

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

ARISE & REJOICE MAGAZINE[©]

Positive Stories About Positive People



Officer David Hofer
“A Servant’s Servant”
Remembered! Please see page 5

What We Believe !!!

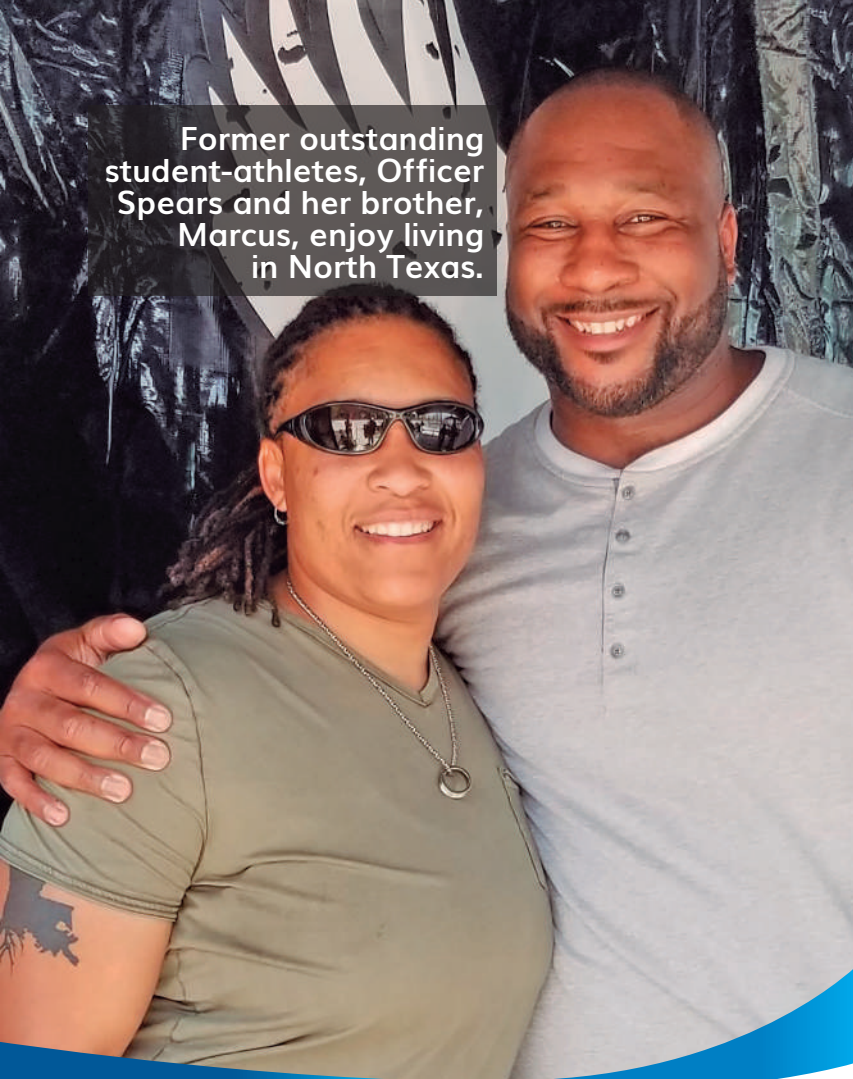
It is unwise to judge an individual because of their ethnicity, their faith, their place of birth or because of the uniform that they wear!

The world will be a better place if we threw our biases into the sewers, and began the task of creating a just and fruitful world for all people!!!

Sincerely,

Larry McMillan | Ken Parker | Amir Makhani | Yolanda Frazier-Gills
Joseph Dio Guardi | Jari Khan | John Creuzot | Liz Sobanjo | Daniel Marcus
Nelson Jones | Joseph Green-Bishop | Sel Dunlap | Forrest Bledsoe | Basheer Ahmed

Former outstanding student-athletes, Officer Spears and her brother, Marcus, enjoy living in North Texas.



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"A Servant's Servant"

Many people believed that David Hofer would make millions on Wall Street. Instead he chose a life in public safety.

- Please see page 5



Her Daughter's Best Friend

Dee Spears became an accomplished cook when she was ten-years-old. Can you guess her special dish?

- Please see page 8



Protecting Consumers in Texas

Be on the lookout for contractors that do poor work. Always get their physical business address.

- Please see page 10



Tourism and Leisure

One of the better times to acquire a great price for air travel is on Tuesday mornings at 2 am.

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Living like his grandmother taught him

A lack of money forced Miguel Jimenez's family to change apartments four times one year when he was in elementary school.

- Please see page 12

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WHAT
WE

BELIEVE!!!

See Page 2



Volume 1 Number 12 October/November 2019

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Arise & Rejoice is a publication that reflects the goodness and grace that abounds within all people. It seeks to bring all of us closer together, promoting understanding and reconciliation.

It believes in the development of a community of "we" where no one is seen as "the other" and where all people are acknowledged and respected!

Grace Was In His Soul!

Life held endless possibilities for Euless Police Officer David Hofer whose future was suddenly taken from his family, and the public he served so well on the very first day of March just three years ago at half past two in the afternoon.

Officer Hofer, who was raised and educated in New York City, had been a member of the Euless police department for two years.

As young boy he was taught by his parents to view people he encountered through the prism of humanity although he often witnessed sadness and turmoil in the profession he had chosen.

An extremely pleasant and engaging human-being, Officer Hofer and his patrol partner one night discovered an elderly couple on the streets of Euless that had lost their way, and whose car had failed them.

On the day that his girlfriend, Marta, came to Euless with members of her family and friends from New York, Officer Hofer, who was not working that day, borrowed a police car from the department.

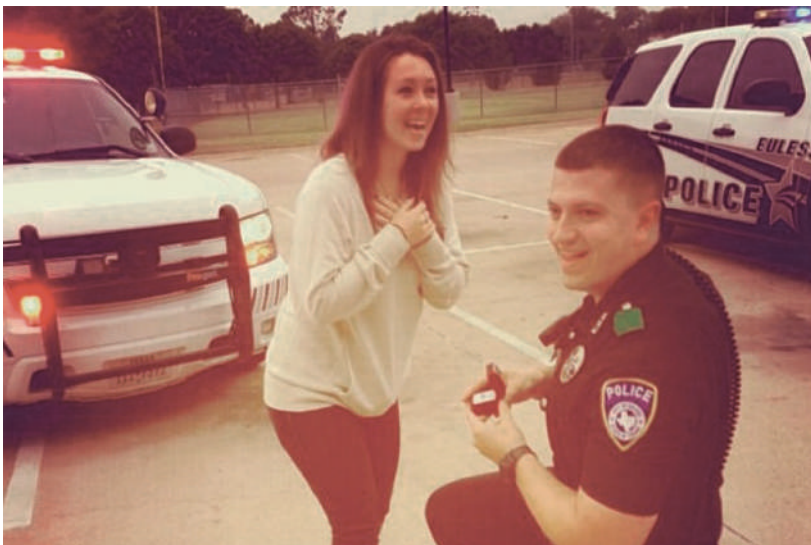
"He could have become anything that he wanted to be," said Euless Police Chief Mike Brown, speaking about Officer Hofer who had been a member of the New York Police Department for five years before relocating to Texas to begin a new life that was to include marrying the woman he loved, and building a family with her.

He was one of the most intelligent people I have ever met in law enforcement. We found him exceptional.

"David knew the route that the van carrying Marta and the others would take from the airport," Chief Brown said. "Once the van reached the middle of Euless, he turned on his car's siren and lights and pulled it over."

Officer Hofer approached the vehicle, Marta emerged and he got down on one knee to propose that they spend the rest of their time together. It was the happiest day of their young lives.

Nearly 6,000 people filled Pennington Field in Bedford, Texas for a final tribute to Officer Hofer. Dignitaries, citizens and police officers from across the country were present to bid farewell to someone who represented the best of policing, and the best of humankind. |AR



When Marta and her friends and family arrived in Euless, Officer Hofer was waiting with a marriage proposal.

Officer Hofer, whose compassion extended beyond those he knew, asked his partner to remain with the couple while he searched for a bank machine to withdraw personal funds, enough for a hotel stay so that the couple would not have to spend the night in their car, or in a shelter.



Officer Hofer, right, and Officer Mike Sarro served as police officers in New York City before relocating to Euless. Officer Sarro's mother, seated.



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Save money by shopping around!

You will probably save money if you choose a health facility other than the one that your doctor recommends for a diagnostic scan.

If your physician is a member of a medical practice that is located or owned by a hospital he or she will more than likely recommend that you have your tests in that hospital.

Not so fast! One study found that patients who had their tests at non-hospital facilities saved significant amounts of money. Often, some physicians have a financial interest in the facilities where they recommend you have your test.

Before you have your test, ask your doctor if it is possible to get the exam done at a location where the price is lower.

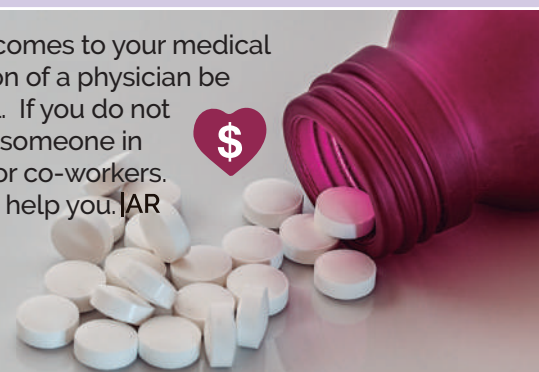
There are a number of sites on the internet that can be helpful to you in determining the costs of medical procedures. They are sources that you should review. Two of them are the Healthcare Bluebook, and the Fair Health Consumer Cost Lookup. They will assist you in understanding your potential healthcare costs.

When you are about to have medical care remember that while the over-whelming majority of medical professionals in the U.S. are interested in your wellness and will not cheat you, everyone who wears a white jacket is not honest or highly-trained.

Just like in any other profession, **there are medical professionals in our society who should not be practicing medicine.**

Just remember when it comes to your medical testing and your selection of a physician be prudent and resourceful. If you do not know where to start ask someone in your network of friends or co-workers. Someone will be able to help you. **JAR**

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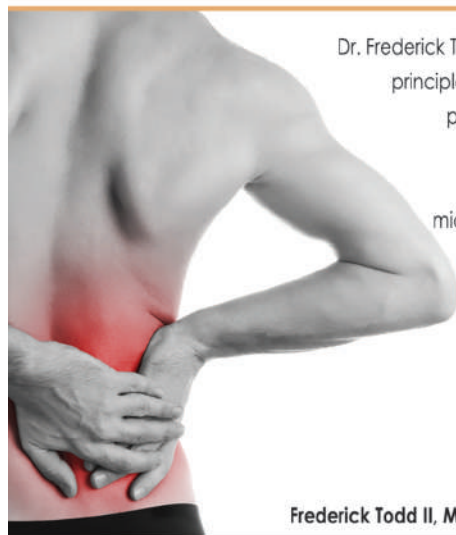
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Her Daughter's Best Friend

"I tell young people that they must strive to make the right choices..."

If you were to ask Bedford Police officer Deidre Spears what she would change in life, her answer would be the way that some people perceive her, and her colleagues as members of law enforcement.

"The most difficult part of my existence is trying to change the stigma of what some people think we are," said Officer Spears, a single-mother who was on her way to becoming a professional basketball player before an injury snatched her dream away from her.

"During the week I wear a badge and carry a gun," she said softly. "But I am not the uniform that I wear. I want the same things that others want; great schools, crime-free neighborhoods and economic opportunity for all people no matter, their faith, their ethnicity or their political views."

When she is not working nearly fifty-hours each week, Officer Spears, who once excelled as a varsity basketball player at Louisiana State University where her brother, Marcus, was a legend on the football field, finds abundant joy being with her seventeen-year-old daughter, Jordyn.



Officer Spears and her daughter, Jordyn, are the best of friends

"My kid is hilarious," she said of her child who is a high school student. "She can be somewhat of an introvert until you get to know her. We have a great time together, going to movies, eating popcorn."

While her mother, Irma Spears, worked twelve hours each weekday, Officer Spears and her brother spent their afternoons on practice fields, studying at home and eating dinner together.

"I became the family cook when I was ten-years-old," she said. "My specialty was TV dinners. I was very good with them," she said with a radiant smile that lights up the schools, recreation centers and other public places where she represents the Bedford department as its school liaison.

"I tell young people that they must strive to make the right choices even if others do not," she said. "I tell them to be personally responsible, and to establish personal standards and goals while they are young."

"Yes, there are times when I am fearful for my own safety," she said. "I am human just like other people. This is what I chose to do, to serve and to protect people who are vulnerable, and in need of assistance."|AR

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Always remember, there are rights that you have as a consumer that you should know about! In Texas, the office of the Attorney General is the place where you should start if you feel that a merchant or company has been deceptive in dealing with you. Or if they have not performed the service that you paid them to do.

There is a consumer protection hotline that you can call if you feel that you have been cheated or deceived by a business or a contractor. That number is 1-800 621 0508

If you wish to file a complaint with the Attorney General there are a few things you should consider before you begin the process. Make sure that you know the proper name of the business or the person you are filing your complaint against. Put together a summary of the facts, and how much you paid.

Protecting Consumers in Texas

"Ask whether or not they are members of a local chamber of commerce"

Make sure that you have the address of the person or business. Sometimes you will run across an individual contractor or company that gives you a business card without an address. There is a reason why many of them do this.


This often is a sign that the contractor does not want you to have an address.

Also, it is a good practice to ask for at least three references before you contract with a busi-

ness. Ask whether or not they are members of a local chamber of commerce, or another business organization. It is not uncommon for people to represent themselves as experienced business owners when in fact they are not.

In Texas, you can file a complaint online or you can get the materials that you need and mail them. You can write to the consumer protection section in the office of the Attorney General. The address is P O Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711 |AR

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Airline ticket prices are less expensive during the first part of the week. The closer you get to the weekend, the higher the prices become. You can use the services of travel sites, but if you are internet savy and have some extra time you can usually match many offers that travel sites recommend.

Beware of special "discount fares" that pop up on your phone or computer screen. Before you book a flight because of its appeal, check to see what the airline charges for baggage. If you have a large family and each family member has luggage, you might want to consider an airline that does not charge for bags. Remember, even airlines

that do not charge luggage fees will charge you if your luggage is over their weight limit.

Weigh your luggage before you travel! Often there are items in suitcases that you can easily purchase once you reach your destination.

You can find a Walmart or a Dollar Tree in most places these days.

When considering the costs of your trip make certain that you include transportation expenses. Look for car rental deals on the internet. **Don't purchase the first one that you see.** Do some shopping and check the sites of car rental companies. Remember, the car rental price offered by an airline or a travel site might not be the least expensive. **JAR**

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Living like his grandmother taught him

After completing his school days in San Antonio, Officer Miguel Jimenez, then ten-years-old, visited his sickly grandmother, Adelina, in local hospitals with other members of his family.

Extremely poor, on public assistance and forced to move from apartment to apartment because they could not pay the rent, his family was unable to pay for quality medical care.

"My grandmother often spoke to us about the treatment she received," said Jimenez, a veteran of the U.S. Navy who has



His grandmother and mother taught Officer Jimenez to spread joy in the world.

I am concerned about aiding members of the human family, even when they are strangers," he added.

been a member of the Hurst Police Department for nearly a decade. "My grandmother knew that the care could be better, but we were not in a position to make demands. We did not have money."

The lack of quality treatment that his grandmother experienced has helped to shape Officer Jimenez's thinking and perceptions about people, and about what he describes as the duty that people have to one another.

"I believe that each of us has a responsibility to care about, and to help people, especially those who find themselves living on the margins of life, and to those who are troubled by the difficul-

ties life can bring," said Jimenez, the father of three sons and a daughter.

Officer Jimenez said that his mother and grandmother were deeply faithful people and instilled in him hope, love, grace and forgiveness. Faith was a major part of his life while growing up.

"In my work I see people at their best, and at their worse," he said. "Drug addiction, suicide attempts, and domestic violence are all part of what we witness while doing our jobs."

Mentoring children in Hurst public schools brings him great joy, he said. "Many of the young

people come from single-parent homes," he said. "Many of them live in situations like the one that I lived in."

"All people are brothers and sisters," he said. "That is one of the reasons that I do what I do, even with all the risks. I am concerned about aiding members of the human family, even with when they are strangers," he added. **JAR**



Officer Jimenez's children are the center of his life.

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