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EnnisNOW

M A G A Z I N E

October 2009

**Doors of
Opportunity**

**All About
the Game**

**Taking
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**Dress
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**Erik and
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Editor's Note

Dear Ennis,

October ushers in those first crisp days of fall weather. With blue skies, sweater weather and football, what more can you ask for? Get out there and cheer for the Lions! I am so excited about the issue of *EnnisNOW* that you are holding. One of my favorite classy ladies, Norma Black, shares her story and gives us a personal look at what the new G.W. Carver Early Childhood Center means to the African-American community.

What is October without a costume party? Ennis' premiere costume party heralds the 10th anniversary season of the Lights of Ennis. See our community calendar for details about party tickets. Our art feature will inspire you to choose your own costume. The Lights of Ennis will give us some magic this Christmas; make a little magic of your own and join the cause.

Kelly Kovar

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G.W. CARVER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Doors of Opportunity

— By Kelly Kovar

This year, all of Ennis has watched as a new school building, G.W. Carver Early Childhood Center, was built on the site that once held the old George Washington Carver High School and Dorie Miller Elementary. The class of 1967 was the last class to graduate from Carver High School, before all Ennis students began attending Ennis High School (EHS). “I was at Dorie Miller Elementary, which shared the same campus with the high school,” said Norma Morris Black, an active volunteer with the Carver Alumni Association.

In November 1999, the Alumni Board signed a lease to use the Carver property. “The Alumni Association was trying to raise the money to bring the building up to code and then use it as a community center,” Norma explained. When they were not able to do so, the property rights were returned to the school district. This year, Ennis Independent School District (EISD) has completed a repurposing of the land. This includes building a completely new school, G.W. Carver Early Childhood Center, which will serve a large percentage of the Ennis preschool population.

“Everybody went through a phase of being sad seeing the old school building going down, when we couldn’t raise

the money to get the campus restored and use it for community classes and senior daycare,” Norma reflected. “It has been a complete 360 in our feelings. You couldn’t ask for a better, more state-of-the-art facility.” Benjamin Franklin Thomas had been principal at the old Carver campuses. “I’ve got his photo saved to hang up in the new school,” Norma said. His wife, Cecelia “Clemmie” Thomas, taught first grade for 30 years at Dorie Miller Elementary.

“Originally, high school students attended a facility called Ennis Colored High School,” Norma said. “In the ’40s that was changed, and G.W. Carver became our high school.” These and many other memories have been

preserved by the alumni. The alumni of Ennis Colored High School, Carver High School and Dorie Miller Elementary founded the G.W. Carver Alumni Association (CAA) in 1981. “Clifford Lockhart was the first president of the alumni association,” Norma said. “He was the one that organized it. In the early days of the CAA, they had an annual banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall and the group was 500 strong.” Clifford served as president until his resignation in 1998, when Walter Furnace became president. James Leaks is acting president now.

Through the years since, the CAA has focused, not only on keeping history alive, but also on looking toward the



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future. "Every year we give scholarships to the top two African-American seniors at Ennis High School," Norma mentioned. "This year we awarded \$1,000 to the top-ranking eligible student, and a \$500 scholarship to the second-ranking student."

The biggest annual event for the CAA occurs during the third weekend of June. The Carver Reunion is held then and the Annual Awards Banquet. At the banquet, community service awards are presented to Ennis citizens, and the two scholarships are awarded to new graduates.

Norma has been a witness to much of the history of Ennis over the last 50 years. Born in 1955, she grew up in Ennis with her parents and six siblings. After attending Dorie Miller Elementary, she went on to Ennis High School. "I worked at Sally's Beauty Shop while I

"Every year we give scholarships to the top two African-American seniors at Ennis High School."

was in high school," Norma recounted. She still enjoys stopping by to visit Sally sometimes.

"I was president of the Home Economics Chapter of EHS for two years. My teacher, Phoebe Denney, was a real sweet lady. I was a straight-A student, but I was real shy. Mrs. Denney encouraged me to run for a district office. She said, 'Norma, you can do this.' I made District 5th Vice President, which gave me the opportunity to go to a national FHA (Future Homemakers of America) convention in Los Angeles in 1972. I still remember that I rode on the plane to California with the Dallas Cowboys [football team]." The advantages Norma received from participating in the FHA activities and the national convention helped her develop her communication skills and



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her confidence. "While we were in California, we went to The Greek Theatre, to Knox Berry Farm and we stayed at the Biltmore Hotel."

After earning her degree from EHS, Norma attended Tarrant County Junior College, studying business and elementary education. She went on to work at Lone Star Life, an affiliate of the Kmart Corporation, for 15 years. "It was a rags-to-riches story for me," Norma said. "I started as a coder, was promoted to unit leader for accounts receivable. Then, I was offered a position supervising the file room, which was transferring all of the files from paper to microfiche." Next, she held a position as senior customer service representative. Norma also spent five years working at the daycare at Ideal Learning Center and Christian Academy.

Norma married Rickey Joe Black in 1981, and their son, Nathan, was born in 1983. "I taught my son to cook, sew and clean. I told him, 'You're not going to worry somebody's daughter to do what you can do for yourself.' He is a real nice, respectable young man, now," Norma said. Nathan is a staff sergeant now in the Air Force, stationed in Okinawa, Japan. "He is married and has two boys and a girl on the way. Nathan and his wife, Natasha (Dickerson), homeschool their children. I'm looking forward to going to visit them in Japan next summer."

Single now, and enjoying her current career at Reliable Life Insurance, Norma is active in her church, Ideal Pentecostal, works with the MLK Unity in the Community program and is a board member of Inspiration, Inc. Along with the other members of the Carver Alumni Association, Norma cherishes her memories of her old school days. "The teachers were like our second parents. We got a top-grade education. But, if we had not been forced to come together in Ennis, I would have missed out on being able to get to know that we are all one big human race. It opened up many doors of opportunity for me, and I thank God for this journey." **NOW**

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Happy Haunting

— By Jaime Ruark

It is haunting time and quite a few Ennis families have already discovered the house that has caused many a little ghost, princess, super hero and pirate to run screaming for their parents in delighted fright. Kelly Ludwig, originally from West Texas, has lived in her haunted Halloween house for 10 years now, and each year, her decorations get a little more elaborate, her costumes a little more fun and her stockpile of candy a little larger. “At first I was scared to death of what the neighbors would think,” Kelly admitted. Now, with the help of her newlywed husband, Erik, and the seven children of their blended family, as well as some extended family and friends, the Ludwig house is quickly becoming a favorite trick-or-treat stop.

The sidewalks leading up to the Ludwig home begin their frightful transformation at the end of September. “I’ve collected so much stuff over the years; it takes a while to get it all up.



At Home With

Erik and Kelly Ludwig





When I start opening up all my boxes of stuff — every year it's like Christmas for me," Kelly said. Spooky spider webs string their way across trees, chilling coffins and cemetery headstones pop up, grasping hands protrude from the ground and dead mannequins sit,



stand and lie around in all their gory, lifelike glory. "I try to make sure that nothing is too scary. I want the kids to have a good time, but I don't want to make them really scared," Kelly added. "If there's such a thing as good scary, that's what I'm going for. I'll tell parents to have their kids come by in the daytime, and I'll walk with them so they don't get so scared."

Kelly, the marketing assistant for Erwin Distributing, the home office for Wally's Party Factory, counts herself lucky because each year she is able to add to her already impressive stockpile of Halloween goodies. "I'm just constantly buying supplies. I buy something new every year. You should see my attic!" she smiled.

Kelly's love for the Halloween holiday comes from her childhood. "I grew up

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in the country, and no one goes trick-or-treating in the country,” she said. “Houses are too spaced out, and it’s just not possible like it is in town. I never got to give out candy on Halloween, so when I got older, it was just something I loved to do.” Kelly’s favorite part of the holiday tradition is giving the children who come by her house candy and treats. “I just love being on the giving end, seeing their faces light up,” she added. “It’s so much fun, and they’re so entertaining. It’s like having a big carnival in my front yard.” Kelly and her crew love to hand-pick treats from the candy cauldron for those with the best costumes.

The house actually had a haunted tradition even before Kelly purchased

it. Like many homes in this area of Texas, ghost stories and scary tales about the residence have been passed down for generations. “There’s a picture of this house in *Best Tales of Texas Ghosts* on page 45,” Kelly shared, revealing her copy of the book by Docia Schultz Williams. “This used to be the Keever home, and there have been all kinds of stories about the place. Personally, I’ve never felt it to be haunted. I’ve loved living here, but the stories are fun, and we do get a lot of curious people who come by because they’ve heard about it or read about it.”

Erik, a volunteer fireman, not only indulges his wife in her Halloween obsession, but has become a part of the ensuing craziness. In fact, he and his



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son drove by the house one October years ago, before ever having met Kelly. "I'm sure he never would have guessed he'd end up married to the crazy lady dressed as Elvira," Kelly laughed. "We actually met on a blind date, and my sister warned me of certain things not to talk about on a first date. She asked me, 'Does he know what you do for Halloween?'" Their first date was in August, and that next October, Erik found himself standing in the yard, dressed in a lab coat covered in fake blood with a big screw coming out of his head. "Now that's

love!" Kelly smiled. "We had his son, Lucas, dressed up too, as the guy from the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. It was great." They wish Erik's other two boys, Josh and Matt, could join in the fun, but since they live in San Marcos it is not possible. Erik promises this year will be the scariest year yet. "I'm working on the lighting," he said. "Kelly had things too bright, so I'm going to fix that, make things even spookier."

While her favorite costume is Elvira, Kelly has donned such get-ups as a witch and vampire. "I have a ton of costumes. I've been a safari guide, a

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fairy, a mermaid, a '50s-diner waitress and a Hollywood starlet. I love it because I'm 49 and I still get to play dress up," she said. This year, she and Erik are planning on making their frightening debut as a dead bride and groom. "He's such a good sport," Kelly said proudly.

Kelly's four children, Jay, Sarah, Savannah and Rebekah have all inherited their mother's love of the spooky holiday. Kelly plans to pass down more than just her festive spirit. "I'm betting my kids will be fighting over all my Halloween stuff when I'm gone," she laughed. Jay, who lives across the

street, has also begun decorating his home, but he really enjoys coming over to help in his mother's fun. "One year, he convinced me to move out some of my furniture and decorate inside," Kelly recalled. That year, trick-or-treaters trekked through the front rooms past decor such as a butcher shop, an autopsy man and a couple eating eyeballs. "I still can't believe he talked me into doing that," she added. "We do everything outside now."

For a while, Kelly was concerned not only about how her neighbors, but also her church friends would view her Halloween fun. "We're good

church-going, God-fearing people, and I was a little nervous about what people would think," she confessed. "But now, seeing how the little kids and even their parents are having such a blast — it's worth it."

Texas fall weather has been perfect the past few years for Kelly's haunted house, and she is counting on this year being no different. "It's so much fun because it involves the whole family," she said. "I love watching the families park down the street and all walk together toward the house. Sometimes, the grown-ups get just as scared as the children!" **NOW**

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Left, Ozzie and Harriett? Dirk Kovar as Ozzie Osbourne shares a smile with party hostess Harriett Adams. Middle, Jimmy and Nancy Swindell are ready to run up the Jolly Roger. Right, Buccaneer Harriett mans the deck with pirates Angie and Dennis Juenemann.

Dress the Part

— By Kelly Kovar

In the 1960s, when Harriett Adams was attending Texas Christian University (TCU), in Fort Worth and would drive back to school after Thanksgiving, she was entranced by the way the downtown buildings were outlined in lights for the holidays. Her experience birthed a vision for lighting downtown Ennis for Christmas. “I really thought it was a worthwhile thing,” Harriett recalled. “I thought if it was pretty — if there was some kind of really pleasant memory of downtown that would endear people to growing up here, it would help bring people back to Ennis or at least give them a nostalgic feeling about Ennis.” From the beginning, the vehicle for funding the group which Harriet formed, called “The Lights of Ennis,” has been a costume dinner-dance.

Over the years, the costumes have evolved to a level of accuracy, which brings partygoers out, eager to mingle with look-alikes of actors, celebrities and rock stars. Occasionally, even the genuine celebrity can be sighted. At the 2006 party, Broadway star Betty Buckley came by from her ranch in Weatherford. “People don’t want to be the only person in costume, but with us it is all or nothing,” Harriett explained. “So, once people know everybody really dresses up, they are

encouraged to come in costumes.”

This year marks the 10th anniversary of The Lights of Ennis. “The first year was 2000,” Harriett recalled. “At first, we just lit four blocks of downtown. We have expanded to eight blocks over the years, lighting all four sides of buildings so the skyline can be seen from all directions. Now, we are lighting Pierce Park and the trees on Main Street.” Sometimes, people ask why more blocks are not lit up. “People don’t understand, when they drive around downtown during the holidays that those lights don’t just happen — people have to give money for them to happen.”

The theme for the 10th annual fundraiser this month is “Around the World in Ten Years.” Guests who participate will be enabling the lights to be turned on again this year. Costumes from foreign countries will be the party attire. “Everybody is keeping their costumes a secret this year,” Harriett said. “They have told me they are getting ready and that they are going to win.” Prizes for the best costumes are a fun part of the evening.

The focus of the fun is on the costumes each year. As actor John Barrymore is quoted as saying, “One must dare to dress the part.” Last year, in October 2008, the costume theme was “Famous Couples.” Raymond and Andi Caldwell wore perfectly executed Raggedy Ann and Andy costumes, and took home first prize. Second prize went to a couple who came as Ozzie and Sharon Osbourne. Robert Brazier, dressed as Kermit the Frog, was accompanied to the party by Miss Piggy. Even Mayor Thomas and wife, Nancy, got in on the act as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Local bankers came as Hugh Hefner and bunny, and as Cleopatra and Marc Antony. Appearances were made by Realtor George French,

a dead ringer for former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Even look-alikes for Burt Reynolds and Dolly Parton put in an appearance. The band, The Pontiax, played on the main stage in Harriett’s

backyard. “Last year, was maybe my favorite; the Famous Couples’ costumes were such a wonderful surprise,” Harriett recalled.

Step back one year to 2007, and pirates and pirate wenches danced to the music of Captain Jack and the Sparrows. The same band played in



2006, when the theme was "White Hot with Diddley Squat, a Night in Venice." Guests dressed completely in white, and enjoyed gourmet, fried chicken breasts and pasta salad.

For the 2005 event, Harriett invited attendees to follow poet Henry David Thoreau's advice and "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined." The costume theme was "Suppressed Desire."

"Walter Erwin won a \$250 cash prize in his incredible motorcycle costume," Harriett said. "I wore a hippie outfit that I bought in New York in the '60s. We had Ira Bradford and Bustin' Loose for the band."

"Lucky Lion Raffle" was the theme for 2004. Raffle tickets were sold in advance around town. "We presented the big raffle item, which was a giant television, to the winner at halftime during one of the Ennis High School football games."

Western costumes and country music were the order of the day in 2003, as guests ate steak and baked potatoes. The Platters played in 2000, 2001 and 2002. Costumes from the '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s were seen during these parties. "The people did even a better job with costumes the second year than they had the first year. They teased their hair, and did all sorts of things," Harriett remembered. "At The Lights parties, we have an open bar all night; we have superior, gourmet food; excellent wines and we have entertainment by a live band and dancing."

The costume parties, like the Lights of Ennis itself, are part of the community. "I do think Ennis is a very special town," Harriett reflected. "I think there are incredibly wonderful people here who make the lighting of downtown possible every year." **ARTS NOW**

Editor's Note:

See our community calendar for details about party tickets.



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All About

When Ennis High School quarterback D.J. Betik took the field on August 29, he was not thinking about potential scholarship offers from universities like the University of Texas at El Paso, Southern Methodist University (SMU) or the University of Arkansas. Nor did he think about last year's 11-2 season — in which the Ennis Lions took second place in their division and lasted three rounds in the playoffs. Instead, D.J. thought about the first snap of the game. He thought about ways in which to exploit Crosby High School's defense. He thought about the present and nothing more.

D.J. has been in the Ennis football system since the sixth grade, when Ennis head coach Sam Harrell — the father of local legend and current Canadian Football League quarterback Graham Harrell, who led the Lions to a state championship in 2001 — began to actively recruit D.J. for the program. "It wasn't even high school yet, and he brought me up to do spring ball and practice with all the older guys," D.J. said. But the decision to become a quarterback was not completely Coach Harrell's decision. It was D.J.'s. "He's had a football in his hands nearly since he was born," D.J.'s mother, Kelly, said. "At the point of 2 years old, he was wearing a football uniform around, throwing the ball."

Kelly, a kindergarten teacher at Crockett Early Childhood Center in Ennis, and D.J.'s father, Dwayne, a technology director at Avalon Independent School District, are officers in the Lions' booster club. They also attend every football game, along with the entire Betik clan — a group of 30 to 40 family

members, who arrive early and make as much noise as possible. They attend every game, home and away, grandparents, aunts and uncles — one from as far as Odessa — are there to show support. D.J. even has a cousin, Byron, who plays on the offensive line, offering literal protection during games. Another cousin, John, is a wide receiver. "It's pretty cool, Byron [playing offensive line]," Kelly said. "He knows I'm nervous, and he always says, 'Hey Kelly, I've got him; I'm going to protect him.' [D.J.'s] been lucky; he's had a good offensive line."

The 2009 season marks D.J.'s senior year of high school — a bittersweet event, which leads to a promising future, but also means saying goodbye to friends both on and off the field. D.J. indicated some of his best friends are his four receivers, which is of great benefit come game-time, when the Lions run a spread offense, passing nearly 70 percent of the time. "We know ... and trust each other," he said. "We all click."

The focus on D.J.'s arm is by no means a reflection on the Lions' running game, however. Last year the team's running back scored 22 touchdowns. "We were really balanced," D.J. remarked. "We plan to pass a little bit more this year, but I think we have a running back who can fill the hole. It will be real good."

During his freshman year, D.J. was placed on varsity, after the starting quarterback was suspended. He did not play, but just being on the sidelines was a nerve-wracking experience for

D.J. For the rest of the season, he started as the junior varsity quarterback. In his sophomore year, D.J. was the back-up varsity quarterback. D.J. began starting as Ennis' varsity quarterback in his junior year.

His position on the Ennis squad makes him a local celebrity of sorts. People know him, even outside school. They ask him about upcoming games, and

"He's had a football in his hands nearly since he was born."

offer encouragement and support.

"[People] ask me 'Are you ready for Friday? Are you getting the boys ready?' stuff like that," he stated.

In school, D.J. admits that like any high school student, he does not like to study. He does, however, make good grades. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and has already started to look at colleges from a purely academic standpoint, although it has always been his dream to play football on the collegiate level.

On the field, D.J. finds strength in God, as well as from his mother and father, whose presence helps keep him calm and collected. They also keep a close eye on his well-being. "We have a ritual," Kelly said. "We're there when he warms up to kind of get his nerves down. As he plays, when he comes off the field, I'm always there with thumbs up. We have a little thing, if he gets hurt, you know, on the field I'm doing thumbs up. If he's okay, he's going to go 'okay.' With him seeing us up there, I think it puts him at ease."

This is the year for D.J. as far as college ball goes. College scouts have told him as long as his game does not decline, he will most likely be offered a scholarship, but this added pressure has not fazed him. "I'm just going to go out there like it's any other year," he said. "I just try not to worry about it right now." **NOW**



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What's Up Doc?

— By Kelly Kovar

Doc's Beverage, on East Ennis Avenue, offers soft drinks, ICEE and energy drinks. In the morning, the coffee and cappuccino are popular choices. A family-owned business, Doc's is operated by Imran Meer and his son, Ronnie. "I manage the business for the evenings, and Ronnie handles the mornings," Imran said. Ronnie and his wife, Deann, are expecting a baby, so Imran is looking forward to a new role, also. "I'm going to be a 'papa.'"

Family is important to Imran. He and his wife, Patricia, have six children altogether. They have lived in Ennis for 12 years, since he opened Doc's Beverage. Two of his sons played on the state championship Ennis High School football teams. "Originally, I am from Kashmir," Imran said. "I came by myself to America when I was 17."

He went into the convenience store business, owning a store in Grand Prairie first, and then relocated to Ennis. "I enjoy the convenience store business because I like people. Ennis is a very good town, and I love the people over here. I have made a lot of friends over the years." He looks forward to customers coming in and asking how he is doing.



"You have to sell gasoline to bring the customers in," Imran said. "We sell Chevron gas. When you are on the highway, you are always going to get gas and then grab snacks and candy." Doc's Beverage sells magazines and newspapers, as well as tobacco and cigarettes. "We sell Texas souvenirs; a lot of times travelers like to take souvenirs back with them to other states." They also sell wine and beer. "All the employees I have, including myself, are certified from TABC [Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission]. They know the laws, the rules, the regulations. I am very, very strict. We have a spotless record." Doc's Beverage keeps its cooler at 29 degrees. They were voted the best beer, wine and convenience store by the *Ennis Daily News*. "People always come back, and they tell me all the time that I am known for the coldest beer in town." Clean restrooms for men and women are a hallmark of Doc's Beverage. Employees are neat and in uniform. "We always have friendly people here that make sure our customers are satisfied before they leave."

Over the last 10 years, the business has come to provide more and more conveniences for customers. "We offer gasoline

charge accounts for Ennis companies. For example, if you have a construction company, the trucks can come in here and fill up. We give them a ticket, and at the end of the month we send them a statement." Customers can pay their bills on-site. "We have about 80 companies that we can take payments for, such as: TXU, T-Mobile, ATT, Verizon and Direct Energy. You can get free money orders here." They also offer check cashing and MoneyGram services. Lottery tickets, Mega Millions and scratch-offs are available. "Two years ago, a customer bought a \$1 Mega Millions ticket from us and won




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Taking the Helm

— By Kelly Kovar

Dr. Barbara Qualls, superintendent of schools for Ennis Independent School District (EISD), arrived in Ennis just in time to get involved in two major school board focuses for this year. “I am glad I got here for two very large developments, the construction of a budget for the school year — one of the most important things the board of trustees does,” Barbara said, “and the construction project. So, when the new schools open, I will have been part of that.”

Over the summer, Barbara was able to participate in seeing renovations to several EISD campuses. The junior high upgrades include eight new tennis courts and a track. “It will mean that more of our kids have more access to regulation equipment,” she said. The fifth and sixth grades, which are meeting this year in the Ennis Sixth Grade Center (SGC), saw the addition of two new classroom wings. “We are going to retain some of the portable buildings, because we will have some of our programs in them.” Bobby White and Lori Redning are serving as co-principals at the SGC.

Next year, there will be two intermediate schools. The current Sixth Grade Center will be named the Dorie Miller Intermediate School and a second facility, the Jack Lummus Intermediate School will open for the 2010 school year. When Lummus opens, the fourth-, fifth-and-sixth grade students



will be divided between the two campuses. “Bobby White will stay at Miller, and Lori Redning will go to Lummus,” Barbara mentioned.

For this year, the fourth-graders are divided amongst the four elementary schools. One of the schools on this level, Travis Elementary, has undergone a major renovation this summer. “When it is finished and landscaped, that is going to be an absolute showcase; it is a beautiful design. I am very pleased that there has been a strong effort to retain as much of the spirit of the old building as possible, as well as make it efficient and clean and suited to 21st-century education. It is going to be architecturally beautiful and efficient.”

The existing Early Childhood Center (ECC), renamed Crockett, has undergone plumbing remediation, and the new ECC, [Carver], has been built. “The design crew and the school board made a concerted effort to preserve as much of the history as possible of Carver. If we can preserve those memories it is easier for individuals to be strong supporters and patrons of the school district.”

The old junior high is now called

Alamo Learning Center (ALC). “They have made some infrastructure changes to make it more able to support our computer network.” The Alamo Learning Center will house the Discipline Alternate Education Program (DAEP) and the Horizon Program. “Horizon is a new program this year, which is geared specifically toward making graduation a possibility for students who otherwise would not be able to graduate.”

This time of year, the thing Barbara most enjoys is football. “The game itself is wonderful, but I enjoy the whole picture that goes with football — the total school involvement — the band, the moms, the concessions stand. The unique excitement that the football season brings is that a large number of people come together with one focus and that makes the fall special.”

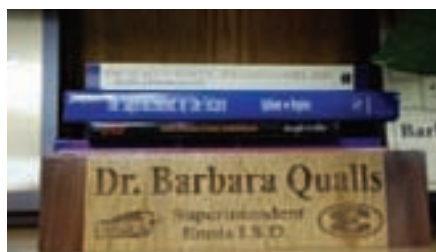
Texas football is something with which Barbara is very familiar. She grew up in Mineola and was in the high school band. She earned a degree in music from The University of Texas at Arlington and spent some time as a professional musician. “I was a member of the musician’s union. I played

Education **NOW**

saxophone, clarinet and flute.” Barbara played with the Barnum and Bailey Circus when it came to town, and with the Fort Worth Opera.

After earning a teaching certificate, she taught music in Texas schools in Edgewood, DeSoto, La Marque, and finally at Highland Park High School, where she learned to play the bagpipes. “At the time I was teaching there, there was a bagpipe corps. It was great fun, even though I don’t have a drop of Scottish blood; I’m Cherokee and Cajun.”

Along the way, Barbara developed an interest in school administration. “I went



“Serving the needs of the children well is what everybody here wants.”

to graduate school at the University of North Texas and also The University of Texas at Austin, earning a master’s and a doctorate in education and secondary curriculum.” She served as the director of curriculum and then junior high principal in Mineral Wells, and a high school principal in Atlanta, Texas. Barbara was school superintendent in Grapeland and Lago Vista, Texas, before coming to Ennis.

Barbara, and her short-haired black cat, Winston, have gotten settled in and they are enjoying Ennis. “I have been welcomed very warmly. Serving the needs of the children well is what everybody here wants. Many of the people who are working in the school district are actual products of it and have a very strong interest in making the whole school district better, and you can’t ask for more dedication than that. There is a very strong sense of teamwork and mutual responsibility.” **NOW**

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*Connie Polrrier, publisher of **Now** Magazines, with Harriett Adams at a recent Chamber event.*



*Paster Cord Blankenship of **Refiner's Fire Ministries**, breaks ground.*



*An eighth-grader shows her boots for the **Palmer ISD Western Days**.*



*Rebecca Johnson and Beverly Pearson both took home awards from the **Ennies**.*



John and Dolores Navarro recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Around Town

As summer comes to an end, the Ennis area comes alive with theatrical performances, the Chamber auction and local sporting events. With the new school year, residents find themselves enjoying football, celebrating homecomings and participating in school activities.



Winners of the Annual Powder Puff Football Game strike a victory pose.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH LORRAINE CLARK

CUTOUT SUGAR COOKIES

1 cup shortening
4 1/2 cups flour
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. soda
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/2 tsp. salt

Cream together the shortening and sugar. Add eggs one at a time; beat well after each. Add vanilla and beat in dry ingredients. Shape into three balls; refrigerate. Take out balls as you use it. Roll out dough; cut with desired cookie shapes. Bake 350 F for 8 to 10 minutes. Decorate using butter cream frosting. Frosting can be tinted to desired colors needed for decorating.

BUTTERCREAM FROSTING

1 stick butter
1/4 cup shortening
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. almond flavoring
2 lbs. powdered sugar

A little less than 1/4 cup milk

Blend butter and shortening, add flavorings. Slowly add powdered sugar and alternate with milk. More milk may be needed to reach the desired consistency.

CREAM CHEESE ROLLS

1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup melted butter
2 pkgs. yeast
1/2 cup warm water
2 eggs
4 cups flour
FILLING:

2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1/8 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla

Heat sour cream, stirring constantly. Stir in sugar, salt and butter. Set aside and cool to

Growing up with strong family values is something Lorraine Clark faithfully passed on to her children. "My mother was my inspiration. She always cooked meals and desserts for us when I was growing up," she recalled. "Every night we ate dinner together as a family, so when I had children it was very important to me for us to sit and eat as a family together."

Lorraine takes pleasure in working around the home with her husband, Joe Allen. "I enjoy remodeling our home and working out in the yard," she said. "We have remodeled most of our home ourselves." Creating sweets is another talent Lorraine finds rewarding. "I truly enjoy making desserts like cakes, cookies, pies and pastries," she explained. "I also enjoy decorating cakes and cookies, especially during the holidays." **NOW**

lukewarm. Sprinkle the yeast in warm water; stir until dissolved. Add sour cream mixture, eggs and flour to yeast; stir well. Dough will be sticky. Refrigerate overnight. Prepare filling by combining all ingredients. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll out each portion to a 12 x 15-inch rectangle; spread with 1/4 cup of the filling. Roll up. Place seam side down. Let rise for about 2 hours; bake 12-15 minutes at 350 F.

CHOCOLATE CAKE

My family's favorite and it is so easy.

1 triple chocolate cake mix
1 can chocolate frosting
1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip

Bake cake as directed on box in two round layers. After cake has cooled, combine can frosting and Cool Whip. Cut each cake horizontally so that now you have four layers. Fill between each layer with frosting and use remaining frosting mixture to frost outside of the cake. Cake must be refrigerated. It is even better the day after it is made.

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

BANANA COFFEE CAKE

Great recipe for those over ripened bananas

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 4 Tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla

TOPPING:

- 7 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 5 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup nuts, chopped

Cream sugar and shortening; add eggs and bananas. Next, add flour, soda, milk and vanilla. Pour in 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Combine topping ingredients. Spread cake with topping before baking. Bake 350 F for about 30 minutes.

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.



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Disability Income Insurance: Key Policy Features — Provided by Gary Hayden

Prospective insurance buyers are often confused about disability income insurance because the features and benefits vary widely from one policy to another. Essentially, there are a few key elements that could make a big difference when you make your choice. If you are in the market for disability income insurance, here are some of the things you should consider:

Definition of “Total Disability.” Does the policy define total disability as a condition during which you cannot perform the duties of your “own occupation” or “any occupation”? A policy that refers to your “own occupation” generally pays benefits if you cannot return to work in your own field, or if you return to work in a lower paying job or a job in another occupation. A policy that refers to “any occupation” generally would pay benefits only if you were unable to perform any job: your own job, a lower paying job, or a job in a new occupation.

Duration of Benefits. Even if you have to choose a smaller benefit amount to keep the premiums affordable, look for coverage that protects you until age 65. Note: There are policies available that offer benefits only for a limited period, such as a maximum of two or five years, and the nature of your occupation may affect the duration of coverage.

Amount of Coverage. Most plans set a limit on the percentage of income you can

insure — usually 50 percent to 60 percent of your total gross earnings. If you have an employer-provided plan that offers only limited group coverage, you may consider buying supplemental disability income coverage from an outside source.

Elimination Period. The waiting or “elimination” period is the amount of time you must wait before disability benefits can start. Remember, shorter waiting periods involve higher premiums and vice versa. In addition, the waiting period is determined when a policy is issued, not when disability commences.

Taxation of Benefits. Benefits may be tax free if you pay the premiums using after-tax dollars. Benefits under most employer-provided plans are taxable because they are usually paid with pre-tax dollars. (Please note that it may be wise to verify this with your tax professional.)

Partial or “Residual” Coverage. After a serious disability, many people are able to return to work only on a part-time basis. Partial or “residual” benefits allow you to receive partial disability benefits, as well as your part-time income, until you fully recover. Without this feature, your benefits may stop as soon as you return to work.

Portable Coverage. Policies that allow you to carry your coverage from one job to another have an obvious advantage. Coverage



from a professional association could be one such example of portable coverage that is not tied to your place of employment, not to mention any individual disability income policy that you might buy on your own.

Of course, prior to shopping for a policy that best suits you, it is important to determine the right amount of coverage you need in light of what coverage you may or may not already have. Therefore, make it a point to review your insurance coverage and needs on a regular basis in order to ensure you are adequately protected. **END**

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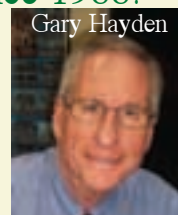
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Cutting Health Care Costs:

Five Quick Tips on Curbing Your Spending on Health Care

— By Bradley M. Mabry

Here are five dos and don'ts on ways to lighten the cost of your medical appointments without sacrificing your health:

1. Do follow through with preventive care.

Preventive care is especially important in high-stress times because stress can take its toll on your health. It is important to stay informed of your health condition and stay involved with your physicians. Make sure you're not having a worsening of your health due to the stress you're under.

2. Do exercise, eat right, lose even a little extra weight, and don't smoke.

A healthier lifestyle can pay off — literally. For instance, you might need fewer prescription drugs, and you might be less likely to develop high-maintenance conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

It's a little bit like the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" — a walk a day keeps the bills low. You don't have to lose drastic amounts of extra weight because even modest weight loss makes a difference. If you feel stressed, go out and take a walk.

3. Don't dismiss your symptoms.

Of course, you should seek immediate care for possible heart attack symptoms or stroke symptoms. Time can also count for symptoms that don't seem immediately threatening, like new breast lumps or skin changes. If you have had nasal problems, it

may be necessary to visit your ENT immediately and save you money in the long run.

4. Don't go to the emergency room for problems that aren't emergencies.

Because emergency rooms are overwhelmed, you may wait hours to be seen. And if you're paying out of pocket, you could wind up with a bill of \$400-\$500, for which you will be responsible. Overcrowding in emergency rooms can also make it harder to deliver emergency care when it's truly needed.

Hospital ERs are set up to focus on medical emergencies. They are not set up to focus on routine health care. If you go to the ER for a problem that is not an emergency:

- It will cost a lot more than it would at your doctor's office. A trip to the ER for an earache, for example, may cost three to four times as much as it would at your doctor's office.
- You will probably spend a lot more time there than you would at a walk-in clinic or doctor's office.
- You will get care from a doctor who has probably never seen you before. It's always best to get as much of your care as you can from a doctor who knows and understands you.

Go to the ER if you think you are having a medical emergency. That's what the ER is for. Otherwise, call your doctor's office first. It will save you money and time.

5. Don't leave money in your flexible spending account (FSA).

December 31 is right around the corner, so do not to leave money in your FSA. If you have an FSA to help cover your medical costs, it's "use it or lose it"; you have to use that money by year's end or it's gone for good. **NOW**

Bradley M. Mabry

Ennis Regional Medical Center



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- **Can't remember what they read** (*Olvida muy rapido lo que acaba de leer*)
- **Can't sit still** (*No puede mantenerse quieto*)
- **Has a hard time completing tasks** (*Batalla para terminar lo que comienza*)
- **Waits until the last minute to work on homework/projects**
(*Se espera hasta el ultimo minuto para hacer sus tareas/proyectos*)
- **Forgetful** (*Se le olvidan las cosas facilmente*)

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October 2009

Community Calendar

All Month

Weekend Comedy, presented by Ennis Public Theatre. Weekends October 2-24. For reservations, call (972) 878-PLAY.

Texas Motorplex events every weekend. For information, call Texas Motorplex at (972) 878-2641.

First and Third Tuesday

Ennis Cancer Support Group: 7:00 p.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center classroom. For information, contact Kathy at (972) 878-8927 or visit www.enniscancersupport.com.

October 1

Auditions for *The Meeting*: 6:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library Learning Center. Three males 18 years and up needed. Contact Fran Anderson at (972) 872-2865 or Fran@InspirationInc.org.

October 1, 8 and 15

Actor's Workshop, hosted by Inspiration, Inc. Arts in the Community: Ennis Public Library Learning Center. Adults: 6:30-7:45 p.m. Youth ages 8-16: 5:00-6:00 p.m. For information, contact Fran Anderson at (972) 872-2865 or Fran@InspirationInc.org. www.inspirationinc.org.

October 8

National Night Out. Downtown Ennis: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Downtown Palmer: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

October 10

Bluegrass Music Show: 7:00 p.m., Old Bristol Schoolhouse, 100 Church St., Bristol. Free admission. Donations accepted. For information, call Jim Gattin at (972) 846-2211 or (972) 351-2043.

October 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31

Kelly Manor Haunted House: 7:00 p.m.-midnight, 6801 FM 860. \$8 per person. For information or to volunteer, call (214) 615-8592 or visit www.kellymanor.com.

October 17

Autumn Days in Ennis Fall Festival: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., downtown Ennis. Free. (972) 878-4748. www.visitennis.org.

October 23-25

Midlothian Arts Council Painted Art Show. Location: 1 Community Circle Drive, Midlothian Conference Center, Midlothian. For entry and event information call (972) 723-7919 or visit www.midlothiancenter.com.

October 24

Lights of Ennis 10th Anniversary Gala: Raphael House yard, 500 W. Ennis Ave. Costume Theme: "Around the World in Ten Years." Dinner, auction, dancing, live music and costume contest. For tickets, call (972) 878-2400.

First United Methodist Church annual Harvest Festival: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Shopping, food, BBQ, pumpkins and

silent and live auction, including gift baskets and vacation packages. For information, contact Greg at (972) 875-3365.

Bristol Opry Country Music Show: 7:00 p.m., Old Bristol Schoolhouse, 100 Church St., Bristol. Donations accepted. For information, contact Jim Gattin at (972) 846-2211.

October 29

Goblins and Ghosts Halloween Bash downtown trick-or-treating: 6:00-7:30 p.m. Downtown Ennis.

October 30

Annual Friday Night Football Fish Fry: 4:30-7:00 p.m., Sam Houston Elementary School. Adults: \$6. Children: \$4. For information, call (972) 875-5531.

October 31

Ellis County SPCA's 7th Annual Halloween Bow Wow Hustle: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Bluebonnet Park. Doggie fun run, costume contests and door prizes. (972) 935-0756. www.elliscountyspca.org.

**For more community events,
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