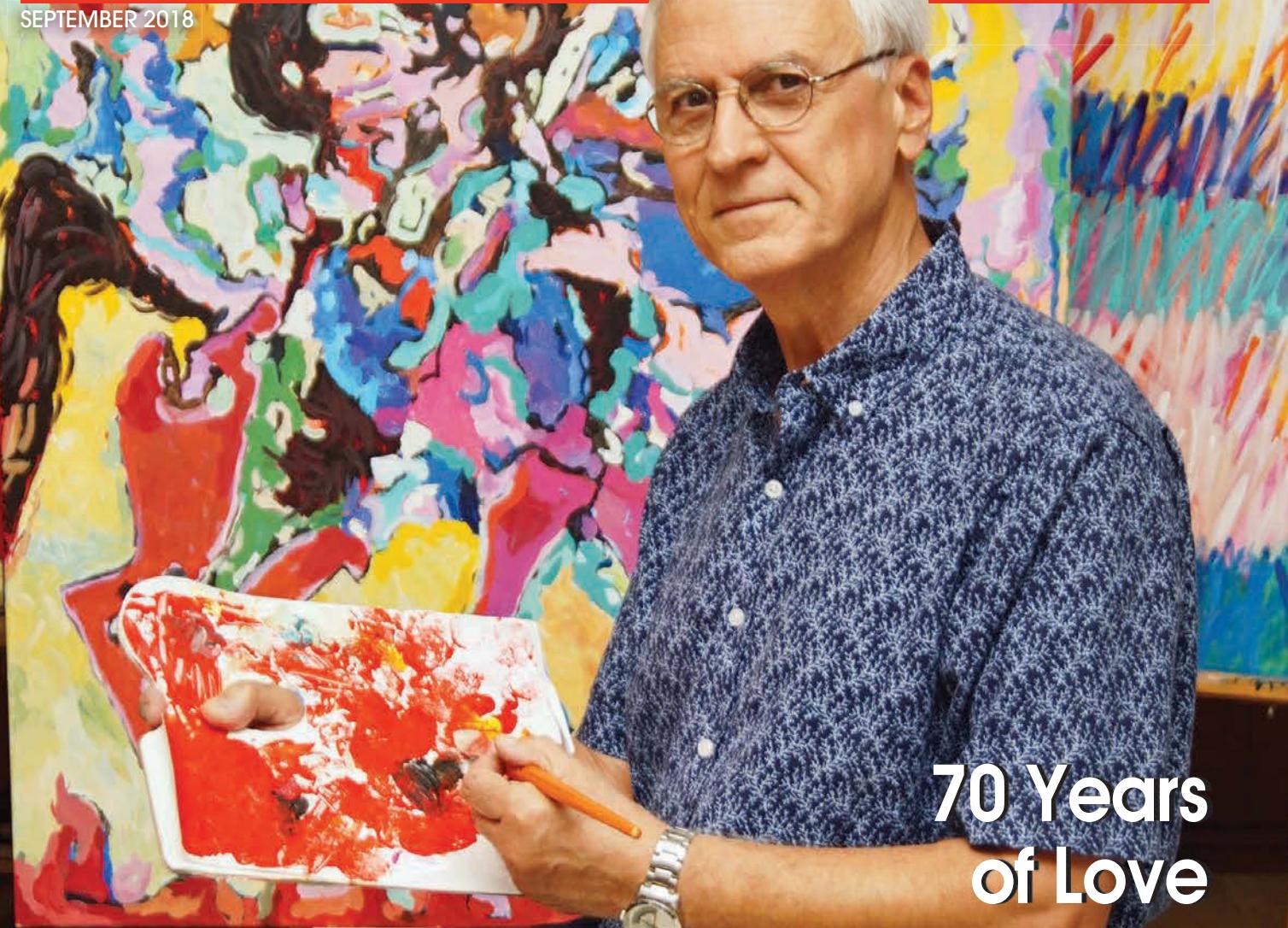


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SEPTEMBER 2018



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DeSoto ISD Names Lone Finalist for Superintendent Role



The DeSoto Independent School District Board of Trustees named Mr. D'Andre Weaver, Ph.D.* as the lone finalist for the district's superintendent position. Trustees voted to approve the decision at a special called meeting held August 16, 2018.

Weaver, who has been described as strategic, visionary and forward-thinking among the national education community, has been serving as Community Superintendent with Spring Branch Independent School District since 2016, where he supports 20 principals and more than 16,000 racially and economically diverse students. Mr. Weaver is a part of a senior leadership team currently transforming the traditional approach to education; in Spring Branch ISD, an ambitious strategic plan exists that seeks to create personalized learning experiences for each of the district's 35,000 students every single day. Early results have shown dramatic increases in student achievement and the degree to which students feel connected to their teachers and school.

The state requires a 21-day waiting period. Following that window, the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees is expected to offer D'Andre Weaver a contract for employment. Weaver is expected to start working in DeSoto ISD Sept. 6, following board approval of his hiring.

Prior to his role in Spring Branch ISD, Weaver served as the Principal at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, one of eleven Selective Enrollment High Schools in the Chicago Public Schools system. Brooks serves a population of students that are 99% minority and over 75% low income.

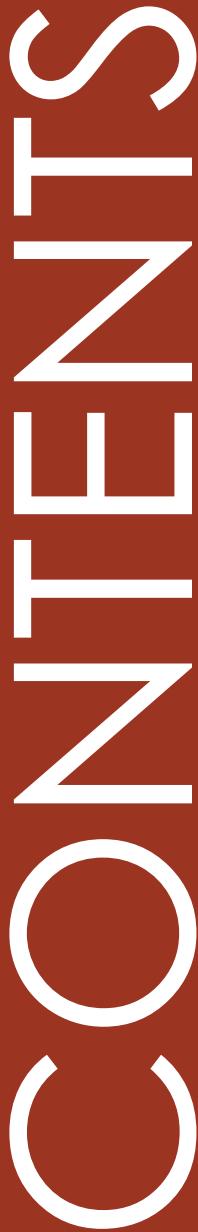
During his tenure, graduation rates, college entrance and retention rates and freshmen on-track rates all improved to all-time highs. As a result, U.S. News and World Report recognized Brooks as the #10 best high school in Illinois and has awarded the school its third Gold Medal status award.

Weaver comes highly endorsed by former United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who currently serves as a managing partner with Chicago CRED. He said, "[Weaver] has holistically improved the schools he has led [and] combines a deep concern for all children with extraordinary competence, energy, and leadership, which he would tirelessly apply to ensure that every child in DeSoto ISD receives an outstanding education."

*=PhD designation expected to be completed on August 28, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 7: FB v. Jesuit at Eagle Stadium
- Sept. 10: Regular Board Meeting
- Sept. 13: College Fair at DHS
- Sept. 24: Regular Board Meeting
- Oct. 6: Female Leadership Forum



8 ABSTRACTING MEANING

Art communicates without words.

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Prince Edward Island is fun for the entire family.

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Improve your yard one hardscape at a time.

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ON THE COVER

Gus Hamsho applies meaning to canvas.

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 283-1170 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Reading is fundamental ...

Or so the old public service ad claimed. September has two days devoted to emphasizing the importance of reading. September 6 is National Read a Book Day, and September 8 is International Literacy Day. Much of my life has been invested in what these days represent. I'm an avid reader, both of fiction and nonfiction. Books open new worlds to the imagination and provide access to knowledge you couldn't otherwise tap into.

Professionally, I was a teacher for many years. I taught junior high and high school English literature, grammar, spelling and vocabulary. I also taught remedial writing skills to college hopefuls for Dallas County Community College District. Before that I taught ESL, helping college students from around the world with the language tools they would need to succeed in American universities.

For three years, I taught English to kids in Taiwan, opening the English-speaking world to them to explore. And a couple of years ago, I was helping build a dictionary for a language called Natqgu in the Solomon Islands, transcribing and translating oral stories from old recordings — stories that may, one day, be used in schools on the island to teach children to read in their native language.

Now I'm a writer, both at *SouthwestNOW Magazine* and writing fiction and poetry. Literacy is very important to me. I hope it is to you, as well.

Keep on reading!



Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
adam.walker@nowmagazines.com
(469) 285-2008

An advertisement for Kids@Heart Pediatric Dentistry. It features a smiling woman with curly hair, identified as Dr. Ashla Martin, wearing dark scrubs with the practice's logo. To her right is the practice's logo, a smiling tooth character, and the text "Kids@Heart PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY". Below this are the office address "450 North Highway 67, Suite 100 Cedar Hill, TX 75104", the website "www.kidsatheartdentist.com", and the phone number "(972) 291-5720". A list of services includes: *New Patients & Walk-ins Welcome, *Accepts Most Major PPO Plans, CHIP & Medicaid, *Specializing in Treating Infants, Toddlers, Children, Adolescents & Special Needs, and *Open Monday - Thursday 9 AM – 5 PM. A graphic shows a toothbrush next to a blue coupon for "\$59 for Exam, Cleaning and X-Rays" and another for "FREE Exam for Kids Under 2!".

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— David Wells

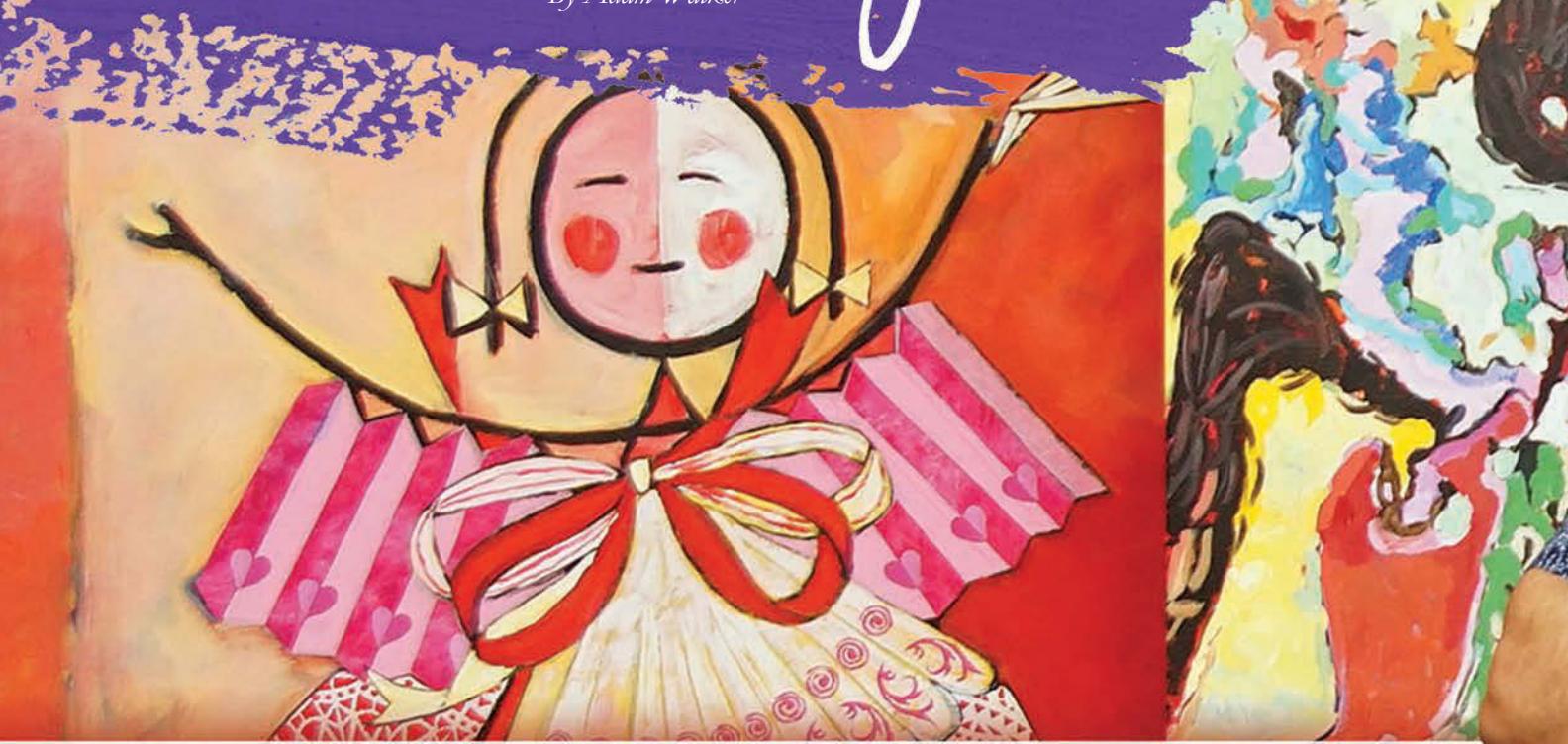
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Abstracting Meaning

— By Adam Walker



Art is a part of life. It surrounds us in our daily lives, whether we take the time to notice or not. But for Gus Hamsho, art is more than that, it's a primary mode of communication. "Being an artist is a gift from God. This gift is to enhance my life and the lives of others that I touch," Gus explained. "Art is intended to decorate a space or remind us of something special — an experience at a place that leaves a lasting impression — or it can be a tool to project oneself into one's dreams ... where we want to be, or what we want to see."

Growing up in Syria, Gus saw his older brother and sister doing art for their schoolwork. "When I saw them drawing, I was fascinated." In junior high, he was lucky enough to have a teacher who had studied



art in Italy. "He had a unique style, and he showed examples of his art in class. He introduced us to the European masters. He took notice of my work and encouraged me to stick with art. He gave me special assignments. That relationship helped me to connect with the local art community. Some of those artists are internationally known."

When Gus came to the U.S., he was at a crossroads. "My heart wanted to study art, but my mind insisted that I should be practical and study business. My father always told me, 'Art doesn't put bread on the table.' I started out studying business management and working on my English skills. Then I changed to architecture, because I felt like that was the best of both worlds. It was a mix of art and business, and I could make a

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living. But I continued doing art on the side, self-teaching."

Through the years, he found ways to keep growing as an artist. "I continued experimenting with techniques and styles. Living in the U.S. exposed me to so many museums and gave me access to so much art. But my cultural background also influences my art. I'm from the Cradle of Civilization, and all the different empires who came through left behind their signatures. My art reflects all of them, especially the Byzantines — their mosaics — my art reflects that. Many of my paintings look like mosaics, where you gather all the colored pieces to assemble the painting."

Gus found ways to continue building his reputation as an artist. For a time, he worked for Pier 1 Imports. "They encouraged their employees to do art," he said. Later, working for NorthPark Management Company afforded even more opportunities. "The Nasher family held art shows for their employees at the mall. I won awards for my photography, watercolors and mixed media pieces."



Gus has worked with multiple techniques and forms from oils and watercolors to photography, acrylics and colored pencils, sometimes combining several techniques in a single piece, but he also explores a wide variety of subject matter.



Because of his love for mosaics, most of his paintings are abstract to some degree, but the degree of abstraction varies a great deal. "There is a poetic aspect to art. The artist can change his mind about the idea of a piece. I want people to think when they look at my paintings. I'm interested in doing unique things, but I don't want my art to be just about technique and color. I want it to say something."

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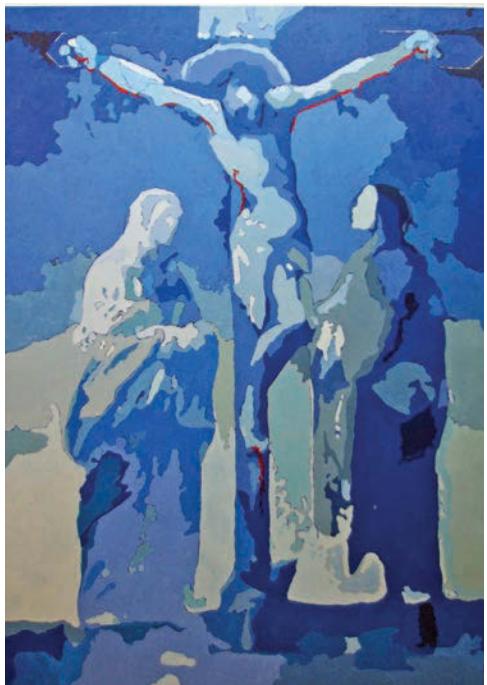
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One of his paintings, *Boats on Caddo Lake*, is an impressionist piece with vibrant colors. Another, of Ft. Parker near Mexia, is “an early attempt at a modern style. It’s more abstract without going completely abstract.” The rocking horse on his own living room hearth inspired another painting, while a group of glass bottles from the kitchen offered an exploration of abstract impressionism. Travel has motivated other paintings. “I was standing on the balcony of a hotel in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. I looked down at the street. There were all these intense colors. I broke them down and rearranged them. I loved the sun on the buildings. My paintings are very colorful. In early European art, blue talks about heaven.”

That probably has something to do with his choice to paint the Crucifixion in all blues. The highly abstract, but still instantly recognizable, scene is depicted in only blues, except for the intense red of the blood. Color can definitely make a statement. “I based this one on a painting from the Renaissance, but transformed it into my style. The blue can show a tragic event — portray a sad event.”

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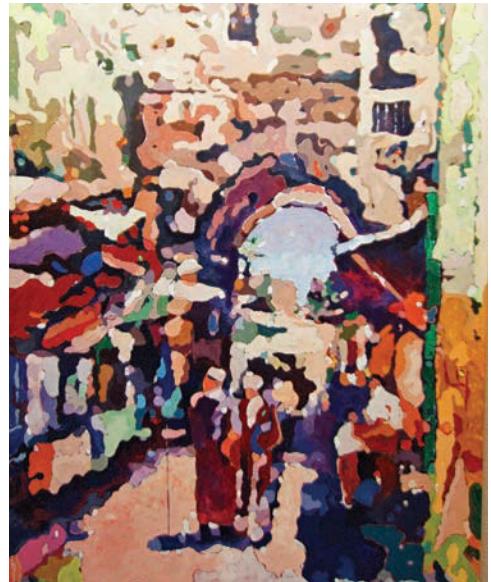
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One of Gus' favorite paintings is of a market street in the Old City of Jerusalem. "This has a special place in my heart. My junior high art teacher went to Jerusalem several times. He did many drawings and paintings of the city. I recreated this painting in his memory."

Whether his subject is pottery at First Monday in Canton, or an old ice house in downtown Dallas or scenes from *The Arabian Nights*, Gus lets his sense of color and style guide the degree of impressionism or abstraction. One of his few completely abstract paintings is called *No Mountain Is Too High*. "If you look at it, it looks like it is climbing. The rectangles are oriented like a mountain. I typically don't explain my paintings. I want the painting to explain itself. I leave the viewers to interpret."

With many years of experience under his belt, Gus is continuing to experiment and grow as he nears "retirement." He observed, "Sometimes, I repeat the same idea with a different approach. I might start with watercolors, then try a more abstracted painting with acrylics. I'm not very expressive with words," he claimed. "My art is the way I speak to the world." Gus may not like words, but his art has plenty to say. **NOW**

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70 Years of Love

— By Virginia Riddle



At Home With Lloyd

A colorful wreath and wall plaque from their time spent in Japan decorate Lloyd and Jerry Coats' door to their apartment in Crescent Point, an independent living facility. A move from their home in Oak Cliff brought them here six years ago. "We knew nothing about this area or the facility before moving here, but we've grown to love the peaceful, quiet nature of this place," Jerry said.

Moving is something this couple has known throughout their 70 years of married life, celebrating their anniversary last May, since Lloyd spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy as a helicopter pilot. He was one of the first 1,000 helicopter pilots the Navy trained. When asked about their most recent move, Lloyd very wisely said, "I don't care where I live. I just follow Jerry."

And she very quickly came back with, "But I followed you for 20 years."

A native of Red Fork, Oklahoma, Lloyd was raised in Alabama. He went into the Navy following high school, eventually attending The University of Tulsa. Jerry was born in Oklahoma, but her childhood was spent in California, Kansas and then back to Tulsa, where she graduated from Tulsa Central High School.





and Jerry Coats

They were living one street over from each other in Tulsa. "For two years, I walked in front of his grandmother's house where Lloyd was living, and someone kept whistling at me," Jerry recalled. "I didn't know it then, but it was



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Lloyd's Uncle Howard doing it on Lloyd's behalf, since he was too shy."

They met when a mutual friend brought Lloyd to a party. "I thought he was a very nice guy," Jerry added. Later, they went to a dance together. While Jerry was tutoring math at her home, Lloyd called to ask if he could come over and offered to help tutor her student. "I didn't tell him



I was going to be a math major," she quipped. He came over, and the couple was married after Jerry's high school graduation. Both are Salvationists and were raised in The Salvation Army faith.

Having joined the Navy at 17, Lloyd got out of the service before their marriage. Uncle Sam, however, had other ideas. "We had just had a baby when he was recalled in 1952," Jerry explained. "The Navy

became our whole life while we 'lived aboard' bases. Lloyd served in WWII, the Korean War and in peacetime. He trained at Pensacola, Florida, and served for two years in Japan, and on other bases around the U.S. "The Japanese were such calm, gentle people. We enjoyed our time there," Jerry said. Between military assignments and family travel, the couple has visited or lived in all 50 states.

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Following his military service, the couple settled in Dallas. "By that time, Lloyd's folks were living in Beaumont, Texas, and my folks were still living in Tulsa. Dallas was a good in-between place," Jerry said. Lloyd managed a Dallas law firm for five years and then worked and retired from being an iron and structured steel worker, following his father into that career. Jerry became a Dallas County nutritionist, a job she held for 12 years. "I liked working with older adults. I had taught kids in Sunday school, but never taught adults," she said.

The couple has three children — Lloyd Jr., a Dallas electrician; Jerry, a dean at Tarrant College; and Janna, who lives in Austin. Paintings of each as a child hang proudly in Lloyd and Jerry's living room. The couple are grandparents of five and have five great-grandchildren with one more on the way. "Janna was the first girl born for three generations in Lloyd's family," Jerry said. "Every one of our great-grands are adorable."

Newspapers and magazines are handy by Lloyd's favorite chair for his favorite pastime — reading. "I once collected all the Tarzan books and Mickey Mouse comic books," he said.

Jerry is also a reader, and she loves to sew. Her sewing machine is set up in the open living room/kitchen. "As a teenager, I needed one credit more to finish high school, so I took sewing lessons and other electives," she remembered. "I made nearly every stitch Janna wore." Jerry quilts and makes doll clothes. "I don't know how many quilts I've made. I have about 30-40 quilts with Janna, and I've made quilts for all my family." The couple's spare bedroom suite is home to Jerry's sewing supplies and another machine. One of her quilts brightens a living room's easy chair.

"My real addiction now is making doll clothes," Jerry admitted. Her two great-granddaughters each have a full suitcase of doll clothes created by

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her, and Jerry's dolls that inhabit the living room are very smartly attired.

Memorabilia from Lloyd's Navy days line an overhead beam. He's an admiral in the Texas Navy, a cherished honor. Family photos and those of Lloyd while in service are displayed, along with glass collections. Jerry's collection of butter dishes are colorful kitchen additions.



Crocheted pieces, created by Jerry's mother, decorate an easy chair. A photo of Jerry's grandmother is nearby. "I look like her," she said. "After moving here, I glanced in a hall mirror, and thought, *Great Scott, who's that old lady?*" Jerry is 88 years proud, and Lloyd is 93.

"I don't feel like I'm in my 90s," Lloyd admitted. "I still like getting a hug from all the girls."

A Salvation Army doll collection; Lloyd's mother's tapestry; and a shelf holding Lloyd's white pilot's helmet, Navy hat and a Salvation Army bonnet decorate the couple's bedroom. Antique clocks keep time.

Jerry's advice to young marrieds is, "Make a lifetime commitment to each other and God."

"I've been lucky to be married to her," Lloyd responded.

"It takes two," Jerry replied quickly with humor. "At our 75th anniversary, I'll let you know if this is permanent or not!" **NOW**

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Born to the Water

— By Adam Walker

Nigel Mason has loved the water since birth. And he can sum his story up really briefly. “One day Mom said, ‘We’re going to the pool.’ I said, ‘Cool.’ That’s it,” he explained with mischief on his face.

His mother, Patrice, cut her eyes at him. “He was 2 years old. I took him to the pool, and he kept saying, ‘Mama, water!’ He walked right in — and sank. I had to go save him. He started using a boogie board at the beach, without knowing how to swim. I kept trying to get him to try other sports, but he wasn’t interested in them.”

“I was scared by other sports,” Nigel admitted. “I even scored on my own team in basketball.”

Patrice nodded. “My husband suggested we put Nigel in swimming. We got him swimming lessons at the natatorium. He saw kids on the swim team practicing

and said he wanted to do that. He was 8 years old then, and he’s been swimming ever since.”

Nigel found his niche. “When I swim, I feel like I’m floating somewhere.” In competition he likes the breaststroke best. “It makes me feel alright. It makes me feel the good.”

He swims three hours a day, but his parents insist schoolwork comes first. “Mom keeps me on task, or she sends me to tutoring. I chill after school, then do my homework after 7:00 or so.”

Nigel earned his letterman jacket, the only freshman on the Duncanville team to do that last year. He finished sixth in the district, which qualified him for regionals. “They said my name wrong when they gave me my ribbon, but it was great making it to regionals.”

This year, his goal is going to state. “I’m working harder this off season, doing a lot of pushups and situps. I’m spending more time in the pool and the gym. Gotta get buff! Gotta get swole!”

Patrice shook her head. “He eats all the time,” she declared, which was Nigel’s cue to chime in.

"What's to eat?" he asked.

The swim season is from September to February, but the team practices started in July. "We do a lot of gym work in the off season. We have dry days and wet days.

"I like the general atmosphere at Duncanville," Nigel explained. "Coach Stephanie Bernier, she's hard on us when she has to be, but she's fun sometimes — at least last year. Back in eighth grade, she was never fun. She helps me work on swimming in general."

His mother agreed. "Nigel had developed some bad habits in his swimming. She worked on him. We moved to Duncanville for her to coach him, for the swimming staff at Duncanville High."

Nigel swims the 200-meter individual medley, the 100-meter breaststroke (his favorite) and the 50-meter breaststroke leg of the team relay. "One day at a swim meet, toward the end of last year, we were in fourth place when I started my leg. I really wanted to push myself that day. I swam the breaststroke as fast as I could. I got us into first place by the end of my leg. That was great."

Last year, Nigel joined his Duncanville teammates participating in Swim Across America at Lake Ray Hubbard. It's an event for swimmers, raising money for cancer research. "I raised a lot of money with my parents' help on social media — almost \$500."

Nigel likes to banter, but he's a grateful young man. "I thank my family for their support. Swimming isn't a normal sport. It's easy to learn, but it's hard to get good at it."

Nigel is even thinking of lucrative ways to turn his swimming into a career. "My parents found out about this school for underwater welders. They make good money. I'm even interested in becoming a Coast Guard rescue diver." **NOW**



An advertisement for Texas Vein & Aesthetics. The top half features the question 'DO YOU SUFFER FROM ...' in large red letters. Below it are two photographs of legs: one showing normal skin and another showing varicose veins. To the right is a list of symptoms: Leg or Ankle Swelling, Leg Pain, Aching or Cramping, Restless Legs, Varicose or Spider Veins, Leg Heaviness or Fatigue, Burning or Itching Skin, and Skin Changes or Rashes. The bottom half contains text about Venous Reflux Disease and its progression to Chronic Venous Insufficiency. It includes the Texas Vein & Aesthetics logo, which is a stylized star with red and blue waves, and the text 'TEXAS VEIN & AESTHETICS'. Call-to-action text encourages a comprehensive evaluation and ultrasound, provides a phone number (817) 668-1360, and lists office locations in Weatherford, Southwest Fort Worth, Dallas, Denton, and Frisco. It also mentions Medicare and commercial insurances accepted.

CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

CORY BOANE

— By Lindsay L. Allen



Duncanville native, Corinne "Cory" Boane began cooking and baking just two years ago, but has spent many hours in the kitchen since. At just 13, Cory has taught herself, but says her love for being in the kitchen was inherited, as her great-grandmothers loved to cook. In fact, she makes her great-grandmother's chocolate cake, her other great-grandmother's chicken and noodles, and her grandmother's snickerdoodle cookies.

"I enjoy cooking because I love to see other people's reactions when they eat my food or my baked goods," she said. Last year, she took first prize at the school's baking competition with her maple bacon cupcakes. She likes to gather recipes from her mom and grandmother and search online to make her favorite baked goods and down-home cooking. **NOW**

Maple Bacon Cupcakes

Cupcakes:

2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup bacon grease
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 Tbsp. maple syrup
(plus some for first layer of topping)
1 tsp. maple extract (optional)
4 egg whites, room temperature
1 cup white granulated sugar
1 cup buttermilk

Frosting:

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
3 cups powdered sugar

1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. maple syrup

Topping:
6-8 crispy bacon strips
1/4 cup maple syrup

- 1. For cupcakes:** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a muffin pan with cupcake liners (parchment paper liners recommended).
- 2.** Sift flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder together; set aside.
- 3.** Combine vegetable oil, bacon grease, vanilla extract, maple syrup and maple extract, if using.
- 4.** In a bowl with an electric mixer, using the paddle attachment, beat egg whites for about 30 seconds; slowly start pouring in sugar. Beat for 2 to 3 minutes, until white and fluffy.
- 5.** Start pouring in oil mixture slowly, as the

eggs are still beating on medium-high, then lower the speed to low.

- 6.** Alternate adding flour mixture and buttermilk in 2 parts. Mix until just combined. Scrape sides and bottom of the bowl, and mix on low a couple more seconds until incorporated.
- 7.** Divide batter among the cupcake cups, filling them about 2/3 of the way. (Recommend using an ice cream scoop so all the cupcakes are even). Tap the cupcake pan on the counter a couple of times to help remove air bubbles.
- 8.** Bake for 18-20 minutes. Take out of the oven; let rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Gently take the cupcakes out; let cool on a wire rack. Drizzle a tsp. of maple syrup on top of each cupcake.
- 9.** Cool completely before frosting!
- 10. For the frosting:** Beat softened butter in the electric mixer, on medium-high speed, for about 2 minutes.
- 11.** Lower speed to low and carefully mix in powder sugar, salt and maple syrup. Once sugar is incorporated, scrape sides and bottom of the bowl; raise speed to medium. Beat for another 2 to 3 minutes.
- 12.** Transfer frosting into a piping bag with desired tip attached. Pipe cooled cupcakes.
- 13. For topping:** Crumble crispy bacon and divide it on top of piped cupcakes. Drizzle each cupcake with some maple syrup.

Grandma Boane's Snickerdoodles

1 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 3/4 cups flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. baking soda
Dash salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 Tbsp. sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350 F Mix butter, sugar and eggs.
2. Combine flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt in a different bowl. Slowly add dry mixture to wet mixture. Combine the cinnamon and sugar.
3. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; roll in the cinnamon and sugar mixture.
4. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet; bake for 8 to 10 minutes.

Red Velvet Mini Bundt Cakes

Will yield enough for 2 mini pans.

1 box yellow cake mix
6 Tbsp. flour
1/2 cup sugar
5 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 cup vegetable oil
3 large eggs
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 cup milk
1 cup sour cream
2 Tbsp. red food coloring
1 cup cream cheese frosting

1. Preheat oven to 350 F Grease and flour a mini Bundt cake pan.
2. Add cake mix, flour, sugar and cocoa to a bowl; whisk to blend.
3. Add vegetable oil, eggs, vanilla, milk and sour cream. Mix on low speed, increasing to medium speed after 1 minute. Add food coloring; blend well. Continue to mix on medium for 1 more minute.
4. Pour into prepared pan; bake for 30-35 minutes.
5. Allow to cool for about 10 minutes. Melt cream cheese frosting; pour on the Bundt cakes.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 10 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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— By Adam Walker

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Vernon Folks has a mission. "I was always blessed with a knack for saving money for a rainy day, and I enjoy helping people. As a young man, I didn't have anyone to go to, anyone to help me learn about money. I don't want that to be true for others. Savings is good, but investing is how to make your money grow."

Vernon sees some financial mistakes all too often. "I see people who have money trying to maintain a certain lifestyle

by using their house like an ATM machine, draining their equity over and over. You can't do that and get ahead. I want to teach people how to do business the right way. You need to be looking at college planning for your kids and retirement planning for yourself. But you don't just need to plan for retirement. You also need to plan for living in retirement long term. Preparing for the unexpected is really important, so is saving money on your taxes. I help my clients with investments in stocks and bonds, and advise on mutual funds and CDs."

Even though investing and financial planning is his business, Vernon has another focus. "It's more than just investing. What I do is only about 25 percent choosing investments. The other 75 percent is talking to you about your life, about who you are and what your plans for the future are." He believes in working together with his clients to achieve their financial goals. He invests his time to help

you invest your money for your future. "I want to know your goals and dreams, so I can help you get there. But who's going to help with your finances when you have dementia? Who's going to take care of your spouse's finances or protect the money you want to leave your kids? When things go wrong, I'm your guy."

The philosophy he encourages his customers to live by is simple. "You can either prepare for life, or you can react to whatever comes along. I try to get people to think about all the things they wouldn't think about otherwise. I help them prepare for everything from the birth of a child to their own final expenses and everything in between." Life is full of unexpected events, both good and bad, and Vernon wants to help his customers understand how all of those events may affect their financial futures, either positively or negatively, and help them make the best of all the opportunities and challenges that come along.

"I try to get people to think about all the things they wouldn't think about otherwise."

Vernon Folks offers a wide range of services. "I'm here to aid you if you need help at any financial level — no matter where you are in your financial life — if you need to roll over a 401(k), or if you just need advice for getting your finances straightened out, or if you're ready to get into actual investing," he said.

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TravelNOW A Canadian Adventure

— By Alf Blanchard

From the stunning red cliffs, the miles of red and champagne beaches and the vibrant small-city scenes, there is only one way to describe Prince Edward Island — magical. If driving, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the highway. It takes you through towns and villages, scenic landscapes and coastal views. Every journey on the island is as special as the destination. Driving along the highway or one of the designated coastal drives, you will see a small glimpse of life on Prince Edward Island, and it will make you feel the need to explore.

Prince Edward Island is also known as Canada's Food Island. Once you take a bite of what the island has to offer, you will undoubtedly understand why. Not

only is the island abundant with fresh ingredients such as mussels, oysters and potatoes, artisanal cheeses, breweries, wineries and distilleries, its views will also take your breath away. Every September, you can attend Fall Flavours Festival, which includes the International Shellfish Festival. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy these festivals.

The size of Prince Edward Island is one of its greatest assets. You can taste fresh seafood in a small fishing town and still only be a short drive to the capital city of Charlottetown for experiencing live music, theater and bars.

Visitors can spend their time basking in the sun on one of the 90 beaches, listening to the waves crash and

digging their toes in the sand. Prince Edward Island isn't just for relaxation though. Get your heart racing with paddleboarding, kiteboarding, hiking or cycling. The Confederation Trail is built on an abandoned railway that goes across the entire Island. It's 269 miles of rolled stone-dust surface — an incredibly unique way to experience Prince Edward Island.

If all that adventure isn't enough, Tourism Prince Edward Island offers hands-on activities led by local community leaders. Jigs & Reels, where you join Captain and multi-instrumentalist J.J. Chaisson onboard his boat, *Chaisson A Dream*, is one such activity. Learn about traditional music, step dancing and how to play a musical instrument.

At the Table Culinary Studio in New London, one can take classes or have an experiential meal. For instance, Marilla's Table — A Taste of the Past, begins with a visit to the birthplace of L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, to see what life was like in Anne and Marilla's time, and ends with an authentic meal made from locally grown organic vegetables, while listening to stories from a historian who specializes in Montgomery history.

Speaking of Anne, if the book holds a special place in your heart, you will enjoy visiting the island. Head over to Green Gables Heritage Place and feel like you are part of the story, or visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum (operated by relatives of Lucy Maud Montgomery and part of the inspiration for the world-famous novel). In Charlottetown, see Anne on stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in *Anne of Green Gables — The Musical™*, or watch love bloom at the Guild in *Anne & Gilbert*.

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A New Way to Landscape

—By Zachary R. Urquhart

Landscape can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for homeowners. Pulling weeds and trimming bushes are jobs that are seemingly never really finished. Instead of planting flowers, consider adding hardscapes, decorative structures or materials that add a different kind of beauty to your yard.

Patios and Walkways

• *Create a Walkway.* One of the simplest ways to enhance part of your property is with a patio or walkway. The most permanent route is to pour concrete, possibly even covering your new space with an awning or gazebo. For a simpler DIY project, you can lay stones to make your new walkway or patio.

• *Do It Yourself the Right Way.* If you decide to lay your own stone, there are some important choices to make.

You can buy square or rectangle stones and lay them end to end, leaving no space between. Or, you might want a more irregular stone, which necessitates putting a material like pebbles or crushed granite in the gaps. Whatever your finished product is, your first step should be laying down weed blocker. And the key to a solid, level walking surface is getting a good foundation of sand before you put your stones down.



Build What You Need

- *Add Form to Function.*

Sometimes, hardscapes can be as much about necessity as beauty. If you need to build a retaining wall, you will want to carefully plan your project. Including pipe for drainage is essential, as is tamping down the soil while you backfill to cut down on the land's settling making your wall uneven. And to improve the aesthetic value, spread out any stones that are slightly discolored to give the wall a more artistic look.



- *Check for Codes and Cables.* If you decided to build stairs, retaining walls over a few feet or are pouring a new driveway, do not start the work on a whim. For some larger projects, city codes may dictate size restrictions and what materials you can use. For projects that require significant digging or trenching, you should always call 8-1-1 first, so you can ensure there are no pipes or cables underneath your project area.

Accent Pieces

- *Create Some Counterspace.* If you admire your friend's outdoor kitchen, but building something that large is not an option, consider building an outdoor island. Find a space, get your measurements and use simple right angles to design a counter for food prep. Large hardware stores and lumber suppliers will generally make cuts for you, so you will only have to put the wood together yourself. And if you want to add a small refrigerator underneath, it is easy enough to install an exterior outlet by tapping into an existing outlet inside.

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Email Jennifer at infor@veartgallery.com with your Name, Phone Number and Number of attendees today to RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
Wed., Sept. 5th 6:30pm-8:30pm • Sat., Sept. 15th 11am-1pm

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Caregiver Education Session

Tuesday, September 25, 2 p.m.
at Friends Place DeSoto

Speaker: Kimberly Doyle

PhD., ABPC, ABSNP,
Licensed Clinical Psychologist,
Baylor University Memory Center,
Memory Disorders Center

**Topic: The role of Neuropsychology
in the diagnosis of Dementia
and other cognitive disorders**

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- *Create a Buzz With a Blaze.* If you want to add something fun that can be a conversation piece, fire pits are a great and relatively simple project idea. Unless your pit is going on top of existing hardscape, you should dig about a foot into the ground, then add sand as a foundation for the stones. Be sure your stones are at least 12 inches above ground level to ensure a safe barrier between your fire and your yard.



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Zoomed In:

Ignacio Aguilar

By Adam Walker

Ignacio Aguilar, who is going into fifth grade, was one of the winners of Duncanville Public Library's summer reading program this year. "I won a bunch of coupons for fast food, a Dogman book and a tablet," he reported.

Ignacio loves to read. "I like action books and anything colorful like Captain Underpants or Dogman." He found out about the program when he went to the library. "I just went there and found that yellow paper. I signed it and joined because it said I could get a free book! I read a lot. It's a lot of fun."

He has some advice for other students. "Read every day." After all, you never know what might happen when you visit your library.



Participants enjoy themselves at the Shifting the Paradigm of Leadership Conference 2018.



Trustee Tiffany Clark and Principal Shanta Duren help at DeSoto ISD's back to school event.



The Adams family enjoys a meal as the first customers at Roma's new DeSoto location.



Owner Mary Porter and Councilperson Nicole Raphiel celebrate the opening of Delightful Sweets at DeSoto Marketplace.



BIFF Band members hang out with members of the DeSoto Arts Commission.

NOW



First Methodist School students learn about ocean animals from Dallas Children's Aquarium representative Ashleigh T.



Employees of Duncanville's Frost Bank enjoy a Fun After Five event at the Dallas Zoo.



Members of the North Texas Food Bank visits the Cedar Hill Senior Center.



Duncanville Public Library's youth services librarian, Danene Hudson, poses with the Grace Hula dancers.

An advertisement for Landry Designs. It features a yellow velvet armchair in a modern living room setting. In the foreground, there is a surfboard and a yellow beach ball on a striped rug. The Landry Designs logo is prominently displayed at the top left.

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Shantell Thomas

An advertisement for Delta Roofing & Construction. It features a large yellow "\$500 OFF" in the center. Above it, the text "EARLY LABOR DAY SPECIAL!" is written in red and white. Below the main offer, the text "WINDOW OR FENCE PROJECT FOR QUALIFYING ROOF REPLACEMENT PURCHASE." is displayed in orange. At the bottom, it says "Use Promo Code: LABORDAY".

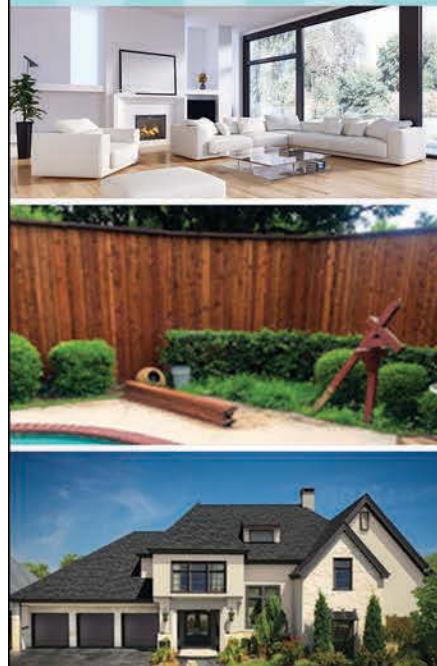
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BE USED PER ORDER.

An advertisement for Farmers Insurance. It features the Farmers logo at the top. Below it, the text "Small Town Service for AUTO HOME BUSINESS LIFE". A photo of a woman, Jane Moore, is shown with her contact information: "Jane Moore, Owner", "jmoore@farmersagent.com", "1314 S. Main St., Suite 100", "Duncanville, TX 75137", "Ph: 469-759-6996", "Fax: 469-759-6997", and "Cell: 214-395-2271".

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An advertisement for AMS Academic Solutions. It features the company logo with a crown icon and the text "ONLINE TUTORING AVAILABLE". Below it, the text "Class Registration is online, and classes are updated regularly." and the address "8105 Rasor Blvd., Suite 131 • Plano, TX". The text "AMS Academic Solutions provides one-on-one and group tutoring for students of all ages from 2nd grade through college." is followed by a list of services: "Tutoring in a nurturing environment", "Online tutoring", "We tutor in a variety of subjects, including reading and math.", and "Standardized test prep". A photo of a woman and a young girl in hula attire is shown at the bottom.

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An advertisement for Delta Roofing & Construction. It features the company name in large, bold letters, followed by the tagline "reliable | quality | excellence". Below it is a large phone number "972-274-3582" and the website "DELTAROOFING.BIZ".

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Calendar

September 2018

6

Throwback Thursday Movie Night - *A Song is Born*: 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St. Free.

8

September Concert-Pop: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free.

11

50 Birds to Teach Your Kids and Grandkids: 10:00 a.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St. Free. Jack Dunaway speaking.



15

Girl Scout Badge Day: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 W. 1382, Cedar Hill. \$15/girl. On-line registration required.

Recognition of Veterans: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library 201 James Collins Blvd. Free. Interactive WWII stations and Andy Fancher speaking.

Cedar Hill Creative Arts Festival: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Cedar Hill Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd. Free. Art, vendors, live music, food and more.

16

September Concert-Día de la Independencia: 2:00-9:00 p.m., Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free/Gratis.

18

Competitive Edge: Noon-1:00 p.m., Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, 300 Houston St. Members are free. Non-members are \$10.

22

Community Picnic: 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Cedar Hill Senior Center, 1740 Mansfield Rd. Call (972) 291-5353 for information.



September Concert-R&B/Jazz: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free.

Movie Night: 7:00 p.m., International Museum of Cultures, 411 Hwy. 67, Duncanville. Free. Showing *He Even Has Your Eyes*, a French comedy.

25

Caregiver Education Session: 2:00-3:30 p.m., Friends Place Adult Day Services, 1232 W. Beltline

Rd., DeSoto. Topic: The Role of Neuropsychology in the Diagnosis of Dementia and Other Cognitive Disorders. Dr. Kimberly Doyle speaking. Call (972) 274-2484 for more information.

28

The Inspiration Band: 8:00-10:00 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. Free.

29

DeSoto Arts Live-Art and Music Festival: Noon-10:00 p.m., Outdoor Amphitheater and Plaza, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. Free.



September Concert-Tejano: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville. Free/Gratis.

29 — 30

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Fall Festival: **Saturday**, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 7:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. 1111 W. Danieldale Rd., Duncanville. Food, crafts, raffle and live entertainment.

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

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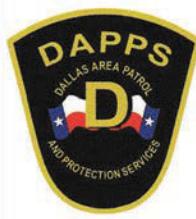
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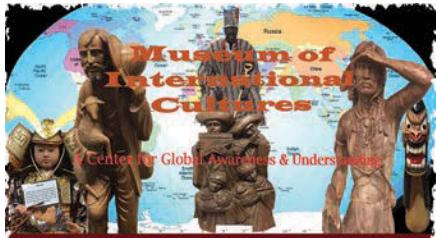
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 - 14th - Star Spangled Banner Event
7:00pm - 9:30pm
 - 19th-21st - Diversity Seminar
 - 20th - North Texas Giving Day
 - 22nd - Smithsonian Museum Live
 - 22nd - Monthly Cultural Event
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Selecting a New Physician

Selecting a new physician can often be challenging and time consuming. Although referrals from a previous physician, friend or an insurance company can be beneficial, there are still measures to consider when selecting a new physician. The most predominant thing to do is research, and trust your instinct on who you think will be the best fit for you or your family.

Sometimes, there are restrictions when selecting a physician. It is important to consider if the physician is part of your insurance plan. If the physician is not part of your insurance plan, it will affect your out-of-pocket expenses, as well as your choices for hospitals and specialists close to your home. If your insurance limits you to a network of doctors, this information can be found on their website. Likewise, most doctor's offices will know if they are part of your insurance company's network.

After completing research on various physicians in your area there are a few additional questions to consider before making the final choice.

What to consider when selecting a new physician:

- Does the physician take new patients?
- Is the office near you or easy to locate?

- Is the office staff friendly?
- Do they offer convenient appointment times to accommodate your schedule?
- Does the physician listen to your questions and concerns?
- Do they encourage you to ask questions?
- Do they explain the diagnosis in a way that you can understand?

Your primary care physician should be your first point of contact when discussing your health. Typically, a board-certified family physician can address a vast array of health care needs, from blood pressure and overall wellness to chronic conditions and prescription management. It's also important to know if the physician's practice includes in-house lab and X-ray services and if they are covered by your insurance. In the event you need to see a specialist, your primary care physician can also provide you with an appropriate referral. **NOW**

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