the right is the tea room with an original Rufino Tamayo floral painting. Through arched doorways with “ship” doors, the formal living room boasts Japanese vases, Remingtons and western art, walls layered in swirled gold Venetian plaster with a glazed faux finish.

On the left of the foyer’s travertine marble floor is the hand-scraped, six-inch farmhouse plank flooring of the formal dining room. One entire wall is a glass-fronted china hutch filled with Linda’s beautiful, blue-and-white Staffordshire china from Sweden and Italy. Mirrored walls in James’ exercise room beyond the butler’s pantry reflect the bay window overlooking a yard belonging to Diva, the couple’s 2-year-old King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, who certainly lives up to her name.

“I could never reproduce the six coats needed to achieve just the right

shade of deep blood red in the kitchen,” Linda remarked. Linda, who loves to cook, enjoys her French belle foret-fauceted sink embraced in black granite countertops with tumbled marble backsplashes and listels — stamped concrete tiles made to look like stone. “I refurbished the original oak cabinets with tongue oil and new hardware.” Plantation shutters in the bay kitchen “nook,” an iron-like brass hanging lamp and the built-in china cabinet create a cozy, sit-down-and-chat atmosphere.

Linda painted the walls of the billiard room to match the red leather tabletop. To the side is a beautiful bar of deep cherry topped with black granite beneath crackled glass cabinets. Scattered throughout the home are exquisite birds, which Linda’s father intricately hand-carved and hand-painted. Multiple guest rooms and baths boast unique color schemes and themes — one has a headboard created from a paneled room screen. Most are furnished with Linda’s antiques. Tucked in a corner of the first floor is “the Honorable Councilman James Zander room,” a truly handsome, masculine enclave/library, with a huge

only our families and a few friends, it couldn’t have been more perfect. I married the most wonderful man ever,”

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bay window, walnut paneled ceiling and bookcases loaded with law tomes surrounding a most worthy desk. More birds and a distressed-faux-finished fireplace complete the setting.

To really do the home justice would take pages more than are available. Linda's workroom is the hub of all the creativity and vibrancy found in every nook and



corner. But James and Linda's master suite is the focal point of their home, with its Hemingway bed and raised dais sitting area, morning kitchen and Roman bath. "James makes me coffee each morning," Linda sighed. The four-columned Roman bath is luxury defined, reflected repeatedly in the many mirrors. Closets abound; elegance is quietly understated by space, clarifying why James loves coming home to relax with his beautiful wife.



James and Linda, now retired from interior design to devote time to community and family, host the community several times a year. On Halloween, the gates are opened wide to give some 300 carloads of trick-or-treaters access to the pumpkin-lined drive, decked in fall foliage, plentiful hay bales and scarecrows and, of course, bags and bags of candy. "Last year over 600 children came for safe trick-or-treating," Linda remembered. "It's a crazy time, but we like doing it for the kids." **NOW**

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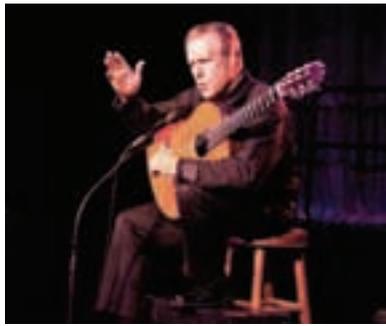
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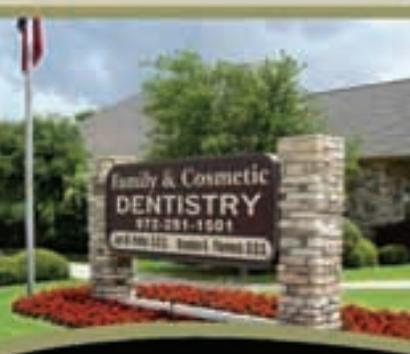
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SouthwestNOW editor Beverly Shay interviews Tim Urban for an upcoming feature.



Duncanville native, Paula Lee (center), was recently crowned Ms. Texas Senior America 2010.



Dallas County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield congratulates Duncanville City Manager Kent Cagle for his new appointment to the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) Board of Directors.



Jonathan Dailey and Jobnecia Douglas pose with the DHS mascot.



The Duncanville High School Pantbers storm the field for the first game of the season.

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A Brush With Art

— By Beverly Shay

For Gene Gregory, longtime Duncanville resident, painting is as life-giving as breathing, as much a part of him as his heartbeat. “We should all use the gifts we are given. As I drive slowly, exploring country lanes, there are scenes at every turn begging, “Take my photo ... paint me!”” Gene stated in a brochure he puts out at the many art shows where he displays his oil paintings.

Nature, creation, all the regions of the state of Texas are reflected in the landscapes he delights in painting. “I was born in a sharecropper’s shack near Greenville, Texas, and that’s where

we lived until we moved to Dallas in the fall of ’51,” Gene reminisced. “I graduated from Adamson High School. Even back on the farm, I loved to draw. I never had any formal training beyond school art classes, but I did get compliments, and that encouraged me tremendously. I was about 13 when I did my first oil painting, a landscape of an old bridge with a waterfall on Beckley Avenue. I couldn’t paint very often, because there was no place to paint but on the floor, and I had to put everything away immediately. Even though the oil and turpentine smells bothered my mother, she didn’t want to discourage me,” admitted Gene, who in high school sketched cartoons of fellow classmates and teachers under the alias Gershwin Smud.

“It’s really only been in the last 10 or 15 years that I have had time and a place to paint regularly,” Gene admitted. “I used to hunt and fish and camp and play softball when I was younger, but my foot was crushed in an accident 30 years ago, which ended most of those activities. I find painting to be a form of therapy, as well as great enjoyment.”

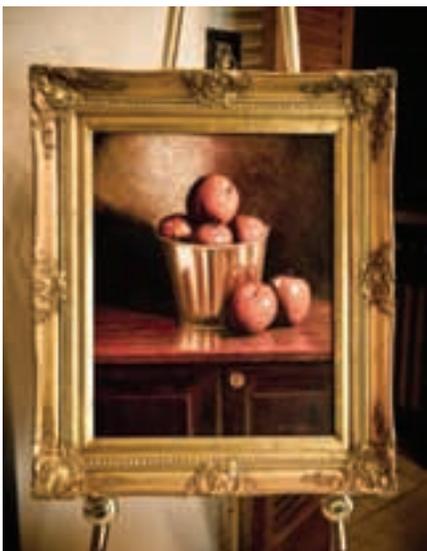
Gene painted sporadically over the years, only managing to finish one or two



paintings a year. “As I joined various art clubs and attended workshops, I learned technique and asked others how they achieved a certain style,” Gene explained. As far as Gene knew, no one in his family, either before or after him, had much interest in art. But recently he discovered, through a second cousin on his mother’s side, that past generations of her French relatives included artists and musicians.

When Gene began to paint in earnest, he not only painted landscapes, using photos of his travels throughout the countryside as inspiration, he also began to paint still life. “I always take photos from which to paint, because my studio is too small for an actual model. I will set it up in the living room and take a photo,” Gene remarked. “Fran Di Giacomo, one of my contemporary heroes, taught me to use one-source lighting to develop the light and shadows, which brings true depth perspective to a painting. What a difference that piece of advice has made in the quality of my work.”

Indeed, the vases of florals and bowls



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of fruit exude realism and a depth which make you think you could pick them right out of the painting and eat them — well, the fruit that is. All that is lacking is a fork and salt for the watermelon. Gene's landscapes invite you in for a stroll, and even his portraits assure acquaintance could be made with the subject. Many of his paintings carry a theme of patriotism, the All-American spirit or faith, portrayed with the U.S. flag at a school, apple pie on a checkered table cloth, a Texas Ranger, baseball and glove, candles and an open Bible. Numerous paintings mingle vases of flowers with books.

Once Gene gets started on a piece, he will paint for several hours with the company of some fine music and his little dog, Jake, a Wire Fox Terrier, who curls at his feet. "Sometimes, I sketch out a drawing with a paint brush first; other times I do not. Some paintings come together fairly quickly, in a couple hours. Others, with more detail, may take several days," Gene said. "I used to have a problem painting too tightly, with rigid detail, but I require myself to paint more loosely. Now that I know more about technique, I sometimes redo shadows, highlights and light values on some of my older paintings."

Gene has tried his hand at acrylics, water colors and pastels, but finds oils more to his liking. He sometimes experiments with various styles, but nothing really wild. "I am not into abstracts," he mentioned definitively. "Portraits are harder, especially if the person is recognizable, but I enjoy doing one now and then. Landscapes are much easier."

Gene also dabbles in poetry, often including short poems on his Web site. "I started a little book of poetry, stories and other things I have written since my teen years, along with some of my sister's writings," Gene said. He quotes Allan K. Chambers, "The grand essentials of happiness are: Something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." That statement epitomizes the purpose and the message of Gene Gregory's art. **NOW**

Editor's note: Gene's paintings can be viewed at www.genegregoryart.com.

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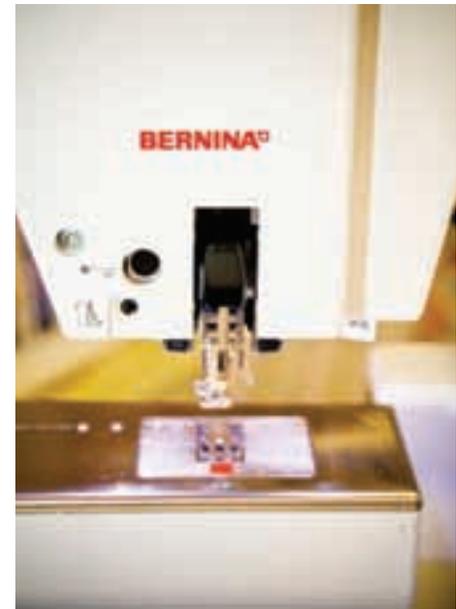


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The store, soon to be doubling in size, is a virtual wonderland of color: bolts upon bolts of fabric, a rainbow array of threads, notions, patterns, books, embroidery designs on CD and USB sticks and multiplied dozens of appliques, currently back in style. The store carries a full line of Bernina accessories, such as

presser feet, attachments, needles and software for embroidery, as well as an add-on quilting frame for your machine, which provides almost as much quilting capacity as a long arm.

“One thing I like about Bernina is with the purchase of any Bernina, you get mastery classes on how to use your machine,” mentioned Kellie Rushing, store manager. “Of course,” she continued, “the very best part is our customers. We love them. They are like family. They just keep coming back!”

“The highlight of our fun summer was our children’s classes; we had 24 students, ages 8-16. Bernina really encourages young sewers with fun projects to make them want to sew more,” Kathryn remarked. “They made pillows on which they embroidered their names, skirts, shorts, doll clothes and bags. Month-long sessions of once-a-week classes for kids will be offered throughout the fall and winter.”

Kathryn’s business plan is simple: “Sew Southward Bernina

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"I am so blessed to have such a competent staff," Kathryn continued. "We have 35 years of combined experience and knowledge of Bernina machines. Kellie, who is a certified Bernina technician and had her own Bernina store for five years, along with Oma Nell Nemmer and Judy Kerr, serves the customers and teaches the many classes offered in the store. Kellie's daughter, Kelsey, helps out when not attending classes at University of North Texas."

"Besides the children's classes, we offer beginning adult classes, embroidery, some quilting, purses, appliqué and computer," Kellie listed. "We also have clubs - the Power Sergers; Sew & Tell, to

"We have 35 years of combined experience and knowledge of Bernina machines."

introduce new products and show off current projects: clothing, home decor, embroidery, baby items. This group also brings donations for the DeSoto Food Pantry. We also have a charity sewing club; they make pillows and cases, chemo caps and neck pillows for soldiers traveling overseas. Mondays, our Git 'R Done club meets from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to finish up projects and have lunch together. We can start a club for any interest area."

October is Bernina's Sew Pink™ promotion. Anyone who comes in to "test drive" a machine can make a breast cancer patch. Sew Southward Bernina will be offering 20 percent off one Bernina accessory October 1-7. October 16 has been designated as Super Saturday, with instant savings on machines. Bernina will be making a \$25,000 donation to the Susan G. Komen foundation. Those making donations for breast cancer research will receive a Sew Pink™ wrist band. Come in for a "test drive" and rejuvenate your creative juices, while supporting a great cause. **NOW**

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

In The Kitchen With Jonathan and Kathleen Cervenka

— By Adam Walker

Jonathan and Kathleen Cervenka both grew up in Duncanville. They like to cook as a team, with Jonathan in charge of the meat and Kathleen covering side dishes and desserts. He learned to cook from his mother and grandmother, while she learned from her mother and the Food Network during college.

They like trying new things in the kitchen, like recreating dishes they have

tried at restaurants. They find a new recipe online and then fix it up. "It might need some crunch, more spice or cheese!" Kathleen said. "The longer we cook, the less we use recipes," she confessed. They enjoy having family and friends over for a meal. Jonathan works as a software field sales manager, and Kathleen as a library services manager. **NOW**



GAME DAY SPINACH-ARTICHOKE DIP

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Romano cheese
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 14-oz. can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 10 to 12 oz. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Lightly grease a small baking dish.
3. In a bowl, mix together cream cheese, mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, Romano cheese, garlic, basil, salt and pepper. Gently stir in artichoke hearts and spinach.
4. Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish and cover the top with mozzarella cheese.
5. Bake in preheated oven 25 minutes, until bubbly and lightly browned.

CHIMICHURRI PORK TENDERLOIN

- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh oregano leaves
- 3 limes, juiced
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 2 pork tenderloins (approximately 1 lb. each) trimmed of excess fat and patted dry

1. Combine garlic, vinegar, parsley, oregano and lime juice in a food processor.
2. Add olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Set aside at room temperature to allow the flavors to marry.
3. Reserve 1/2 cup of the chimichurri to serve and marinate the pork in the rest. Put the pork and marinade in a sealable plastic bag and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
4. Preheat an outdoor charcoal grill or oven

broiler to high. Remove the pork from the marinade. Grill the pork on the hottest part of the barbecue for 4 minutes per side, until well-charred.

5. Allow the tenderloin to rest for about 5 minutes prior to slicing. Spoon some of the reserved chimichurri over the meat and serve with the remaining sauce.

CHOCOLATE CHIP PAN COOKIES

From Kathleen's Mom (Dianna Coats)

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup vegetable shortening
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups (12 oz.) milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. In a small bowl, combine flour, salt and soda.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine shortening, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs. Add flour mixture and chips to mixing bowl; beat until combined.
4. Spread cookie dough into lightly greased 15 x 10 x 1-inch baking pan. Bake 20 minutes or until raised and golden brown.
5. Cool 15 minutes. Cut in 2-inch squares and enjoy!

JC'S BEER CHILI

- 2 lbs. ground turkey
- 1 jalapeño pepper
- 1 serrano pepper
- 1 poblano pepper
- 1 red onion
- 6 cloves garlic
- Olive oil
- 2 cans whole tomatoes with basil leaf
- 2 to 3 bottles of Shiner Bock
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 6 Tbsp. chili powder
- 3 Tbsp. paprika

- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 cans red kidney beans
- 2 cans black beans

1. Brown and drain ground meat. Chop peppers, onion and garlic; sauté with olive oil until tender. Return meat to pot with vegetables; stir.
2. Crush tomatoes in a separate bowl; add to pot. Add two bottles beer and seasonings. Bring to a boil; let simmer for 2 hours. If you want additional liquid after 1 to 1 1/2 hours, add last bottle of beer.
3. Drain and wash beans; add to pot. Simmer for another 10 to 15 minutes. Serve. Note: Seasonings are an estimate, so adjust to taste.

RAINY DAY FUNNEL CAKE

From Jonathan's Mom (Pat Karaguleff)

- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 Tbsp. baking powder
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup milk
- Vegetable oil
- Powdered sugar

1. In a medium bowl, mix flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder.
2. In a large bowl, cream sugar, eggs and milk. Add flour mixture; beat until smooth. Batter will be thin enough to run through a funnel. If it is too thick, add more milk, 1 Tbsp. at a time.
3. Heat 1 inch of vegetable oil in a skillet to 375 F.
4. Put your finger over the bottom opening of a funnel. Fill funnel with 1/2 cup batter; release the batter in a circular motion into the oil. Use a spatula to turn the cake over after 2 to 3 minutes. Cook until golden brown. Drain on a paper towel and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Yum!

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



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Current State of the Economy – How Should You Invest?

— By Dennis Brock



Current State of the Economy

According to a recent investor survey from Schwab, most investors believe the economy is heading into another recession. It's easy to understand why: slow economic growth, a severely depressed housing market and a stubbornly high unemployment rate even after a year of economic growth.

Investment Outlook

Currently, with a very slow rate of economic growth expected, returns on stocks or stock mutual funds will likely be lower than normal (single digits perhaps). Also, with very low interest rates, returns on bonds and bond mutual funds will be limited.

Investment Strategies

Any investment strategy has some risk. The trick is to have a portfolio with a level of risk you are comfortable with. If your goal is growth investments with the greatest potential return, you should invest in stocks or stock mutual funds. If you are mainly concerned about risk, most of your portfolio should be in Treasuries or certificates of deposit (CDs).

Each of these investments has pros and cons. CDs are very safe, but have low rates of return and must be held for a set period of time to avoid a penalty. Bond mutual funds have a higher return potential but their prices fluctuate and you can lose money. Stocks usually have the greatest return potential but also have the greatest potential for loss. If you want to be in stocks for the greater growth/return potential but cannot stand the volatility, then annuities may be a candidate for some of your portfolio. Some annuities allow you to participate in the returns of the stock market without the risk of loss of principle. With interest rates so low, these annuities may be a good substitute for some of your CD or bond fund investments. **NOW**

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Utilizing Technology for Better Health

— By Dr. Lesa G. Ansell, D.C., R.N.

Have you been experiencing pain, but you do not know who or where to turn to? Then you are among the thousands of people who needlessly suffer each year. Many people suffer because they don't have enough information to make a decision for improving their health. But now, with the technology age, much of that has changed. For instance, now you can "surf" many Web sites and gain information at a rapid rate. New health technologies are developed every year making formerly untreatable conditions treatable.

Most of those who suffer with chronic pain have tried many different medications with little to no success. Among this group, many have been to multiple doctors, maybe even to a pain-management specialist. Some have tried acupuncture or even traditional chiropractic, but continue to experience pain. This is because pain is a multifaceted problem, much of which is controlled by inflammation in the body.

When inflammation cannot subside, the individual cannot abate their pain. The first step is to stop ingesting the things that cause inflammation in the body. But this is also a difficult task, because some inflammation is helpful in the healing process. For others, the inflammation prevents them from seeking the physical medicine that their bodies need to remove the pressure on the nervous system that is causing the pain.

Now, due to a relatively new technology, chronic pain sufferers can reduce or eliminate their pain. Advances in computers and

engineering technologies have been able to uniquely blend with chiropractic in order to both analyze and treat the human body in such a way that was never before realized. This technology is called the Pro-Adjuster. This equipment allows chiropractors to use highly sophisticated technology, applied to the human body, to determine proper function.

The potential for the people to end pain and to achieve their peak nervous system function has never been greater. We are consistently asking our bodies to perform at higher levels, but when we are suffering from pain, it makes even the small tasks seem unreachable. The Pro-Adjuster utilizes a precise oscillating force with uninterrupted motion and can isolate a problem area faster and more accurately than manual procedures. It is able to increase the mobility of the spinal segments by reducing or enabling motion in the abnormal areas, thereby taking the pressure off the nervous system and reducing the pain.

You can achieve maximum health for your body now and in the future beginning with a simple anatomical concept. The nervous system (the brain and all the nerves) controls every function of your body. If this network is interfered with, pain ensues, as does bodily malfunction, resulting in sickness and diminished overall health. The "something" you can do to improve performance, reduce pain, and maximize health is to maximize the health of your nervous system. There are several ways to do this. One is to allow a doctor of chiropractic to use available technology to analyze and treat your nervous system. **NOW**

Dr. Lesa G. Ansell, D.C., R.N.
Pro-adjuster Chiropractic Clinic Inc.

PRO ADJUSTER

Suffering with Sinus and Allergies?
Many people live every day of their lives with runny noses, watery eyes and a host of threatening body responses that are often the result of sinus and allergy problems.

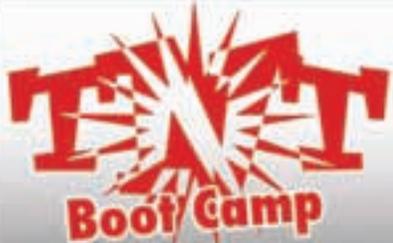
Sinus and allergies are generally caused by histamines, so antihistamines are often used to dry membranes. It appears that the problem is solved. In reality, this only suppresses the symptoms.

There have been great technological advancements in Chiropractic care that may help your sinus and allergy problems.
Call today to find out more!

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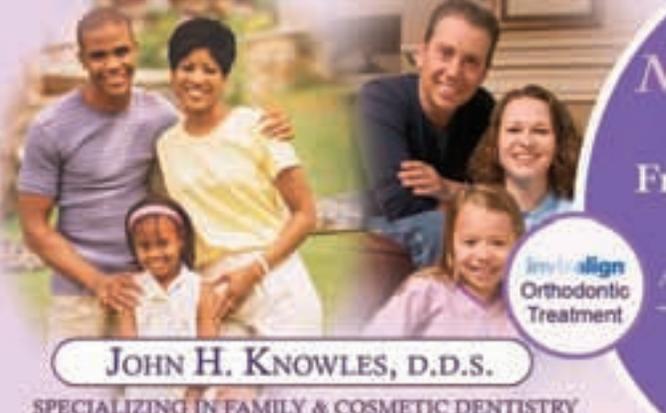
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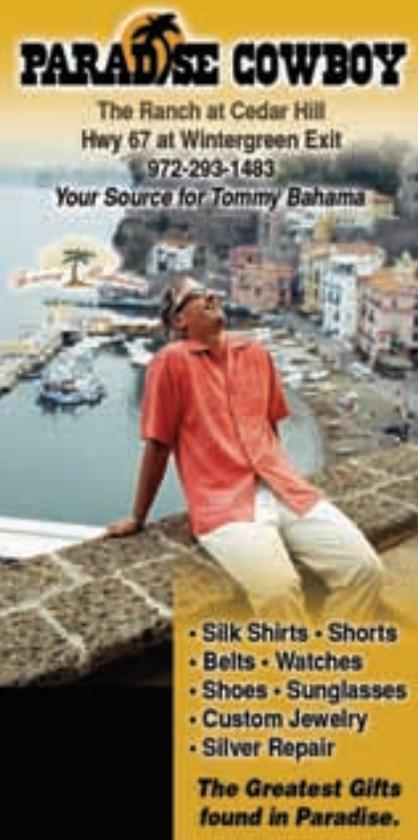
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Happening **NOW**

Mondays

Rhyme Time: 10:15, Duncanville Public Library.

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

Second Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Homeschool Videos: 2:00 p.m. at Duncanville Public Library.

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

Second Tuesdays

The Dallas Area Writers Group: 7:00 p.m., Cedar Hill Public Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Third Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Preschool stories: 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

Thursdays

Parkinson's Group: exercise class: 1:00-2:00 p.m., Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

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

Spanish story time: 5:30 p.m., Duncanville Public Library.

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

Fridays

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

Toddler stories: 10:30 a.m., Cedar Hill Public Library.

First and Second Fridays

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

Second Saturdays

Baby Boutique Resale: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,

Sound Options Pregnancy Services (972) 230-8101.

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce presents 2nd Saturday on the Square: DFW Greek Block Party: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Attention all Greeks! Grads & undergrads & Me Phi Me welcomed; prizes awarded. Call (214) 912-6573 or (214) 774-7503. www.2ndsaturday.yolasite.com.

Third Saturdays

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

Ongoing

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

October 1

Warrior & Family Support Center Charity Golf Tournament: 9:00 a.m., Stevens Park Golf Course, 1005 N. Montclair Ave., Dallas to support wounded soldiers and their families while they undergo rehabilitation at Brook Medical Center in San Antonio and at Fort Sam Houston. Contact Mel Rapp (972) 757-6852 or melrapp@sbcglobal.net to register or sponsor a hole for \$100.

October 2

9th Celebrating Life Foundation Sister to Sister Festival and 5K Run/Walk: 6:00 a.m.-noon, Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd. Sister to Sister Fitness Festival is a day of breast cancer education activities and raises money for breast cancer awareness. Contact Celebrating Life Foundation at (972) 501-9981, ext. 110 or visit www.celebratinglife.org.

Head Over wHeels Cancer Awareness Event sponsored by DeSoto Chamber: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., DeSoto High School, 600 Eagle Dr. Features auto/motorcycle show, walk for the cure, business expo, Head Turning Hats ladies tea. Registration for walk and car show: 7:00 a.m. (972) 224-3565.

Annual Community Breakfast benefiting Bridges Safehouse: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Ninth Grade School, 1515 W. Beltline. Cost: \$5/adults; \$3/children.

October 4

Beginning October 4, Duncanville Public Library hours will be as follows: Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Fridays: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sundays and Mondays: closed.

October 7

Free outdoor concert with Natural Change Band: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. (972) 230-9651.

October 8

Old Settlers' Dinner: 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the main tent on Cedar between Broad and Houston.

Lancaster's 5th Annual Oktoberfest Patron Party: 6:00 p.m. featuring fully catered German dinner, live music by Jake and the Bavarian Woodchoppers and silent auction. Cost: \$40; purchase tickets online. Contact: (214) 460-5533 or peggy_smith@live.com.

October 9

73rd Annual Country Day on the Hill with a parade, 5K fun run, over 100 craft vendors, tons of food, activities, contests, live entertainment on three stages. (972) 291-7582.

Lancaster's 5th Annual Oktoberfest Open Celebration: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at the MKT Depot and Rose Garden, featuring parade, Greek Block Party (see above for details), arts and crafts, vendors, Alpin Dancers, pet adoptions and parade, face painting, bounce house, cookie decorating and more; shops and restaurants on Lancaster's historic downtown square will be open. Free shuttle provided between the town square and Oktoberfest activities. From 5:00-9:00 p.m. live music, beer stein contest and silent auction. Contact (214) 460-5533 or peggy_smith@live.com.

October 16

Forest Avenue High Lions Reunion with lunch for the classes of 1940, 1945 and 1950: noon-4:00 p.m., Double Tree Hotel, Dallas. Reservations required by October 11. Contact LaVerne McCall at (214) 696-3844 or laverne.mccall@sbcglobal.net.

Cedar Hill Recreation Center Members Appreciation Day: 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Members will be honored throughout the day and receive a gift.

October 19

Cedar Hill Public Library presents an interactive children's program on Texas history given by "Uncle Chris" Espinosa and his Robot Dog, Rocket: 6:00 p.m.

October 21 and 28

Science Maniacs Club (grades 2-5) meets at Cedar Hill Public Library to learn, explore and discover the fun of science: 5:30 p.m. Call (972) 291-7323, ext. 1312 to register.

October 29

Scary movies for teens: 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Public Library.

October 30

Fall Family Festival: 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. Free family event offering Wild Southwest costume contest, bounce houses, games and contests as a safe alternative for Halloween. (972) 291-4837.

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