

Westbank Chat

Name and age: John Kinnaird, 51.

Place of birth: Houston.

Family: Lanette Kinnaird, photographer, mother of four; Nick Kinnaird, freshman at the University of Texas studying physics, Maris Kinnaird, senior at Westlake High School; River Kinnaird, a second-grader at Eanes Elementary School; and Aidan Kinnaird, a first-grader at Eanes Elementary School.

Education: Bachelor's degree in advertising UT.

Occupation: Owner, Elements Group, Mangia Pizza, Applied Reasoning and Investor.

Civic or other non-profit activities: Elements Group's School Partner Program, Meals on Wheels volunteer, WHLL coach, Supporter of EEF, Eanes Elementary School and UT.

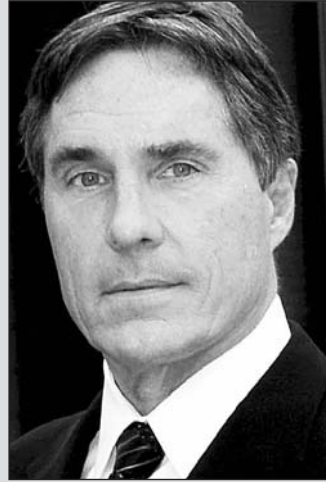
What is your latest project? Creating a software-as-a-service company.

Hobbies: Guitar, weightlifting, travel, snow-skiing.

What person do you feel had a big impact on the Westbank area and why? I don't know him very well, but when I see Jim Strickland's work for the Eanes school district, Western Hills Little League and other organizations, I'm impressed. He lives a life of service and has done so for many years.

Which of your professional or civic-oriented accomplishments makes you the most proud? I started at Dell as a telephone salesperson and rose through the ranks to run a number of multi-billion dollar divisions. When I look back at those years, I realize how truly lucky I am.

Excluding family members, who influenced you most and why? Working for Michael Dell for more than 13 years was a fantastic experience. He influenced me in



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many ways. His perseverance and focus on facts will stay with me forever. It's how I try to run my companies.

What is an interesting fact about you that people probably don't know? I have a twin brother who is a golf pro.

What is your fondest childhood memory? Playing Little League baseball. Our team went from worst to first in two years. I learned how to handle adversity and success. I'll always remember the toughness of our wheelchair-bound coach and how my teammates became my friends.

What is in your iPod? I love my iPhone. It's filled to the brim with thousands of songs and applications – Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson, Michael Murphy, Neil Young and many, many more. My wife thinks I'm addicted to it.

My most humorous moment was: I used to travel all over the world for Dell Computer and had many adventures and misadventures in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The only one I'm willing to talk about is the time I drank the finger bowl at a formal dinner in Lisbon. The dinner went from a very stressful, quiet affair to a fun-filled one – at my expense.