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Grades 9-12 June 13-30 - 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Summer School, Credit Recovery and Acceleration; EOC Camp-FREE \$125 per session; breakfast & lunch included

Grades 6-8 June 13-30 - Summer School, Grade Replacement \$125 or 2 for \$200
June 8-30 - Summer Tech Program, \$75
June 10-July 1 - Field Trip Fridays, price varies
June 8-30 - STAAR SSI (8th Gr.) Reading & Math-FREE

Grades 5-7 June 6-July 1 - GREAT: Gang Resistance Education and Training, FREE

Grades K-5 June 13-30 - Summer School, ESL, ESY, STAAR SSI-FREE
June 6-24 - Camp Explore, \$50 per week; \$150 3 weeks \$75 for full day (after-camp care)

Sports Camps - Tennis, boys and girls basketball, football, baseball and volleyball camps!

Summer Feeding - June 6-July 1, July 18-29 (DHS only in July)
7:15-8 a.m. Breakfast; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
Locations: Cockrell Hill, Woodridge ES, West MS, DHS



The 2016 6A Boys Basketball State Champions - DeSoto High School Eagles

Calendar

Friday, May 6, 5 p.m. - Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony, DHS
Monday, May 9 & 23 - Board Meeting, Board Room
Thursday, May 19 - Eagle Olympics, MPC
Thursday, May 19, 5:30 p.m. - Volunteer and Partner Celebration, DHS
Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day Holiday, All Closed
Thursday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. - DHS Graduation, Eagle Stadium
Friday, June 3 - Last Day of School, Early Release

NEWS TO KNOW

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

Join Supt. David Harris for candid conversations about your campus and DeSoto ISD.

- Tues., May 24 - 7:30 a.m. @ West MS

KINDER AND PRE-K ROUND UP

Pre-K and Kinder Registration May 2-3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the DeSoto Town Center. For eligibility criteria and items needed to register, visit desotoisd.org

HALL OF HONOR INDUCTION

The DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony for the Class of 2016 will be held Friday, May 6 at 5 p.m. at DeSoto High School. The event is free and open; RSVP cynthia.thomas@desotoisd.org

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

- Dr. Jelani Ingram
- Rachel Thomas
- Warren Seay, Jr.
- Christopher Vinson

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BOARD ELECTION

The DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees Election will be held Saturday, May 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Candidates are:

- Place 1: Carl Sherman
- Place 2: Van Stripling, Kathy Goad

STUDENT REGISTRATION OPEN

New students are able to register online now for the fall! Students interested in Selective Enrollment (criteria-based in academics, attendance and discipline) can complete the application form online.

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SUMMER ADMIN. HOURS

Administration offices will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday in June and July; closed July 4-15.

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ON THE COVER



Eika Johnson is proud to teach engineering students like Hannah Ismail.

Photo by Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

Spring has definitely sprung! It seems like the days just fly by as I add upcoming events to my calendar. Strange, I thought changing to Daylight Saving Time would save me time. Boy, was I wrong! I am getting up earlier to get things done in order to enjoy the daylight. Peculiar, but I am not saving any time. I am spending it faster than ever before.

That is no complaint — just my realization that I may have been squandering some of my past days. Is there is a certain age that brings a greater awareness of time moving faster than a speeding bullet?

These days, my time-management skills are really getting a good workout. I arise at 4:45 a.m., head to the gym, take Charlie for his walk and then really kick into gear by 7:00 a.m., just as the sun peeks through my office blinds. As it does, I count my blessings!

From my heart and pen,

Jo


Jo Monroe

North Ellis Co. NOW Editor

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Saturday, May 21st
7:00 P.M.

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Thursday, May 26th
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June 15th
Pat McIntosh

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June 22nd
Joel Slater

ABORTION

June 29th
Kevin Rhodes

LONELINESS

July 6th
Richard Massey

EVOLUTION

July 13th
Kerry Clark

CRITICISM

July 20th
Bill Mayes

DISAPPOINTMENT

July 27th
Robert Moss

GOSSIP

August 3rd
Richard Stevens

RACISM

August 10th
Dave Rechin

LEADERSHIP

August 17th
Steve Weeks

DEATH

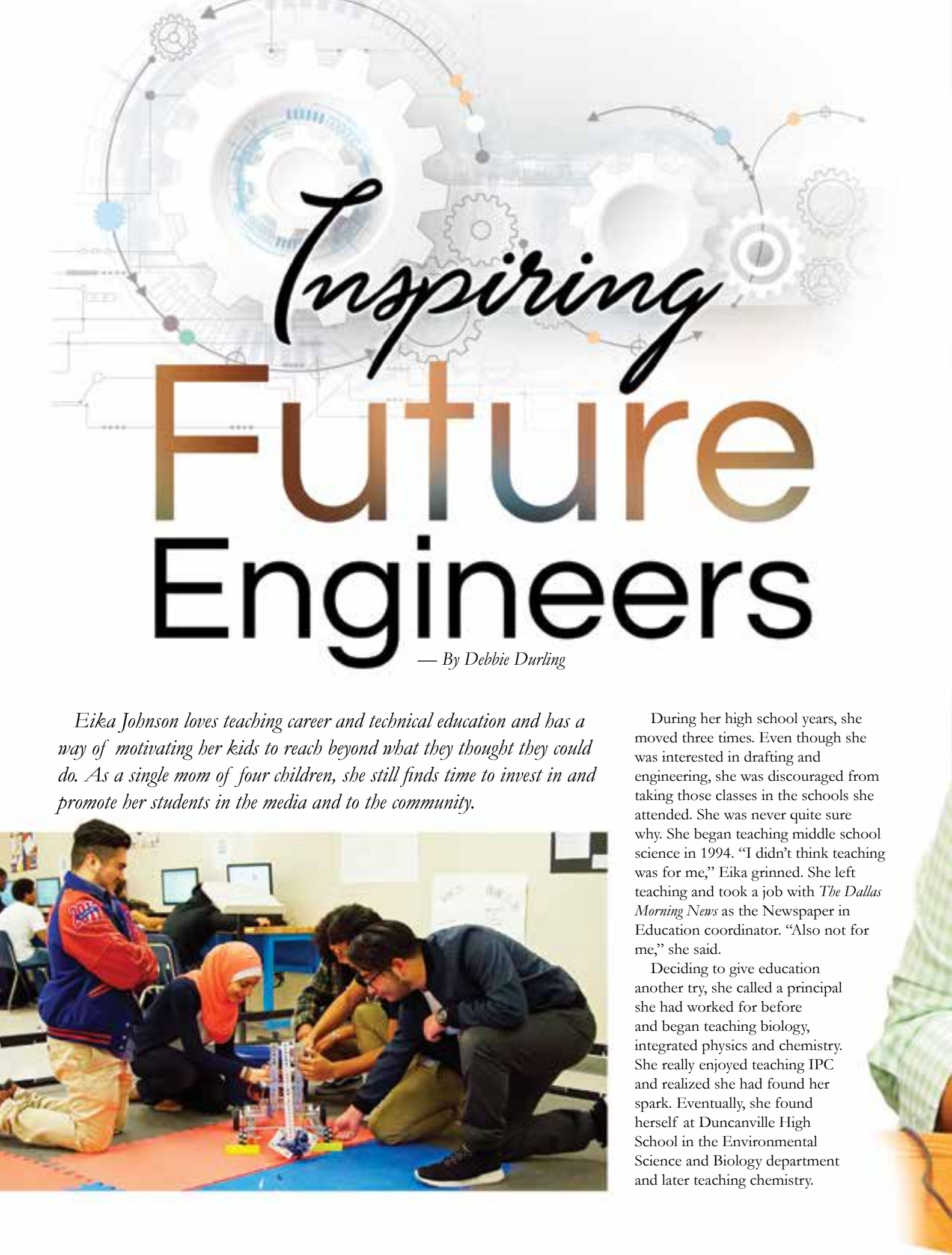
August 24th
Willie Alvarenga

MATERIALISM

August 31st
Jim Laws

POLITICS





Inspiring Future Engineers

— By Debbie Durling

Eika Johnson loves teaching career and technical education and has a way of motivating her kids to reach beyond what they thought they could do. As a single mom of four children, she still finds time to invest in and promote her students in the media and to the community.

During her high school years, she moved three times. Even though she was interested in drafting and engineering, she was discouraged from taking those classes in the schools she attended. She was never quite sure why. She began teaching middle school science in 1994. “I didn’t think teaching was for me,” Eika grinned. She left teaching and took a job with *The Dallas Morning News* as the Newspaper in Education coordinator. “Also not for me,” she said.

Deciding to give education another try, she called a principal she had worked for before and began teaching biology, integrated physics and chemistry. She really enjoyed teaching IPC and realized she had found her spark. Eventually, she found herself at Duncanville High School in the Environmental Science and Biology department and later teaching chemistry.





She had heard about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) schools and began doing research hoping to get a similar program off the ground in Duncanville. When an opening came in the Engineering department, she filled in for the instructor and took the State SkillsUSA team to competition. “I was amazed at what students in career and technical education were doing,” she recalled. The same year, she accompanied the students to the National SkillsUSA competition. The students competed by doing a community service project in which they designed and installed a Wi-Fi system for Lakeside Park. They won a silver medal — second in the nation — and residents still enjoy the Wi-Fi availability at Lakeside today.

Being “amazed at what the students were doing” is what inspired Eika to take the vacant position in the CTE class. She loves the field of engineering and couples that with a passion to see

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students reach new heights. When thinking of students, Hannah Ismail quickly came to Eika's mind.

Hannah began engineering in the all-girls class her freshman year. Because girls are so under-represented in the field of engineering today, and because of her own experiences, Eika has found Hannah to be an impressive student. Hannah quickly became a leader in the all-girls class. Now a junior, her classes include electronics, engineering design and presentation and robotics. Hannah is one of only two girls in her robotics class with 28 boys, and she is one of only five girls in the engineering and design class, along with 19 boys. "She is known for beating the boys in competitions," Eika shared. "Hannah already knows how to pull a variety of personalities and skill sets together to problem solve real-world issues in engineering." Because she is the best



"I love what I do because I get to connect the content they have learned with real-world applications."

builder and programmer, her classmates look to her for ideas and come to her when they have questions.

Caleb Griffith, another student of Eika's, built an underwater robot. She was so excited about his progress that she made contact with Channel 11 News, who interviewed him this past winter. His dual credit mechatronics class is offered by Duncanville High School in cooperation with Mountain View College. It combines mechanical engineering and electronics and uses design principles. Underwater robots are used for recovering wreckage and investigating places where it is difficult

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for divers to go. "Caleb has been a SkillsUSA engineering chapter officer for two years," Eika added proudly. Even though he has been accepted to Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Dallas, he is awaiting acceptance into the Naval Academy.

Last year, Adrian Mayberry, another student, helped the Duncanville Police Department. They had inherited a robot from the Army. The camera did not work, and the robot wouldn't even move. A detective called to see if the robotics class would take a look at it. It sat for a little while, but Adrian took an interest in it and took the manual home to read it. He began spending hours after school working on it. Before long, he had it working and fully functional. The tactical unit of the Duncanville Police Department was thrilled. Adrian got a commendation from the city.

Eika goes beyond the classroom to build the engineering program. In 2014, she wrote for and received a grant from Lowe's for \$5,300 dollars. She also received a grant from the Duncanville Education Foundation. Now, all three middle schools have after-school robotics programs to inspire their students toward engineering and robotics for the future. She also wrote a grant for Design in Engineering to the Dart Foundation. This would give them a 3-D printer to help keep



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students up with current technologies in the field. While waiting for the grant to process, Eika entered a contest and won a 3-D printer from Hilliard Office Solutions. They received the grant and now have two 3-D printers. She is always trying to grow the program in order to give the students more resources and opportunities to advance.

Last year, Eika entered her classroom and found it totally rearranged. The day before she had told her SkillsUSA students to “build on what they had learned.” They decided to make a literal representation of her direction. “All of my tables were stacked on top of each other. They had taken my direction so literally,” she remembered. Eika enjoys the laughter and surprises the students bring forth from time to time.

She continues to coach the SkillsUSA team. This past year, they advanced to first in the state for applied engineering. They scored third in the state for land surveying. “Students who score high enough in land surveying are eligible to test for certification, which allows them to get an entry level job in the field,” she added. “This could possibly help fund their way through college.”

Many of the students go on to pursue engineering in college and at universities, such as West Point, UT Dallas, Texas A&M and the Naval Academy. Eika takes pride in the fact that she and her fellow educators in Duncanville prepare students for college and give them career-readiness skills. “I love what I do because I get to connect the content they have learned with real-world applications,” Eika admitted. “I didn’t start them on their way, but I get to push them on to the next level.” **NOW**

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Here Supporting Them

— By Katrina D. Lewis

Just a stone's throw away from some of North Texas' largest cities, Cedar Hill's bucolic, yet modern charm is not often associated with the challenges neighboring urban centers face when it comes to youth substance use. And through the efforts of dedicated leaders like Agapito Chavez, Cedar Hill youth, their families and the entire community have made momentous strides in reducing substance abuse and changing perceptions associated with it.

Agapito is the coalition coordinator for Impact Cedar Hill, an organization under the umbrella of Drug Prevention Resources, Inc. DPRI was the first organization in Texas to organize local substance abuse coalitions and works to change attitudes around substance abuse, lessening the negative impact it has on communities. Established in 2010, Impact Cedar Hill uses media campaigns, hands-on educational tools and interactive demonstrations to educate, inform and empower youth and families throughout the area. Last year, over 4,300 youth participated in more than 60 presentations.

Agapito and his wife of almost 18 years, Nelda, have two teenage children. Savannah attends the colligate school in Cedar Hill and Croix attends a charter school. Growing up, Agapito's charitable spirit manifested early as he worked to



"Anywhere there are kids, I want to go and help. I like doing what I do to educate them, and they're a lot of fun."

help his mother provide for him and his nine siblings. "My mom was trying to raise 10 kids," he said. "So, I had a paper route with my little brother. We had a little shopping cart, and there'd be dogs following us," he laughed. "But I was trying to help my mom out as much as I could."

Agapito relocated his growing family to Cedar Hill in 1998, a year after his wedding and after looking for homes in neighboring cities. They were living in a high crime area. "We decided we didn't want to raise our kids there. My wife liked the house we saw here in Cedar Hill, and that was that," he said.

Like many parents, Agapito's decision making is partially driven by what's best for his children and being aware of their circles of influence. After being a stay-at-home dad for several years after a work injury, Agapito became very involved in his kids' day-to-day lives and, in turn, connected with their classmates. These involvements aided him in developing a natural rapport with kids that would serve him well in his work with Impact Cedar Hill.

At this point a familiar face in the classrooms and hallways of his kids' schools, Agapito was approached by the former coalition coordinator for



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DPRI has helped countless kids in Cedar Hill become aware of drug abuse.

Impact Cedar Hill and Impact Ennis, who presented him with an opportunity to volunteer with Impact Cedar Hill. Agapito jumped at the chance, reflecting on his goal as a father to promote wise decision making in his own children and eager to impact other teens faced with potentially life-changing decisions — and consequences.

During his three years volunteering for Impact Cedar Hill, Agapito helped organize events in Cedar Hill and attended networking events. Though he was fine with his volunteer status, he was again presented another decision. "A couple of years ago, the coordinator asked if I wanted to apply for the job here. I said, 'Sure, I'm already doing it anyway,'" he laughed.

Impact Cedar Hill is funded by (DSHS) Texas Department of State Health Services. Throughout a community's K-12 school year, Agapito visits local schools to conduct drug and alcohol prevention education. He works closely with school district officials, but is also available for church groups, sports teams and other youth and young adult-



focused groups. Each session lasts up to 45 minutes, with different materials targeted toward age groups or particular behaviors or addictions. Agapito also works with the Dallas ISD.

Agapito relies heavily on the community to keep a finger on the pulse of what's happening within schools, so he can guide his organization to where it needs to go. "There were some schools with syringes, marijuana bags and empty cocaine bags in the play area, so that's where I went," he said. "At a high school in Dallas, I got involved at some feeder schools, working health fairs and whatnot."

While DVDs and speeches are a part of Agapito's presentations, encouraging kids through hands-on activities and immersive experiences are also part of his arsenal. "I like to work in the classrooms. It's hard to get 200 elementary or high school kids to pay attention, so I like the smaller settings. I can get their attention more and give out more stuff," he said, referencing the wide array of T-shirts, stuffed animals and other "swag" students receive, emblazoned with the Cedar Hill Impact Communities' name.

Agapito also draws fictional parallels between a student who does drugs and



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one who doesn't, to help students make sense of the realities they may face if they abuse drugs or alcohol. "I enjoy talking to the kids. I like to have the impression I'm helping someone — even if it's just one someone. They'll come up and ask me if things are dangerous, and I tell them, 'Of course it is!'" he explained. "I definitely try to tell them about the consequences if they use drugs — about making mistakes and not being able to get an apartment or go to college and just losing their brain cells. Right now, it's between \$25,000 and \$35,000 to get lawyers if you get arrested, and that is on your record. I ask them, 'Who's going to pay for that, your mom and dad?'"

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Agapito has specialized goggles that blur the wearer's vision, distorting the environment around them. While it may look comical to those observing, the influence it can have on Agapito's high school students is closer to reality than any lecture they've heard prior to wearing the glasses. "I have a passion to help kids, and I think about helping them not do drugs or alcohol. I come into the office at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning doing paperwork to get ahead. We have to fill out paperwork that shows where we went and who we talked to, how long we stayed and so forth. We have to

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show the state, and we actually have the best record with the state in showing them what we do.” All of the Impact Coalition leaders attend training in Austin twice a year and also receive training in cultural understanding to prepare them to meet the unique needs of each of their client communities.

So how does Agapito gauge the success of the program’s message? Well, from the kids themselves. “Anywhere there are kids, I want to go and help. I like doing what I do to educate them, and they’re a lot of fun,” he said. “I’ll see some of them out in public, and they remember me and what I do. They know we’re here to support them.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information on Impact Cedar Hill, contact Agapito at (469) 523-1309.

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Their journey began over 30 years ago when they met at Fort Polk, Louisiana, as Fanny got out of a cab to officially report for duty at the



Fanny Minnitt

reception station. Theodore was sitting on a porch shining his boots when he spotted Fanny. Later, when they were part of a group going out for the night in Theodore's car, he didn't recognize her because she was no longer wearing her uniform. Instead, she was all dressed up for the evening. "God knew Fanny was going to be my wife. We dated for about a year-and-a-half before we really got serious," Theodore said.

Fanny's military service of 11 years took her to Germany and four stateside

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postings. She rose to the rank of E5 sergeant before exiting the military to go into the world of business and education. During Theodore's 29-year Army career, he served at 11 different posts including service stateside and in Germany, Turkey, Haiti, Panama and Iraq. He retired as a sergeant major. "Theodore was away so much of the time. I even had to meet his family for the first time on my own while he was in California," Fanny said. The military separations were hard on her and the couple's son, Terrance. "Theodore's military retirement was one of the best things that's ever happened to me. I get

to see my husband every day unless we have something going on," she said. "Thank God for His grace."

But that doesn't mean this couple has taken permanent R&R. Theodore retired while the family was posted at Fort Hood, and they were living in Killeen, Texas. He earned his associate degree from Central Texas College in Killeen, and now owns a sports official apparel company and serves as an umpire and referee.



Fanny earned an associate degree from Jefferson College, a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii and a master's in education administration from Tarleton State University. While

in Killeen, she served as an assistant principal in one of the area school districts, but she was driving to Dallas several times a week to attend services at The Potter's House Church on West Kiest Boulevard in Dallas. Tired of the drive and feeling moved by God to move one more time — this time to the Dallas area — she started looking at homes in the area and turned down a contract offer to remain an administrator. Theodore had told her he would move if she could find a job, so Fanny started looking at homes, while she started substitute teaching in Metroplex-area school districts. Fanny is now a licensed minister and empowerment speaker. A former contributing newspaper writer, Fanny has written a book titled *Just Have Faith* and is working on another one.

Fanny first saw their home on the Internet, and she instantly fell in love with it. But the timing wasn't right, and the house sold to someone else. However, Fanny just couldn't find anything else she liked, so she asked their agent to check on the home. Sure enough, the contract had fallen through,

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and her dream home was back on the market. Their house in Killeen sold, and they closed on the new one on December 13, 2013. "I already knew where every piece of furniture was going to go, and it all fit perfectly!" Fanny recalled. "God had saved this house for us."

Their home sits on one acre of land and has twice the square footage as their previous residence. Yard work is Theodore's joy. "I like doing everything myself. It's a chance to power down. We have good neighbors, and it's peaceful," he said. A circular drive complements the front yard, and the backyard has room for a pool and putt-putt course that might be the couple's first additions when their 2-year-old grandson, YulShay, gets a little older.

Upon entering the home, guests are seated in the garden room, which incorporates the towering entry with its columns, winding staircase, wet bar and a full view of the fireplace and the backyard beyond. "We have room to grow, and we have in our view all the elements — beautiful water and sunsets," Fanny said. Two balconies, a terrace and two covered porches take full advantage of the views. "We like to hang out with friends and family outside. I think it's life's privilege to enjoy this beauty," she added.

Leaded glass doors lead into a study/office with its stately built-in bookcases. "Writing isn't work. It's fun," Fanny stated. "The military and education worlds' schedules are so rigid. Now I dictate my time."

Theodore loves to cook, and this chef's kitchen is just the spot for it with its beautiful cabinetry and granite

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countertops. The dining room is flooded with natural light. "We still eat together and talk," Fanny said. The dining area opens to Fanny's "chat room," which boasts a fireplace. She has created a sitting area with a table, where she enjoys entertaining friends and family. A utility/exercise room is across the hall.

The couple's master bedroom and bath share a fireplace, and floor-to-ceiling windows show off the view. The bath's black tile is an



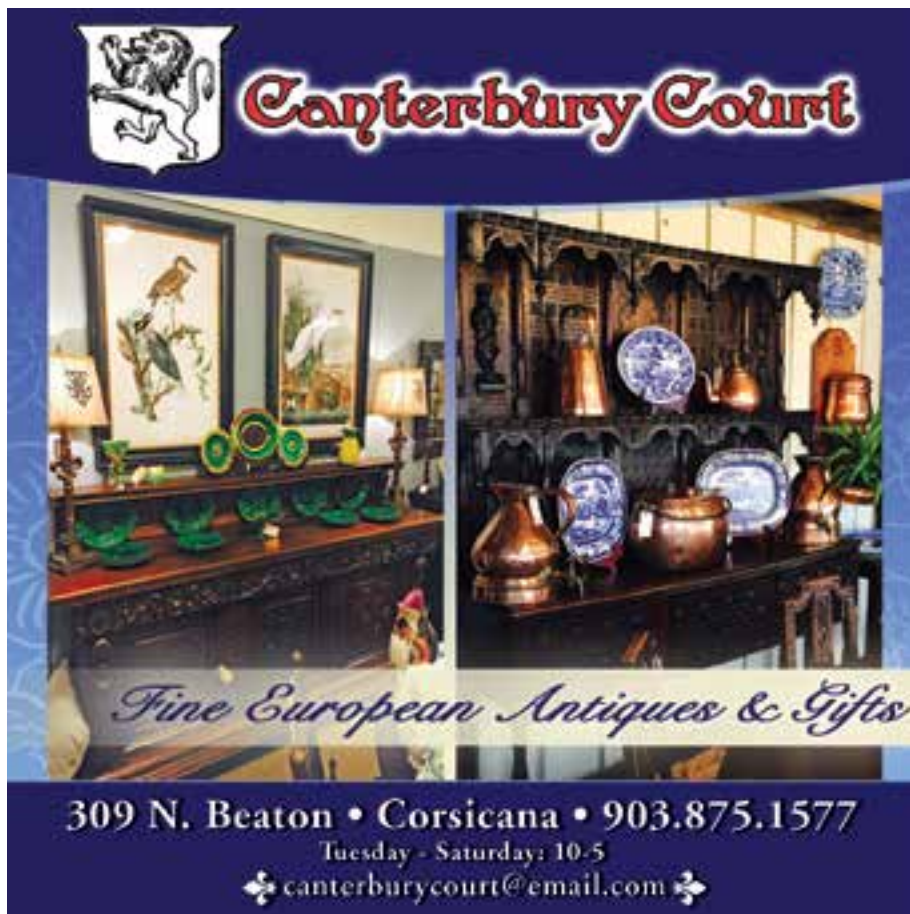
elegant touch that complements the equally-elegant furnishings.

After climbing the staircase, one can relax in a sitting area and gaze down on the open garden room. A walk down the hallways leads to the media/family room which is dressed in bright colors as a background to Fanny's art and model car collections. A fireplace makes the room a comfortable, relaxing place to gather.

A blue clad guest bedroom shares a Jack-and-Jill bath with the hallway while another guest bedroom has its own private bath. Cartoons drawn by Terrance when he was a boy are framed mementos.

Theodore and Fanny enjoy visits from their nieces, nephews and grandson. "YulShay keeps me laughing, and that feels good," Theodore said.

"There's an atmosphere of love and kindness here," Fanny explained. "I like space. I grew up in my mom's big old house, so I'm used to having space to grow. The Lord led us here. I'm blessed with a supportive husband who let me close one chapter of my life and open another. We live life to the fullest now." **NOW**



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IT'S A-BOAT TIME

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Summer is here! With Texas' cool days vanishing rapidly, this month marks the beginning of the summer season. One of the best parts of Texas summer is going to the lake. Before you head out to hit the waters, there are some important things to remember to ensure you experience a fun-filled day.

BEFORE YOUR TRIP

- *Safety starts at home:*

Boating is exciting, but there are many things you should know before getting on the water. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department teaches safety classes throughout the year, as well as offering an online version of its course. For anyone born after August 1993, the safety course is required in order to operate a powered vessel.

- *Know your equipment:*

In addition to knowing the safety standards for your boat or personal watercraft (PWC, also commonly called a Jet Ski), you need to ensure you know the equipment itself. If you are renting

a vessel, familiarize yourself with controls and features. If you own your own boat or PWC, check the oil and fluid levels the same way you would a car.

- *As you are planning:*

While Texas is somewhat lacking in natural lakes, there are a plethora of manmade spots to enjoy. For a perfect sunny day on the water, a local lake might be the place for you. But if you're thinking about a longer trip, you might want to consider traveling up north to Lake Texoma or exploring a lake in the Austin or Houston areas.

- *When you pack:*

Because you are constantly getting hit by the cool mist coming off the boat, you might forget to apply sunscreen or drink



enough water. Bring plenty of liquids and sunscreen to take care of your body's needs, inside and out. You want to remember your trip for the first time you waterskied, not the wicked sunburn you got spending 10 hours in the heat.


ON THE LAKE

• *Find the perfect spot:*

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a small fee, with all but a guarantee of a successful day baiting and luring. If your desires are more for speed and thrills, make sure to find a location free of heavy traffic or shallow water. Choppy waves are great for PWC use, and can be fun for general boating, but for waterskiing and wakeboarding, you will want flatter waters. One trick is to make passes about 20 yards away from, but parallel to, manmade shorelines that act as a natural wind blocker.

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• *Equip yourself:*

Make sure you wear life jackets. Legally, adult boaters only have to have a life vest available, not necessarily on. But tragic, avoidable deaths happen every year because someone failed to use a life jacket. Children under 13 are required to wear life jackets, and they should also be closely monitored while the boat is underway. It is also prudent to take a wallet and phone on the lake in case



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you have any mechanical or user-error problems on the water.

• *Boat safely:*

You should always pass other vessels on the left, or port side. When you pass another vessel, a person or an object of any type, you must be more than 50 feet away or slow to idle speed. Boats are allowed on the water at night if they have lights, but PWCs must be off the lake 30 minutes before dusk for everyone's safety.

• *Know your limits:*

PWCs are fun and relatively simple to learn to use, but operating larger boats is much more involved, so do not try to take out more boat than you can handle. When it comes to getting maximum speed, or trying tricks on skis and boards, make sure you have someone who can help you if you overdo it.

• *Keep your ears and eyes open:*

You want a full day at the lake, but if waters are too choppy for skiing, or if storms are coming, it is best to be safe. Someone waving hello and someone waving for help looks similar from 60 feet away, so be sure to look for signs indicating that a fellow boater needs help. The Texas Wildlife Department has wardens patrolling the lake for everyone's benefit, so afford them the same courtesy and respect that you show highway patrolmen.



BEFORE HEADING HOME

• *Recheck your hitch:*

Be careful to make sure your boat is securely hitched if pulling or secured on the lift if it stays at the lake. For a lift, make sure to raise the boat based on the highest possible water level, not necessarily the current level. Every year, boats fall off lifts and sink during storms because they were not lifted high enough off the lake level.

• *Cleaning up:*

There are organisms and bacteria in some water that will eat away at the veneer on a boat if left untouched, so make sure to give it a quick wash when your day is complete. If you travel from one body of water to another, make extra sure to clean the boat, as some organisms in one lake will attack those in another if they are allowed to spread.

It may seem as though there are a lot of rules to follow just to have a relaxing day on the water. But following these guidelines will help you be prepared for your day at the lake, as well as keep you and your loved ones safe.

*Editor's Note: More laws, safety standards and general boating information are available on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Boating Page at www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/. **NOW***

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Jim and Becky Hennesy and the staff at Trinity Church are committed to serving the community.



Reconciling to One — By Jo Monroe

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Trinity Church in Cedar Hill. There could be a number of reasons given for why Trinity Church was established in Cedar Hill. Some might say it was a good plan. Some might say it was a coincidence. But Trinity leaders consider it strategic positioning, which they refer to as providence — timely preparation for future eventualities. “It was the purpose and destiny of God’s plan,” said church administrator, Shelia Hood.

Holding to four core values — substance, legacy, covenant relationships and marketplace, Trinity Church is far more than a roof set on columns and walls. Rather, it is a place where the heart of the community comes together to work, teach, serve and enjoy fellowship. The music, laughter and prayers filtering down the corridors are the resonant sounds of life and new beginnings.

There are numerous weekly events providing a vast array of

ministry opportunities. There is truly something for everyone. With a sincere desire for each event to be the catalyst for an encounter with God, they believe with great conviction that hosting the presence of the Lord is what makes the difference between just attending an event or experiencing a life-changing encounter. The overflow of such encounters is revealed in Trinity’s diversity, community involvement, mission outreach/support and mandate to be a prototype church for racial reconciliation.

In November 1994, Jim and Becky Hennesy received the assignment to serve as senior pastors of Trinity Church, but what some may not know is they are committed to providing pastoral covering for the entire city of Cedar Hill. The Hennesys strongly hold to the church’s mission statement: “We are a family of worshipers who believe it is our responsibility to carry the presence of God into everything we do and in every part of who

we are.” Under their leadership, Trinity Church has been woven into the Cedar Hill community through leadership, education and outreach.

Developing any relationship takes time and commitment. As part of the demonstration of Trinity’s commitment to Cedar Hill, Jim donates his 30 years of pastoral experience to serving as a board member of Transformation Vision Cedar Hill, which, according to its website, is “a coalition of business, education, government and churches committed to enacting God’s principles in the fiber and relationship of the region.” Evidence that Cedar Hill residents understand their passion to faithfully serve their community, Jim and Becky received the 2014 Man and Woman of the Year awards at the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Celebrating Business Awards held in February 2015.

Jim and Becky are a teaching/preaching team, explaining biblical application in the areas of covenant relationships, legacy and the marketplace. Understanding the importance of building diverse relationships within the community, a current topic of teaching is on the “restoration to one.” This teaching focuses on racial reconciliation and bringing unity to the body of Christ. The church hosts events for men, women and children, such as the April 1, Man Up Rally, which was a night of team competitions, a man-size meal, worship and a life-challenging message. There are groups geared to various ages, life resource classes, a support group called Women of Worth and educational groups throughout the week. These smaller groups provide an opportunity to get deeper and discuss the application of biblical principles.

Cedar Hill is a place where leaders, residents and businesses work together to build productive relationships and a caliber of life where people just feel good to live here. Trinity Church, is a demonstration of that feeling. In a recent meeting, Jim was asked point blank what he hoped the legacy of his leadership would provide for future generations. Without hesitation, he replied, “For future generations to be able to build upon wherever we leave off, as a way for them to go from glory to glory.” **NOW**



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May 1 – 19

Head for the Hills Rotary Bike Rally early registration. For more information, contact Mike Chadima at (214) 364-7800.

May 3

Methodist Charlton Medical Center Auxiliary: 12:30 p.m., Methodist Charlton Medical Center auditorium. Contact Andrea Young at (214) 542-7452.

May 5

65th National Day of Prayer: Noon-1:00 p.m., Graceland Community Baptist Church, 310 S. Clark Rd. Visit www.transformationvision.com.

National Day of Prayer: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Cedar Hill High School Performing Arts Center, 1 Longhorn Blvd., Cedar Hill. For more information, visit www.transformationvision.com.

Singing Men of Texas Concert: 7:00 p.m., Hillcrest Baptist Church, 265 W. Pleasant Run Rd., Cedar Hill. For more information, call (972) 291-3521.

May 7

10th Annual Mother & Son Masquerade Ball: 7:00-9:00 p.m., DeSoto Town Center, 211 E.

Pleasant Run Rd. Must pre-order tickets. For more information, contact (972) 230-9651.

May 19

Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce Gala & Auction: *The Great Gatsby*: A roaring 20's Affair: 5:00 p.m., Lone Star Park. visit www.cedarhillchamber.org.

May 20

Duncanville Senior Dances: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Hopkins Senior Center, 206 James Collins. Bill G will be playing a variety of music.

May 21

Head for the Hills Rotary Bike Rally: 6:00 a.m., registration; 8:00 a.m., rally start up, Hillside Village Shopping Center, 305 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. For more information, contact Mike Chadima at (214) 364-7800.

All Pro Dads Crawfish Boil Fest: 2:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Vernon Folks at (318) 280-5712 or visit www.chisdapd.org.

Music in the Park: 7:00 p.m., Town Center Amphitheater, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. R.L. Griffin – major figure on the Dallas Blues scene.

May 23

ReMarket Cedar Hill: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Houston St. at Texas St., downtown Cedar Hill.

May 27, 28

The Desoto Art League's Annual Art Show entries will be accepted at the Desoto Public Library. Bryan Reynolds at (469) 337-8367, www.DesotoArtLeague.com.

May 28

The Duke's (John Wayne) Birthday Special Cinema on the Square: 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (214) 957-4001.

June 3

Methodist Charlton Medical Center Auxiliary Annual Tour of Tables presenting "Touring Through Hollywood." Contact Sarah Drew-Watson (214) 947-7875.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to joanne.monroe@nowmagazines.com.



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In the Kitchen With Tillie Harris

— *By Jo Monroe*

Tillie Harris considers her cooking as a ministry of sorts, because it brings family and friends together. “I learned from my mother, grandmother and, in a way, I would say I’m self-taught,” she said. She finds new recipes on the Internet and in cookbooks, but frequently she will make them on her own. Though well known for her lemon cake, she also enjoys Creole and down-home cooking and baking. “I’m from Beaumont, Texas, and my family is Creole. I remember how some things taste,” she said.

Tillie loves the holidays and special occasions when her family gets together. “Some of the other joys in my life are sewing and singing,” shared Tillie, who is a member of the DeSoto Senior Golden Voices Choir. **NOW**

Lemon Cake

Cake:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup buttermilk, room temperature
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. lemon extract
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs

Glaze:

1/3 cup lemon juice
1 3/4 cups confectioner’s sugar

1. For cake: Heat oven to 325 F. Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt pan.
2. In a bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. In a glass measuring cup, combine buttermilk, lemon juice and lemon extract.
4. In a mixer bowl, cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Stir in flour mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture, until blended. Spoon batter into prepared Bundt pan.
6. Bake for 50 to 65 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan for 10 minutes. Remove and place cake on plate or cake

board. Poke the warm cake all over with a toothpick.

7. For glaze: Stir together the glaze ingredients and immediately brush it on the cake.

8. Let a portion of glaze soak in, then brush on more glaze, continuing until all glaze is used up. Allow cake to cool before slicing.

Sweet Potato Pound Cake

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar
4 eggs, room temperature
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
3 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 cup pecans or walnuts, chopped (optional)
Confectioner’s sugar, to taste

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt cake pan.
2. In a bowl, cream butter with both sugars until fluffy.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla and sweet potatoes until well-blended.
4. In another bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg; stir into batter, alternating with buttermilk until blended.
5. Fold in chopped nuts if desired. Spoon batter into prepared Bundt pan.
6. Bake for 50 to 65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes before removing and placing on rack. When completely cooled, sprinkle with confectioner’s sugar.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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