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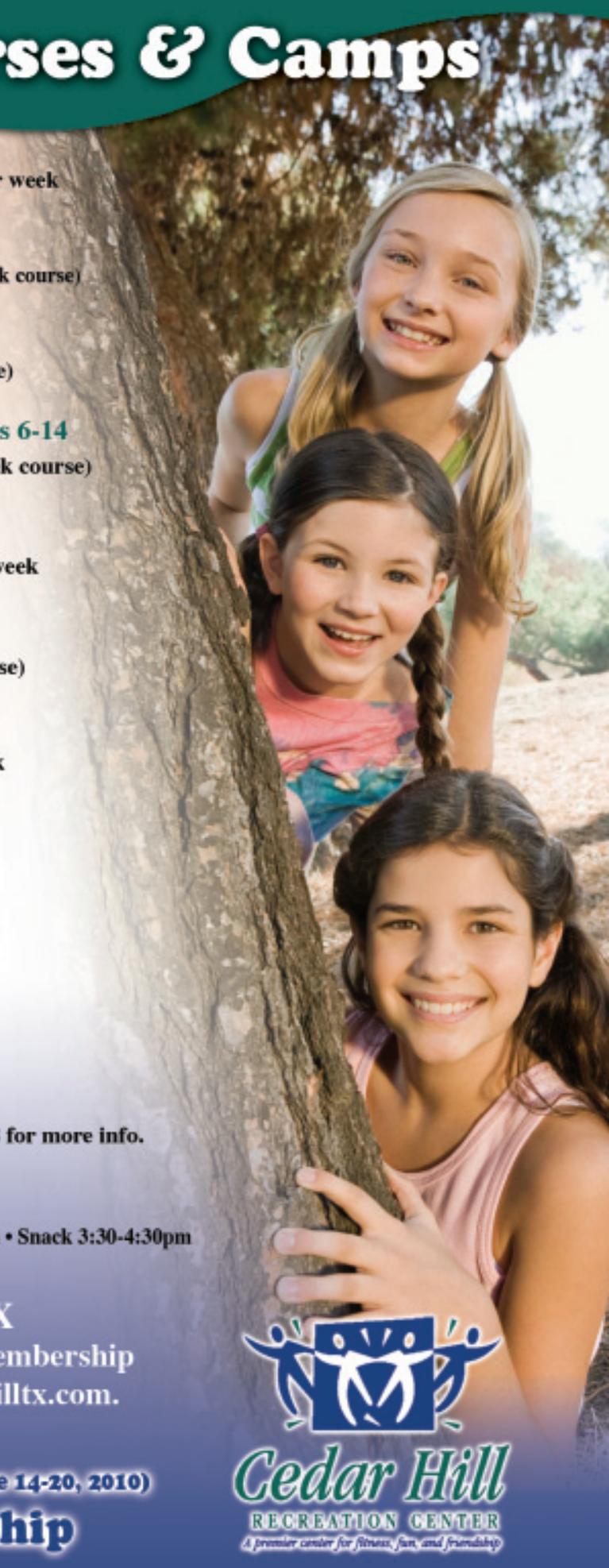
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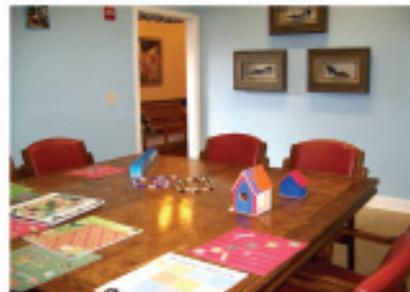


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The Community Magazine
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Contents

June 2010
Volume 4, Issue 6



Clara McGinnis, "a force to be reckoned with."

6 Cedar HillNOW

Neighbors Supporting Neighbors

30 ArtsNOW

A Sea of Ceramics

10 DeSotoNOW

Beyond the Box

32 BusinessNOW

Dogs Rule

14 DuncanvilleNOW

Man on the Move

34 Who's CookingNOW

18 Home With a Worldview

At Home With John and Teresa Musser

36 FinanceNOW

24 Around TownNOW

38 HealthNOW



On The Cover

Grady Smithey is as Texan as he can be.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

Editor's Note



Hello, Southwest Friends,

I don't know about you, but June makes me think about vacation, and vacation makes me think of the beach — especially after moving my two sons and their families into new homes. So, as for me, you can probably find me on the beach at least a couple days this month. Oh, and I will definitely be reading while I'm there as well as eating my wonderful friend's amazing culinary delights.

Speaking of reading ... and food, read about some neighbors who are more than dedicated to helping others procure food: the DeSoto Food Pantry; the Mussers, whose home doubles as a Third World, experimental dirtless-tilapia farm; and Duncanville Councilman Grady Smithey, whose career enmeshed him in food distribution issues. Try some of David Hira's magical recipes. Looking to hook up with a neighborhood cause? Find out what Clara McGinnis is up to in Cedar Hill. And, need pet care while vacationing? Check out Camp Bow Wow.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor



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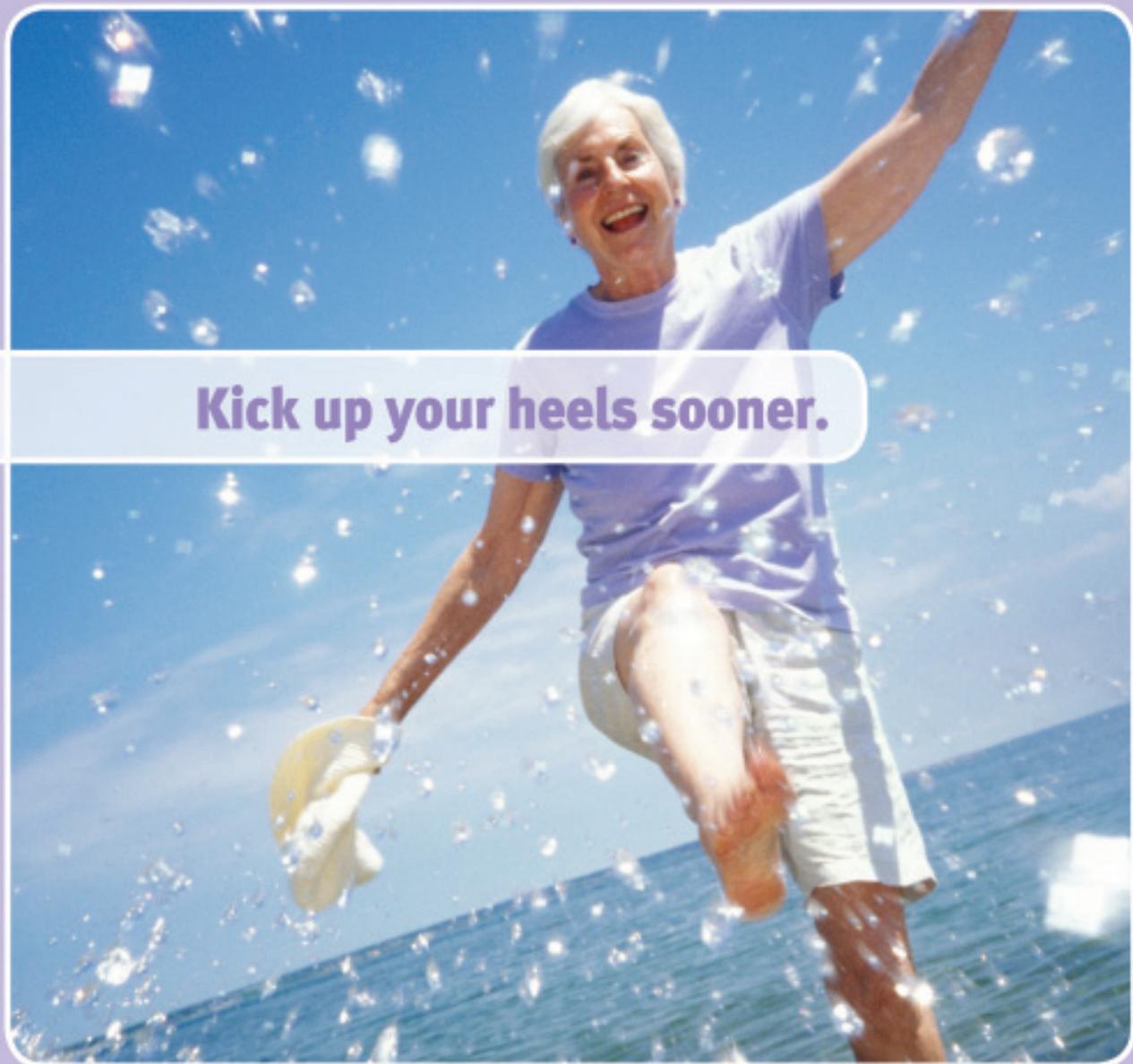


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NEIGHBORS *Supporting* NEIGHBORS

— By Beverly Shay

Most people would like to see things changed. Some people talk or complain; some attend meetings or vote; and then there are those, like Clara McGinnis, who not only talk and go and vote — they DO SOMETHING. Mayor Rob Franke calls her a “force to be reckoned with.” She neither pushes nor complains; she sees a need and goes after the solution.

“After my 17-year-old son lay alone and died when a friend accidentally shot him, I vowed I would never again move into a neighborhood and remain unknown. I had been in that neighborhood for three months, but no one knew us, and no one bothered to check on what they may have heard,” Clara stated emotionally.

“I have a big heart and a lot of understanding for single parents because I was one. When I first moved to Cedar Hill, I got to know my neighbors because a 10-year-old boy, out at 10:30 at night, knocked on doors. Come to find out, he was looking for bread — something to feed his brothers and sisters — because they had no food,” Clara reported. “The next day I went around to my neighbors, and together we discovered a single mom trying to make ends meet, about to lose her house, paying bills instead of buying food. We worked together to provide some groceries



and help watch her kids, while she was at work. Neighbors need to help neighbors!” Clara emphasized.

Although Clara, who grew up in a close-knit, community-minded family, has only lived in Cedar Hill for five years, she is active throughout the community in National Night Out, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, neighborhood block parties and heading up the annual citywide BBQ cook-off. She is immensely passionate about her latest project: after-school care for children. “Schools want the kids leaving the campus as soon as school gets out. That can be tough for working parents, especially single parents,” Clara remarked.

Being who she is, Clara looked into the issue. Clara is a firm believer in not reinventing the horse or the wheel. She researched existing programs and found that since there is no YMCA in Cedar Hill, some churches have opened their doors to provide mentoring. “What we need are champions who will get on board and focus on meeting the needs of the kids,” Clara began, warming up to her topic.

“There’s something you have to understand about Clara,” interrupted Monica Gregory, a public relations volunteer for Clara. “If Clara sees a need, she isn’t going to complain; she is going to research, talk to people and come up with a plan to meet the need. The only thing is: Clara can’t do it all by herself. But she is passionate and determined.”

“See,” interjected Clara, “we need more people like Monica — warriors, soldiers — who can grab the idea and run with it.” Clara



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Initially, the need for after-school care came up at a Home Owners Association meeting; Clara approached the mayor with the need. A survey was done, which determined this is a citywide need. Their targeted ages are 9 to 12. Clara has gathered input and people from churches,



schools, the police department, neighborhoods and city offices, and is getting them all to work together. "Some people have wondered why I care, since I don't have children. But I am

passionate about children. I want to go before God, at the end of my life, and know I have breathed life into children," Clara stated passionately.

"Because transportation is a big issue, I want to keep the programs local," Clara stated. My goal is to identify the safe places in all the neighborhoods, where kids are already hanging out and establish after-school care that will keep kids well-occupied, off the streets and out of mischief. I have businesses and associations willing to contribute or purchase computers and provide technical resources. I need regular people, with talents and skills, who are willing to make a difference in these kids' lives by sharing their skills and talents — things like cooking, mechanics, sewing — anything that can be useful in these kids' lives."

Clara's efforts have not gone unnoticed. She is the only person in the city to have received the Cedar Hill Volunteer Appreciation Award, which states: "in gratitude for valued contributions to the community and service to the city." She also received the South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. Community Service Award at the 46th Annual Trailblazer Award Luncheon, both in 2009. "I am so inspired by listening to what other people are doing," Clara said.

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“Our partners are not ordinary people. They are people of faith, who feel chosen and want to make a difference: people who, even with different ideas, will yet be able to meld and make decisions. I am looking for people of passion: people like the Rev. Victor Jackson of Building the Kingdom Community Church. Or Dr. Chanda McGhee of the community service department of the Cedar Hill Independent School District, who will provide 10 student advisors to set up our program on Twitter, Facebook and a Web page. These students will use this as a class project; research and help to set up a successful program,” Clara remarked enthusiastically. “We are looking at similar programs in Lancaster, DeSoto, Oak Cliff and Ft. Worth.

“If you reach children, you reach their families, then the neighborhoods, the city, the nation and the world,” Clara intoned. “You see, this is God’s ministry; it’s not

“I want to go before God, at the end of my life, and know I have breathed life into children.”

my doing,” she chuckled before adding, “I was pushed into this by God. The challenge was presented, and I took it up. And daily, God reminds me that if I walk, the way will open up, if I am faithful to trust Him and move.

“People ask me all the time what needs to be done. I ask them, ‘What is your passion? Do that.’ If they don’t know what their passion is, I tell them to ask the city where they need help. Find out if they need help with an existing crime watch group; or if there isn’t one, to start one.” Throughout the summer, those involved are in “gathering mode,” finding what is already in place and usable, learning how to partner. “I have even asked the police department how we can help them, because I have to ask myself, ‘What do I want my city to look like?’ and then follow up with, ‘What can I do to help?’” Clara said. “I need people to join me who won’t give up, who will persevere. This is for our kids — for the future of our city.” **NOW**



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— By Teresa Maddison



“I once knew a woman who said she figured out a way to save money.”

“Oh, how’s that?”

“I eat half a potato a night instead of a whole one.”

Dave Reininga told the above story, wryly stating, “That hit home.” Dave serves on the DeSoto Food Pantry board of directors. Along with others, he has worked tirelessly since opening on August 11, 2008, to increase awareness and gather supporters. Hunger is a fundamental need shared by all of humanity; a need of many neighbors right here in this community. Perhaps one of them is your neighbor — would you even know if you were face to face with hunger?

The DeSoto Food Pantry served 26 families during its first month, from its location next to the Hampton Road Baptist Church. “Although we started in just the back room, we have now taken over the entire building and average 250 to 300 families per month,” Suzanne Phillips said. Suzanne is the board chairman and very instrumental in both the day-to-day activities and promotional speaking for the pantry.

The pantry is available to all residents of DeSoto and Glenn Heights who meet basic income requirements. Once a month, clients pick up a box of food, packed specifically for them, based on the size of their family and whether or not there are children, special dietary needs, etc. Weekly, clients can pick up bread and sweets. So where does the food come from? The pantry is a member agency of the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). “Much of the food we spend money on comes from the NTFB,” Dave explained. “It is there that we are able to turn a small donation of \$10 into an incredible 70 pounds of food.”

Ginger Prettyman, a volunteer since the pantry’s beginnings, added, “We receive food, monetary and other types of donations from individuals, groups and businesses in our community. It’s always like a treasure hunt!” Supporters of the DeSoto Food Pantry include several area churches, Scout groups, public and private schools, sports teams, employee and customer groups and service clubs. The pantry’s single largest donation each year comes from the United States Postal Service’s annual community food drive. Also, the Cedar Hill Food Pantry has been a very supportive colleague since the beginning when they helped DeSoto learn “how to get started.”

“It’s endless; the community support is overwhelming,” Dave said. He attributes that to “walking and talking — just asking people. They see that it’s real.” Considering the rough economy, it can be hard to ask someone for money, but Dave emphasized, “We’re not asking for a lot; we’re just asking for \$10.”

The DeSoto Food Pantry is different from some of the other community pantries. “We do not have a thrift shop. When we opened, we chose not to incorporate one because there are two very well-established thrift shops in DeSoto, and we didn’t feel

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it would be right,” Suzanne explained. “That makes it even more imperative we have consistent community support. Our goal is to completely underwrite the monthly expenses for food, utilities and other operating costs through consistent monthly cash donations.” Suzanne noted enthusiastically, “We now have a utility assistance program! It’s not sufficiently funded, but when there’s money, we are able to help our customers with some of those expenses.”

Ginger said quietly, “We’ve had people come in who have absolutely nothing to eat.” The impact of the DeSoto Food Pantry goes beyond simply a box of food every month. “For example,” Ginger continued, “when families come in with their child, we work our hardest to get that child something just for them.



It might be a fruit drink or a box of cookies, but we give it to them personally and say, ‘This is for you.’ We want to connect with the children — the whole family — to show we care about them on a level far greater than a box of food.”

Suzanne pointed out, “Sometimes we get cakes donated. Ginger does her best to keep up with our clients’ birthdays so that when they come by, there is a cake waiting for them to take home for a celebration.” This ministry is definitely more than just food. Suzanne stated, “I don’t think anyone would be here if we were just handing out food.”

So what is beyond the box? “The joy of giving,” Dave stated. “It really is better to give than to receive.”

“Also,” Ginger added, “you come to realize, if people cannot buy food, they

cannot buy personal hygiene products either. Food is our number one concern, and we can make a dollar go much further when we obtain the food from the Food Bank. But the things that we especially appreciate being donated are canned pasta with meat, canned meats (not tuna), hearty soups, Vienna sausages, saltine crackers, macaroni and cheese, bath soap, shampoo, dishwashing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, cleaning supplies and large-size adult diapers.”

When asked why he chose to support the food pantry, Dave spoke without hesitation, “I wanted to take care of those in my own backyard, and food is the very basis of what everyone needs to live.”

“You simply cannot work with people in other ways if they are hungry,” Suzanne added. “Seeing hunger face to face has made the biggest impact on me. Some people don’t even realize there is a food pantry here because the need does not touch them, but we are here, and their neighbors need their support.”

Two things stay at the top of the priority list for Suzanne. “[First,] that we have enough regular monthly donations to fund the operation, so we don’t have to worry whether we can pay the bills,” she said. “And [secondly], that we can grow our utility and rent assistance to where it really makes a difference in our clients’ lives.”

“This pantry is not an ‘I’ thing, it’s a ‘we’ thing. Volunteers are needed in every walk of life; it’s important to be involved somewhere,” Ginger stated.

“Our clients are not allowed to volunteer at the pantry,” Suzanne noted carefully. “It is a rule. This is so they never feel burdened to repay. They don’t owe anything.”

As for the heart of her passion, Ginger said, “There but for the grace of God go I,” meaning, “Our clients — they could just as easily be me.” The room was quiet as she continued, “I sincerely hope that someday we can close our doors because there’s no longer any hunger.” Until then, friends and neighbors, the pantry is open Mondays 9:00 a.m. to noon, Thursdays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come discover what is beyond the box. **NOW**



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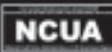


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Man ON THE MOVE

— By Beverly Shay

Considering the speed with which he communicates and the amount of ground he can cover in conversation, it was not surprising to discover transportation has been a key element in Grady Smithy Jr.'s life and career. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, initially reared in the Texas Hill Country, Grady is about as Texan as you can be. He is also fairly die-hard Duncanvillian, if that is a term.

Grady is a good combination of his father, an Army man who became a Dallas fireman, and his mother, a Duncanville school teacher from '46-'62. "My mom had already taught me to read, so when the first Dallas public school I attended provided books I had already read and thus considered boring, I refused to read them," Grady relayed. If his teachers therefore assumed he could not read, their ignorance did not bother Grady. But in third grade, he transferred to the Duncanville school where his mom was a teacher.

"In those days, Duncanville was very rural. I had several strikes against me because I was the youngest kid in class, as well as a teacher's kid. I got in some fights that year," Grady admits, probably showing off some of his father's genes. "But I was a voracious reader. I kept my current novel inside the text book we were using in class. Although I thought I was getting away with it, I found out years later my teachers had known all along. In those days," Grady continued quickly, "we wanted to

please our teachers. We wanted them to think well of us. And really," he paused for the briefest of breaths, "I was a seeker of pure truth." Even so, Grady was a bit of an enigma to his high school teachers, because he never tried as hard as his scores showed he could. "It was probably because I loved football. I had two college offers. One was with Dartmouth — they were looking for someone who could excel in football and academics. I was subjected to two interviews at the Dallas Athletic Club, where I appeared as a rural standout. One interview went well; the other didn't, so I wasn't offered the football scholarship. Although grants and financial aid were available, my family could not afford Dartmouth. Instead I went to Paris Junior College, following my graduation from a class of 49 students at Duncanville High School in 1960. We called the college dorm 'the animal den.'"

Grady's college football career ended his first year when he sustained a borderline knee injury, meaning surgery *might* correct it, but he could manage without the surgery if he chose. Grady has been managing for 50 years now. Instead of football, he played golf and a very mean game of tennis. In fact, Grady and his wife founded the Duncanville Tennis Association in 1973.

In 1964, Grady graduated from North Texas State University (now University of North Texas — UNT) with a bachelor's in political science and later, a master's in public administration. Grady always figured he would land on his feet, and he has repeatedly done so. He worked his way through college driving trucks and working Dallas freight docks. While working for the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Dallas with food



Hitting a High Note



After 40 years of teaching band, Duncanville ISD's Head Band Director Dr. Tom Shine has announced plans to retire at the end of the 2009/10 school year. This comes shortly after hitting a new high note in his career - Tom was recently named the 2010 Bandmaster of the Year of the

Texas Bandmaster's Association (TBA). "I never expected to be honored in this way. It's a very humbling experience," he said. "I'm gratified beyond words that my colleagues think this highly of me."

It was Tom's colleagues who paved the way for him to receive this distinction. Bandmasters of the Year are nominated by their peers, and the Association's Board of Directors is then responsible for the final decision. Dr. Shine has been a TBA member for as long as he's been teaching. "For 40 years I've watched the yearly Bandmaster speak at the convention and thought, 'That will never be me.'" But Tom thought wrong - he will present twice at this year's conference (July 25-28), and at least once in front of 2,500 directors and their families.

When asked about his most memorable moments as Band Director at Duncanville High School, Tom replied, "The final performances of the DHS Wind Ensemble when my own children each served as the principal players in their sections stay in my mind as special times."

Hands-on Learning Ideas Earn State Award

The Duncanville HS library has been recognized with the Texas Library Association's Highsmith Library Award. A \$1,000 check and a plaque are given annually to schools or other libraries that have implemented creative marketing projects and/or promotions to enhance their visibility within the communities they serve. Entry into the contest was suggested to the DHS Library team by Instructional Coordinator Mendy Autry. "I immediately thought of the ladies in the DHS library, as they always plan amazing activities to engage the high school students - the place is always decorated thematically, the librarians are in crazy costumes, and there are activities like band nights and lots of other fun things."



Foundation Awards Teaching Grants



Bringing creative ideas to fruition gave educators in Duncanville reason to celebrate and say "Thank you!" to the Duncanville ISD Education Foundation earlier this school year. Members of the Education Foundation Board surprised 29 teachers at nine schools with grant checks totaling \$34,321, to fund innovative learning programs that were implemented this spring.

Since its inception in 1997, the Foundation has awarded \$751,449 in grants to Duncanville ISD teachers. The Foundation is a partnership between educators and members of the community. All Duncanville ISD instructional personnel are eligible each year to submit grant applications to the Foundation detailing their innovative ideas. The Foundation is a resource for funds that would not otherwise be available to teachers who are dedicated to engaging the hearts and minds of students. After careful review, the Board of Directors selects projects for funding that they believe will have the greatest impact on student learning.



Nationals – An Experience of a Lifetime!

Building leadership skills, attending educational and social learning activities, and interacting with people from all across the country are just a few things eight Duncanville High School career and technical education students can expect to experience this summer as they travel out of state to compete at three National Competitive Conferences. Each of the ten students advanced to the national level after competing with hundreds of students from across the State of Texas and earning the coveted qualifying titles.

Four Health Science and Occupation students will attend the National HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Conference, competing in Scrapbook and Extemporaneous Health Poster Artwork. Four Advertising Design students will attend the National SkillsUSA Conference, to participate in Outstanding Chapter Display - Three-Dimensional Advertisement. In addition to these eight students, two

marketing education students have already competed at the National DECA Conference held in April, for a total of ten DHS students advancing to national level competitions this school year.

"Advancing to national level competition takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and commitment," said Valorie Jones, Director of Career and Technology Education. "Many schools have never had even one student qualify for nationals, yet Duncanville seems to send one or more career and tech students to national competitions year after year. It really is quite an accomplishment."

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distribution on the federal, state and county levels, Grady was instrumental in getting UNT to bring their master's program into the USDA.

In 1973, at the age of 31, Grady was one of three USDA nominees out of a total of 90 applicants for one of three positions as a fellow in the Congressional Operations in Washington, D.C. Grady was selected for one of those positions by the American Political Science Association. "I count my 10 - months in D.C. among the best of my life,"

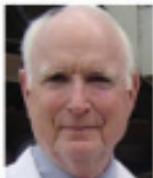
"Who would have known coyotes and bailing wire could provide a successful entre into politics?"

Grady mused. "For four-and-a-half months, we were to work in the House (Congress) and the rest of the time in the Senate. There I was, a democrat from rural Texas, working for a republican from New Mexico. I had to learn to be a-political. But they valued my experience in food distribution/disaster relief during hurricanes and tornados. I was given a lot of responsibility in drafting the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 under first-term Senator Pete Domenici, partly because the senator was the republican floor manager of the bill."

Due to pressure coming down from the Price Control Council appointed by the President, a shortage of bailing wire developed in 1974. The senator had no agricultural experience and could not see how the lack of bailing wire would affect New Mexico. Grady gave him some wise advice and instruction on that issue and on coyote population control. "Who would have known coyotes and bailing wire could provide a successful entre into politics?" quipped Grady. He went on to work on a food storage agricultural act for coastal areas suffering from hurricanes, as well as working on food stamp reform and food distribution on Indian reservations.

All told, Grady put in 33 years with the USDA, but not in D.C. He had seven

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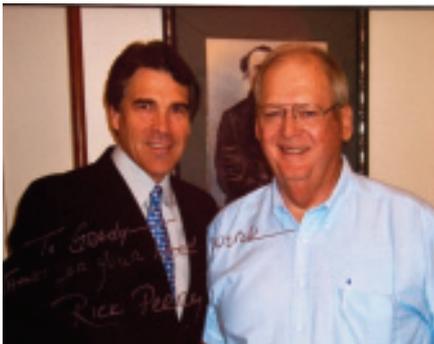
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job offers on the Hill. “It all came down to values,” Grady stated. “I didn’t want my daughter and son to grow up with an absentee father. Although it was hard to do, I am most proud that I came home to Texas, where I could be a part of my family growing up. That wouldn’t have happened in D.C.,” said Grady, who knew firsthand the temptations and opportunities for becoming a workaholic with unhealthy eating and drinking habits. “I have been married for 45 1/2 years, and I was there for my kids.”

Grady turned to local politics instead, serving a total of 20 years so far on the Duncanville City Council. He is proud of the changes he has been a part of introducing to the city economy, as well as his service with the Regional Transportation Committee of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Trans Texas Corridor Advisory



Committee and the National League of Cities Transportation Committee, earning him the moniker “Road Warrior,” ranking right up there with being Duncanville Chamber’s 1998 Man of the Year.

Grady is quite pleased with all he has done in his life. “But I am exceptionally proud of my daughter,” he said unabashedly. She attended Southern Methodist University on a presidential scholarship, where she was named a Harry S. Truman scholar. Her junior year was spent at St Hilda’s College of Oxford University, in England. She graduated with a bachelor’s in history and political science. Later she earned her doctorate in political science from Ohio State University. Grady made one more unequivocal statement, “I am equally as proud of my son, who is a Microsoft Certified Software Engineer.” **NOW**

At Home With John and Teresa Musser



Home With a Worldview

— By Beverly Shay

Set in a gracious acreage, the winding circular drive deposits visitors in front of double-wide, mullioned-glass doors of a minor country estate. Whoever built this home had no idea they were designing not only a single-dwelling home, but a virtual gateway to the nations. Flagstone-floored living areas; a huge kitchen; a conference-style meeting room, which can easily accommodate up to 100 people, complete with a large river stone fireplace and bar, sunken seating area and media system are among the home's many multipurpose features. Bedrooms, with mottled paint resembling world maps, now function as offices and a master bedroom suite provides both privacy and sanctuary. "We couldn't have designed a better set up for the way we live," Teresa commented. "But if we didn't do what we do, we would never live here."



Teresa grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. While attending a Bible school in Grand Rapids, she met and married John Musser, a native of Greenville, Michigan. Before many years passed, they added four children, including a set of twins. Soon, they will have eight grandchildren, once the twins are born. The family lived in Muskegon for 18 years. Soon after the young family settled there, John took his first mission trip into a remote part of Mexico.

"I began conducting crusades under mentors, a pastor and two evangelists, at the age of 23. They taught me so much, and that is why I mentor," John remarked. Initially his crusades were in America with periodic trips to other countries. Some crusades would stay in one location for weeks or months. Teresa and the children would then join John living in a 23-foot trailer. "We were just as happy there as anywhere," John commented, as Teresa nodded.

Comments between them confirm the unity of their calling and their common heartbeat for people, even those worlds away from DeSoto; it seems the world is their home. From 1979-

1989, John's full-time crusade work was basically in a four-state region, in what they called a ranchers' revival. At one point, John came in contact with some missionaries to Northern Nigeria, and began sending them some of the cassette tapes of sermons from his stateside



revival meetings; revival broke out in Nigeria as a result. In 1989, the Nigerians sent representatives to ask John to come to the Kano region, a very dangerous part of Nigeria.

"It was a miracle we even got there," John said of that first trip into Africa. Exhausted from travel, he was awakened early the next morning by 15 men wanting him to give them tools to reach their nation with the Gospel. "I came back to America with a vision for a four-phase native missionary plan, whereby we could help them without enabling their dependency on American believers and money."

Fast forward through years of travel to and through many Third-World countries ahead to DeSoto, Texas, where John and Teresa Musser base their world-impacting lifestyle. "We came to visit our son, a student in a local Bible school in Texas. His friends were so eager to go into the world, but needed someone they could go with and tools to truly help the nations. We ended up moving here in 2002, to work with several schools training students to reach the world with the Gospel. We lived in a small home while we looked around for a place to do what we do," John smiled.

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we have lived, people have lived with us — missionaries, troubled people, recovering people, whomever God sent us,” remarked Teresa. We have blessed a lot of people, and our children were good with it. We weren’t surprised our son was bringing students around who wanted to learn from us.”

When they first saw this home, listed as a foreclosure, it was supposedly already sold — for cash. The Realtor let them look at it anyway. “He asked what we did and sort of laughed at the impossibility of our affording a place big enough to serve our vision,” John recalled. “He kept wanting to show us other places. But we prayed.”

Not many days later, the Realtor called back — the deal had fallen through, the home was back on the market. In the meantime, God had provided a sizeable down payment and with the approval of their ministry board, John and Teresa bought the home to the utter amazement of their Realtor.

Decorated with beautiful handmade crafts from countries all over the world, their home truly represents their lifestyle and their vision. Their living room has carved wooden profiles of men and women depicting African activities, snake skins, a hand-woven burgundy rug from India, various elephant paintings and photos of John and Teresa at the Taj Mahal, Egyptian pyramids and the Eiffel Tower. Shelves near the front door display gifts and souvenirs from their travels through Ghana, Nigeria, India, the Philippines and Malaysia. Photos from many countries fill wall space everywhere.

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and women who come to learn from them. “We use this conference table [in the dining room] to set up sewing machines with which I teach the women skills,” Teresa remarked. “Our huge kitchen is perfect for cooking classes, with its four ovens and two stoves, one gas and one electric.” There are several refrigerators and seemingly endless countertop space, where canning takes place. A large table is set in the octagonal breakfast “nook” overlooking the backyard gardens and tilapia farm. “The slate floors throughout all the living areas easily handle the traffic,” Teresa shared.

While Teresa teaches indoors, John is outside providing hands-on training in the “cycle of life” tilapia farm. Vegetables

are grown in “dirtless” green houses with waste water from tilapia tanks. “The plants produce like nothing you’ve ever seen. We design the gardens and tanks with materials readily available in all Third World countries. Tilapia are very disease-resistant and can be raised at 80-degrees, providing food and fertilizer,” John explained. Everything they teach enables Third World communities to generate income and become self-sufficient.

Back inside, multiple rooms are used for housing and teaching; they even have a computer room and nursery. John’s office is filled with file cabinets, maps, resources and research for working with 62 of the approximately 7,000 unreached tribes. “We analyze the villages and people groups looking at needs, diseases and farming capacity to determine how we can best help them. Many of these tribes have never seen white men or experienced modern medicine or farming techniques. We hope to improve their lifestyle and life expectancy as well as bring them the Gospel.” The goal of Gospel Revival Ministries, this family and this house, is to equip native pastors to reach the last of the lost. **NOW**

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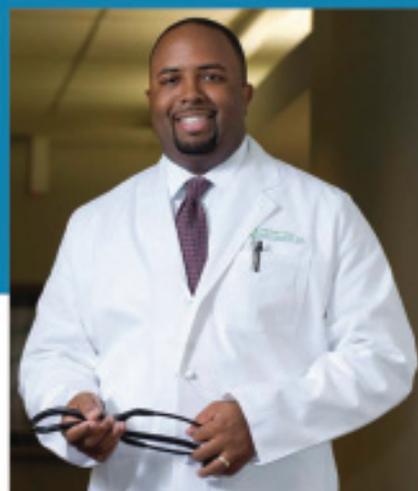
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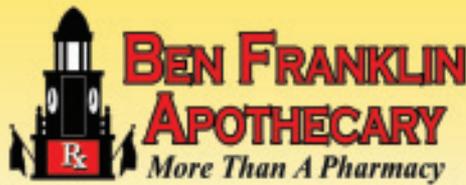
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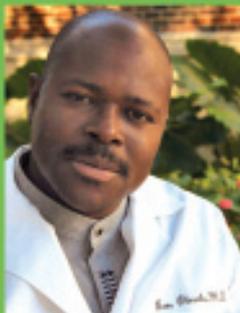
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Golfers at the Duncanville Golf Classic 2010 hop on a cart and speed off to the first hole.



Gavin Kokel, Trinity Christian School '02 graduate/ student athlete, being inducted into the TCS Athletic Department Ring of Honor, pictured with TCS Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Watts.



Nine-year-old Kamryn Madden poses with Methodist Health System Women's Imaging Registration Representative Lou Ann Jumper after donating her birthday money for breast cancer research.



Mother Nature, Dorothy Wolverton, and Duncanville Mayor, David L. Green, present Taco Bell with a Property of the Month Award for beautification and upkeep of the business.



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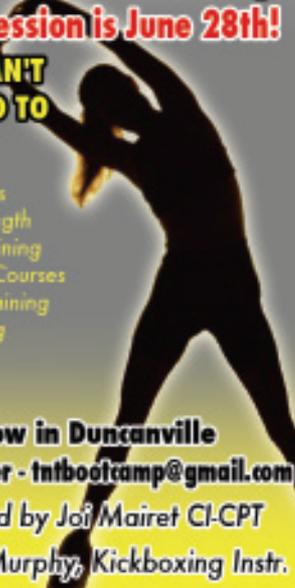
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A Sea of Ceramics

— By Beverly Shay

Ceramic art came later in life for Naomi Winston, youngest of 13 children, who grew up in Millsboro, Delaware. Her dad was a farmer and carpenter; her mom was a housewife. “I went to private school through eighth grade, attending Seventh Day Adventist boarding school in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, during high school, where I worked in the school cafeteria. Coming home for the summers, I worked cleaning homes and hotels to pay the whole tuition myself. I graduated with honors and went to college in Huntsville, Alabama,” Naomi recalled. “After two years, I got married and finished college; our daughter was born during that time.”

Her husband, an Adventist minister, died five years after they married, and Naomi moved to Oak Cliff to work in the Adventist church headquarters for seven years. “Then I

transferred to Atlanta, where a year later I married for the second time. My husband was a police officer working for North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. He was the most wonderful man. I was devastated when he died of a heart attack just two weeks after passing his complete physical with flying colors. We had only been married three-and-a-half years,” she reminisced, deep affection evident in her voice.

“My neighbor made us a set of black ceramic angels for Christmas right before Lynn died. Even though I went through grief therapy, I was still so lost following his death and needed to get out of the house on Monday nights — Lynn died on a Monday night,” Naomi explained. “My neighbor invited me to her ceramic class at the community center on Mondays. Wanting to learn, I went with her,” Naomi said. Those classes got her out of the house and served as a way to work through her grief.

“People began wanting to buy my pieces, but I couldn’t sell them, because each of them contained a piece of me. But I began making specific pieces for people. After getting a business license in North Carolina in ’95, I started having an annual show/sale in my home,” Naomi stated.

In ’96, she was asked to return to her former job in Atlanta. “It was hard to leave the home where I had lived with Lynn, but within 24 hours I had two job offers in Atlanta. I felt God was telling me to go,” Naomi

remarked. “I lived in Atlanta for 10 years, where I got my business license and had my second storage shed built as a ceramic shop.” Her business is named LyNa’s Ceramics, combining Lynn’s name with hers.

Naomi began what has become a tradition: making ornaments for the children and grandchildren of her friends. “I give the child one each year, so by the time they are 18, they have their starter set of Christmas ornaments. I was making about 85 a year. Now the number is up to about 100-125 ornaments a year,” Naomi grinned.

Naomi makes much more than ornaments. Her Cedar Hill home is full of vases and lamps so fine, they look made of glass. She has hundreds of molds, because she pours most of what she makes, occasionally purchasing greenware. “I pour slip [a clay mixture] into the molds and let it set for 10-15 minutes, then drain out the excess slip, which is reusable. After it dries a while longer in the mold, I separate the mold from the piece and let it dry for up to a day,” Naomi demonstrated with pieces of greenware, the dry unfired clay which she trims and cleans. Once fired, the unfinished white pieces are called bisque.

“Then I decide if I will stain or glaze them. Staining involves hand-painting with acrylics and sealing with a matte or high gloss finishing spray and covering them with a clear glaze. Anything

that is glazed needs to be re-fired. Varieties of glaze include: colors and under-glazes, matte, high gloss, crystal, low sheen. A finished piece may be fired four or five times," explained Naomi, who obviously knows the process well. "This has been a learning adventure," Naomi admitted. "I no longer glaze the bottoms of pieces; instead I put felt on them so the ceramic won't scrape anything."

Some of her pieces are decorated with decals, others with mother of pearl



"It took me a while to get the eyes right, but now they are my signature feature."

and gold. Different colors and finishes require different temperatures in the kiln. The temperature and length of firing time is determined by the number on the cone used to fire. "When the cone bends, the kiln turns off and the cooling process begins. You cannot open the kiln during the cooling process or the glaze will crack." Naomi had her garage, where she keeps shelves of supplies, wired to support two kilns.

"It took me a while to get the eyes right, but now they are my signature feature," Naomi remarked. "Mostly, I create pieces I really like and hope others will buy them. Although, I do have to admit, sometimes the pieces I don't like how they have turned out are the first ones to sell," she quipped. **NOW**

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From left:

Stacey Copeland, owner of Camp Bow Wow®;
Camp Counselor Brandon Christenson;
one of many happy canine clients.



Dogs Rule

Camp Bow Wow's Motto: All Day Play. Snooze The Night Away!® — By Beverly Shay

Animal lovers can safely entrust their dogs to the care of Camp Bow Wow's highly conscientious, personalized hands-on dog care in an unbelievably clean environment, whether for an occasional visit, on a regular basis for work-hour care or while out of town. "We have some unique commitments to our clients," said Stacey Copeland, top dog (owner) of Camp Bow Wow® & Home Buddies. "Our clients can watch their dogs on Camper Cams® online during all-day play in spacious indoor/outdoor play yards. Each dog receives the same attention, exercise and care as our day campers. Plus clients can visit anytime, to check us out or see how their dog likes it. I think they'll be pleased with the scheduled rest periods following each meal, the snacks and interaction the dogs have with our certified

camp counselors," Stacey remarked confidently. "We invite prospective customers to come for a trial complimentary first day of care to see if they and their dog will like it. We're pretty sure they will!"

The cleanliness of the camp is striking. Three play yards, including one for dogs up to 30 pounds and one for larger dogs, are monitored by attendants (one for every 20 dogs). Dogs can go in/out to the size-appropriate outside yards, as they please. Stacey has 12 4x4-foot cabins for smaller dogs, 16 4x8-foot cabins for larger dogs (or family dogs can be together if requested) and four 6-foot-tall 4x8-foot cabins for really large dogs or those who like to stand/jump. Each cabin has a personal bed, blanket and water dish, with a small/large can for personal belongings in front.

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Each dog's personal information is posted at their cabin, including a photo, owner's and vet's name and contact information, along with pertinent behavior or medical notes. "We use non-toxic, hospital-grade cleaning products and lots of love," Stacey remarked.

"I can truly say Stacey is 100-percent dedicated to the health, welfare and safety of these dogs," remarked Linda Grady, from Camp Bow Wow in Coppell. On Stacey's rare vacation days away, her competent employees continue her devotion to pet welfare, knowing other owners, like Linda, can assist in anything they need, from advice to coming on over to help. Camp Bow Wow has 107 locations, seven of which are in Texas.

"The franchise requires a process of due diligence before you can open, which added to my confidence that I can offer the best care possible to your pet. Not

"I believe things happen for a reason. I have always loved dogs; I don't even really have a favorite, because I love them all."

only do I have access to support from other owners, I can, and have, talked with the CEO of the company when questions arise; it's like working in a family business," Stacey related.

"I believe things happen for a reason," Stacey remarked. "I have always loved dogs; I don't even really have a favorite, because I love them all. One night I dreamed I had a doggie day care. It was so vivid, that I wrote it out and began to research dog day cares. I retired from Microsoft (July 4, 2008) and opened here November 13, 2009."

Besides day care, Stacey and her staff of nine offer holistic, all-natural dog food, baths and nail trims, provide referrals to dog trainers and groomers and offer in-home pet service for animals not neutered/spayed or those with blended families: birds, cats, dogs, horses. "We walk and feed the animals, play with them and can even stay overnight if needed," Stacey explained.

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In The Kitchen With David Hira

— By Faith Browning

Magician and motivational speaker, David Hira, spent his high school years in the Chicago area. He worked for a prosperous meat market and was trained to properly cook and prepare meats. “I learned that a great dish starts with great meats,” he explained. “I’m most at home in front of the grill or over a big hot pan on the stove, with olive oil, garlic and whatever else I can throw into

the pan. Cooking becomes easy when you quit following a recipe and start tasting, in your imagination, that which you are throwing in the pan.”

David and his wife, Angela, enjoy traveling. “Many of our trips are centered on finding the best desserts and luncheon spots around the country,” he said. “Some people eat to live. We live to eat!” **NOW**



WATERMELON CUCUMBER SALAD (REALLY!)

- 1/4 cup rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. fresh mint (very important)
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes (very important)
- 2 cups seedless watermelon
- 2 cups cucumber, seeded (cut out the middle section), thinly sliced into half moons
- 1/2 cup red onion, chopped

1. Whisk the first four ingredients together until sugar dissolves.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients, toss and coat. Serve chilled!

Note: It was the mint with the cucumbers and the watermelon with red peppers that took me by surprise. Try it just as written before passing judgment on it! Really, it is awesome!

CHILLED CARROTS WITH SWEET APRICOT SAUCE

- 1 bunch carrots
- 1 cup dried apricots
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 jar apricot jam
- Splash of Grand Marnier or Cointreau
- 3/4 cup pecan halves
- 1/4 stick butter

1. Slice carrots and parboil until just tender, not falling apart. Remove from water and use same water to parboil dried apricots. Cool apricots and slice up.
2. Mix 1/2 cup orange juice with jar of apricot jam and splash of grand Marnier or Cointreau. Melt together over low heat.
3. Sauté 3/4 cup pecan halves in butter. Add to jam mix. Add apricots to jam mix. Pour over carrots and chill. Serve cold.

CHICKEN WING DIP

- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup Frank's Red Hot Cayenne Pepper Sauce
- 1 cup Ranch-style salad dressing
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a medium bowl, stir together the cream cheese and hot pepper sauce, until well-blended. Mix in the Ranch dressing,

- chicken and cheddar cheese.
- 2. Spread into a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes. If oil collects on the top, dab it off using a paper towel. Serve warm with tortilla chips and club crackers.

SALSAUSE EGG CASSEROLE

- Half loaf white bread
- Butter
- 1 lb. breakfast sausage or ham, cooked
- 1 1/2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 8 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp. dried mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Trim crust off white bread; butter both sides and line the bottom of a 9 x 1-inch Pyrex pan.
2. Place cooked breakfast sausage or ham over the bread; cover with cheese.
3. Combine eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper.
4. Prepare the night before, cover with foil and refrigerate. Bake covered with foil at 325 F for 45 minutes, then uncovered for an additional 15 minutes. Serve with fresh fruit on the side.

LASAGNA SOUP

- 1 lb. bulk Italian sausage
- 2 cups onion, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, chopped
- 2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 14 1/2-oz. can Italian stewed tomatoes
- 1 10 1/2-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 cup bow tie or chunky pasta
- 2 cups fresh spinach
- 1 cup provolone or mozzarella cut into chunks
- Parmesan cheese (to sprinkle)
- Fresh basil as garnish

1. In a large pot, brown the sausage. Add onions and carrots; sauté 3 minutes.
2. Add mushrooms and garlic; stir for 3 minutes.
3. Add broth, stewed tomatoes and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil; add pasta and spinach.
4. Cook for 10 minutes on light boil. To serve, place 2 chunks of cheese in bottom of soup bowls. Add soup, sprinkle with Parmesan,

garnish with basil. Makes 4-6 servings. Great in a Crock-pot at an event.

POTATOES AU GRATIN (WITH OLIVES!)

- 6 - 8 baking potatoes, baked in oven with the skins on
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese, cut into cubes
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 onion, chopped or onion flakes if real onions aren't handy
- Salt and pepper, to taste

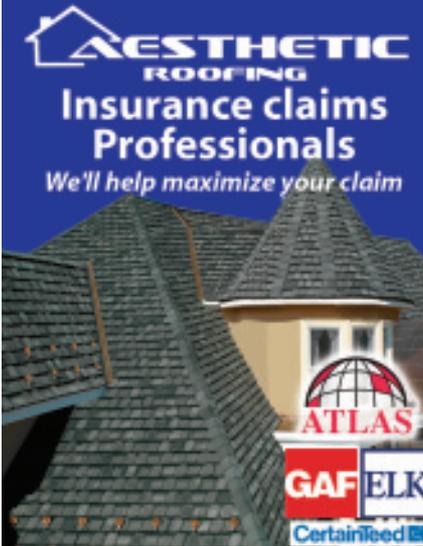
- 6 strips bacon, chopped and sautéed until half cooked
 - 1/4 cup pimento-stuffed green olives, sliced
1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Remove skins from cooked potatoes and cut into large cubes.
 2. Toss with all ingredients. Pour into greased casserole dish (square and deep is best). Bake uncovered at 325 F for 1 hour. Serves 8-10

ALFREDO-RO*TEL SAUTEED FILETS

- 2-3 lbs. filets (Black drum or redfish; I like to use snapper.)
 - Creole seasoning
 - Lemon pepper
 - 2 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 2 Tbsp. butter
 - 1 can Ro*tel tomatoes
 - 15 oz. Alfredo Sauce (I use the kind in a glass jar.)
1. Rinse skinned filets and pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle both sides lightly with Cajun seasoning and lemon pepper.
 2. Heat cast-iron or non-stick skillet on medium-high until hot; add olive oil and then butter.
 3. Place filets in hot skillet. Sear fish several minutes per side until light brown and easily flaked in the thickest parts.
 4. Drain Ro*tel and mix it with Alfredo sauce. Pour this over filets once they are mostly cooked. Decrease heat and cook several minutes until sauce begins to brown at edges. Remove from heat and cover. Let rest (sit in pan) for 5 minutes. To serve, lay fish and sauce over rice. The sauce is excellent in the rice, and you sop up any excess with the bread! Yields: 4 servings.

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Answering Five Questions Can Help You Pursue Your Goals

As you strive to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you may, at times, feel frustrated over events you can't influence, such as the up-and-down movements of the financial markets. Yet there is much you can control — once you determine the answers to just five key questions.

Where am I today?

Take stock of all your assets — your IRA, 401(k) and other savings and investment accounts. Then, do the same for your debts, such as your mortgage and any other financial obligations. On your financial journey through life, it's essential that you know your starting point.

Where would I like to be?

Once you've established where you are today, you'll need to identify where you'd like to be tomorrow. How much will you need to pay for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Will you be able to help pay for your children's or grandchildren's college education? Will you need to support any other family members? At this stage, you'll need to write down all your goals and put a price tag on each one.

Can I get there?

After you've identified your goals, determine if they are, in fact, achievable. By considering a variety of factors — including your likely future income stream and your family situation — you should be able to determine if you can attain your goals or if you need to modify them in some way.

How do I get there?

Now it's time to put a strategy into action. Specifically, you need to choose those investments that can help you pursue the goals you've selected. Your ideal portfolio will depend on your risk tolerance and time horizon, but in general, you'll want a diversified mix of quality investments. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility. As you put together your holdings, make sure you understand what you can expect from your investments. For example, growth stocks may offer the highest potential returns, but they also carry the greatest risk. On the other hand, investment-grade bonds can offer a steady income stream and, barring the default of the issuer, will repay your principal when they mature.

How can I stay on track?

Once you've built your investment portfolio, you'll need to review it regularly — at least once a year — to help ensure it's still meeting your needs. After all, many things can and will change in your life, such as your family situation, your goals, your employment and your risk tolerance. To address these changes, you'll need to adjust your portfolio over time.

As you can see, answering all these questions will take both work and expertise. That's why you may want to work with a professional financial advisor to help you identify your goals and create a strategy for pursuing them.

In any case, though, start asking — and answering — these five key questions as soon as you can. It's easier to reach your financial goals if you put time on your side. **NOW**

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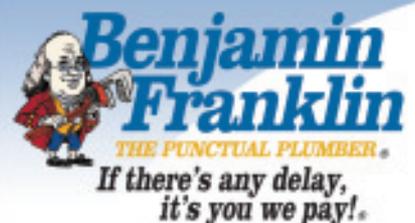


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June is National Scoliosis Awareness Month

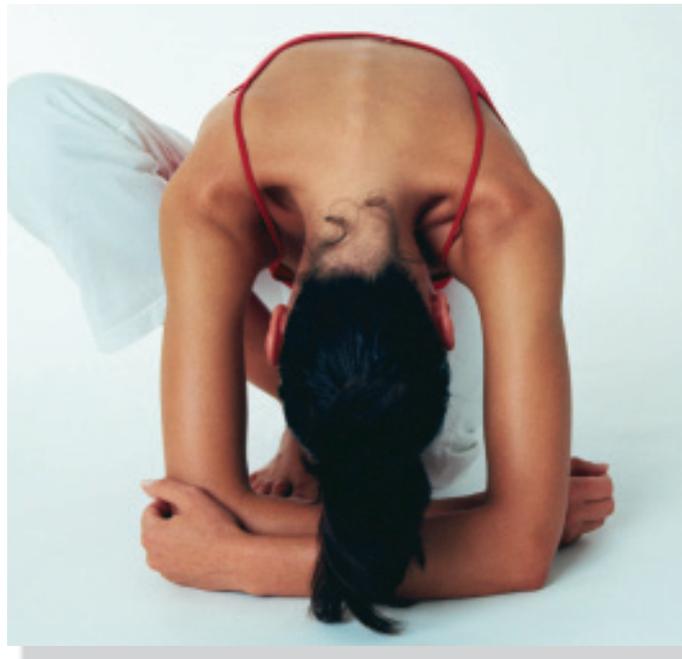
— By Leah Pittmon, D.C.

According to the National Scoliosis Foundation, scoliosis affects about 6 million people in the U.S. Of those, 85 percent are considered “idiopathic,” or of unknown cause. Anyone any age can be affected, although teenage girls are far more likely to have a scoliosis which requires drastic treatments such as spinal surgery.

Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS) can remain a mild curvature (under 20 degrees) or can progress to a greater curve. It can result in cosmetic problems, back pain or in severe cases, it can even alter lung function. *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* published an article in 1981, which suggested a 14-year reduction in life expectancy among AIS sufferers. A genetic link has recently been reported, and there is even a DNA test for 53 genetic markers thought to be associated with AIS. However, while this test may have accuracy in predicting who will progress to a severe curvature, it cannot predict who will have chronic pain or self-esteem problems from a mild to moderate curvature.

The traditional orthopedic approach to AIS is to “watch and wait.” Usually, no treatment is administered until the curve progresses beyond 20 degrees. At that point, most are recommended for bracing. The braces are large and cumbersome, and compliance can be an issue. These braces do not reverse the existing curve, but attempt to halt progression. In a study from 2005 in the *Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics*, lower compliance resulted in less favorable results, such that when compliance was less than 90 percent, progression of the curvature was seen in 56 percent. The same study also reported an average compliance rate of 65 percent. Compliance was considered wearing the brace 18 hours a day or more.

Beyond a 35 degree curvature, surgery is usually recommended. Harrington rods are installed on either side of the scoliotic spine. They are reinforced with screws into the vertebrae. A 2008 review of the Pub Med studies on spinal fusion surgery concluded that the surgery had a varying but high rate of complication, and a medical indication of this treatment could



not be established in view of the lack of evidence.

There is a silver lining to the AIS dark cloud: the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research found in a three-year study that children with mild scoliosis treated with chiropractic showed a reduction in their curvature. Another study by the chiropractic group SOTO-USA showed that in all 19 AIS pediatric patients studied, curvature was reduced. Pediatric chiropractic patients have an estimated risk of 1 in 250 million of serious injury. Watch and wait does not make as much sense with results like these. If someone you love is affected by scoliosis, consult your chiropractor — the sooner, the better! **NOW**

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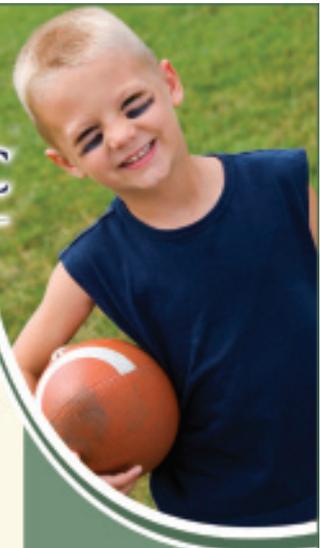
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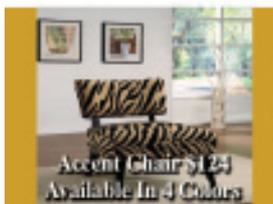
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Parkinson's Group exercise class: 6:30-7:30 p.m. first three Mondays; last Monday: support group: 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

First Mondays

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

Second Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Teenagers' Game Time: 4:30-6:00 p.m. at CH Library. www.zulabwyliclib.org

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. at CH Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Wednesdays

DS library free computer classes: 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Venerable Training Room. June 16: computer basics; 23: using wireless; 30: using desktop. July classes: 7: e-mail and attachments; 14: Internet searches; 21: library databases. Library card and registration required. (972) 230-9661.

Thursdays

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

Duncanville Summer Concert Series: 7:30 p.m. at Poe-Hobden Amphitheatre in Armstrong Park. June 3: Shades of Gray (good old rock 'n' roll). June 10: JD Monson Band (classic rock and country). June 17: So Chic (dance and disco). June 24: Voo Doo Blue (Stevie Ray Vaughn Tribute Band).

Third Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Cedar Hill Music in the Park: 8:00 p.m. at Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater, 2850 Park Ridge Drive. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, a picnic dinner and enjoy free concerts by various artists. June 3: The Vintage: golden rock; June 11: Domino Effect: R&B; June 18:

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Bonnie and Nick Norris Band: country; June 25: Me & My Monkey: Beatles.

First and Second Fridays

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

Saturdays

DS library free computer classes: 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Venerable Training Room. June 19: Microsoft Word; 26: Microsoft Excel; July 3: Microsoft PowerPoint; 10: social networking sites. Library card and registration required. (972) 230-9661.

Second Saturdays

Baby Boutique Resale: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Sound Options Pregnancy Services (972) 230-8101.

Third Saturdays

Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at 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. Volunteer instructors needed; call OCBF (972) 228-0872, ext.1600.

Through June 20

The African American Repertory Theater presents *The Gospel at Colonus* at DeSoto's Corner Theater. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m. (cost: \$25); Saturday and Sunday: 2:30 p.m. (cost: \$20). For tickets: (972) 572-0988 or www.aareptheater.com.

June 1-August 22

Crawford Park Pool in Crawford Park, 401 Straus Rd., Cedar Hill. Open 7 days/week: 1:00-6:45 p.m.; senior swim: 12:00-12:45 p.m. daily. Cost: \$2/person per entry; \$50/individual season pass. Lessons/party rental available: (972) 291-5130.

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June 9-30

DeSoto Library's summer reading program begins June 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m. with balloons, face painting, bounce house, pony rides and more. Children and teens can read their favorite books, enjoy our summer programs, crafts, activities and win prizes. Please sign-up. (972) 230-9666.

June 12

Changing Directions Christian Center's first annual run, walk or cawl-a-thon: 7:00 a.m. at Lancaster Recreation Trail, 1700 Veteran's Memorial Pkwy, Lancaster. Focus is on becoming healthier physically. Community fair: 10:30 a.m. at church, 1615 N. Hampton Rd., DeSoto.

Creekfest: 2:00-10:00 p.m. at the DeSoto Town Center. Fun, food, activities for all ages and entertainment with a twist. DeSoto's Urban Challenge (similar to ABC's Amazing Race) made up of two-person teams working to solve 12 crazy challenges throughout the city (Cost: \$35/person. Register at Blue Cow Coffee Shop in the lobby of the DeSoto Public Library from noon-1:55 p.m. <http://desotourbanchallenge.com>). Meanwhile back at the Outdoor Amphitheater, enjoy food vendors, children's activities and at 6:00 p.m. 5 Second Rule (with DeSoto's Paul Dryer playing lead guitar) will play followed by Fingerprints cool jazz at 7:30 p.m. Contact Mary Berger at (817) 478-0796 or the Chamber at (972) 224-3565.

June 15

Cedar Hill Rec. Center presents a rain barrel workshop: 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Topaz Room. Cost: \$40/person; only 25 people allowed. Must RSVP to preregister with Josh McLerran by 5:00 p.m. on June 8: (972) 291-5126, ext. 2818 or joshmclerran@cedarhilltx.com.



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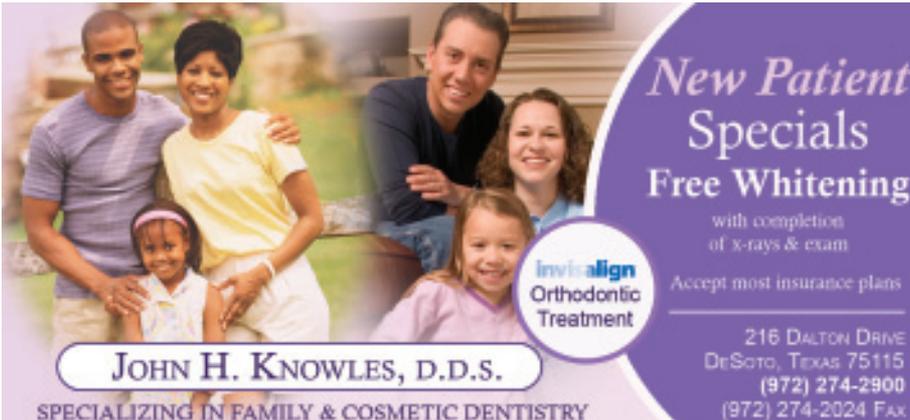
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