

SouthwestNOW

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2023

Arts Thrive

Rolanda Bringham
helps DeSoto transform
Nance Farm

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt
Crossword

Featured Business:
Allergy and Asthma
Center of Duncanville

In the Kitchen With
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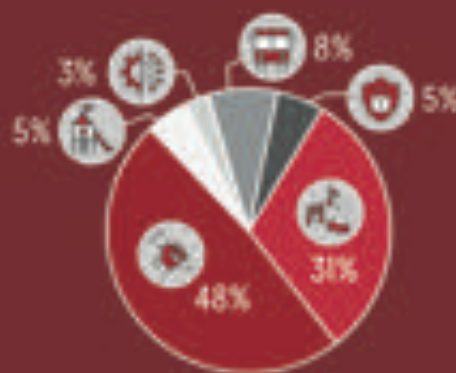




EARLY VOTING
APRIL 24 - MAY 2

ELECTION DAY
**SATURDAY,
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CHSD.NET/BOND2023



CHSD WILL HAVE A BOND ELECTION ON THE MAY 6, 2023 BALLOT.

Through a voter-approved Bond Election, Cedar Hill ISD expects to generate additional funding to renovate and update schools. The proposed projects include:



Safety & Security Updates at All Schools in CHSD

\$11,200,000

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Alarm Systems



Campus Renovations for Fine Arts, STEM and CTE

\$64,000,000

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Renovations for Elementary Fine
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Plummer Elementary
Renovations for Biomedical
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Waterford Oaks
Renovations for STEM Programs

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Capital Improvements at 13 Facilities

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Includes roof replacements,
HVAC system updates, flooring
replacements, middle school track
surfaces, paving improvements,
etc. that have reached the end of
their useful life.

A complete list of capital
improvements are posted at
chsd.net/bond2023.



New, Accessible Playgrounds at 6 Elementary Schools

\$10,100,000



Technology Infrastructure Updates at All Schools in CHSD

\$5,600,000



New Transportation Center and New Buses

\$16,300,000

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the bond election?

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Before Bond Election

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After Bond Election



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\$1.1906

per \$100 of property valuation



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ON THE COVER



Rolanda Brigham honors heritage and builds the arts.

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Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
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EDITOR'S NOTE

April ...

Like all of our month names, April comes to us from the Latin, because the Romans conquered everything — including England. But unlike most of the Roman month names, April is *not* a Latin word. It is a reminder that there were conquerors before the Romans, and the rulers were once the ruled.

Long before the Latin speakers from the little area around the village of Rome conquered most of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, they were ruled by a mysterious people from northern Italy, the Etruscans. They spoke a language unrelated to anything else in Europe, and probably the whole world. We don't know a whole lot about their language, but they left their name behind in Tuscany, where they lived before they spread out to rule most of the Italian Peninsula. They left behind a lot of tombstones, which say the same things over and over, as tombstones do, and a few words in the Latin language of their subjects — like *person*.

At one point in time, the Etruscans were a big deal. Now no one remembers them. Once upon a time, Rome “ruled the world” and called itself “The Eternal City.” Today, it's pretty, a great place to vacation, and *oh, the food!* But the glory that was Rome is many centuries gone. Remembered, but no longer feared.

Even empires don't stick around forever. Whatever seems like it's in control of your life and making you miserable — it won't last. Nothing in this world does. Find a different place to store your treasure. Find a different focus for your energy.

May you find peace.

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- D. Lewis

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Rolanda Brigham believes that Arts Save Lives, so she’s on a mission to up the visibility of and access to the full range of arts enjoyed by the citizens of the Best Southwest cities, and show off everything DeSoto has to offer. As the new arts, culture and heritage manager for DeSoto, she’s a woman on a mission.

“I grew up in Oak Cliff, where I attended Arts Magnet High School,” she explained. Then she moved to Chicago where she was deeply involved in the vibrant theater community and held jobs in such fields as compliance auditing and accounting. She’s done modeling, acted on Broadway and done voiceover work, as well as teaching the arts to highly at-risk students in Chicago. “They were involved in gangs, so I had to get court permission to take them off house arrest to attend school and photo shoots!” Clearly, the arts and their power to transform lives has been a key part of Rolanda’s life. But in 2001, she gave that life up when she moved to DeSoto.

“My only sister was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and given a short time to live, so I moved here to DeSoto to make the quality of her life as great as I could. But I found that I was smothering her, so she told me, ‘Go volunteer

for the city.’ I did and ended up working with the Hurricane Katrina evacuees, helping them transition to life here. I fell in love with DeSoto, because everyone in the city government poured out to help. My sister went into remission, and I moved to Frisco. I came back to DeSoto because this is a place where you can smile and wave at people, and they wave back.”

Rolanda has been working with the DeSoto arts scene since 2002. “I started working with the DeSoto Arts Lab when I applied as a performing artist. But they said no. They wanted me to manage the project. I focused on getting the arts into locations all over DeSoto — the Senior Center, the Library, Parks and Rec and Grow DeSoto Marketplace. It was so successful that the DeSoto Arts Commission wanted to do it again.”

Fast-forward to today. DeSoto has just created a new position to focus on further developing the arts in the city. Rolanda is now the arts, culture and heritage manager for DeSoto. She is tasked with preserving the heritage and culture of the city while building the art community and highlighting all the great artists who call DeSoto home.

DeSoto already has some great venues for the arts, like the amphitheater and the Corner Theatre, but part of Rolanda’s mission is to redevelop the historic Nance Farm as an arts center for showcasing a kaleidoscope of local arts and artists whose talents are a better fit for the intimate settings being developed in the new master plan. Helping to find a new better use for Nance Farm to keep it relevant

TS IVE

— By Adam Walker

and a living part of DeSoto has been a major priority for the city for the past few years.

“Nance Farm is going to elevate the arts to the next level. It’s going to be like nothing else in any of the Best Southwest cities. The city council voted unanimously to move forward, so we’ll be breaking ground on the new facilities we’re adding to the farm in 2024. We’re preserving the historic buildings on the property and adding venues for everything from baking contests to Riverdance and kite festivals. These new facilities will be funded through government grants and the hotel tax.” Rolanda’s vision includes chamber music, Indian dance, flamenco and Japanese calligraphy. Photography and yoga classes, a dance studio and a commercial kitchen are part of the plan. “I want this to be a venue for jazz ensembles, arts and crafts fairs and theater groups, but also for baby showers and retirement parties. Fashion shows, dessert and wine tastings all fit with what we are doing here.”

DeSoto already has more going on

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with the art scene than many people realize. “I think everyone knows about Pam Dawson, the Grammy Award winning music educator at the high school. She’s a great example of how the arts save lives. You should see the difference she’s making in the lives of those kids. But we have so many Pam Dawsons in DeSoto. They live here, but they go elsewhere to produce their art. Now there will be a place right here to house their creativity and enrich the cultural life of the city. Bringing the

weird and making it work is part of the magic. We’ll have everything you want right here — a quiet place to read a book and watch the sunset, a sanctuary where you can daydream. People don’t daydream enough! We aren’t just a boutique city. We’re an All-America City! “One of the next 10 artists awarded one of this year’s residencies through the DeSoto Arts Lab is a photographer for the *Huffington Post*. He’s a national talent in his field who lives right here, and because of this residency, he’ll

be producing his art right here. This is where we live and pay our taxes. We shouldn’t have to go to Dallas or beyond to do our art.” Artists aren’t generally noted for their business acumen, so another service Rolanda is pushing for is professional development workshops for local artists to master the non-creative side of being a successful artist. “We need to help artists understand the business side of their craft. We shouldn’t be starving artists, but it takes work to develop these skills.” The former DeSoto Texas Historical Foundation and the Arts Commission are being combined into the new DeSoto Texas Cultural Arts Foundation. “This is all happening because of the support of the mayor and the city council. We want to get DeSoto into the right frame of mind to enjoy this exciting new use of a historic place. We’re establishing a foundation so what we build will last. The arts save lives, and DeSoto is open. We need and want more arts. The arts didn’t bring me to DeSoto, but the arts have kept me here.” **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Emma Trapp

By Adam Walker

Emma Trapp works at the Duncanville Public Library. “I’m a library clerk, which means I help at the circulation desk, where patrons check out their books.” So she’s the one who sends you and your kids home with armloads of free entertainment and knowledge. “I also shelve books and pull books when people put a book on hold. I’ve been working here for eight years, and I love getting to help people find the book or information they are looking for.”

Emma is part of the vital service that libraries provide to our communities, keeping us connected to stories that make a difference, keeping us up to date on important topics and helping us research things we need to know for both personal and professional reasons.



The Cedar Hill City Council recognizes Pastor Toby Snowden of High Pointe Baptist Church for his 35 years of service to the community.



DeSoto Citizens meet to celebrate their city.



Students of First Methodist School celebrate 100 days of school.



Vivan Palmer-Jones sits among the flowers in her booth at Knick Knacks.



The 40-plus Double-Dutch Club entertains the crowds at Cedar Hill's annual block party.



Bo Howell enjoys discussing comic books at Duncanville Books.




Dr. Opal Lee, the Grandmother of Juneteenth, celebrates Read Across America Day with DeSoto ISD second-graders.



Pamela Dawson embodies the excellence of DeSoto ISD music education with her Grammy win.



Melinda Adams and Kimberly Vega hang out at 1846 to catch up.



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BusinessNOW

Allergy and Asthma Center of Duncanville

— By Adam Walker

Allergy and Asthma Center of Duncanville

Dr. Harold DelasAlas, Medical Director
Allergy Physician Associates: Jesse Astorga, PA-C;
Anthony Huynh, PA-C; Fantah Suwaneh, PA-C;
Kevin Nguyen, PA-C
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Facebook: Allergy & Asthma Center of Duncanville

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Friday: 8:00 a.m.-noon

Dr. DelasAlas and his staff at Allergy and Asthma Center of Duncanville have been serving the needs of people suffering with allergies and asthma for more than 35 years. “We’re the only allergy center in Duncanville,” Dr. DelasAlas reported.



“We’re seeing a lot of new patients, as climate change is making allergy symptoms even worse. Many people are surprised by how much worse their symptoms have gotten, and some don’t realize that there is a specialty for allergies. They just coast by, using over-the-counter drugs, and their family doctors don’t refer them. When they discover that there is help, they ask, ‘Why didn’t I know?’ But we can improve the quality of life for so many people.”

Allergy and Asthma Center of Duncanville doesn’t believe in one-size-fits-all care. “We engage patients in their own care. It’s a partnership. We’re not urgent care. We want to understand why you are suffering with your symptoms. Both medical treatments and lifestyle changes for avoidance are part of proper treatment. We continue to see patients who come in for treatment of their own symptoms or their child’s symptoms, who then bring their other children and refer their siblings and other family members when they realize how much treatment can help them, too. Allergies are genetic, so they tend to run in families.

“I have a unique perspective as both a physician and

Dr. DelasAlas is on the faculty at University of North Texas, and his medical students and PA students rotate through his practice. "It allows them to get valuable clinical experience in a specialty

“We’re seeing a lot of new patients, as climate change is making allergy symptoms even worse.”

private practice and hone practical but valuable skills such as patient education.”

Dr. DelasAlas has a simple philosophy about how to treat his patients. “The key to being a good doctor is being a good human being. We partner with a lot of primary care physicians, because many of them aren’t set up to provide advanced allergy care, such as immunotherapy. The pandemic has made telehealth and virtual visits more convenient and accessible.” Because they serve a diverse group of patients, Allergy and Asthma Center of Duncanville has a diverse staff. Over a third of their patients may speak Spanish only, so many of their staff members are native Spanish speakers. They also have people on staff who speak French, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, several African languages and they can coordinate for ASL. Effective communication to meet their patients’ health-care needs is a priority.

“More insurance companies have expanded their coverage for allergy treatment, so help is not out of reach. We work to make it a seamless experience, with access to good quality care for all economic levels. Health care equality is important.” In addition to Medicaid and Medicare, they also see patients insured by TRICARE and a majority of PPO and HMO insurances. “We believe that quality allergy care should be accessible to everyone.” **NOW**

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KEY FOCUS AREAS

Smart Growth

Ensure that the Comprehensive Plan implementation considers all residents. We must plan and develop our city to support existing neighborhoods, diversity housing options to provide a sense of place for every citizen, preserve our natural resources, invest responsibly in infrastructure and explore public/private partnerships.

Smart Businesses

Small businesses are essential to a vibrant and healthy economy. We must make retail districts more walkable and remove obstacles to easy access. Include opportunities for businesses in City Center and mixed-use environments. Elevate Shop Local campaign.

Smart Collaboration

Ensure that there is a robust and transparent community engagement with a reciprocal communication vehicle. Collective impact is not just knowing what needs to be done but ensuring that the right people and resources are a part of the process.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

LANEIT JONES

— By Adam Walker

Cooking and family go together for Laneit Jones. “I developed my love of cooking as a young girl, cooking with my grandmother. I have fond memories of helping her shell beans, shuck corn and can fruits and vegetables. She always had homemade cakes and pies. I grew up in Tabor City, North Carolina, and the local delicacies definitely influence my cooking and baking.

“My husband and I are vegan, so I modify recipes from our families to eliminate dairy and meat, without compromising the flavor. My inspiration comes from the place I call home. I enjoy recreating family classics in delicious vegan versions. It’s so rewarding to see family and friends savor the food I prepare, both at home and at my bakery, Neitly Vegan Sweets.” **NOW**

Vegan Peach Cobbler

5 fresh peaches, peeled and sliced

1 tsp. lemon juice

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

2 Tbsp. cornstarch

3/4 cup, plus 5 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)

2 tsp. cinnamon (divided use)

1 cup all-purpose flour

6 Tbsp. vegan butter, melted

1. In a saucepan, add the peaches, lemon juice, nutmeg, cornstarch, 5 Tbsp. of sugar and 1 tsp. of cinnamon. Cook on medium-high until the sugar melts and creates a syrup with the peach juices. For a thicker syrup, cook longer.

2. Remove from heat; transfer to a baking dish. Smooth the filling out into an even layer.

3. Preheat the oven to 350 F

4. In a bowl, whisk together the remaining

3/4 cup of sugar, 1 tsp. cinnamon and all-purpose flour. Add the vegan butter; stir until crumbly. Spread on top of the peach filling.

5. Bake for 40 minutes, until the crust is golden brown.

Vegan Sugar Cookies

1/4 cup vegan butter

3/8 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/4 tsp. baking soda

1/8 tsp. salt

1 Tbsp. non-dairy milk

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F

2. In a bowl, cream the vegan butter and sugar together. Add the vanilla extract; mix.

3. In a separate bowl, sift the flour; add the baking soda and salt. Combine thoroughly. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients; mix until crumbly. Add the non-dairy milk; mix to form a dough.

4. Transfer the dough to a floured surface. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to

about 1/4-inch thick. Cut with a cookie cutter. Place the cookies on a cookie sheet; bake for 10 minutes.

Vegan Piecrust

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup cold vegan butter
- 1/4 cup cold vegetable shortening
- 3-4 Tbsp. ice water

- 1. To a bowl, add the flour, sugar and salt; stir together. Add the vegan butter and vegetable shortening; use a pastry cutter to mix into the dry ingredients. Continue cutting in until the mixture looks like coarse meal.
- 2. Drizzle in the ice water, a little at a time, stirring between additions, until the dough comes together.
- 3. On a floured surface, roll the dough out to necessary dimensions for your pie pan.

Vegan Brownies

- 1/2 cup vegan butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup non-dairy milk
- 3 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup vegan chocolate chips

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F
- 2. In a large bowl, whisk together the vegan butter and sugar. Whisk in the non-dairy milk and vanilla extract.
- 3. In a separate bowl, thoroughly combine the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt.
- 4. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients; fold in the chocolate chips.
- 5. Pour the batter into a prepared 8x8-inch baking pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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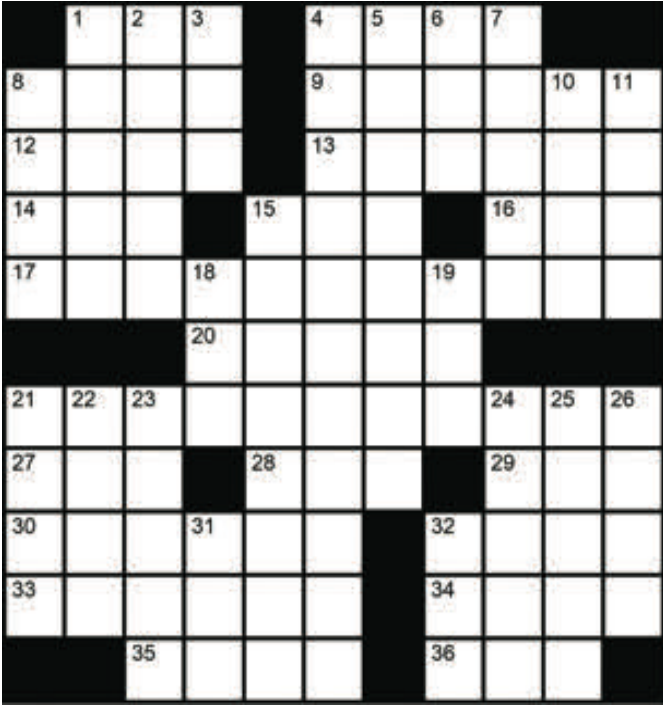
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Encountered
- 4 "Whoops!"
- 8 "Triumphal March" opera
- 9 Just out
- 12 Eldest "Brady Bunch" son
- 13 W E B Griffin's "--- Arms"
- 14 Bill producer
- 15 Mail-order option
- 16 Home for some rats
- 17 Star tenor has son cut up
- 20 Pageant host
- 21 Kind of large book

Down

- 1 Merriment
- 2 Fluid buildup
- 3 Label
- 4 Insouciant
- 5 Telemarketers' equipment
- 6 Wise one
- 7 "And what have we here?"
- 8 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's ---" (Rolling Stones)
- 10 Central Asian "land"
- 11 Soliloquy starter in "Hamlet"
- 15 Summoning command
- 18 Little zebra
- 19 Common cargo for old-time clippers
- 21 Banned aerosol propellants
- 22 "From Here to Eternity" island
- 23 Mad dog's mouthful
- 24 Bit of grass
- 25 Tacitus' tongue
- 26 Office big cheese
- 31 Not Johnny Cash's favorite name for a son

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.

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4/1
Easter Egg-stravaganza:
Ages 10 and under. Hundreds of Easter eggs up for grabs. Free. 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Zeiger Park, 405 Eagle Dr., DeSoto.

4/8
Easter B'egg Hunt:

Bring your dogs to Field 5 for an egg hunt of their own. Free. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Dr., Cedar Hill.

Easter Egg Helicopter Drop:
10 and under. 35,000 eggs, bounce houses. Free. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Dr., Cedar Hill.

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Bounce houses, candy, over 15,000 eggs, the Easter Bunny. Free. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville.

The Point's Community

Family Fun Day:
Free. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Point of Light Church, 1599 Kingswood Dr., Cedar Hill.

4/15
Earth Fest & Community Clean Up:
Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration. Grab and go breakfast for clean up: 8:00 a.m.; Earth Fest: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

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4/20
Party in the Park:
Meet city officials. Free. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Ramsey Park, 1313 High Pointe Ln., Cedar Hill.

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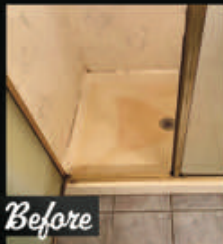
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