

Metro

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PLANO

Dyer says he's proud of how city handled tough economy

Mayor's family work to be focus now that he's not seeking re-election

By MATTHEW WATKINS
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When Phil Dyer ran for Plano mayor in 2009, he said his experience as a banker would help him guide the city through

tough financial times.

"I made the decision [to run] in late 2008 and the economy was just absolutely a mess," he said. "We were in the worst fiscal crisis of 80 years and our budgets were all just really being stressed."

Dyer didn't expect that stress to persist through his entire term. But the city just now seems to be showing signs

that the worst of the budget troubles are over — right when Dyer is getting ready to exit.

He announced last week that he won't seek re-election in May.

That means that two seats will be open in Plano's municipal elections. The other will be the Place 8 seat on the council, where incumbent Lee Dunlap has reached his term limit.

Places 2 and 4 will also be up for election. Incumbents Lissa Smith and Ben Harris said they plan to run again.

One candidate, former council member Harry LaRocca, has already announced plans to run for mayor. Filing in all races begins Jan. 30.

Even though he'll likely never get a chance to govern during boom times, Dyer said

he's proud of the way the city handled the difficult times on his watch.

"During the first three years in office, we cut nearly \$40 million out of the budget," he said. "We got through it all without a tax increase and most of the citizens did not see much, if any, reduction in city services."

The city has retained its sol-

id bond rating — a sign of financial health — and remains one of the safest cities in the state, he said. And Plano has mostly managed to avoid the divisiveness and messy political fights that other governments have struggled with in recent years, he said.

"I would say that Mayor Dy-

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KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ANNIVERSARY



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

Dave Perry has challenged and derailed the wildest of JFK assassination conspiracy theories — a "one-man truth squad," some call him. His dogged pursuit has discredited a Dallas woman's story of LBJ's complicity in the assassination.

Conspiracy theorists beware: 'one-man truth squad' on job

Dave Perry debunks allegations, including a woman's claims of a Dallas cabal attended by LBJ

By HUGH AYNESWORTH
Special Correspondent

He has challenged and derailed the wildest of JFK-assassination conspiracy theories — a "one-man truth squad," some call him.

There was the West Texas man who claimed his father, a Dallas cop, killed the president; the federal prisoner who confessed he shot JFK from the so-called grassy knoll; and the Louisiana woman who revealed she was assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's lover in New Orleans and knew of the plot in advance.

Dave Perry has slapped them all down.

As the 49th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination nears, Perry finds himself revered by many and reviled by others — those who come up with more and more allegations of deceit and official cover-up.

"It irritates me when, for nothing more than self-promotion or monetary gain, individuals modify and damage the historic record," Perry said. "It proves a disservice to those who wish to get to the truth of this tragic event."

At 69, Perry, who lives in Grapevine, hasn't slowed his assault on conspiracy theorists. His website, davesjfk.com, is chock-full of old and new stories and page upon page of assassination talk.

But perhaps the most titillating of the conspiracy stories, at least for Dallas residents, is the one published in *The Dallas Morning News* on Nov. 6, 1982, under the headline: "Dallas Woman Claims She Was LBJ's Lover."



File 1960/The Associated Press

A woman who claimed to be a lover of Lyndon B. Johnson (right, with then-Sen. John F. Kennedy) got plenty of attention. But she told some tall tales, Perry found.

Perry disproved the allegation years ago but only this year found new evidence he says bolsters his conclusions.

The story told of a Dallas woman who alleged she had been a longtime lover of former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Madeleine Duncan Brown told a packed news conference that for many years, before Johnson died in 1973, she had met LBJ in various places for love trysts. She said the affair lasted from 1949, the year Johnson became a senator, until the late 1960s.

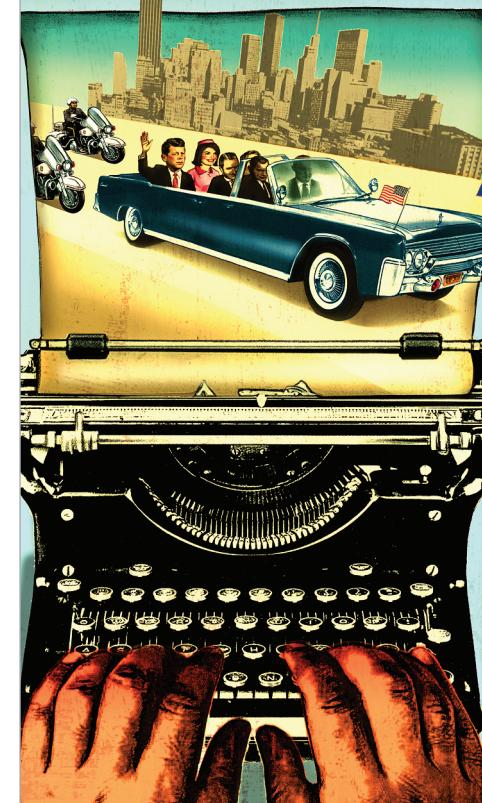
Obviously enjoying the attention, Brown spun quite a tale that day about an alleged party held at the Preston Road home of the late multimillionaire Clint Murchison Sr. the night before Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

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ARTS & LIFE

Dallas and JFK: Sorting the fiction

Which novels get it right when telling the story of the assassination? 1E



He leans right, has right idea

Roger Kislingbury was only 6 when his father died. But he remembers well his father's parting words of guidance.

"He said, 'Son, don't give your mother any trouble and protect your country.'

Roger, 85, jokes that his mother repeated that first part so often that he couldn't possibly forget it. And that second part came naturally as he came of age during World War II.

He enlisted in the Navy at age 17. "Like all the boys, I couldn't wait to go in," he said. That was 1944, and he was soon serving aboard a high-speed sub chaser in the South Pacific.

And today, almost 70 years later, Roger is still heeding his father's words. He's still fighting to protect his country. But now he's armed with a sharp pencil, a calculator and stacks of budget documents.

This time the enemy is the national debt.

"Lots of people talk about it, but I don't think many people really understand it," the Garland resident said.

Roger was an accounting manager by profession. But he realized several years ago that even his understanding of the debt problem was superficial. So he began to study.

The more he studied, the more alarmed he became — and surprised at some of his findings.

Roger has been a lifelong Republican. And there were some things he deeply believed, such as the idea that we're overtaxed.

But the income-tax figures revealed something different. "Today, we have the lowest tax rates since 1944," he said.

Another historical fact jumped out at him. "With every war, we raised tax rates. But we didn't this last time. We went the other way. We lowered taxes," he said.

And bit by bit, it became obvious to him how we dug ourselves into a deep \$16 trillion hole.

As he looked at the numbers, Roger was forced to reassess his lifelong belief that Republicans are the debt fighters. He was especially pained to see that his hero, Ronald Reagan, presided over one of the biggest jumps in debt.

"Look at this," Roger said, using a pencil eraser to page rapidly through the federal records. "Yes, Reagan reduced taxes during his eight years. But look here, the debt went up 186 percent. It almost tripled," he

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