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Southwest

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May 2010

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of College**

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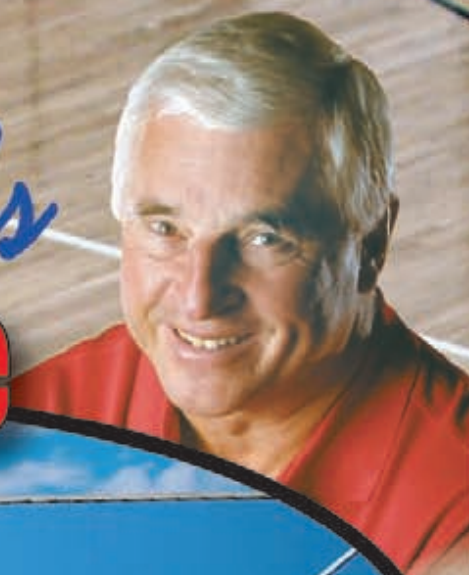
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Summer School

Elementary	June 8-25
MS - ELA & Math	June 9-25
MS - Science/Social Studies	July 13-30
High School I	June 14-July 2
High School II	July 13-30

Academic Camps

Math Gr. 3-11	June 14-17
Reading Gr. 3-8	June 21-24
Science Gr. 2-8	June 28-July 1
Writing Gr. 3-7	July 12-15

Sports Camps

Baseball Gr. 1-9	June 14-17
Girls Basketball Gr. 4-9	June 14-17
Boys Basketball Gr. 2-9	July 12-16
Football Camp Gr. 2-9	June 7-10
Football Eagles Gr. 9-12	June 14-July 15
Girls Soccer Gr. K-9	June 28-July 1
Tennis Gr. 3-12	3 camp weeks
Track & Field Gr. 9-12	June 28-30
Volleyball Gr. 6-9	June 21-24
Volleyball Gr. 9-12	July 26-29

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2010-11 Kinder and New Student Information

Please bring the following for kindergarten and new student registration: original copy of birth certificate; immunization records; social security card; report cards/transcripts (if available); proof of residency (water, gas/electric bill), parent or guardian driver's license. Check the Web at www.desotoisd.org for details.

Kindergarten Registration May 10-21; 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m. at each school
New Student Registration August 9-20; 8-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m. at each school

calendar of events

May 3-7 - Teacher Appreciation Week!
May 3-14 - District Transfer Request Period (intra-district requests for 2010-11)
May 4, 4-7 p.m. - Volunteer and Mentor Appreciation Reception, Town Center
May 8 - Election Day
May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28 - Board Meetings, DeSoto ISD Board Room
May 17-18 - TAKS Testing, see Web site for details
May 19 - Early Release Day for Students
May 31 - Memorial Day Holiday, No school
June 4, 7 p.m. - Last Day of School; DHS Graduation, Dallas Convention Center
June 7-Aug. 20 - FREE Summer Meal Program, Cockrell Hill, East MS, DHS
August 7, 8 a.m. - DeSoto ISD Back to School Fair, Freshman Campus

www.desotoisd.org

Back to School FAIR!

Mark the Date:
Saturday, August 7 - 8 a.m.

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Southwest
Cedar Hill - DeSoto - Duncanville

The Community Magazine
Serving Cedar Hill, DeSoto,
Duncanville and the
Surrounding Area

NOW
MAGAZINE

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On The Cover

Rambling Roads, digital art created by Julie Dandford.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

Editor's Note

Hello, Southwest Friends,

This May, my husband and I will be married for 30 years. Wow. My children are all in their 20s, and both my boys will be moving into new homes they have just purchased. My girls continue to reach the world, both in their travels and through the lives they impact in youth and children's ministry training. I still have my first husband, two delightful daughters-in-law and two adorable grandsons. I guess it has been a pretty good 30 years.

To further illustrate how time flies, read about a Duncanville couple who collect clocks and teach children all about time. Donate your time to the DeSoto Great Days of Service Project or drop in at Cedar Hill's Collegiate High School or The Canterbury Episcopal School — both innovative college-prep schools serving the Southwest. I plan to experiment with recipes from a Duncanville marshal.

Beverly Shay
SouthwestNOW Editor

P.S. Send your story ideas to bshay.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.



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IN PURSUIT of College

— By Beverly Shay

Who would not want their child to receive the absolutely best education possible, especially if that education was college preparatory? Not every family can afford to pay prep school tuition, but what if there were another alternative? Although she lives in Rowlett, Usamah Rodgers was intrigued and eager to be part of the formulation of just such an innovative, redesigned high school in Cedar Hill. Ms. Rodgers, principal of Cedar Hill Collegiate High School, has 17 years of educational experience under her belt, following her bachelor's in education from Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) and her master's in education from The University of Texas at Austin.

"I have worked as an elementary school teacher, as well as in campus administration on the elementary, middle and high school levels," Ms. Rodgers stated. "My work in traditional high schools led me to conclude that, by and large, the educational system is broken. Faculty and staff end up spending more time addressing safety and security than educating students. When I attended a conference about college readiness, I felt they offered a key."

In the fall of 2008, Cedar Hill Independent School District (CHISD) was looking to implement some forward-looking



educational plans by creating a different type of charter school — an early college high school. "We feel so fortunate to have Ms. Rodgers. She has done an exceptional job of taking the concept to its current level," remarked Dr. Homer Carter, chief academic officer for CHISD. "She worked well with the [Cedar Valley College] people to develop this program. We feel we have the best of the best, in faculty and staff and students. This school is exactly what the superintendent envisioned. We are so blessed to have been selected as one of eight schools out of many in the state who applied to receive the TEA [Texas Education Agency] grant for an early college high school. We had to show our school board would support and not abandon the program," Dr. Carter recalled. "But really, the kids are the champions of this whole thing."

"Our goal is to recruit students who are underrepresented in higher education," explained Ms. Rodgers, "including minorities, first-generation college attendees, economically disadvantaged and those who meet the at-risk criteria." (Students outside of that targeted area may also attend as space allows.) The TEA grant, along with CHISD's partnership with parents, community members and Cedar Valley College established the new school. The school's mission statement identifies their objectives as offering a smaller, more personalized learning community to prepare students for challenging college studies through academic rigor, relevant coursework and development of school/community relationships that will continue beyond education.

"For me," commented Greg Cowell, whose daughter, Kelly, is a student, "it made sense financially because the students are

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getting two years of college education free through the dual-credit program with Cedar Valley. I found out about the school on the CHISD Web site (www.chisd.com). In many ways the school is tougher and more demanding than other public schools, yet in other ways, it is more relaxed. Enrolling a child in this school is not a light decision, and a lot rides on how much each parent and child wants to put into their education here." Currently, Cedar Valley College professors bring the dual-credit courses to the campus on Tuesdays and Thursday for the ninth- and 10th-graders. Students



"We think of each other as family, so we care for each other."

in the 11th and 12th grades will attend classes at Cedar Valley.

"We are committed to the rigor, relevance and relationships on which this school is built," remarked Ms. Rodgers. "Students are challenged to study and apply concepts through writing and project-based learning, which requires relationship and cooperation among the students. Students are also expected to complete 1,000 hours of community service by graduation."

Second year student, Shunkcia Lewis, a 10th-grader, remarked, "The school is very rigorous; but I tend to overachieve anyway. You do have to commit to keep up and study. I think it's good practice for my college years. The Cedar Valley teachers don't treat us any different than their students. They lecture a lot. As far as relationships go, I think the parents need to hold their kids accountable and cheer them on. I am doing this for my mom and my family, as the first-

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generation college student. I used to be afraid of going to college, but now I know I can. And we have a lot of fun here with talent shows and karaoke and pizza parties as rewards for our work. Trust is also a big factor at the school. We think of each other as family, so we care for each other.”

Greg, a frequent volunteer at the school, commented on how tight the students are with each other. “They eat in the ninth-grade center, but they come right back here. When school is over, you practically have to run them out of the school to get them to go home.”

For Tonya Glasco, whose daughter, Aminika, is a ninth-grader, her goal in wanting her daughter to attend the collegiate school was the opportunity and experience she would gain. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted at college or how to go about getting it, so I wasted a lot of college hours. I want my daughter to be more focused and use her college time wisely,” Tonya remarked.

Aminika wants to eventually become a pediatrician. Shunkecia is planning to get her master’s in psychology, especially to work with children. “My psychology class really grabbed my interest. I want to understand mental processes,” she said. Greg’s daughter, Kelly, wants to become a neonatal nurse and some of her volunteer hours have been spent working at Methodist Charlton Medical Center.

For Tonya, whose daughter had to miss quite a bit of school because of health issues, the teachers have gone out of their way to help. “I had to keep reminding her she was capable, and Tonya has thanked me for pushing her, but the good relationships with the teachers also helped.”

Both the parents and Shunkecia spoke of the open-door policy among the teachers, who will listen and work with students. “There’s at least one teacher each student feels they can go to for class help or just to talk,” remarked Shunkecia.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime,” said Ms. Rodgers, who credits the CHISD with doing their homework to provide this type of a premier school. “We have such a great group of parents, students and faculty, all working together to do what’s best for the students.” **NOW**



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For the Good of All

— By Beverly Shay



Webster's New World Dictionary defines community as "all the people living in a particular district or city; a group living together as a smaller social unit within a larger one, having interests, work, etc. in common; a group of nations loosely or closely associated because of common traditions or for political or economic advantage; society in general; friendly associations; ownership or participation in common." For the movers and shakers, planners and makers behind the coming event called DeSoto Great Days of Service, community is people coming together to show the love of God toward their fellow men who are in need of a helping hand. "It's just another way, an amazing project to love and care for others," stated David Scott, of the DeSoto Independent School District (DSISD). This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, June 19, and Wednesday-Saturday, June 23-26.

The program, initially proposed by the Reverend John Kay, local First United Methodist Church pastor, was based on a

similar project he had witnessed in Sherman, Texas. Before it got off the ground, Rev. Kay was sent to pastor in another city. The original plan for the DeSoto project called for local churches to band together by serving the community in such activities as painting houses, doing yard work, visiting nursing homes and conducting food drives for the food pantry. "We were doing as Christ taught: Go, serve your neighbors and thereby bring the Good News. The program kicked off in 2005, so we are now in our sixth year," David remarked.

Some of the needs they encountered obviously touched their hearts. "There was one man, who had cared for his wife through 12 years of illness. When she died, he spiraled into depression and basically quit taking care of anything for the next five years. His house was in pretty sad shape," David related. "But we were able to take off the outside framing and install new siding and new insulation. The work we did gave him the will to go on, and he began to care about life again. When you drive by his house now, you can see he is keeping it up. He just needed someone to care about him and pull him out of the slump he was in."

For the first four years, the project was overseen by Debby Baugh and Linda Harris; however, recently, Andre Houser (human resource director for the city) and Cammy Jackson (president of the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce) head up a host of volunteers. "We have set criteria for those we will help with five basic projects," Andre explained. "Operation Eden provides landscaping needs, such as: cleaning out trash,



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"It's just another way, an amazing project to love and care for others."

wheelchair ramps," David added.

To qualify for assistance, an application must be filled out and turned in to the city, defining financial or physical needs and proving there is no one in their family who can meet that need. Applicants cannot be a member of the participating churches. "We feel churches should take care of their own members. We are reaching out to those who truly have no one else to help," David remarked. The homes must be owner-occupied, without any family members who would be able to meet the needs of their relatives. "We don't mow yards of homes where teenagers reside," David grinned.

"We have been able to work on some 25-30 houses over the course of the years," Cammy said. "We have such great volunteers. Ten churches participated last year, and many businesses and individuals volunteer, donate money or food for the volunteers or provide discounted supplies, such as paint, lumber or siding."

"I am a senior citizen on a fixed income, and my house desperately needed painting, but I couldn't afford to hire anyone," commented Bernice Hair, one of last year's recipients. "Cammy and her husband were so nice when they came out to inspect and evaluate my needs. The water department had told me about the program. All those volunteers worked so hard and did a tremendous

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job. Even in that horrible heat, no one was standing around,” Bernice recalled. Some 30 volunteers cut and trimmed tree limbs, power washed the bricks, scraped and painted. “And they even gave me the leftover paint so I could touch up as needed,” Bernice smiled.

Each church contributes an amount of money toward supplies, which are stored until needed. All of the volunteers (last year there were over 350) wear the same T-shirt, and church members are mingled among team members to further facilitate this as a community outreach. “We don’t use this time to evangelize; we use this time to work,” David emphasized.

“Last year, the police department and other volunteers went out the Saturday before to clean up project yards, so the painting and repair work could be done on the actual days. The youth team did a great job cleaning up the trash along the Roy Orr Trail. We also had a contemporary Christian concert for the kids. We will be giving them a different project this year,” Cammy remarked. “We start out the first day with a prayer breakfast for the volunteers; once everyone has eaten, we send them off with prayers and their T-shirt. Each project has a skilled team leader and lots of work for those who may or may not have specific skills. It is so true; many hands do make light work! Plus, we always clean up after ourselves.”

Liability insurance, First Aid and lots of water will be provided along with the work oversight. “Last year, Walmart and Helping Hands Foundation provided lots of water, which we needed in the 103-degree heat. We want everyone to know about our project — both to apply for help and to volunteer or donate,” Cammy remarked. “While we receive tremendous support from groups like the Rotary Club and the Lions Club, we can always use additional funding. The more funding and volunteers we have, the more projects we can do over the four-day period.”

To apply for assistance, contact Tracie Hlavinka at (972) 230-9689. Applications must be turned in to the city offices by June 12. Volunteers can sign up with Andre (972) 230-9639 or Cammy (972) 224-3565. **NOW**



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Tick Tock, Tick Tock

— By Antoinette Nevils

“Time is the key,” said a sweet and wise 9-year-old Bella Grimm. Bella enjoys working with clocks, from old-fashioned ones to her favorite — alarm clocks. For Hugh and Evelyn Slough, Bella’s grandparents, their journey with clocks began as a simple hobby years ago. Evelyn worked at a clock convention one day and became interested, and then got her husband involved. “She got me in trouble!” Hugh laughed.

They began taking clock repair classes together and now teach and host classes themselves. They passed their love for their hobby down to their granddaughter, Bella. After watching her grandparents work with clocks, Bella grew to like them, too. She enjoys learning how clocks work and putting them back together. “I like putting in the gears,” she explained. “That’s the hard part.”

Bella told her grandparents and father that she wanted to share their hobby and love for clocks with other children, so she became the inspiration behind the Lone Star Chapter 124 Bella’s Traveling Library Exhibit, a grand display, emphasizing an awareness of, and learning about, clocks. This exhibit not only shows a unique assortment of beautiful clocks, it also shares the value of learning time, clock history and repair.

Hugh and Evelyn are members of the Lone Star Chapter

124, a local chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC), which is an organization formed to learn, teach and preserve horology, the science of measuring time. In October 2009, the Sloughs decided to contact schools and libraries in the area with a plan to put up exhibits displaying different types of clocks. They wanted to promote the education of learning to tell time, reading different types of clocks, how they work and how they are built.

The exhibit started in the Duncanville Public Library, and has since traveled to Euless, Grapevine, Irving and Grand Prairie.

Hugh explained how exhibits are placed in libraries, where more exposure can be generated for both children and adults. “It’s important to [know how to] read an original clock,” he said. “Time is behind everything you do.”

Bella agrees, relating how it is easy for her to tell time now; she finds clocks interesting and important. “It can help you a lot when you have to be somewhere,” she explained.

For Bella’s father, Christopher Grimm, who is also a member of the chapter, the exhibit is all about education. He believes the displays in the libraries are great for children to look at. “It teaches kids how to tell time, tells kids what’s inside [the clock] and how [they can be] wound,” he

said. Christopher discovered the need one day when he was at the library and students kept asking him what time it was. He said they could read the digital clocks, but not analog ones. So, he put an original-style clock on the front desk of the library and



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started teaching children how to tell time when they checked out books. He knew then that this exhibit was important and needed.

Hugh explained how in the process of learning about clocks, students gain stronger math and calculating skills, mechanical skills, measurement and accuracy skills and increase their thinking ability. They also learn how to work with both of their hands and tools, as well as learning construction of timepieces and organization.



The exhibit displays multiple clocks ranging from the 1800s, including a B-26 bomber airplane clock, a 400-day anniversary clock and an Ansonia gingerbread mantel clock. Some of these timepieces are from Germany and Britain, and include ladies' and men's watches and watch jewelry. The display provides fun for the children by displaying colorful clocks painted with or shaped like cartoon characters. Bella is especially interested in these and other fun clocks, especially her favorite pink and yellow Wizard of Oz clock. Also displayed was a Dr. Seuss alarm clock, a SpongeBob Square Pants clock and a Thomas the Tank Engine alarm clock.

For children, more than just fun colors and cartoon characters, it is also about the curiosity of what is really going on inside the timepieces — how they tick. Christopher mentioned that students question how they work and want to experiment with learning the gears and parts. They like to look at everything inside moving. "This was a big motivator for kids to learn," he said.

The family also donated a "My First Clock" toy to Oakwood Terrace Elementary School in Euless. The clear clock enables children to see through it and learn about all the parts. All of the



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gears and parts are in different, bright colors, and students can take the clock apart and put it back together. Teachers and principals were thrilled about the display and its purpose. "It pushes the learning curve," Christopher remarked.

But beyond just clocks, the display also includes educational books and manuals on the subject for both adults and children. The Slough family donates books to local libraries on behalf of the chapter. Evelyn, who acts as exhibit coordinator, finds the exhibits encourage librarians to gain interest and order books funded by the chapter, for the children's library.

The chapter has already funded five horology books for local libraries, which help children learn how to tell time, and explain the history of clocks and calendars. These books come from organizations like the National Geographic and stores like Barnes & Noble. "We want something they can learn from and relate to," Evelyn said.

Besides the exhibit, a time-telling class was scheduled in April at the Duncanville library. The class educated children about sundial clocks. They learned how to make paper sundial clocks and went outside to use the sun's shadow to tell the time. Sundials are some of the earliest clocks in history, and are also easy to make and read. According to Christopher, Fred Flintstone wore a sundial to tell time in his cartoon, which probably sounds cool to children. "When they see sundials, they get really excited," Christopher said.

The Sloughs hope to host more clock classes for children down the road. Hugh thinks this could become a lifetime hobby or even a future new business for children. "They are the future of our organization," he stated. Some schools even offer a degree in horology.

Evelyn indicated all of their efforts are voluntary, free of charge and on behalf of the Lone Star Chapter 124. Their next step is making the Bella Exhibit a permanent, traveling exhibit within their organization. The Slough family wants to spread the word about the Bella Library Exhibit and allow other chapters across the nation to host it. They hope to continue their journey of spreading education on time and clocks. **NOW**



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At Home With Wallace and Lisa Swayze

Close Calls and Stone Walls

— By Janice C. Johnson

If you visit Wallace and Lisa Swayze and their son, Trae, you will likely be impressed with their kind, quiet friendliness. Any of the three will welcome you into their rambling stone home in Cedar Hill. The high-ceilinged living area has tile floors that look like flagstones and the two-story-high stone wall above an open fireplace is regal, yet inviting. The feeling created is that of a strong castle, softened and warmed by polished wood trim and cabinets.



The sturdy eight-year-old home is furnished simply with a natural, relaxed, uncluttered feel, perfectly fitting the family living there. Wallace is the picture of stability and rather prefers to stay out of the spotlight. He works as a software development manager for Hewlett-Packard. Lisa, currently the prayer minister at Trinity Church of Cedar Hill, is a bit more extroverted. Gracious beyond most typical 20-year-olds, Trae studies broadcast communication at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU). Dolly, a Labrador-Blue Heeler mix, roams the house, looking to Lisa for affection. This family may appear to live a peaceful, uneventful life. “We’re just quiet people,” Wallace said. And yet, they have been through some adventures — and a few close calls.

Lisa, reared in Oklahoma, actually spent her teen years heading toward danger unaware. She played bass guitar and wrote songs for a band. “We played in bars and clubs,” she said, “I had a recording contract, too.” But she admitted that her life had been on the wrong track. Then at age 18, she had a true spiritual conversion experience. Her priorities changed with her new life. “I became passionate about the Gospel, and felt called to serve people’s spiritual needs.” Realizing the recording label did not have her true interests at heart, Lisa approached their agent about giving up her contract. She told him, “You don’t want my talent; you want my soul — and that belongs to Someone else.” She came to North Texas and attended classes at Southwestern Assemblies of God College [now SAGU] and has been in the ministry ever since.

Wallace has lived in the DFW Metroplex since his teens,

after moving many times during his childhood. He was an outstanding high school athlete who won a college swimming scholarship. After earning a BBA from The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), he worked as an accountant for a few years, then resigned



to pursue a second degree at SAGU. However, a diploma is not what he came away with. "After I got there, I met Lisa — and once we married I dropped out." The couple lived in Cedar Hill, where Lisa worked for a time at a flower shop. Her ministry work paid little, but she said, "Wallace worked; I preached ... it worked out." She has occasionally performed weddings for which she also arranged the flowers; she still enjoys floral work.



The family expanded in 1989, when Trae was born. Then in 1994, the Swayzes bought a house in east DeSoto. They closed on the mortgage, and a few hours later, ran an errand to buy supplies for the new house. While they were out

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the house was destroyed by the tornado that damaged much of DeSoto and Lancaster. "We were stuck in Walmart for a while — but at least we weren't in the house," Wallace said. Thankful at being kept safe, he and Lisa were also relieved to learn that their homeowner's insurance was in force — although the ink on their first premium check had barely dried. About four years ago when Lisa joined the staff at Trinity Cedar Hill, the family wanted to relocate in the same city. They did not buy their current home until 2009.

Lisa claimed a small office off the entry for her own, while Wallace outfitted a downstairs bedroom as his office. Trae has a first-floor suite. The spacious kitchen features a work island, open shelving for cookbooks and a large dining table. The back deck is furnished with a porch swing Lisa's father built. Upstairs, a media room and sauna are hidden away at the west end of the house. The master bedroom's undraped windows provide Wallace and Lisa with a spectacular view toward Grand Prairie. Lisa pointed out the second-floor deck opening from the room. "We love to come up here on the Fourth of July," she said. "We can watch the fireworks from eight to 10 cities."

As much as they enjoy their home and community, Wallace and Lisa have always loved to travel. Lisa remembers praying early in their marriage for opportunities to do so. When their budget was at its tightest, Wallace found a job with American Airlines. Six months later, he received flight privileges. For their first flight, he and Lisa flew to



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Washington, D.C. for a day. They ate hot dogs on the streets, hurried around to visit the free museums and flew home, enjoying steak on the return flight. "We only spent about \$20 for the whole day," Wallace recalled. He even enjoys business travel. He laughs about the week he spent working in London. "It was during the 'mad cow' era. People told me I was crazy to go to England then." Another time, his employer sent him all the way to Auckland, New Zealand, to attend a one-hour customer support meeting. "It took four days to get there and back," he added.

If anyone ought to buy travel insurance, the Swayzes probably should. On one family trip, Lisa was seriously

injured in a skiing accident, requiring nine surgeries and procedures over the next two months. Almost as bad was her reaction to the medications used: she experienced debilitating sickness for the next seven years. "But then all at once, overnight, I was miraculously healed from that sickness," she said.

They have taken fun-filled vacations to San Diego and Walt Disney World often, thanks to Wallace's travel privileges. The family's most memorable trip, though, was a mission venture to Nepal. Trae was around 11 when they visited the poverty-stricken Third World country. "That was a very eye-opening experience for me," he said, "as an only child who thought the world revolved around me." Wallace

described riding a bus over Nepal's narrow, winding mountain roads, looking down and seeing wrecked vehicles at the bottom of cliffs. Lisa put in, "On one of those mountain turns I was sitting over the back right wheel, and I could feel it was hanging out away from the pavement." Wallace smiled at her. "We enjoy challenges and adventure," he said.

The Swayzes do not seek safety in stone walls or in avoiding risks. They have another room, which illustrates the source of their confidence. A stairwell going up from the second-floor mezzanine leads to a narrow back room with large windows. A Bible rests on a shelf. "We use this," Lisa quietly stated, "as a prayer room." **XXXX**

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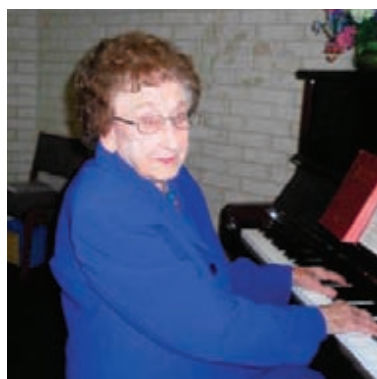
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DeSoto Police Chief Mike Brodnax poses with BBBS Regional Executive Director Diana Phillips.



Canterbury's third-grade class visits the Ellis County Courthouse as a part of their government studies unit.



Superintendent Lloyd Treadwell congratulates Director of Communications Beth Trimble on the Best of Category state award received by the DISD Communications Office.



The DeSoto Education Foundation Gala honors top seniors and the teachers. From left: Taryn Bright and her most influential teacher Mashundra Gray; Brianna Johnson, Randi Lemons, Yen Nguyen and Emily Pierce; Isaac Cerpa and his most influential teacher Beth Wright.

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The "Cameo Club" of the Ms. Texas Senior America organization performs at the Duncanville Senior Center.



Duncanville resident, David Boswell, and DeSoto resident, J King, in a scene from the recently released movie "Angels Love Donuts."



The Cake Guys win the Overall Crowd Favorite Booth at the Taste of Duncanville.



Autumn Stevenson, Will Henley, Jordyn Hill and Ally Henley pose with the Easter Bunny at the City of Duncanville Easter Egg Hunt at Lakeside Park.

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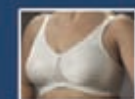


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for the fun of it

— By Beverly Shay

Julie Danford, DeSoto resident of 30 years and president of the DeSoto Art League, excels in art for the fun of it. “I was always kind of interested in art, so I went to college intending to become an art teacher, but I didn’t finish,” Julie admitted. “After years of secretarial work, I earned a BBA with a concentration in computers in 1990.” Computers, it can easily be stated, are Julie’s forte, leaving little mystery at her success in digital art.

One of her first, and definitely continuing, interests in art was stamping, especially making cards. “My sister got me into stamping. I have sold most of the cards I made, although I have a sample of just about every type,” Julie stated, opening a treasure box of creativity. Cards made with water colors, foils, cut-outs and discharges — a technique where the color is removed by using a stamp dipped in bleach — spill across the table in testimony to Julie’s imagination and skill. “Stamping is not limited to cards,” she explained. “One thing I like about stamping is you can make anything you want at any time.” Her first picture made entirely from stamping has a southwestern flair: an adobe building with vases, yucca plants and Indian-type figures.

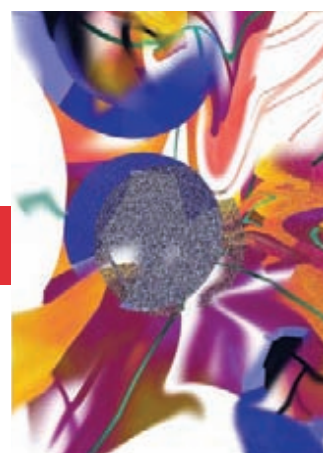
“I have really dabbled in all types of art: watercolors and embossed copper have been some of my favorites,” she said, explaining she stretched the copper to look like grapes. A watercolor in her hallway captures a stream flowing over rocks, surrounded by leafy summer trees. It is a scene from her own mind, inviting you to step into the cool stream and leap from rock to rock. “I love doing rocks,” she stated simply.

“A friend of mine was into casting bronze,” Julie said, holding up a stag. “She showed me how to carve the base from wax,” she said of the rock and log, “and then she cast it for me. I am quite proud of it.”

In 2002, while serving three months on a grand jury, Julie began a close friendship with another card artist, Jody. “Jody introduced me to digital art and showed me how to do it. Many people think digital art is limited to digitally enhancing photographs; that simply doesn’t begin to capture what digital

art really is. Digital art involves creating your own designs and manipulating them layer by layer. As a computer person, who really can’t imagine life without computers, this was right up my alley,” Julie commented and grinned. “I have so much fun doing this.”

Fun is a great component of Julie’s artistic expression. Fun is the motivation and the reward, and quite simply, her art is fun. “While it is a lot of work, it is really a form of play,” Julie remarked and began to create a brand new piece of art using Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0. She began with a blank page, clicked on tools and chose a shape: a rectangle outline; then moved on to effects to pick a gradient field (color) and the direction of its



flow: across right to left, creating a background wash, similar to a watercolor wash, inside the rectangle. Then she added another color, top to bottom, as the background behind her rectangle.

Progressively choosing tools, she “smudged” the color of the rectangle, dragging it around in a feathering motion. “I so like playing with the colors like this,” Julie confessed. She randomly added straight lines of various colors, concluding the first “layer”

of her art. "You save it and can go back and make one change per layer. You can 'grow' or add as many layers as you like," she explained, adding an oval and experimenting with dots, lines and coarser dots to create a textured effect. Choosing a square and copying it to her second layer, she turned it this way and that with her mouse, then merged clouds of color changing the entire look. Settling on one blend, she funneled her square, turning it so it appeared to be coming out of the drawing toward the viewer, creating a three-dimensional look.

"Crackling" the square produces an embossed effect. Then Julie moved it around, "softening" or blurring it to create motion. She reduced the softening



to 75 percent, fading it, smudged it a bit to appear like a cloud drifting away and brought it back to 100 percent. "You can continue to manipulate it until you have achieved the effect you like or simply delete the whole layer. Or you can use the eraser tool to remove color, which looks like an explosion of light," Julie demonstrated. "I never know what direction it will take or what exactly I will create."

Julie has scanned in images, such as a piano and worked from photographs. Once she is satisfied her piece is finished, she can print it on regular or photographic paper on her plotter printer, which uses continuous tones of color in unbelievable resolution and can print as small as a postcard and up to 24" x 64" pieces. Her work is full of shapes, bold colors, lines, textures and movement, culminating in rich, strong images. "I have more fun doing this," Julie admitted. **NOW**

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The Canterbury DIFFERENCE

Canterbury Episcopal School has proven excellence in preparing students for college since 1992. — By Beverly Shay

While The Canterbury Episcopal School offers a faith-based college-preparatory education, they embrace people of all faiths and those who have none. In fact, they consider the diversity of their student body to be one of their most valuable assets, enabling their students to understand and respect those who are different, thus preparing them to both function and thrive globally as informed citizens and lifelong learners.

Lyn Baker, who has served as Head of School for two years and has a background in teaching, as well as administration, stated, “I have always loved children. My heart is to provide a safe and loving environment, where students are nurtured and challenged to become all they are capable of being. Our school emphasizes discovering each child’s unique, individual talents.

Because of our size, each child is known; no one falls through the cracks.”

Lyn emphasized that every child has a story made up of their history, gifts and future. “Our job is to nurture and help the child develop. We see our school as a resource for the parents, in which we partner with them to develop the whole child.”

Canterbury can be summed up best in four Cs: college preparatory, character development, cultural competence and a Christian school. “We have a 99-percent college-acceptance rate. Our students’ SAT and ACT scores are definitely above the norm. We have had students accepted into Harvard University and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

From left:

Boardmember, Greg Williams, his wife and three children (students); one of the school buildings; Head of school, Lyn Baker.

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The class of 2009 was offered over \$2,000,000 in scholarships.

"Character training includes community service hours and a strong honor code," Lyn remarked. "Our diverse community encourages cultural competence. The students develop both friendship with, and respect for, those of diverse backgrounds.

"As a Christian school, we believe all people are made in the image of God; all have worth. From that basis, we celebrate diversity because of the common core value endowed on each from the Creator. The Episcopal tradition welcomes everyone, while remaining Christian in belief and theology. Students do not have to be believers to attend," Lyn explained. "Each week, we share communion as a community, to set the compass for the week. Those not taking communion come forward to receive a blessing."

The school's dedicated faculty and staff not only structure the educational experience to develop mastery of subjects through honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, they have secured four state championships in three sports and provided participation in such programs as Habitat for Humanity.

Greg Williams, partner of KPMG and a parent of three children who have attended Canterbury for five years now, is also a board member. "My wife, Tammy, and I have been active as parents, especially my wife. I was honored to be asked to be on the board; I have a real heart for the mission of Canterbury, which is a 'stand-alone' school, receiving no outside financial support. The board has oversight of the school in areas of budget, strategic vision and fundraising. But I really see our primary role to be ambassadors for the school. We hold ourselves accountable to the parents to deliver an education, which provides excellent value while preparing students for college in a safe environment," Greg noted.

"We want to encourage people from the whole Southwest area to come see the Canterbury difference," Lyn encouraged. "Come visit our beautiful, 37-acre campus, just 20 minutes south of downtown Dallas. We are currently enrolling K-12 for the 2010-11 school year." **NOW**



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In The Kitchen With John Calvillo

— By Faith Browning

John Calvillo has been interested in cooking since the age of 9. “I baked my first batch of cookies at that age, and that’s when I realized that baking soda and soda [soda pop] were two different things,” he laughed. “For Christmas one year I remember asking my dad for a Pizza Hut pizza maker and a soft-serve ice cream maker straight from the Sears Catalog.”

In 1981, John enlisted as a Food Service

Specialist in the United States Marine Corps, where he learned to cook in mass quantities. “Those were some of the best times that I ever had. I worked with individuals from all walks of life. We shared many ideas and traditions with each other,” he recalled. “I still keep in touch with some of my old Marine Corps buddies. The camaraderie was like nothing I had or have ever experienced to this day.” **NOW**



ELDA'S SALSA

- 2 sm. tomatoes
- 4-5 green jalapeños
- 1 sm. can hot or original Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1/4 med. onion
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves
- 1 Tbsp. granulated garlic
- 1 tsp. salt

1. Place tomatoes and jalapeños in medium pot, cover with water, boil until tomatoes begin to burst.
2. Drain water from pot, place tomatoes and peppers in a blender; add remaining ingredients to blender and blend until pureed. Serve once salsa has cooled. Refrigerate.

MEXICAN RICE

- 1 cup rice
- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 Tbsp. bell pepper, finely chopped
- 2 cups water
- 1/3 of 8-oz can (2 1/2 oz.) tomato sauce (I prefer garlic flavored.)
- 1 tsp. cumin, powdered
- 1 tsp. salt

1. Sauté rice in oil until golden brown. Add onion, garlic and bell pepper to rice, sauté until onion is clear.
2. Slowly add water, tomato sauce, cumin and salt. Caution! Steam cloud will develop when you add the water, so don't panic. Stir well until all ingredients are equally distributed. Do not stir anymore. Bring to a boil, then cover pan and simmer on low heat for about 20-25 minutes or until water has been completely absorbed into the rice. Reminder, do not stir. Leave covered until ready to serve.

JOHN BOY'S QUICK CHEESE ENCHILADAS

- 2 cans Wolf Brand Chili
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil

- 1 pkg. corn tortillas
- 8-oz. shredded cheddar cheese (or your choice)
- 1. Heat chili in microwave or on stovetop until warm, set aside.
- 2. Heat oil in skillet. Place tortilla in skillet and fry for about 3-4 seconds on each side, being careful not to tear tortilla. Place tortilla on paper towel-lined plate. Repeat process until you have enough for the desired number of enchiladas.
- 3. Take each tortilla and fill it with 1/3 cup cheese and roll tightly; place on separate plate, seam side down.
- 4. Spread 1/4 to 1/3 cup of chili onto 2-3 enchiladas, sprinkle 2 Tbsp. of cheese on top of chili.
- 5. Place in microwave for 1 minute or until cheese melts. Serve with rice.

MIGAS (CRUMBS)

- 3 Tbsp. corn or vegetable oil
- 8 corn tortillas
- 4 eggs, beaten
- Salt
- Pepper

Shredded cheese (optional)

1. Heat oil in medium-sized skillet. Cut or tear tortillas into 1-inch pieces; place tortillas into skillet, and stir until pieces have light coat of oil and are soft or cook to near crunchy, according to your preference.
2. Pour eggs into skillet and stir until eggs are cooked to your liking.
3. Salt and pepper to taste, top with cheese and salsa if desired. *Migas* can be eaten at any meal.

TOSTADAS

- Tostada shells/store bought or homemade (fry corn tortilla in corn oil)
- 2 small cans Ranch Style Beans, regular or jalapeño
- 1 head lettuce, shredded or diced

- 2 med. tomatoes, diced small
 - 8-oz pkg. shredded cheese
 - Sour cream (optional)
 - Salsa (optional)
 - 1. Pour beans into medium-sized pot. (Drain half the liquid so your beans don't come out too runny.) Heat beans until they start to boil; remove from heat.
 - 2. Mash beans completely with potato masher; place beans back on stove on low heat for about 7-10 minutes.
 - 3. Spread desired amount of beans onto shell, then layer with lettuce, tomatoes and cheese.
- Note: If I decide to use sour cream and salsa, I usually layer it on top of the beans; I then finish adding my remaining ingredients.*

JOHN BOY'S CHILI

- 1 lb. ground beef (80/20 mix)
- 1 lb. Owens Sausage (hot or mild)
- 1 small onion, diced small
- 1 cup bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup celery, diced
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 28-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 28-oz. can crushed or diced tomatoes
- 1 15-oz. can red kidney beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 15-oz. can Ranch Style Beans
- 1 15-oz. can Ranch Style Pinto Beans with jalapeños
- 1 small can Ro-Tel tomatoes (Original or Hot)
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 2 Tbsp. granulated garlic
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder (more if desired)
- 1 1.25-oz. pkg. McCormick's Chili Seasoning Mix
- 1. Brown ground beef and sausage with onions in large skillet. Pour cooked meat into medium to large pot; set aside.
- 2. In the same skillet, sauté bell pepper and celery in butter until soft; add to ground beef. Add remaining ingredients, mix well.
- 3. Cook on low heat for about 3 hours, covered. Garnish with shredded cheese and diced onions if desired.



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Mother's Day is almost upon us. This year, in addition to giving Mom some flowers and a card, why not brighten her day — and her future — by making a financial gift?

Your first thought might be that giving your mother a check may seem “tacky.” But these days, everyone can use a little extra cash. However, you can find other types of financial gifts that can have a longer-lasting impact.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

• Help Mom fund her IRA.

If your mother is still working, she can contribute to an IRA — and she should. Either a traditional or Roth IRA is a great way to build tax-advantaged savings for retirement. Yet most people don't fully fund their IRAs each year. In 2010, your mother can put in \$5,000 to her IRA, or \$6,000 if she's 50 or older. While you can't directly contribute to her IRA, you can write a check for that purpose.

• Purchase an investment for Mom.

If you can afford it, consider giving a few shares of stock, possibly issued by companies that make products or services your mother uses. (If you give shares that you own, you'll need to keep records of your initial sales price; this information will be useful to your mother if she ever sells the shares and needs to pay capital gains taxes.) If you think your mother could benefit from an increase in her cash flow, you might consider giving her a corporate or government bond, which can provide regular interest payments.

• Take care of a debt payment.

The lower your mother's debt payments, the more she can put away for retirement. While you probably aren't in a position to pay off all her debts, perhaps you could handle a car or credit card payment as a Mother's Day gift.

• Make a charitable gift in Mom's name.

Your mother probably supports many worthy causes — and a financial gift to any one of them, in her name, would probably please her greatly. Furthermore, your generosity may provide you with an immediate tax deduction, assuming the group to which you donate meets

the tax deductibility guidelines established by the IRS. In fact, if you donated an appreciated asset, such as a stock, you could possibly get two tax breaks: a deduction on this year's taxes and the avoidance of capital gains taxes that will result from the eventual sale of an asset. Before donating this type of asset, though, consult with your tax advisor.

• Provide Mom with some financial education.

If your mother doesn't know much about investing, you might get her a book on the topic. Or, better yet, if you have a financial advisor whom you trust, introduce him or her to your mother. Once your mother enters her pre-retirement and retirement years, she may have many issues — such as cash flow management, estate planning and investing to stay ahead of inflation — for which she could use the help of a financial professional.

Mother's Day comes and goes in a day, but by making the right type of financial gift to your mother, your generosity can be felt for years to come. **NOW**

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Patient Portals Can Improve Patient Care

— By *Arika Harden*

Throughout the years, our culture has become more dependent on the Internet. Online shopping, banking and social networking have become common practices of our culture, so why would quality healthcare via Internet be uncommon? Some skeptics might assume that medical practices have replaced personal interaction with virtual communication; however, patient portals can make doctor visits easier. Many sites are designed from the patient's perspective, so they can offer money- and time-saving services, as well as increase overall patient satisfaction.

It saves time.

Women are multitaskers, so time is very important. If and when we make doctor's appointments, they are usually scheduled around work, practices, errands and, on rare occasions, down-time. Some medical practices have created online patient portals to offer time-saving services such as: online appointment



requests, prescription refills and downloadable forms. Patients can finally put time back on their side. No lines. No hold-times.

It saves money.

Online bill pay is another feature medical practices incorporate in their portals. Also available is a wealth of educational information for patients to review and get answers. Patient portals open up communication by allowing patients to be detailed with their symptoms and not let fear of co-payment replace the importance of their health. "Dealing" with health issues never ends in a cost-effective manner.

Increased number in satisfied patients.

Patient portals offer simple solutions

to make easier doctor visits. Trust and dependability can be built with that particular practice, which allows medical staff and clinicians to focus their time on patients whose situations might require further attention or treatment. Patient and billing information is more accurate since both are inputted by the patient and not over the phone, which can make an office visit run smoothly.

Interactive patient portals can save both time and money for the patients who use them. Walking through the open doors of the portals can provide better medical service and perhaps an improved willingness to see your doctor. **NOW**

Arika Harden
Trinity Women's Center



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SALVIAS FOREVER

— By Nancy Fenton

Finally, it looks and feels like spring! There is still time to find and plant some great plants that will bloom spring, summer and fall. Salvias are among these great types of plants. They are also known as sages. The most common are: Pineapple Sage, Mexican Bush Sage, Autumn Sage, Scarlet or Lipstick Sage, Mealy Cup Sage and Garden Sage.

These plants make up an increasingly popular group of shrubby perennials, which do well in alkaline soil and dry conditions. Growing from 15 inches to 6 feet high, depending on the type you select, they can fill blank spots in your home landscape with color. All they need is sunshine, and not even a full day at that, for they will do well in light afternoon shade. Once established, they take little care or water. This is one of the plants I use to get my landscaping to the point that it can do without me, if heavily mulched, for at least three weeks in the hot Texas summers!

Most salvia will die down in the early winter. After the foliage dies back in the late fall, I cut them back to within two or three inches of the ground and remulch them for a little extra winter protection. But in true perennial form, they rise again with the coming of spring! New growth comes from the roots. Any longer limbs that get stuck under the mulch will root and start their own little plants to be shared with friends if the plants do not fit in your flower bed.

Try some of these Texas-friendly plants. You will not be disappointed, and they can be with you forever! **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.



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Mondays

Parkinson's Group exercise class: 6:30-7:30 p.m. first three Mondays; last Monday: support group: 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 298-4556.

First Mondays

Readers On The Hill Book Club: 7:00 p.m. at CH Library (972) 291-7323.

Second Mondays

Diabetes Support Group: 6:00 p.m. at Methodist Charlton. (214) 947-7262.

Tuesdays

Senior Access Tai Chi classes: 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Methodist Charlton. Cost: \$6. (214) 947-4628.

Teenagers' Game Time: 4:30-6:00 p.m. at CH Library. www.zulabwylielib.org.

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 6:00-8:00 p.m. at 658 Big Stone Gap, Duncanville. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Second Tuesdays

The Dallas Area Writers Group: 7:00 p.m. at CH Library. Visit dallaswriters.org.

Third Tuesdays

CareVan Free Immunization Clinic (2 months to 18 years): 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville. (972) 689-8285. Clinic only open while school is in session; will resume again in August.

Thursdays

Sound Options Pregnancy Center parenting class: 4:00-6:00 p.m. at 658 Big Stone Gap, Duncanville. RSVP (972) 230-8101.

Third Thursdays

Visual Artist of Cedar Hill (VACH): 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Creative Arts School for ages 18 plus, 1435 N. U.S.-67 S. (at The Ranch).

Fridays

Walking program: 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Methodist Charlton, conference room 6. (214) 947-4628.

First and Second Fridays

Line dancing in the Methodist Charlton auditorium: 11:00 a.m.-noon. Reservation required: (214) 947-4628.

Second Saturdays

Baby Boutique Resale: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Sound Options Pregnancy Services 658 Big Stone Gap, Duncanville. (972) 230-8101.

Third Saturdays

Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m. at J.W.

Happening **NOW**

Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln.
(972) 291-1505.

Ongoing

New classes at the CH Recreation Center.
Register online at cedarhilltx.com or at center
(972) 293-5288. Making Portraits: Tuesdays,
6:30-8:30 p.m. 12-week class cost: \$20/class or
\$215/course. Indoor Cycling (Spin): Tuesday/
Thursday: 7:00-8:00 a.m.; Monday/Wednesday:
8:00-9:00 p.m. Cost: \$40/month; \$10/drop in.

May 1

Mother/Son "All Sports" Dance: 2:00-
4:00 p.m. at CH Recreation Center, 310 E.
Parkerville Rd. For boys ages 12/under and
their mothers, support for their favorite
team. Includes: professional photo, light
refreshments and dancing; music provided by
DJ Rudy. Cost \$15/person. (cedarhilltx.com).

May 2 and 6

National Day of Prayer. Theme: "For Such a
Time as This." Events: neighborhood prayer
and passing out door hangers: May 2: 3:00 p.m.
in your own neighborhoods. Prayer on May 6:
noon at Hillcrest Baptist Church; 7:00 p.m. at
Longhorn Stadium.

May 3-10

CH Recreation Center Membership Special,
\$10 off 3-month membership, additional
special for members if they refer a friend who
buys 3-month membership.

May 4

CH Library computer classes on tracing your
family history on the Internet; free use of
genealogy databases at library: 9:00 a.m.

CH library computer confidence class: learn to
use the World Wide Web: 7:00 p.m.

May 5

DeSoto Library celebrates Cinco de Mayo:
10:30 a.m. featuring Jacco Valarde, Latin
American ethnic music performer: magic and
rhythms of music from Aztecs, Incas and
Mayans with a bamboo pan pipe, an unusual
armadillo shell guitar and a high-pitched
goat-hoof rattle.

The Duncanville Women's Club luncheon
meeting: 11:00 a.m. at Golf Club of Dallas.
Soup and salad buffet: \$14/person featuring
Dave Tanner, fifth-generation Texan
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(972) 572-0608 or Jean Hamby (972) 223-5713.

Cinco de Mayo celebration at CH library: 6:00
p.m. with Mariachi band and refreshments.

May 6

e-Women Network Luncheon: noon-2:00 p.m.



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May 6-8

Friends of CH library's Annual Book Sale: regular library hours. (Note: May 6 is reserved for Friends of the Library.)

May 8

Cedar Hill Rotary Club's 4th Annual Head for the Hills Bike Rally. Registration: 6:00 a.m. Four courses: 10-mile casual ride, 20-, 42- and 64-mile rides. Races start times are staggered beginning with 64-milers: 8:00 a.m. Proceeds benefit local charities: Bridges Safehouse, Cedar Hill Food Pantry, CH Library, CPAAA, T.R.O.T., Friends of the TriCity Animal Shelter, Brighter Tomorrows, as well as Rotary international charities.

City Impact of Lakeview Community Church is having a yard sale benefiting Bridges Safehouse: 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in parking lot of Clark Dental Group, 211 W. Beltline, Cedar Hill. Donations accepted. (469) 272-4441.

Duncanville's Sweep It Out Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Armstrong Park for disposal of your "junk." Recycle E-waste: computers, CD/DVD/VCR players, cell phones, copy/FAX machines, printers and satellite TV equipment. Bring up to three boxes of papers to be shredded. www.duncanville.com/events.

May 12

DeSoto Public Library's last story time until the end of summer: a party of stories, crafts and cupcakes: 10:30 a.m.

May 15

International Museum of Cultures hosts a 5K run, 1.5-mile walk and a family stroll: 9:00 a.m. at 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, featuring food, music and prizes for ages 10-70. 5K/walk early registration by May 7: adults: \$15; students/teams of 5 or more: \$10; free gift for first 50 children under 10 registered. Family Stroll early registration (by May 7): \$20. Race day registration: \$20. (972) 708-7406 or www.internationalmuseumofcultures.org.

May 18

Taste of Cedar Hill and Business Expo: 4:00-5:00 p.m. seniors only; 5:00-8:00 p.m. open to everyone at Cedar Hill High School gym. Cost: \$5/seniors or students; \$8/adults. (972) 291-7817 or info@cedarhillchamber.org.

May 22

2nd Annual Big Hat Tea Party benefiting Bridges Safehouse: 10:00 a.m.-noon at the home of Lois Cannady 202 W. Broad, Cedar Hill.



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