

## Metroplex welcomes new VP/CFO

Penny L. Johnson is the newest player to join the Metroplex Health System administrative team as its vice president and chief financial officer.

For the past eight years, Mrs. Johnson worked at Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Merriam, Kan., most recently serving as assistant vice president of finance and controller.

"I am very happy to be here and I am impressed with the employees and leadership team," Mrs. Johnson said.

"When I toured both Metroplex and Rollins Brook, the people were excited about and appreciative of their jobs and really took ownership in Metroplex. That was impressive."

Mrs. Johnson replaces Janice Hagensicker who accepted a promotion in the Adventist Health System to regional senior vice president/chief financial officer for the Adventist Midwest Region in Chicago.

As Metroplex's new VP/CFO, Mrs. Johnson will serve as the key financial resource to the board of directors and president/CEO,

providing stewardship over the organization's assets and participating in strategy development.

At Shawnee Mission, Mrs. Johnson was responsible for the accounting activities of the 383-bed, acute-care facility and its seven subsidiary corporations. She also oversaw materials management and the surgery center business office and admitting functions.

She received a bachelor of science degree in business administration/accounting from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and a master of business administration from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kan.

Mrs. Johnson said one of the reasons she was attracted to Metroplex is that even though it has been in a constant state of growth, it has upheld a standard of providing superior care and service.

"Even though Metroplex is not the largest facility in the Adventist Health System, it has developed quality and patient service initiatives that are at par or surpass

many of the larger facilities. That is impressive."

Mrs. Johnson said she is anxious to begin looking for ways to optimize revenues, and one of her goals is to work with managers to find ways to grow volumes and service lines to benefit Metroplex.

"There are so many things on the horizon that will help Metroplex grow," she said.

A second goal is to help employees throughout the organization realize that her team is here to help support their needs. "I want employees to see these departments as valuable resources.

"These departments are here to help support the care of our patients. We are here to help the caregivers and we are going to focus on customer relations."

Mrs. Johnson said she has enjoyed getting acquainted with the employees and learning the system. "I've been able to hit the ground running. The Metroplex administrative team is fun to work with and has a lot of energy," she said. "It is also nice to work under a CEO (Ken Finch) who is very



**Penny Johnson**

well regarded within the Adventist Health System and has such vast experience."

Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Jeff, have two children, Parks, 7, and Macy, 4. She said they are enjoying Texas and are excited to live in the community.

Mrs. Johnson said the family plans to explore as much of Texas as possible and take day trips to all the local hot spots. "We are going to embrace being Texans," she said.

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**5th-8th grade • Thursday • 6:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**9th-12th grade • Tuesday • 7:45-8:45 p.m.**  
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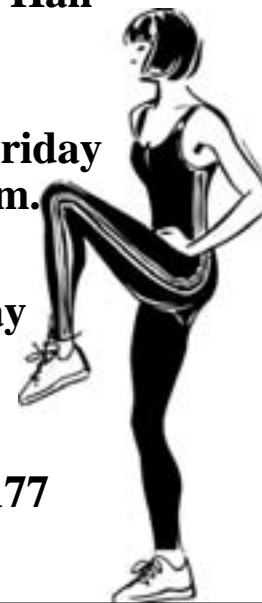
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## Events on tap to raise funds for liver transplant

Sept. 16 is the date for a fundraising event to benefit Lampasan Manuel Torrez Jr., a 49-year-old Lampasas High School graduate who was diagnosed this year with non-alcoholic end-stage liver disease.

Torrez, who was born and reared in Lampasas, participated in football, basketball, track and baseball while in high school and was a member of the band, Spanish Club and Thespian Club.

He worked at the former Bowden's Restaurant, Crocker's Food Mart, H-E-B and the former TG&Y store that preceded Wal-Mart.

Torrez also coached boys' and

girls' Little Dribblers and Little League baseball and served as an umpire. He played softball for the Aces, Hijackers and Chaparrals.

He held a variety of jobs until his diagnosis earlier this year.

Torrez was told he needs a liver transplant, and to be placed on the list, a \$250,000 deposit must be made.

Funds are being raised through the Manuel Torrez Jr. Liver Transplant Fund-raising Committee. Organizers are planning a Sept. 16 event to be held at AMVETS Post 80 in Lampasas. Plans call for an auction, a cake walk, raffles and queens' contests.

A Queen of the Day Contest will

be held, and the winner will be chosen based upon the amount of money each is able to raise through donations. Candidates are those ages 7 to 12; 17 to 21; and golden girls, ages 65 and older.

Potential candidates may register at AMVETS on the day of the contest beginning at noon. Crowning will be at 5 p.m. Information on this event is available from Dolores at (520) 298-4242.

A dance will close out the day's events from 6-10 p.m.

A three-day softball tournament is set for Oct. 19-21 at Turner Field in Lampasas. The Chaparrals, a semi-pro ball team on which Torrez played, will participate.

There will be concessions offered. For information on the tourney, contact Lori at (512) 459-0901.

Organizers note they plan to hold monthly events until the funds are raised. Money collected is being placed into an account through the American Liver Foundation, a non-profit organization.

To make a donation in Torrez's name, send funds to The American Liver Foundation, Manuel Torrez Jr., recipient, 1425 Pompton Ave. Suite 2, Cedar Grove, NY 07009.

For more information on upcoming events, phone Mary Sue Ramirez at 556-9622; Tim Felan at (512) 773-7276; or Carlos Jasso at 556-5544.

## Concert to help garner money to build playground

A Concert of a Lifetime will be held Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at Briggs Community Center to raise money to build a community playground.

Performers include Pauline Reese, Paula Nelson, John Arthur Martinez, Pete Benz and Craig Dillingham.

The playground is being named in honor of community member and former Lampasan Chad Wessels, a firefighter killed while

en route to a house fire in Briggs. For more information, phone Melisa Stebleton at (830) 613-1233.

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