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DeSoto ISD - Giving A Little Extra Everyday

With the fanfare of a back to school pep rally, including a student musical theater production, DeSoto ISD Superintendent David Harris welcomed back the district's 1,050 employees to start the school year!

The event included praise for the progress made over the past year in preparing DeSoto ISD to be a premier district of choice with unparalleled student opportunities. The district now offers full-day Pre-K, iSTEAM3D Magnet academies in all three middle schools and a Collegiate Magnet Academy in DeSoto High School where students can earn one of 11 associates degrees concurrent with their high school diploma.

Guest speaker Georgette Yakman, owner and founder of STEAM Education, spoke about the value of the arts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. She praised the district for their goal of being the first STEAM district in Texas with students working in collaborative, problem-based learning environments.

Dr. Harris praised progress toward the ten initiatives started last year - grading each area and allowing input from the audience. He re-emphasized the district's vision, mission and plan for becoming a premier district through **Full Engagement 2015** which includes 360 degree ownership and intention in every action.

He applauded the administration for developing and the Board for approving an updated salary structure and loyalty bonuses as well as the district's general financial stability as \$3 million was put into the district's fund balance since last year.

Finally, he applauded the new district partnerships formed over the last year as drawings were held by Texas Trust Credit Union and Orr Toyota.



Superintendent David Harris and Texas Trust Credit Union's Amber Danford pose with the five winners of \$100 each from Texas Trust. Individuals can open a Texas Trust account at DHS and pick the DeSoto Eagles card with benefits going to the district. Visit www.texastrustcu.org for details.

Villers named national coach

DeSoto High School Coach June Villers was named the National Girls' Track and Field Coach of the Year by the National High School Coaches Association. Villers, a DeSoto alum, has built the Eagles into one of Texas' top programs over the last decade. This past year, DeSoto won its third straight Texas Class 5A girls' title. The state championship was the fourth overall for Villers' team, including runner-up finishes in 2008 and 2010. During her time, she's coached nationally-ranked athletes in the 4X100m and 4X400m relay, long and triple jump, discus, shot put, 100m and 300m hurdles, and 400m dash.



GOALS NIGHT

2013-14

DeSoto High School & Freshman Campus
Monday, Sept. 9 - 6:30-8 p.m.

DeSoto Elementary Schools
Tuesday, Sept. 10 - 6:30-8 p.m.

DeSoto Middle Schools
Monday, Sept. 16 - 6:30-8 p.m.

Calendar of Events

- Mon., Sept. 2 - Labor Day; No School
- Tues., Sept. 3, 6 p.m. - Volleyball* vs. Frisco Heritage, DHS
- Tues., Sept. 3, 6 p.m. - DeSoto ISD Town Hall, DHS
- Sat., Sept. 7, 4 p.m. - Eagles Football* vs. Union, OK at Dragon Stadium for the Southwest Showcase
- Mon., Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room
- Mon., Sept. 30 - No School; Staff Dev. Day / State Fair Day
- Mon., Oct. 14 - Early Release all DeSoto schools

*Full sports schedules online at www.desotoisd.org

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ON THE COVER



Now that she's in the reserves, Caratrella Woodberry can really enjoy her home and neighbors.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Hello there, Southwest Friends,

Seems this year has spun by like a revolving door. Fall, more than January, strikes me as the turning of the year. Every fall I feel as though I am saying good-bye to summer. This year, I have also had to say good-bye to a precious neighbor I've known since I was 17. To me, this amazing woman was the epitome of godly graciousness and kindness. She was the easiest person in the world to do things for.

So as the weather cools and the leaves begin to fall, and I look across the courtyard to the home where my long-cherished friend once lived, I think of her smile, her kindness, her faith, her ability to encourage, and I trust I will be able to emulate her. Perhaps I am embarking on a new season after all.

Embrace the season,

Beverly

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor
beverly.shay@nowmagazines.com

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The Youngest 90-year-old

— By Sydni Thomas

Hardworking mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Lucile Simons, did not use her newfound freedom in retirement to stop and smell the roses but to pick up a new set of skills that has kept her busy into her 90s. Lucile's love for working began as a young girl selling shoes in a shop and, later as a young woman, designing window displays for J. C. Penney & Co.

One day Lucile's first husband promised her she would never have to work again if she packed up their family and moved with him to Duncanville, Texas. The idea of moving farther away from her family was not ideal, but Lucile couldn't pass up on the chance to stay at home with her two sons and daughter. "We were only in our new home for three months before I had to start working again," Lucile said. "I've driven a lot of miles over the years to get to work. When we moved here, I started at Texas Instruments Inc. and, later, moved to Vought Aircraft Industries Inc. [now Triumph Aerostructures — Vought Aircraft Division] the company from which I later retired."

Lucile married her second husband, Roland Simons, in Duncanville. By 1985, she finally had her chance to stay home with children. During her first years of retirement, she watched her great-granddaughter during the day. Around this time, she stumbled across an article in the newspaper for a local doll-

making class. "Roland volunteered to look after our great-granddaughter," Lucile said, "because he knew I really wanted to take that class."

No one else ended up responding to the advertisement, so Lucile received one-on-one training in doll making. She still has the first doll she ever worked on, even though it is not one of her favorites. After nearly three decades of crafting dolls, Lucile has a large collection in her doll cabinet, and many are scattered throughout the house. The doll-making process is different with each type of doll, but Lucile crafts as much of each doll by hand as possible. When making a traditional doll, each of the pieces is formed from a thick liquid Lucile pours into molds, which are then fired in a kiln. At the end of the process, she paints the fine details. To get the skin color just right or eye colors exact, the painting and firing process can get tedious.

"You can make a doll out of anything," Lucile said. "You don't need a kiln or traditional bodies. I've made them out of pieces of wood before."

If the doll is not completely made from porcelain, Lucile will create a cloth body, usually out of stuffing. She sews dresses, underclothes



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and accessories to match. She has made everything from petticoats to intricate hats for her dolls. Lucile picked up her sewing skills from her days in 4-H. "I've been sewing my whole life," she said. "We would sew everything. I remember a dress I made won second prize in a 4-H competition."

The final touch to a doll's completion is its name. Every doll Lucile has created has a name, even if they can't all be remembered now. Richie boasts a small, propeller hat, and Shirley



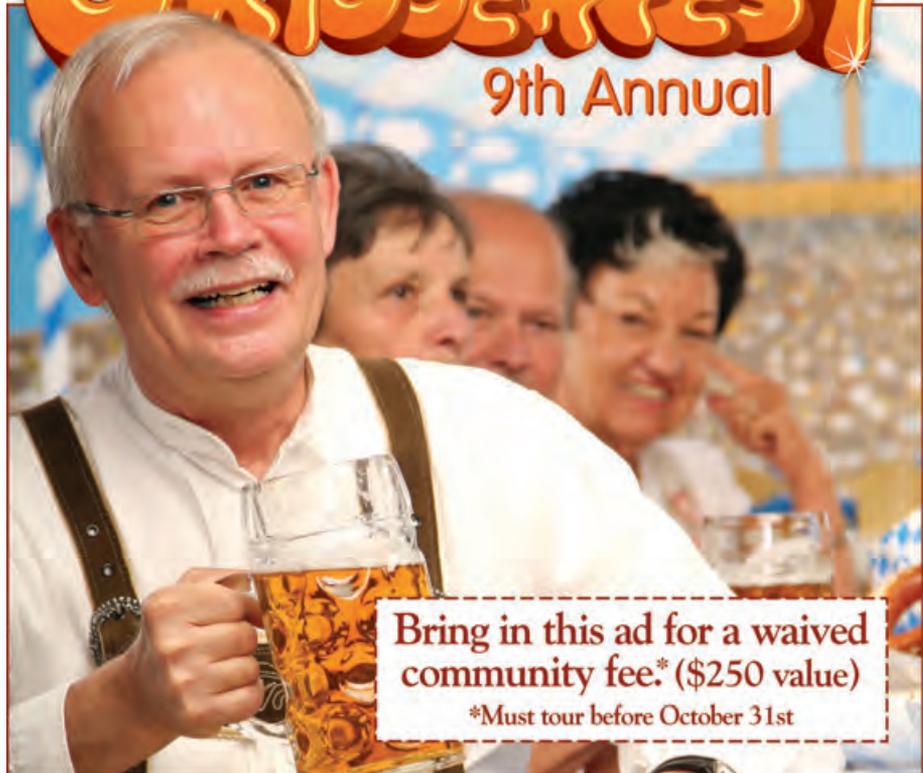


Temple dons her trademark golden ringlets. One of Lucile's favorites is her Gerber Baby doll that looks identical to



the real thing. Lucile was one of the few who were able to make the doll before Gerber put a stop to its unauthorized production. Once Lucile creates a doll, it isn't long before someone tries to persuade her to sell it or give it away. Many of her creations reside in family members' homes. She sold one of her favorite dolls at a craft fair once, only to learn it was Roland's favorite doll she had made. "I wish Roland had told me how much he loved that doll," Lucile said. "I never would have parted with it if he had said something."

Lucile's newfound crafting desires did not stop with making dolls. She signed up for an oil painting class at the local senior center and still paints canvases today. Most of her work is landscapes that inspire her or birds she loves. One of her original works came from a childhood memory. Lucile's mother died when Lucile was only 8 years old. Recalling the house she lived in and the dog she had



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at the time, Lucile painted a scene to pay tribute to her mother. Shining in the sky is a star, signifying her mother. "I was so young when it happened, and it's hard to remember exactly how things were, but I tried to recall it," Lucile said. "My sister and I moved to South Dakota to live with an aunt during that time. Now I have outlived all of my relatives."

Since Roland's passing a decade ago, Lucile's son has been trying to get her to move back to Kansas where her family originated. Since the last 50 years of her life has been spent here, this is where her friends are, and she has no plans to leave. From Lucile's appearance and demeanor,



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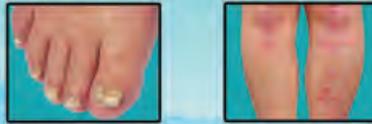
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it would be hard to calculate her age. She is the life of the party and rarely has a moment to spare.

"I remember moving from Oklahoma all those years ago," Lucile said. "Why would I want to do something like that again? Besides, I'm always busy here. I get dressed every morning like I'm going somewhere, so when my friends call I can get in the car with them and go. If no one calls that day, I will spend it out in my yard working."

During the spring and summer, Lucile moves her artwork outdoors. Her flowerbeds become her outlet, and she strives to bring in as much color as she can. When the man who mows her lawn forgets to edge, Lucile goes out there and does it herself. "I finally got my patio all set up this year," Lucile said. "When friends come over, we like to sit out here."

If her artwork and outings with friends aren't enough to keep her busy, Lucile helps, as needed, at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Cedar Hill or spends time at the Duncanville Senior Center. "I really don't enjoy cooking," Lucile said, "at least cooking for myself. But getting in the kitchen and helping at church or the Senior Center is different. We all get together and have a wonderful time."

Decades of hard work has led to nearly three decades of fun, creativity and play for Lucile. From creating dolls and giving them a character to bringing an old farm to life on canvas, Lucile has striven to make these the most creative years of her life. Her years of creativity have made her the youngest 90-year-old in town. **NOW**

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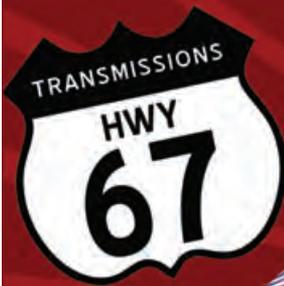


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MANNING UP

Artistically

— By Beverly Shay

Curtis Ferguson wears many hats. He's a father, a husband, a teacher, an artist and a mentor. And he's a bit of a radical. But one thing he isn't is afraid to take a stand for what he believes is not only right, but imperative. Curtis is breaking a cycle of degradation — racial slurs — especially those used by African-Americans against other African-Americans. He has been working this cause for years and feels he is making some headway.

Curtis grew up in Flint, Michigan, the middle of three children, whose single mom worked three jobs to support her family and refused to accept welfare. "When my mother's mom became ill, we all went to live near my grandmother in Texarkana, Texas, so my mom could take care of her," Curtis recalled. "So I spent my senior year at Texarkana High School. I had this art teacher, Harding Deon Jr. Man, that was a good thing! He not only taught me art and helped me get scholarships, he taught me by example how to mentor."

STORAGE CLOSET



His teacher had sent Curtis' artwork to the *Texarkana Gazette* several times, which added to his confidence when applying for and receiving scholarships, including one from Wendy's, that enabled Curtis to attend Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. Curtis embraces all types of art, but his love is oil painting, especially portraits. He has been teaching art at David W. Carter High School for the past 10 of his 23 years as a teacher. He builds his students' self-esteem by creating 15-minute charcoal/pencil glamour-shot sketches of them. "When they see their sketch, they begin to 'own' that picture of themselves in their mind, and it changes them," he said. "Then I teach them to create their own art."

Curtis helps identify his students' artistic medium, encouraging them to pursue it. "Tagging is very popular, and many of my students are quite gifted taggers. So I show them how to use that positively by creating murals — here at the school and on concrete embankments along the street. The cool thing among taggers is their code — no tagging or graffiti desecrates murals," Curtis explained. "Once they begin to 'own' something, they can begin to 'own' the way they address each other. With each move toward 'ownership,' their sense of personal responsibility grows — responsibility for themselves and what they communicate to and about others."

Another thing Curtis learned in his study of art, which he now seeks to pass on to his students, is marketing what you create. "I studied art in New York



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with a man named Giancarlo Impiglia. Besides impacting my ability to create art, he taught me that art can be a business,” Curtis enthused, speaking with his hands. “He told me to create my own style and market it. Now I teach my students the



same.” Curtis has a few claims to fame, one of which was his discovery 10 years ago of a child prodigy from Allen, Texas. Amanda Dunbar was a 13-year-old student in one of Curtis’ after-school art classes. By the time she was 18, she was a millionaire. Oprah Winfrey asked both Amanda and Curtis to be on her show. Not surprisingly, Curtis has been named Teacher of the Year seven times, at least



once in each of the five ISDs where he has taught.

One of his favorite claims to fame was the honor of personally presenting a painting he made of former President George W. Bush to the man himself in his Dallas home. "He's a great man, yet he took time to discuss art technique with me, inviting me upstairs to his studio to show me his own artwork. Needless to say, that was quite a thrill," Curtis said. He didn't keep that thrill to himself. "I met the former President while he was still governor through a mutual friend, Eddie Deen," Curtis explained. Eddie is a caterer who joined with Curtis to start his mentoring programs. Eddie was called on many a time to bring authentic Texas barbecue to White House functions. So when the President was ready to launch his book, *Decision Points*, he called on Eddie to cater the event. "We were able to gain clearance for some of the young people we mentor to serve at the catered launch party held at President Bush's home," Curtis explained. "Some of our kids have also gotten to serve at a dinner with Condoleezza Rice and at Governor Perry's inauguration. We want them to see well-known people, not only as achievers but as real people both in public and in a relaxed environment."

Curtis' mentoring programs, Man Up Group and QUEENS, involve teaching young men and women to work, earn and manage money to put toward college and family needs. Curtis wants to break repetitive cycles of failure. He visits the students in their homes, where he can



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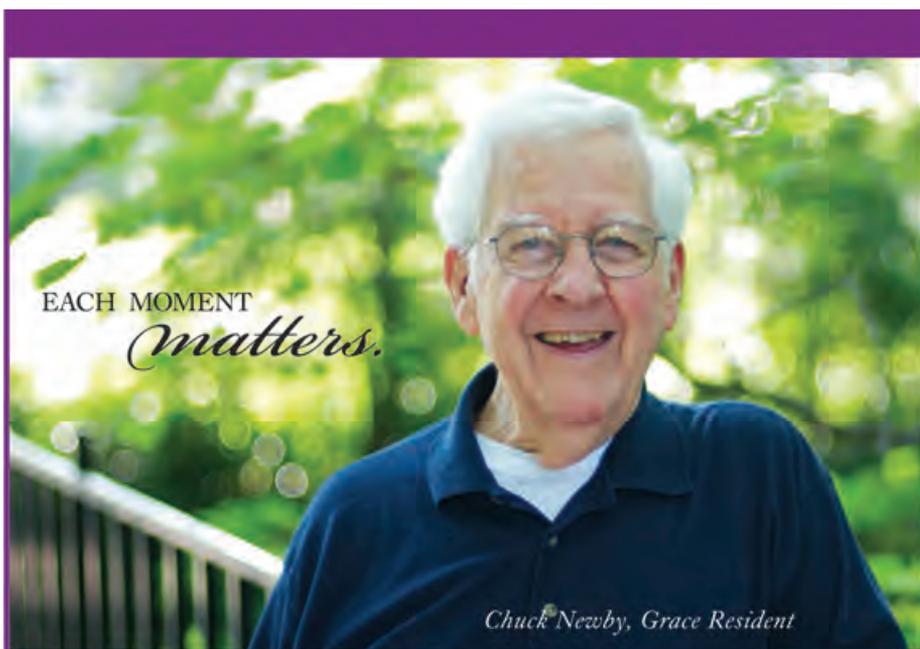
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see the kind of lifestyle they have. He also believes it is important for his own children to attend the schools where he teaches. As another part of the programs, Eddie hires some of the students, but they can't work for him unless they have first been involved in community service projects like trash pickup, visiting the elderly, homeless shelters, Habitat for Humanity and painting curbs, as well as murals. "Our programs are geared to teaching young people to respect themselves and one another through responsibility, integrity and giving back," Curtis explained. "I tell them stories that bring the point home. One of my strongest points involves how African-Americans address one another. My goal



is to eliminate use of the N word. So I tell the young men that many people died during the Civil Rights Movement to eradicate that term and its meaning from everyone's vocabulary.

"When I speak in classrooms, I ask students what the N word means. They

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tell me it means lazy, ignorant, stupid and friend. They admit it carries a negative connotation, yet they find it empowering. So through mentoring, through art, through business, I am endeavoring to show them that true empowerment comes through responsibility and ownership of our own reputations. People like Eddie Deen and myself can attest to the fact that anyone can get out there and make a living through developing skills, working hard and giving something back to the community,” Curtis explained.

Man Up Group and QUEENS are based on a program that Zakee and Sandra Iddeen ran called Rights of



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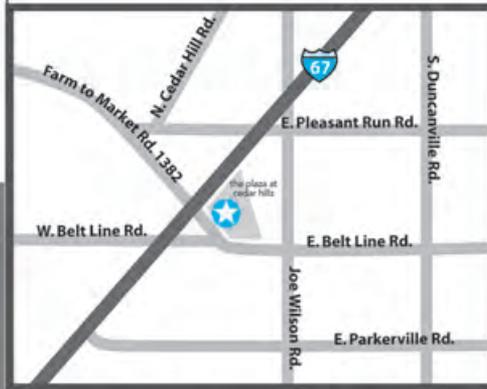
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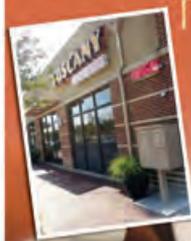
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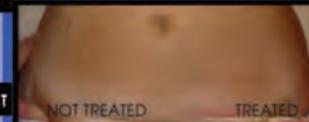
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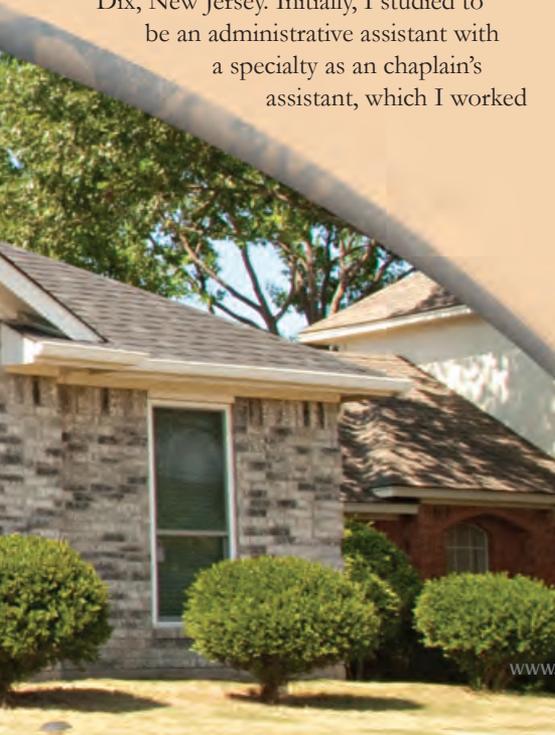
As one would imagine, the home of this career military woman is infused with military memorabilia but also bears a feminine touch, which includes her collection of crystal, beautiful purple glassware

and china from Kuwait. Egyptian plates and a papyrus map of the Nile usher one through the entryway into the sandstone/apricot-tone walls of this weekend warrior's living room.





Caratrella Woodberry, known by some as Ann, was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, but grew up in Texas with her stepfather, moving to Dallas at age 15 to live with her mom. "My grandmother is the one who really raised me," Caratrella remarked, noting she didn't meet her father until she was 34. After graduating from Wilmer Hutchins High School in 1981, where she had been in ROTC, Caratrella began working with the Federal Reserve Bank. In August 1984, she joined the Army Reserve on her birthday without telling anyone until she was sworn in. "I did basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Initially, I studied to be an administrative assistant with a specialty as an chaplain's assistant, which I worked



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for 15 years. I also worked in human resources for one-and-a-half years,” Caratrella explained.

Her work as a chaplain’s assistant took her to the Middle East, where she was based in Kuwait during the Iraq War from 2003-2005 as the highest ranking chaplain’s assistant, overseeing 48 units. Much of her work as a chaplain involved bringing home the bodies of those who gave their lives for our country



in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Caratrella retired as Sergeant Major in 2011. “Serving as a chaplain or a chaplain’s assistant you see and hear a lot,” Caratrella remarked. “I am proud to have served our country and our soldiers all these years. It’s not easy to see their lives cut short, but it is a privilege to honor their home going.”

While still serving as a weekend warrior, Caratrella began working for

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FedEx in 1997, loading and unloading. She also worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield as a system analyst, as she did at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. She currently works as a system analyst with FedEx, where she maintains computers in three buildings for 350 employees.

"I moved here in 1999, but originally I was looking for a car — a mustang. They told me I couldn't afford it! Although my credit was good, they told me the monthly payment would be \$700, so I told them to forget it, I would just buy a house!" Caratrella laughed. "I wanted a brand new home and was looking at Woodhaven homes. They had three lots, two in Lancaster and this one in DeSoto. I chose this one because of its location at the T intersection, where there wouldn't be much traffic. I had also met the neighbors, who were such nice people." So in April '98, I chose the colors of my brick (gray, black and white), my appliances and floor plan," she recalled.

For the first nine or 10 years, Caratrella only had a few pieces of furniture. "When I found what I wanted, I decided on everything at the same time!" The living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom are all furnished with the North Shore line from Ashley Furniture HomeStore. A tan leather couch and love seat are complemented by marble-topped end tables, coffee table and free-standing bar of the same light oak wood as the dining room table, buffet and hutch and bar stools, which are upholstered with brown, rose and tan floral tapestry, as are the throw pillows. The theme is neutral tans and beiges throughout her 1,637-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath home.

"I really like my bedroom and office," Caratrella remarked. "I put a lot of pride into my office and painted it myself, with the help of a friend. I love the black furniture. I also like the chandeliers my mom picked out for me. And, in case you haven't guessed, I love crystal." Her office is filled with memorabilia of her time in the military, including several graduation photos as she moved up in rank. Keeping an eye on all of it is her Sgt. Maj. Bear. Under the glass top of her desk are photos, calendars and bumper stickers from her church, Inspiring Body of Christ, where she volunteers as an encourager, meeting

various ministry needs, as well as assisting the aquatic team.

Her family room has dark brown leather furniture with large windows overlooking her backyard patio. The room features a fireplace and dark wood end tables and a coffee table. Her sitting room contains a chaise lounge matching the living room furniture.

Caratrella's bedroom is quite the sanctuary. The furniture is massive, matching the pieces found throughout the home, but the room is amply large, so it isn't overwhelmed. The four-poster bed has an open metal-work canopy and a padded tan leather headboard, which is reflected in the full-length standing mirror, as well as the dresser mirror. Between the dresser, two tall chests and two nightstands, there are drawers aplenty. At the foot of the bed is a bench with scrolled armrests. While her hall bathroom is done in black and white, her master bath, found beyond two walk-in closets embraces the neutral shades Caratrella prefers. Her garden tub is surrounded by candles, including an ascending spiral of votive candles. The bathroom, which features double sinks and a separate shower is also large enough to include a chair, which matches her other furniture, above which is a plaque with a poem written by her godson and her Sergeant Major plaque.

All in all, there will be plenty of room for her fiancé, John Lee. "He proposed to me last Christmas. I've known him since 1988, but we didn't start dating until 2008," she remarked with obvious fondness.

"My life has really been full, but I have some things I have always wanted to do but haven't had time for yet," Caratrella said. "Right now, I am working on my master's in project management. Once that is complete I want to start a group home for boys, ages 6-10 — the ones who have nowhere to go. I hope to raise them until they are 18, so I can give them a strong foundation," she shared. Her dream was birthed when a girlfriend was incarcerated, leaving her children in a difficult situation. "I was unable to take them in at that time, but I wanted to and decided that if I ever got the chance to take in children, I would." Her home is a pretty amazing portrait of her past, present and future ambitions. **NOW**

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Eureka Springs has a mysterious effect on people. No one seems to be able to explain their love affair with the place. Secluded and peaceful with winding mountainside streets, the city has flair like no other. Chosen as one of America's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this Victorian village boasts the country's only entire downtown on the National Register of Historic Places. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas are painstakingly preserved Victorian homes that hug the sides of cliffs and hillsides. The city has block after block of one-of-a-kind shops, boutiques, fine art galleries, craft emporiums, spas and restaurants.





Eureka Springs is a small town and proud of it! The absence of traffic lights, malls and giant discount stores is a big part of the lure. Fewer than 2,500 folks live in this magical, friendly village, and yet there's as little or as much to do as you like. While many come to Eureka Springs to enjoy the slow-paced peace and quiet, those who are looking for an adventure can find plenty to do as well.



More than 20 million have seen the *Great Passion Play*, America's largest-attended outdoor drama, a depiction of Jesus Christ's last days on earth. One of the country's largest sanctuaries for big cats, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, rescues large felines and places them in natural habitats. Visitors to Eureka Springs can enjoy nightly music shows, annual jazz, blues and bluegrass festivals, opera and the country's oldest folk festival.

The opera season stretches through June and July. The Eureka Springs Blues Festival is in June, the Eureka Springs Bluegrass Festival happens in August and Jazz Eureka Festival is in September. Eureka Springs has hosted the Ozark Folk Festival each October since 1947, which makes it the country's longest continuously running folk festival. Events include a songwriter competition, a parade, the Barefoot Ball and, of course,

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lots of good folk music. The traditional kickoff to the festival is a queen's contest featuring a square dance performance by the Hedgehoppers — students from Eureka Springs' third-grade classes. Free musical acts perform in the park all week with headline acts in The Auditorium as the grand finale of the week. A staple of nearly every Ozark Folk Festival is a craft show, celebrating the diverse skills of our many area craftspeople.

Every second Saturday, there are free outdoor concerts, shows at the city auditorium and colorful parades for every occasion! Other attractions include zip lines, a steam train, ghost tours, carriage rides and a show with an illusionist and medium. Trolleys are a preferred way to get around the winding,



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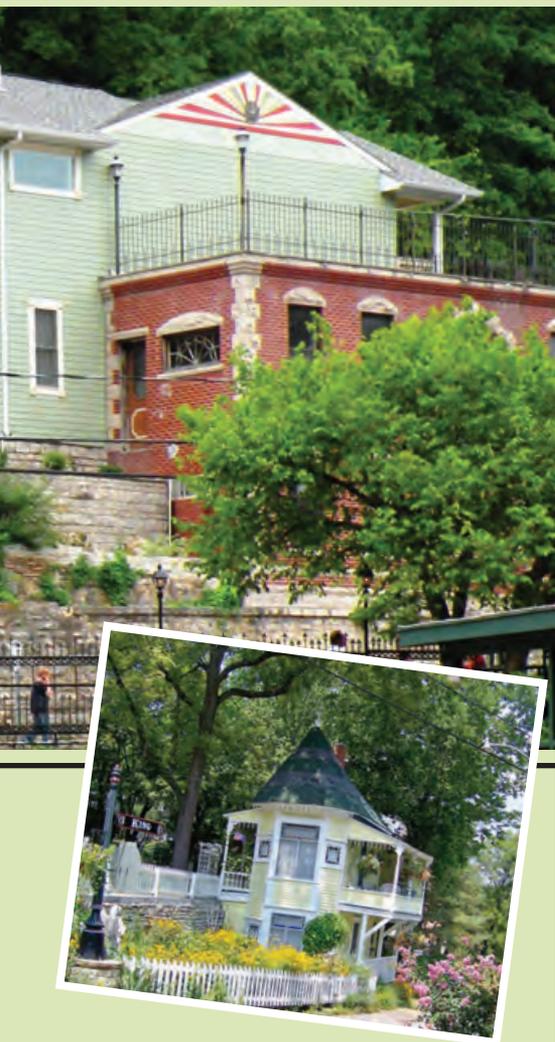
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crisscrossed streets — run year-round, though for fewer days and hours during the winter months. With over 115 stops around town, the trolley provides convenient transportation for all ages.

Lodging options include something for everyone. Numerous family-owned motels, historic hotels and Victorian homes turned into bed-and-breakfasts and nightly rentals, as well as unique tree houses, rustic cabins and quaint cottages are tucked into the hillsides and woods. You can even sleep with tigers outside your window at Turpentine Creek!

Eureka Springs can satisfy anyone's appetite — from down-home Southern food to romantic, candlelit dinners. Award-winning restaurants serve savory Czech-German dishes, authentic Italian cuisine and spicy East Indian fare. You'll find Mediterranean, Chinese, Irish, Mexican, Cajun and Thai, as well. You can also dine on a dining car at Eureka Springs & North Arkansas Railway.

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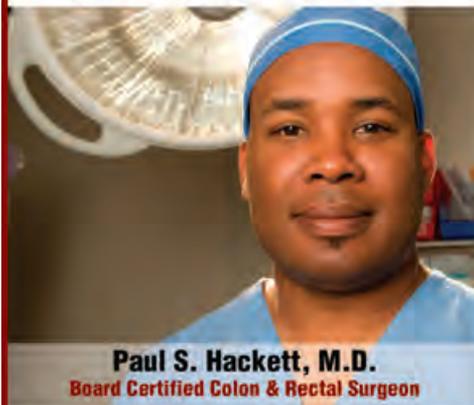
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population, more than 300 residents are working artists, helping the town make the list of "Top 25 Arts Destinations" by *AmericanStyle* magazine for the past several years. The entire month of May is proclaimed May Festival of the Arts — dedicated to all the arts, including: theater, performing arts and music. Other events like a monthly gallery stroll and



artists' studio tours celebrate these artists' works on a regular basis. For those who wish to expand their own personal creative art expression, the Eureka Springs School of the Arts offers a variety of art workshops for adults and children throughout the year.

Outdoor adventures abound. The city is surrounded by two rivers, White River and Kings River, and three lakes, Lake Leatherwood, Table Rock Lake and Beaver Lake. On the latter two, there is great fishing and smooth water for canoe/kayak float trips. Take a guided cruise, rent a boat or Jet Ski or even paddle board! The 1,600-acre Lake Leatherwood City Park is crisscrossed with hiking and biking trails, and the 85-



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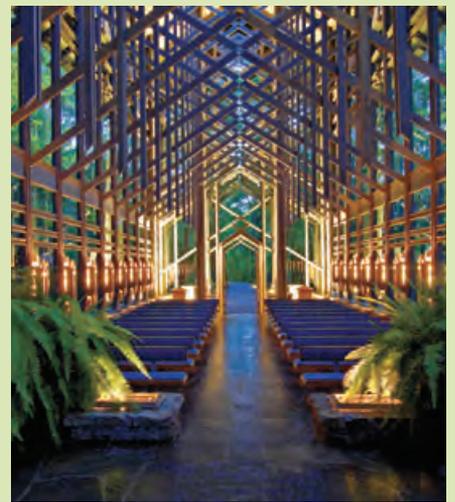
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The town's history is colorful and lengthy. Artifacts of Eureka Springs' rich past are displayed in the Historical Museum. Eureka Springs first drew visitors in the late 1800s because of the healing powers believed to be present in over 60 natural springs there. The healing tradition spawned by the springs in the early days lives on today in the abundance of day spas, massage therapists, herbalists and alternative healers. While the springs today are not potable, they are wonderfully landscaped and lushly gardened. They provide excellent picnic and rest areas and give a beautiful arboretum-like feel.

This is decidedly not an ordinary town, and most definitely a destination of distinction. For more information or to plan your extraordinary escape, visit www.eukasprings.org. **NOW**

By Gina Drennon. Photos courtesy of Eureka Springs CAPC.

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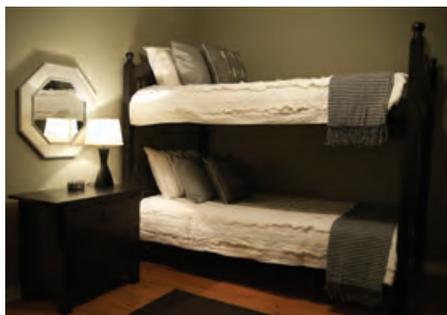


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— By Beverly Shay

Wallace Lott's construction business began in 1970. His two sons worked with him beginning in high school. "We were helpers and gofers," reminisced Don, who now runs the family business, Wallace Lott General Contractor, LLC. "Dad's first business was All American Awning and Construction, so initially, I learned aluminum construction." Following graduation from Duncanville High School in 1974, Don considered further education but decided to work for his dad.

"In 1979, my wife and I bought a house in Midlothian, even though interest rates were running around 13 percent. We felt it would be a good place to raise our 4- and 1-year-old daughters. As luck would have it, my dad announced he was going to sell out

and move back to Mississippi, adding I would have to find a job," Don recalled. "I quickly found and accepted a sales position with a wholesale sporting goods distributor out of Abilene. That led me to start a hunting business in 1984, which I ran with my wife for nearly 30 years." The business offered all the helps necessary for successful hunting expeditions. "We provided guided and semi-guided, all-inclusive package trips for as many as 400 customers a year — mostly out-of-state hunters — on 180,000 acres in Ozona, Texas, in Crockett and Reagan counties, where they hunted turkey, deer and javelina. On additional leased property in Mexico and Kansas, they could hunt dove and big game," Don stated.

Don might be hard pressed to choose between building and

hunting, since he is so adept at both. But in 1989, he became licensed as an adjuster. "This enables us to assure people who have experienced storm damage, that we will help them receive the repairs their insurance covers and resolve any insurance concerns associated with the claim," Don said. And since storm damage mostly occurs in the spring, he can continue to spend some time afield with hunting or fishing excursions.

"My father, who moved back to Texas after just a few years, and my brother have built homes throughout the area: Midlothian, Duncanville, DeSoto and Mansfield. Now we provide roofing, remodeling, bathrooms, kitchens (indoor and outdoor), replace windows, painting, build patio covers and fences, as well as repair storm damage," Don listed. They are bondable and insured. "I only hire the best workers," said Don in reference to his role as contractor. Although his father hasn't worked for the past 15 or so years, Don continues to offer the same quality of workmanship and integrity for which his father was known. "Some of my subcontractors have worked with me for 30 years," Don confided. And Don makes sure he visits their job sites even though supervision is not necessary for all projects.

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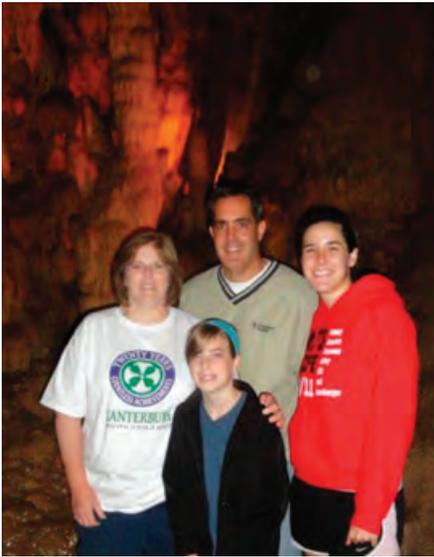


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The Fitzgerald family of Duncanville vacations at Mammoth Cave National Park.



Bella and Nick Waybs of Cedar Hill put Greek mythology to the test, holding up the Athens' sky of the Parthenon this summer.



Laura Cabill gets a hug from DeSoto's Moseley Pool manager, Laura Lopez.



First Methodist School 5- to 10-year-old Summer Fun students check out the Duncanville Police Department motorcycle division when officers speak about bicycle, seatbelt and gun safety.



Debra Herring of DeSoto considers becoming pygmy mascot for the Harlem Globetrotters when she met team member Tiny Streguss in Santiago, Chile.



Eager golfers are ready to get started at the Duncanville Chamber Golf Tournament at The Golf Club of Dallas.



Duncanville Chamber welcomes Perfectly Poised with a ribbon cutting.



The staff at Moseley Pool hosted the second annual Special Challenge Event for children and adults with special needs and their families.



Cedar Hill's Karly Serafin enjoys inflatable fun at Sky Ranch Day Camp hosted by Canterbury Episcopal School of DeSoto.

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What are Sector Funds?

Sector funds are mutual funds or exchange traded funds (ETFs), which buy stocks in sectors that are made up of industries. For example, the financial sector is comprised of banking, insurance, securities brokerage and real estate investment trusts (R.E.I.T.s). A financial sector fund would hold stocks from these industries.

Investment Strategies:

Many investors start by looking at the big picture — that is, the current and future state of the economy, the direction of interest rates and the stock market. Next, they decide how much to invest in stock mutual funds and how much to invest in bond funds. For the stock portion of their portfolio, investors may divide the holdings between large cap and small cap stocks. They may also want to allocate some of their holdings to sector funds. Even when the stock market is up considerably, there will be sectors that are underperforming. Remember that the S&P 500 is an index/average and some sectors may be doing well, while some sectors will be doing poorly.

How to Invest in Sector Funds:

First, you need to determine what percentage of your portfolio you want to invest in sector funds. It should be no more than 10 percent, because sector funds tend to be more volatile than the market in general. Next, you need to determine which sectors seem to have the better return possibilities, given the risk of that sector. One easy way is to look at three or four sectors, e.g. financial, energy, utilities, technology, health care, basic materials. Look for buying opportunities in sectors that are underperforming their long-term average. You may need patience to ride out the underperformance, but if you do, the rewards should be worth the wait.

While many annuities allow you to participate in the returns of the stock market in general, there are some annuities that will allow you to allocate your investments into different sectors. For annuities, you can follow a similar strategy as with your mutual funds. **NOW**

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Rheumatoid Arthritis: Spotting the Signs

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease that affects more than 2 million Americans, causing painful joint inflammation and, in some cases, disrupting proper organ function. Because early detection is key to treatment, it's important to know these warning signs.

• Joint Stiffness

The earliest and most common symptom of RA is pronounced morning joint stiffness. But unlike the garden-variety achy knee or tender elbow, the soreness usually affects both sides of the body.

• Breathing Pain

Sufferers may experience pain while taking a breath, as well as dry eyes and mouth. In addition, the eyes may burn or itch.

• Numbness

RA can cause numbness, tingling or burning in the hands and feet, a symptom of compromised circulation in the body.

• Nodules

Roughly a quarter of adult RA sufferers develop firm lumps under the skin, typically near affected joints. Though not always painful, such nodules usually indicate a more severe form of the disease. As with any of the other symptoms, seek medical consultation immediately.

RA can have a devastating impact on the body and limit daily activities. But massage can help by relieving and controlling some symptoms. **NOW**

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VENDOR INFO: Due to the high interest of this Expo and with limited space, please make sure and reserve your space NOW. Visit our website for Exhibitor information, availability and to register online.



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Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2013

September 4, 11, 18, 25

Awana's Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Colonial Hills Baptist Church, 820 E. Wintergreen, Cedar Hill: for ages 3-12th. (972) 291-0066.

September 6

Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award Dinner: 6:00 p.m., Cedar Hill library: Join the Friends of the Library for a celebration dinner featuring novelist, Irene Sandell. Cost: \$25.

September 7

Orville Rogers Run for the Hills presented by Trotter Capital Management, sponsored by International Museum of Cultures: 9:00 a.m., Armstrong Park, Duncanville: 5K run, 1.5 mile walk and family activities. (972) 572-0462.

September 9

Family Fun Night: hands-on science fun: 6:30 p.m., Cedar Hill library.

September 12 — 14

Friends of Duncanville Public Library's Annual Book Sale, 201 James Collins Blvd. **12th:** 5:00-9:00 p.m. for members only and those who wish to join; **13th:** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and **14th:** 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. open to public.

September 15, 16

Auditions for Love Your City Theater's *The Gospel According to Scrooge* (December 13-15): 6:00 p.m., Trinity Church worship center. (972) 291-2501.

September 21

DeSoto Market Day: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., parking lot, 719 N. Hampton Rd., Ste. 101: free festival celebrating the seasons with food, fun and family entertainment.

Kids on the Hill Creative Arts Festival: 4:00-

8:00 p.m., Valley Ridge Park amphitheater, 2850 Park Ridge Dr., Cedar Hill. Creative art activities: face painting, crafts, food, dancing to music by Austin band, Que Pastas, and The Radio Disney Dallas Road Crew. No cost. cedarhilltx.com/kidsonthehill.

September 27

Rock the Library: 6:00 p.m. Rock out at a concert featuring local bands.

September 28

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful fall cleanup day. Those wishing to join Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful! Can register their group and cleanup location with cedarhilltx.com/kchb. or call (972) 291-5100 ext. 1094.

September 28 — 29

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Fall Festival: The Fun(d) Raising Event, 1111 W. Daniieldale Rd., Duncanville. Enjoy food, live music, games, raffles, prizes, rummage sale, bingo, crafts, bake sale, silent auction (**Sept. 28: Noon-4:00p.m.**), dinner/live auction (**Sept. 28: 7:00 p.m.**), dessert bake-off, health fair, children's parade and petting zoo. www.holyspiritcatholic.com (972) 298-4971.

September 30

Southwest Dallas County Parkinson's Group's support meeting: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville: for family members, caregivers and those with PD. (972) 298-4556.

October 1

30th Annual National Night Out: 6:00 p.m.: uniting police with community and meeting neighbors. (972) 291-5181 ext. 2145 or cedarhilltx.com.

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



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In the Kitchen With Tiffany Hubbard

— *By Beverly Shay*

Tiffany Hubbard has come a long way from her childhood days of happily making mud pies and green beans of leaves in her toy kitchen. Now she teaches culinary arts at DeSoto High School and cooking classes through her business, Rather Tasty Creations by Chef Tiffany.

Tiffany hails from a long line of cooks and chefs, some of whom studied abroad. Her recipes are from her grandparents, books, classes and cultures she has studied. “I love pan searing foods, because I get those little bits of flavor left in the pan, which bring life to so many great sauces,” Tiffany remarked.

“I love the creative outlet cooking provides for my feelings. It’s calming and therapeutic,” she admitted, noting she is also an avid reader, exerciser and shopper. **NOW**

Spinach and Fresh Basil Pasta

- 2 large eggs**
- 1 Tbsp. water**
- 3 1/2 cups spinach leaves, loosely packed**
- 1 1/2 cups fresh basil, loosely packed**
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour or “00” Italian flour**

- 1.** Place first 4 ingredients in food processor; pulse until mixture is smooth.
- 2.** Add 1/2 cup flour and blend, scraping sides of bowl. Continue to add 1/2 cup flour at a time, until all flour is incorporated. Mixture will be somewhat dry and sticky.
- 3.** Remove mixture from food processor; form into a ball. Let ball rest for 1-2 minutes.
- 4.** On lightly floured board or countertop, roll out dough to about a 2-inch thickness. With a pizza cutter, divide dough into 6-8 pieces; shape each piece into a rectangle.

Cover the pieces you are not using with plastic wrap or a damp towel, so dough does not dry out.

- 5.** Start pasta machine on the highest number and decrease the number until you have achieved the pasta size you desire. (I stop at 4.) Pasta should be thin, as it will plump up as it cooks.
- 6.** Cook pasta in boiling water until al dente (firm to bite), about 3-4 minutes.

Fresh Tomato Pasta Sauce

- 5 Roma tomatoes, chopped and seeded**
- 1 garlic clove, minced**
- 2 Tbsp. shallots, minced**
- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar**
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil**
- Pasta of choice**
- Parmesan cheese, to taste**

- 1.** In a nonreactive bowl, mix all ingredients,

- except cheese, until well-combined.
- 2.** Let set at room temperature for at least 1 hour.
- 3.** Toss with freshly cooked, hot pasta. Garnish with shredded Parmesan cheese.

Sweet Potato Ice Cream With Candied Pecans

Ice Cream:

- 2 1/2 cups heavy cream**
- 1 cup whole milk**
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar**
- 5 egg yolks**
- 1 cup sweet potato puree**
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg**
- 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon**

Candied Pecans:

- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter**
- 2 Tbsp. light brown sugar, packed**
- 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract**
- Pinch kosher salt**
- 1 cup pecans**
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper**

- 1.** For ice cream: heat cream, milk and brown sugar in medium heavy-weight saucepan, stirring occasionally, until sugar is dissolved and mixture is hot.
- 2.** In a small bowl, whisk egg yolks briefly. Slowly pour about 1 cup of hot mixture into egg yolks, whisking briskly while pouring. Return mixture to saucepan, whisking constantly. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens slightly and coats the back of a spoon (about 6-8 minutes). Do not boil.
- 3.** Strain the mixture into the bowl. Whisk in the sweet potato puree and spices. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.
- 4.** Freeze in cream freezer according to freezer directions.
- 5.** For candied pecans: Heat butter in a medium skillet over medium heat until melted. Stir in brown sugar, vanilla and salt; stir until the mixture starts to bubble. Stir in pecans; cook until pecans fully absorb the sugar/butter mixture; stir in cayenne pepper.
- 6.** Let stand 20 minutes until cool. Break pecans into pieces; sprinkle on top of ice cream.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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