

MansfieldNOW

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2025

A Voice for All

Jesse Cannon II serves
as a new Mansfield ISD
board member

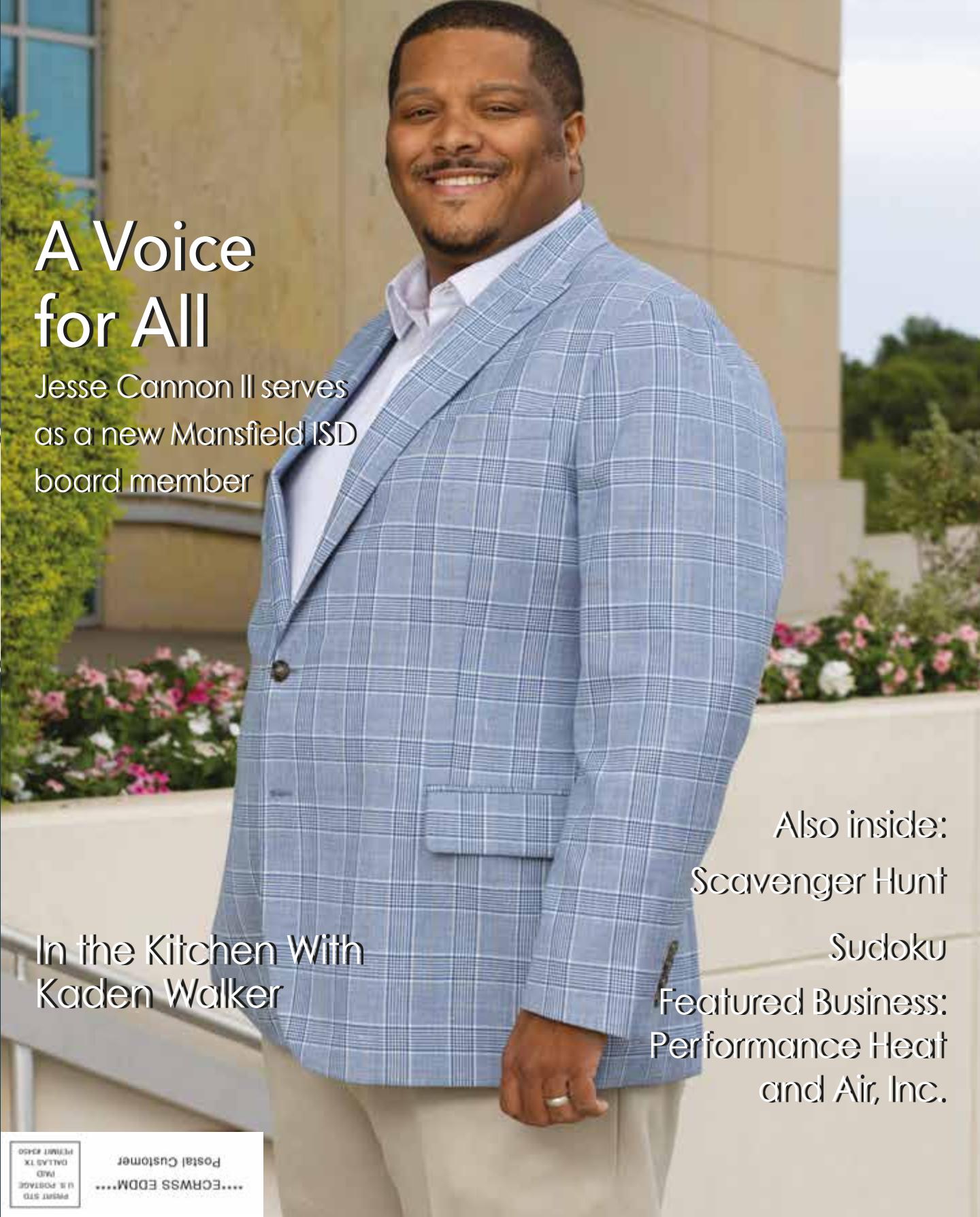
In the Kitchen With
Kaden Walker

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Sudoku

Featured Business:
Performance Heat
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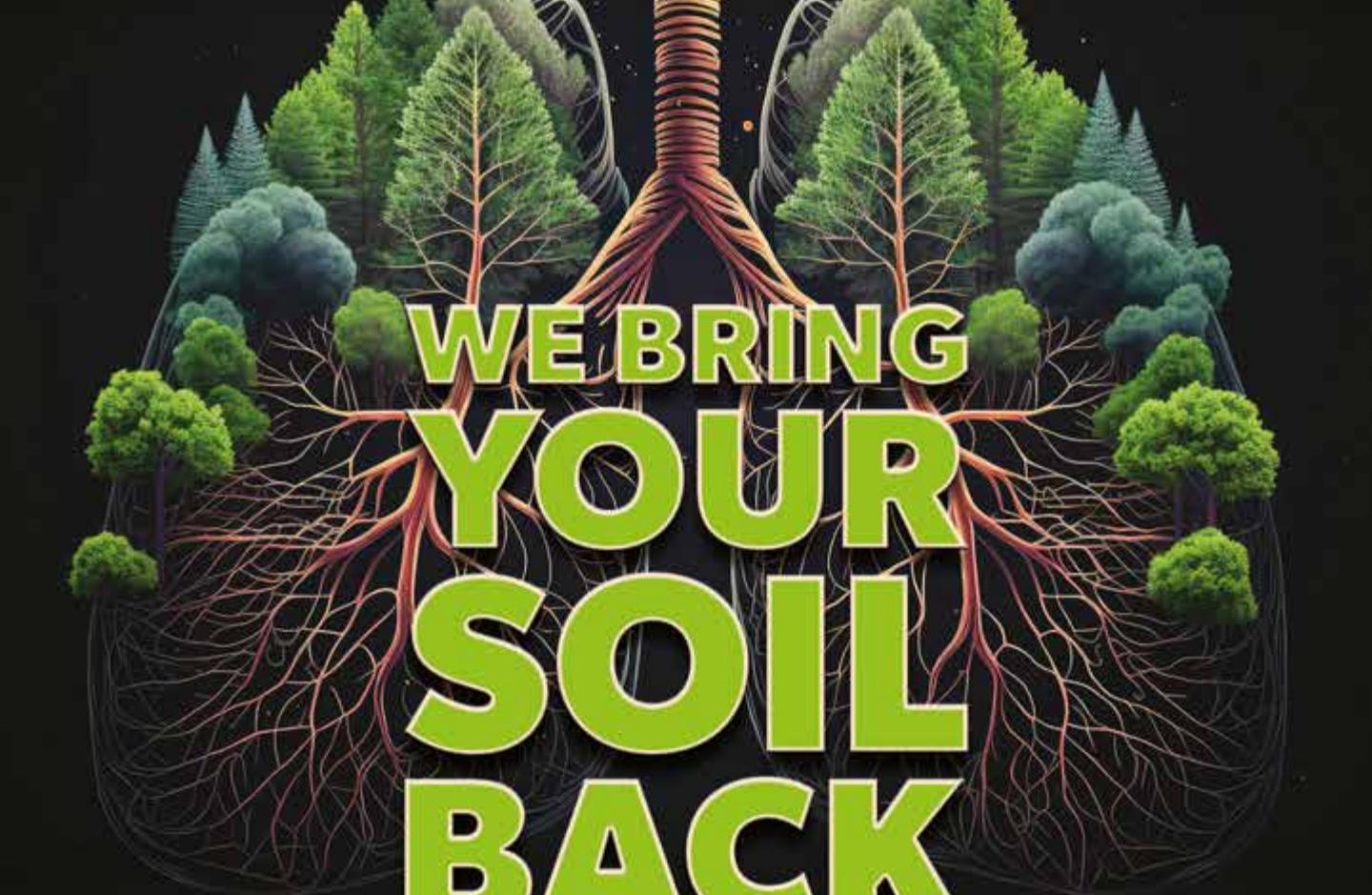
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Mansfield Family,

I've lived in this area for 20-plus years, but this role has given me a deeper understanding of the community. I enjoy every moment of writing, connecting and meeting the people who bring Mansfield to life. This month marks four years since I became the editor of *MansfieldNOW*, and I want to thank you for making the journey so meaningful.

As summer winds down, there's a shift in the air. August feels like a turning point for many people — backpacks being stocked, routines returning and a fresh school year just around the corner. School is more than academics. Friendships are formed, passions spark and goals take shape. A season of fresh starts and new energy is created. Whether you're a student, parent, grandparent or an educator, the season brings both excitement and concerns for many.

Reflecting on these times, I recall partnering with amazing families to help take the load off. We participated in carpools, developed schedules and tasks to make it easier for my children and me. These systems helped us transition effectively, so I suggest you make a plan according to your schedule and move forward!

Wishing you a fantastic August and a smooth, successful start to the school year!

Sandra

Sandra Walters
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ON THE COVER



Jesse Cannon II eagerly anticipates the upcoming school year as an asset of Mansfield ISD.

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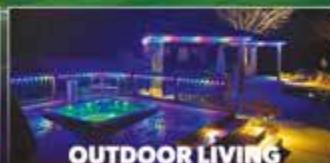
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A VOICE FOR ALL

— By Sandra Walters

As the 2025-2026 school year commences, many students, parents, teachers, principals, counselors and other staff members begin a new chapter in their lives. Jesse Cannon II is embarking on his journey as a new school board member. He exemplifies the motto of Mansfield ISD: “Mansfield is a great place to live, learn and teach.” He honors this statement in a unique way. “I’ve lived in Mansfield for the majority of my life. I graduated from Summit High School in 2006. I worked as a private voice teacher and AVID tutor while in college. Once I graduated from Dallas Baptist University, I began my educational journey at Della Icenhower Intermediate School. This school district and this city helped shape who I am — so why wouldn’t I serve?” Jesse asked.

For years, Jesse knew he was destined to be a teacher. “I actually miss teaching, building relationships with students and seeing the light in their eyes when they achieve a goal or hear how they sound after weeks or months of hard work. I love engaging with students and watching them grow,” he said. “As an educator, I’ve seen firsthand the expertise and dedication teachers bring every day, and they deserve to be treated as the highly skilled professionals they are,” he said. “When I considered running for office, I thought about being the person that many needed me to be — an advocate for students, parents and teachers. I see myself as a voice for all.”

Over the years, Jesse has advanced to various leadership roles, including director of visual and performing arts for Fort Worth ISD. He is the past-president of the Texas Music Educators Association, where he advocates for music education statewide. Additionally, he serves on the County Music Association Foundation Board, helping to expand access to high-quality arts education across the nation. “I’ve had the honor of representing the voices of educators and students, not just across Texas but



throughout the U.S.," he shared. "It's all rooted in the belief that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, deserves access to an excellent education, including the arts."

For Jesse, service has always been second nature. "I have served my whole life, so helping is ingrained in me," he said. "I was taught to speak up when it's necessary, so I knew it was time to step up and act for the people who are too often left out of the conversation. I ran because of my conviction to stand up for others — the conviction that every student deserves an advocate. That our educators need real support. That parents should be seen as partners, not afterthoughts." I ran because I believe Mansfield ISD can be a model for what public education should look like when we lead with community, collaboration and accountability," he said. "As both

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a parent and an educator, I witnessed moments where decisions were being made without fully considering the voices

of those closest to our students, parents and teachers. That struck a nerve. When you've sat on both sides of the table, you understand just how critical that relationship is to a child's success."

During the swearing-in ceremony, he prepared to repeat the oath while he escorted his family to the stage in front of the board members and audience. As he stood there, proudly being sworn in, he listened to the words closely and repeated after the announcer. His beautiful wife, Marika (MISD teacher), and children, Claire and Collin, stood behind him in support. Once he finished the oath, their pictures were taken, and he took his seat as board member for Place 5.

Each new board member was asked to speak. When it was Jesse's turn, he said, "I am filled with gratitude. I start off by giving honor and thanks to God! And my wife for your consistent support and sacrifice. Walking the halls of Mansfield ISD as a student, teacher, parent and now board member, reminds me of how powerful public schools are. We have the power to change our students' lives in Mansfield ISD every day, so this seat isn't just mine. I stand on the shoulders

of many who have paved the way before me — people like Willie Brown, John Washington, Mack Moody, Brenda Norwood, Dr. Michael Evans, Darrell Sneed, Warren Davis and many who did the work. Their work made space for leadership like mine to grow, so now we must build trust, increase transparency and deliver on the promises we made to MISD — to the students, staff, parents and community. My ask of you is to hold us accountable! Together, we are all in! Let's get to work!"

As Mansfield gears up for the new school year, walk in with purpose, passion and the belief that every day is a chance to grow. Whether you're a student finding your rhythm, a teacher shaping futures or a parent cheering from the sidelines, this year is a fresh chapter, full of opportunity. There will be challenges, but there will also be breakthroughs. Jesse Cannon believes, you should lean into the hard work, lift each other up, and never forget why you show up: to learn, to lead and to make a difference. Make this year one to be proud of. Keep your head high, your heart open and your focus sharp. We can accomplish a lot together! **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Arlin Levine

By Sandra Walters

This Fourth of July was one to remember for little Arlin Levine as she celebrated Independence Day in style. Dressed head to toe in red, white and blue, Arlin lit up the day with wide-eyed wonder and joyful giggles at every sight and sound. "From waving a tiny flag to watching fireworks, she soaked in the magic of the moment," said her mom, Chanci Levine. The celebration was filled with backyard fun, sweet treats, family photos and even confetti drifting from the sky — turning a simple day into lasting memories.

Though Arlin may not remember this milestone, her family will never forget her beaming smile beneath a sky full of fireworks. One thing's for sure — this toddler's Fourth was a star-spangled blast.



Sebastian and Julian Jaime are ready for Taekwondo practice.



On a cloudy day, Braden Rutherford smiles as he sits on his truck, appreciating the outdoors.



Celeste Bustos celebrates her little brother, Ezra.



Aiyanna Carlisle smiles as she shows off her pink and white dress.

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Lauryn and Bailey Liddell enjoy a family reunion.



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Building the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget: A Look at What's Ahead

The City of Mansfield began the formal budget process for Fiscal Year 2026 with regular budget work sessions during City Council meetings in June. Each work session focuses on specific need areas like capital improvement projects, public safety needs, and review of existing fee schedules, alongside personnel requests for the various funds.

In addition to these regular work sessions, the City Council held a full-day workshop in July to take a deeper dive into the details of the budget funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. Per the city charter, the city manager will provide a balanced budget

during the first regular City Council meeting in August. If the county appraisal districts have not finalized tax roll evaluations by this time, additional changes may be necessary.

A public hearing on the budget in which residents may voice their input over the proposed budget and proposed tax rate is scheduled for Aug. 25. Residents may always attend any City Council meeting to provide public comment via Citizens Comments.

A second public hearing and final reading for adoption of the budget and tax rate is scheduled for early September but must be adopted no

later than September 15. Agendas can be found on the city's website for past and upcoming meetings at MansfieldTexas.gov.

To view proposed budget documents and the budget presentations, click the QR code below.



Budget Calendar: Important Dates

JUNE

- 06/09 - Regular Council meeting/work session
- 06/23 - Regular Council meeting/work session
- Discuss the Homestead Exemption

JULY

- 07/01 - Deadline for City to submit a Homestead Exemption increase

- 07/14 - Regular Council meeting/work session
- 07/17 - Budget Workshop with Council and Executive Staff

- 07/25 - Receive Certified Property Tax Rolls from the Appraisal Districts

- 07/28 - Regular Council meeting/work session
- *City Manager will present a preliminary balanced budget

AUGUST

- 08/07 - Taxing units must publish the effective tax rate and the no-new-revenue tax rate

- 08/11 - Regular Council meeting/work session

- * City Manager will prepare and submit the final balanced budget

- 08/15 - Publish Notice of Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget

- 08/18 - Publish Notice of 2024 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate

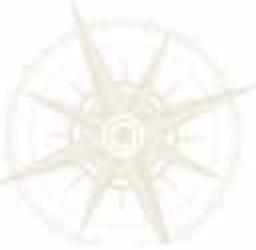
- 08/25 - Regular Council meeting
- 1st Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget & Tax Rate

SEPTEMBER

- 09/08 - Regular Council meeting
- 2nd Public Hearing
- Final Reading and Vote to Adopt the Budget Ordinance and Tax Rate

Requires City Charter Amendment:

"City Manager shall, at the first regularly scheduled meeting in August, prepare and submit to the Council a proposed balanced budget."





Fire Station No. 1 Groundbreaking - January 2025



Providing a Safe Community: Fire Station No. 1 Continues to Take Shape

The new Fire Station No. 1 is going vertical! The new fire station will be located near the intersection of Walnut Creek Drive and Broad Street.

The 17,860 square foot, two-story, building features 4 bays, advanced air quality protection for firefighters, indoor and covered outdoor training areas, 12 dorms, a watch office, and two fire poles. Fire Department staff

was vital to the design process for the new station and provided input that was essential to the final design including the firepoles to allow them to jump into action. The building is scheduled to be complete in spring 2026.

The new location will allow our firefighters to better respond to calls in this area because of improved roadway

access compared to the 30-year-old Fire Station No. 1's current location in Historic Downtown Mansfield.



Concept Image



Construction of Fire Station No. 1 - July 2025

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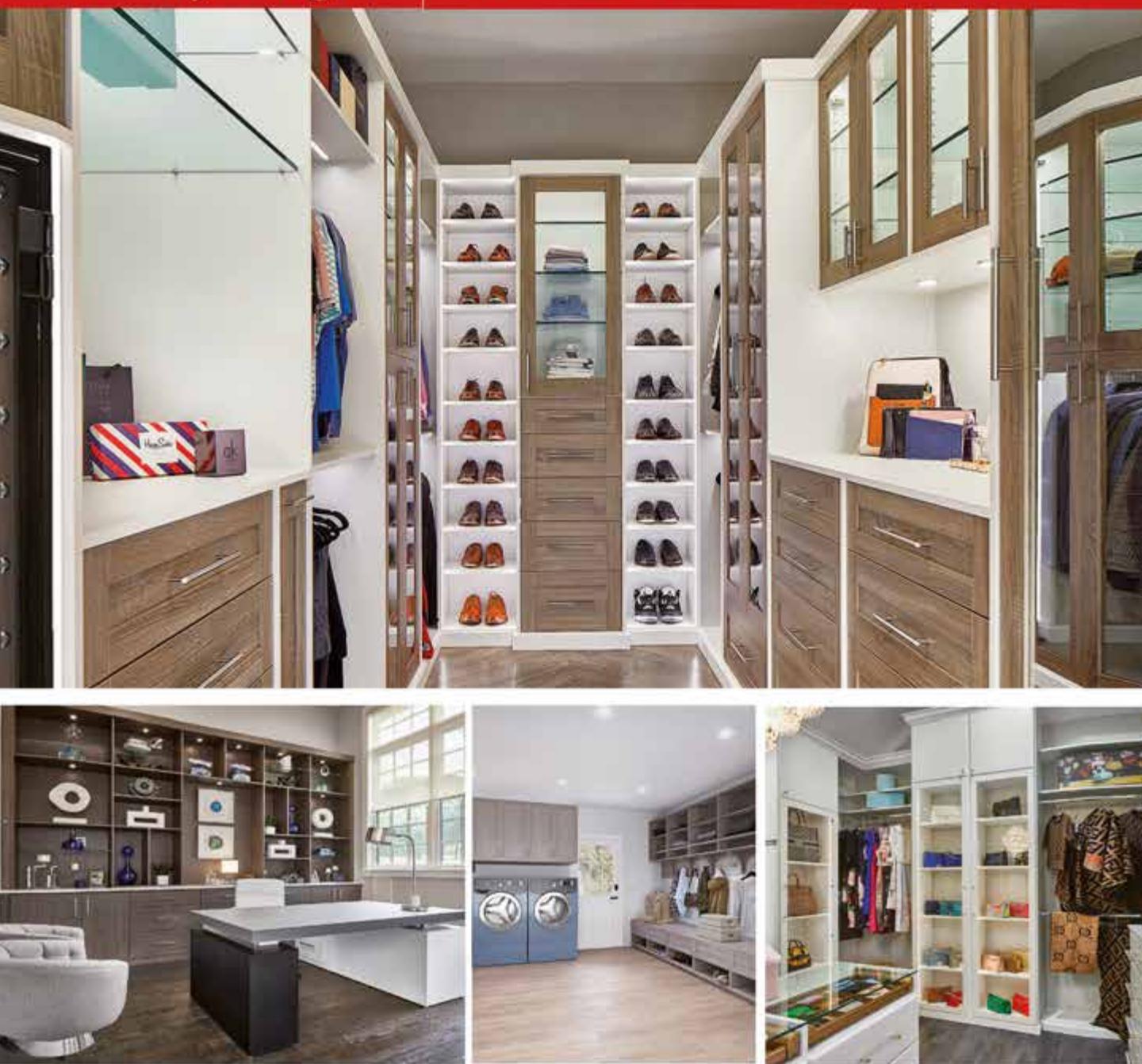
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— By Sandra Walters

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Kyle Lane's first step into the business world began in college. "My parents co-signed a loan, and I launched a mobile car wash while attending Texas Tech as a full-time student," he said. After earning his business degree, Kyle



briefly worked in communications but quickly realized it wasn't a good fit. He moved on to become a plant manager at a pallet company for six years — an experience that set the stage for his next venture with longtime colleague, Jody Goldsberry.

"Our partnership started 15 years ago," Kyle shared. And from 2010 to 2021, the two owned and operated a wooden pallet business with locations in Fort Worth and Dallas. "We opened the business with just three employees but grew to over 100," he said with pride. Eventually, they sold the company, seeking a more hands-on type of service business — one that couldn't be duplicated by AI.

That mindset led them to researching the service industry. They were introduced to the owners of Performance Heat and Air, Inc., a company with values that echoed their own: trustworthiness, no-pressure sales, reliability and long-term customer relationships. One

of the previous owners stated that it doesn't matter what HVAC brand you work with — what matters is how you treat people. Kyle and Jody are now the new owners, building on the legacy by carrying on the traditions of care and integrity while expanding the business. They emphasized the importance of operating from the principles already established.

"We discovered that our management team brings 140 years of combined experience," Kyle added. Performance Heat and Air, Inc. is a certified "Trane Comfort Specialist" and takes pride in making both employees and customers feel valued. The business thrives on a foundation of satisfied homeowners and commercial clients who trust them to deliver consistent, top-tier service. The service technicians have more than 35 years of experience working with all types of air conditioning systems, and service all models of AC units. Whether people cool their houses with central AC or a ductless mini-split system, technicians can install and maintain high standards. If you need a new unit or repairs, Performance Heat and Air, Inc. can install and maintain all types of heating systems, including Trane's state-of-the-art furnaces and heat pumps.

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FRI. 9/12 AT SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE
THU. 9/18 ROCKWALL HEATH
FRI. 9/26 NORTH CROWLEY
FRI. 10/3 AT WEATHERFORD
THU. 10/9 FORT WORTH BOSWELL
FRI. 10/17 AT MANSFIELD
FRI. 10/24 CROWLEY (HOMECOMING)
FRI. 10/31 LAKE RIDGE (SENIOR NIGHT)
OPEN

FRI. 8/29 LEWISVILLE
FRI. 9/5 MANSFIELD
OPEN
FRI. 9/19 AT BURLESON
FRI. 9/25 GRAPEVINE (HOMECOMING)
FRI. 10/3 AT THE COLONY
FRI. 10/10 TIMBERVIEW
FRI. 10/17 AT ARGYLE
FRI. 10/24 COLLEYVILLE HTG (SENIOR NIGHT)
FRI. 10/31 AT EVERMAN
THU. 11/6 ARLINGTON SEGUIN

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 FRI. 10/3 MANSFIELD (HOMECOMING)
 THU. 10/9 NORTH CROWLEY
 FRI. 10/17 AT CROWLEY
 THU. 10/23 WEATHERFORD
 FRI. 10/31 AT MANSFIELD LEGACY
 FRI. 11/7 SAGINAW BOSWELL

FRI. 8/29 MESQUITE HORN
 FRI. 9/5 SUMMIT
 FRI. 9/12 AT ARLINGTON MARTIN
 THU. 9/19 AT WACO MIDWAY
 FRI. 9/26 FORT WORTH BOSWELL
 FRI. 10/3 AT LAKE RIDGE
 FRI. 10/10 AT CROWLEY
 FRI. 10/17 LEGACY (HOMECOMING)
 OPEN
 THU. 10/30 NORTH CROWLEY (SENIOR NIGHT)
 THU. 11/6 AT WEATHERFORD



THU. 8/28 AT DALLAS KIMBALL
 THU. 9/4 DENTON RYAN
 FRI. 9/12 AT ARGYLE
 FRI. 9/19 COLLEYVILLE HERITAGE (HOMECOMING)
 FRI. 9/26 AT EVERMAN
 FRI. 10/3 ARLINGTON SEGUIN
 FRI. 10/10 SUMMIT
 FRI. 10/17 BURLESON
 FRI. 10/24 AT GRAPEVINE
 FRI. 10/31 COLONY (SENIOR NIGHT)
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Pork Medallions

CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH KADEN WALKER

— By Sandra Walters



"From an early age, I was obsessed with the idea of opening my own restaurant. I created different restaurant concepts in my head because I enjoyed cooking and navigating the kitchen with whatever ingredients I could find. Most of my recipes start from Google, YouTube or an old cookbook, then I research different variations of the dish," Kaden Walker said.

Eventually, he began studying under Chef David Roberson, who taught him the discipline and precision behind professional cooking. "Cumin is my favorite spice, and gourmet is my favorite type of cooking." He enjoys the finesse, attention and the reward of a beautiful plate — something elegant, intentional and deeply satisfying to present. **NOW**

Pork Medallions

1 lb. pork tenderloin, trimmed
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 cup chicken broth
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1. Slice the pork tenderloin into 1-inch-thick medallions. Season both sides with salt and pepper.
2. Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Sear the medallions 2-3 minutes per side until golden brown. Remove; set aside.

3. Reduce the heat to medium. Add the butter and garlic; sauté for 30 seconds.
4. Stir in the chicken broth, scraping the pan. Let simmer 2 minutes.
5. Add the cream and mustard. Stir well; cook until slightly thickened for about 3 minutes.
6. Return the pork to the pan; simmer 3-4 minutes until fully cooked.
7. Serve with sauce on top.

Cajun Creamed Corn

2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 small onion, finely diced
1 small bell pepper, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 cups fresh corn

1/2 tsp. Cajun seasoning
1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper (optional)
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

1. In a large skillet, melt the butter with the oil over medium heat.
2. Add the onions and bell peppers; sauté 3-4 minutes until softened.
3. Stir in the garlic; cook 30 seconds more.
4. Add the corn, Cajun seasoning, paprika, salt and cayenne. Cook for 5 minutes while stirring occasionally.
5. Pour in the heavy cream; bring to a simmer. Cook for 5-6 minutes until thickened.
6. Stir in the Parmesan; cook 1-2 minutes more.

Braised Chicken Breast

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup dry white wine (optional)
1 cup chicken broth
1 tsp. dried thyme
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter

1. Season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper.
2. Heat the oil in a deep skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Sear the chicken for 3-4 minutes per side until browned. Remove; set aside.
3. Reduce the heat to medium. Add the onions; sauté for 3 minutes. Add the garlic; cook 1 minute.
4. Deglaze with the wine (if using); simmer 2 minutes. Add the chicken broth and thyme.
5. Return the chicken to the pan. Cover; simmer on low for 20-25 minutes.
6. Remove the lid; stir in the butter. Let the sauce reduce slightly before serving.



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- Virginia Woolf

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| | | 8 | | 4 | 9 | | | |
| 1 | | | 5 | | 7 | | | |
| | | | 5 | 2 | | | | |
| 6 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | | | |
| | 7 | 4 | 1 | | 6 | | | |
| 3 | | | | | 7 | 8 | | |

Medium

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| | | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | | | |
| 2 | | | 5 | 8 | 9 | | | |
| 5 | | | 4 | 7 | | | | |
| 6 | 8 | | 7 | 2 | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | | 5 | 3 | | |
| | | | | | 6 | | | |

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Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

8/2

Back-to-School Bash 2025:

This event is a great opportunity for the entire community to kick off the new school year in a fun way while also providing for MISD families in need. School supplies, health services for students, shoes, games and other exciting activities will be available. Cost: Free. 7:30 a.m.-noon, Dr. Jim Vaszauskas

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8/14

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8/16

Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

(Low-Cost Vaccinations):

Cost: Varies. 8:00-10:00 a.m., Animal Care and Control

Facility, 407 Industrial Blvd. For more information, visit <https://texasforthem.org>.

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Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com.

This summer was mild, but the market has been HOT!
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