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On The Cover



*The flag still stands
for freedom.*

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving!

November reminds me of so many special times with family. The memory I seem to cherish the most is the annual Thanksgiving trip we always took to Heyworth, Illinois, my mom's hometown. Those are unforgettable trips. My brothers and I would argue the entire way, while Mom's aim with a yardstick improved with each trip. My dad would drive all night long so we'd make it in plenty of time for Thanksgiving dinner. I remember the sounds of laughter and the wonderful smells that let you know you've come home.

Although our family is much smaller these days, it's still fun to gather for Thanksgiving. As an adult, it's heartwarming to watch my children, now grown, begin to make traditions of their own. All I know for sure, is any new tradition had better include homemade pumpkin pie with more than just a dollop of whipped cream.

Sandra

Sandra Strong
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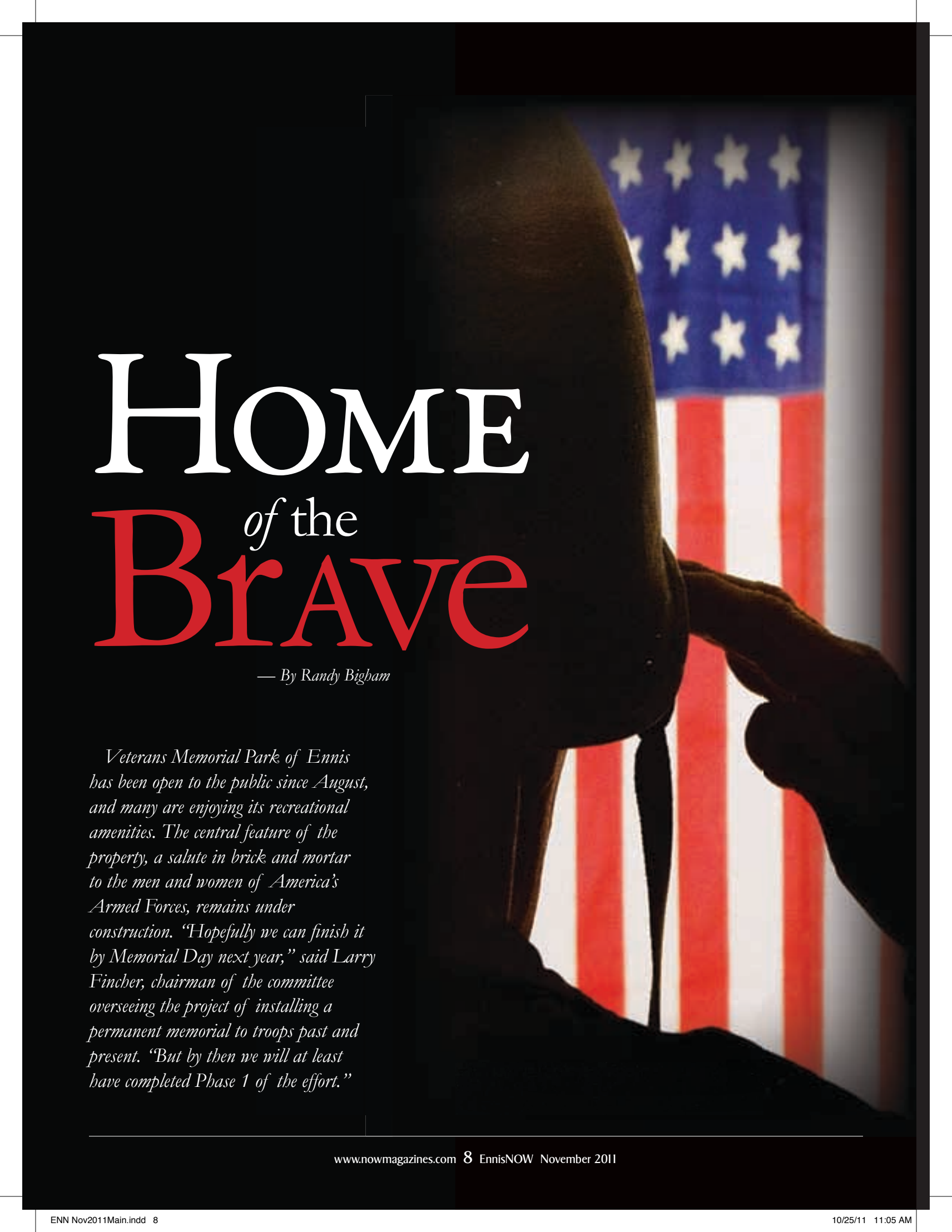
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HOME *of the* BrAVE

— By Randy Bigham

Veterans Memorial Park of Ennis has been open to the public since August, and many are enjoying its recreational amenities. The central feature of the property, a salute in brick and mortar to the men and women of America's Armed Forces, remains under construction. "Hopefully we can finish it by Memorial Day next year," said Larry Fincher, chairman of the committee overseeing the project of installing a permanent memorial to troops past and present. "But by then we will at least have completed Phase 1 of the effort."

“We want to honor all U.S. veterans.”

The initial stage involves laying the foundation for a circular promenade with a centerpiece devoted to veterans and surrounding sections dedicated to specific conflicts, from World War I to the current War on Terror. Larry stressed the main objective in funding the park's namesake memorial is to pay homage to enlisted personnel en masse. “We want to honor all U.S. veterans,” he said, “whether they served in a war or not, whether dead or alive and whether they are from Ennis or not.”

Local American Legion Post Commander Dan Cook, whose organization is sponsoring the project, underscored the mission's broad appeal when he interjected, “If you put the uniform on to serve your country, this is your memorial.”

Football and soccer fields, walking paths and a playground at the new park will accommodate leisure activities for years to come, but members of the building committee hope the memorial now underway will become the hub of the facility and the heart of the community. “This will be a place for people to go to remember loved ones, a place for the town to gather for patriotic events,” Dan pointed out. Marylyn Wylie, fundraising coordinator for the memorial, agreed. “The park will be where Ennisites can come and be reminded of the sacrifices our soldiers



Left to right - Dan Cook, Marylyn Wylie and Larry Fincher

have made,” she said. “We can’t forget what they have done for America, and we want these grounds to be an ongoing tribute to their courage that will last for generations.”

The idea for the local memorial was conceived during the 2008 campaign for Honor Flight of Ellis County, an Ennis-based branch of the national initiative

to transport World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the monument erected there in their honor. The Ennis group was the first from Texas to attend, and has since served as a model for others around the state. “We discussed then that Ennis didn’t have a central spot to honor vets,” Dan said. “We have plaques at different locations, but no

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common meeting place.”

Public interest in a memorial grew considerably during the stop the Traveling Vietnam Wall made last year to the Bluebonnet City where it was erected on the site of the present park, a onetime Ennis Independent School District campus. Hosted by the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, the touring wall proved an emotional experience for citizens who crowded the area every day of its brief time in Ennis to pay their



respects. “People were really moved,” Dan continued, “so we knew we had to do something. That’s when we got behind Larry to make a permanent memorial happen.”

Luck was on their side. When the city of Ennis purchased the land where the Vietnam Wall stood and began making plans for a park, Larry and his supporters asked the city council for permission to allocate part of the property for a military memorial. Council members voted unanimously to set aside a tract of land for that use and to name the facility Veterans Memorial Park of Ennis.

Work has been steady at the site since, and fundraisers from raffles and spaghetti dinners to an auction and 10-K run have netted large sums toward the



effort to complete the memorial by May 2012. The committee is now appealing to corporate entities to aid in sponsoring the organization to ensure a timely finish to the veterans' portion of the park. "We are making strides to build this memorial but we need help," Larry admitted. "The committee is offering business and industrial establishments a chance to partner with us and to lead us like a general would lead his troops." There are five corporate packages available, ranging from increments of \$500 to \$10,000, and all contributors at these levels will be duly recognized. The strained economy has put a dent in donations, however, and committee members are urging citizens to contribute even small amounts. "We know times are tough," Marilyn acknowledged, "but we have faith in Ennis' hometown spirit and know it will pull us through so we can make this park all that it should be for our vets."

Larry added that those unable to make sizeable donations can give \$5 or \$10 toward buying a flagpole, a tree or a bronze service seal for the monuments. "They say every little bit counts," Larry remarked, "and it does."

The most personal aspect of the forthcoming memorial is creating pathways composed of brick pavers engraved with the names of servicemen and women from all branches of the Armed Forces and from all parts of the country. This feature is one of the most popular ways locals are contributing to the memorial. Each individual paver, engraved by Giles Monuments, costs \$125 and will be placed at the entrance and on other walkways inside the esplanade representing fields of service

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or wars. "Every U.S. vet is eligible for an engraved paver," Larry noted, "whether they are presently serving or have passed away. They can be from here or anywhere else. We already have bricks engraved with names of vets from Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Georgia."

In addition to soliciting monetary donations, the Veterans Memorial Committee encourages increased involvement within the organization from Ennis and other Ellis County residents. "We would love to welcome more people to our meetings and to



The brick photographed above is Cpl. Frank Buckles - 1901 - 2011. He was 110 when he passed. He was the last known WWI Veteran from West Virginia. He was also a POW of WWII.

serve on subcommittees," Marylyn said. "I love this little town and want to share the pride of having something so special right here to honor our heroes."

Larry concurred. "I grew up here so this means a lot to me and it will mean a lot to all of us," he stated. He believes the best thing about the memorial is how it will serve as a great educational tool. Kids playing in the park, who might not know much about America's patriotic past, can learn about it in a setting befitting the sacrifices made to preserve national freedom.

"I can't wait to celebrate our first Memorial Day on the site," Dan enthused. "Like the Vietnam Wall, it's going to take people's breath away." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information go to www.veteransmemorialennis.com.

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A Dream Come True

— By Sandra Strong



At Home With
**Bill and
Susie
Evans**

The Christmas holiday was right around the corner the winter of 2005. Bill and Susie Evans were living in Waxahachie when Susie's dad from Houston came to visit. One evening, the family decided to go for a ride to look at homes decorated in Christmas lights, garland and yard art. Ironically, the group ended up on a road very near Lake Bardwell. "I remember saying I'd like to live out here one day," Bill said.

A couple years later when the family made the decision to look for a new home, Bill began to see his dream coming true. The couple with two small children felt it was sensible to relocate to the Ennis area. "Everything we did, we did in Ennis," Susie said, as Bill nodded his head in agreement. "I teach fourth grade at Miller, and Bill has always worked for the Ennis Fire Department. At the time, the kids went to daycare here."

After looking at homes already established in neighborhoods in town, the couple took a ride back by the lake. They found a vacant lot, one they were able to decide upon. They bought the land, but didn't begin the building process until almost one full year later. In that one year, Bill and Susie found the layout they wanted through Blue Line Designs, a home designer located in Waxahachie. They secured the builder, Pat Cummings, from Ennis. The only major thing they changed in the original floor plans was the location of the upstairs space. "We moved the playroom above the kitchen instead of the garage,"



Bill stated. "Making this change allowed for more living and playing space."

Construction on the two-story, three-bedroom, three-bath home began on Memorial Day, 2008. Bill stopped by the jobsite everyday as the house was being built. He was there the day the foundation was poured. "The girls road their power wheels on the foundation that same night," Susie recalled with a laugh.

Four months later, on Labor Day, the family was able to move into their new home. "I know this sounds corny, but I never thought we'd be able to buy two acres and build our dream home," Susie confessed. The only things the couple would change if they had the chance would be to make the laundry room larger and to have located one



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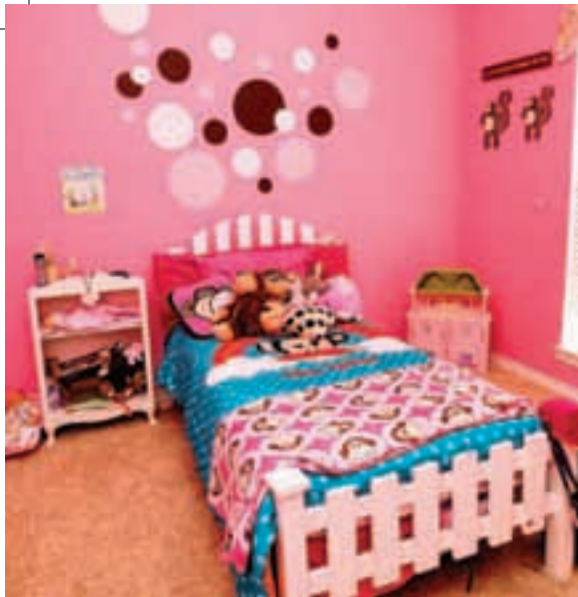
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of the bathrooms closer to the in-ground, backyard pool. But all in all, they are very happy with the home they have created for themselves and their daughters, Kailey and Karsyn, ages 8 and 6 respectively.

A rich, harvest gold wall color with white trim and black wrought iron accents is found everywhere in the downstairs portion of the home, save for the girls' bedrooms, which are both "pretty in pink." Susie explained, "The fall-like color we chose goes with everything. The fans



throughout the home all have similar traits in the way they are constructed and in their color. We love the way everything just blends together."

Kailey and Karsyn both have their own bedrooms, while they share a bathroom. Kailey's room, bright pink in color with matching black furniture, is the one place in the home where she can go and "just chill." Karsyn's bedroom is hot pink with a white picket fence bed frame. Her walls are adorned with hand-painted polka dots.

The girls' favorite room by far is the

playroom upstairs. "I like it best because it has more toys," Karsyn giggled.

"That's our room to make a mess in," Kailey added, "and we don't have to share the remote."

Sleepovers are held all the time upstairs, and the 450-square-foot room also serves as the guest room when family comes to visit. "We wanted a room that would grow with the girls," Bill said.



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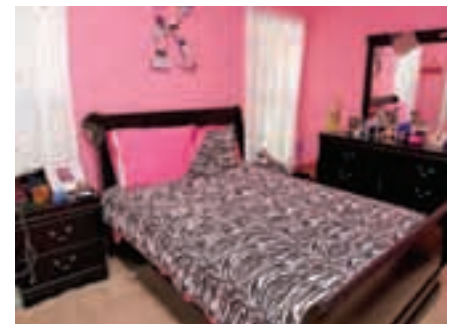
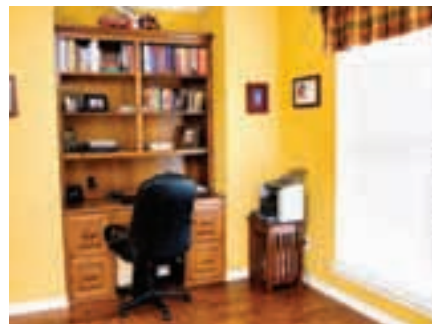
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The girls' favorite room by far is the playroom upstairs.



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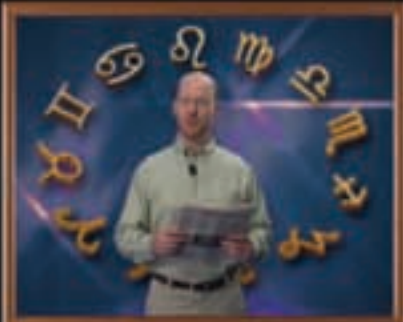


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"It works as a playroom now. It will also be a great place for them to hang out with friends when they get to be teenagers."

The only real collectible the couple share, other than the unique, one-of-a-kind artwork created by the girls, is



the firefighter memorabilia displayed throughout the living room. "One day I came home from school and Bill had already hung all the pictures," Susie said, referring to framed prints by Jim Davis, a retired fireman from Florida, that depict firemen in the throes of what they do best, saving lives while extinguishing fires. Each print is inscribed with a scripture from the Bible, making them pleasing to the eye, as well as inspirational. Other notable firefighting-related pieces in the living area include an entertainment center built by Bill's brother, a framed puzzle from his mother and a special Father's Day clock Susie made Bill for Father's Day. All three are proud representations of what Bill does while he's away from home.

When Bill is at home, he can usually be found in the kitchen. "He's the cook in the family," Susie confessed. "I can cook a mean bowl of spaghetti, but Bill really does most all the cooking. There's really no need for me to learn, because Bill does such a good job." A regular evening meal, which also happens to be Susie's favorite, consists of turkey sausage and sweet potatoes.

Bill has no fear when it comes to trying new recipes. "I learned how to cook from watching my mom," Bill said, "but I get a lot of new recipes from the fire station." Bill also loves to grill

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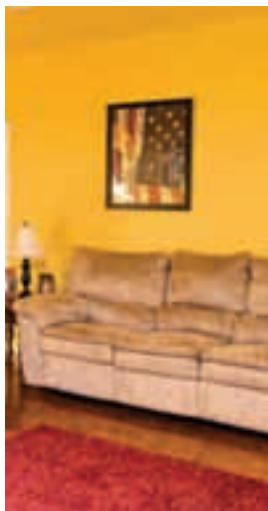
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outside. "It's something I do year-round," he said, "unless it's snowing."

Almost all families have Thanksgiving traditions. While some are preparing the same meal that dates back several generations, Bill, Susie and the girls are

trying to remember if this is the year they stay close to home or if it is the year they spend Thanksgiving at Disneyworld in Florida. "Every other year we meet my sister and her family from Pennsylvania there," Susie clarified. "My dad goes with us. Sometimes my brother from California travels across country to join us, and my mom came along once, too."

When the family isn't traveling to Florida, they open their home in Ennis for the traditional meal of turkey and dressing, baked corn and sweet potato and green



bean casseroles. "Bill usually makes the turkey," Susie admitted, "while his mom prepares all the rest."

After 10 years of marriage, Bill and Susie still act like newlyweds. Susie is laid back and easy going. Bill is more particular; somewhat set in his ways. As individuals, they are very different. But as a couple, they have this uncanny way of finishing each other's sentences. Home for them really is a dream come true. **NOW**

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WIRED TO Win

— By Randy Biggam

One past winner of Ennis High School's Battle of the Bands competition isn't taking his victory lightly. Generally reserved, 18-year-old Blake Englehart is anything but shy about his passion for music. Yet a level-headed determination underscores his enthusiasm; there's no bravado to him, no conceit. To Blake, the son of Jason and Jeanne Englehart, the recent success he and his band, Tripwire, have experienced is the natural outcome of sheer dedication to a common goal. He sees the awards they won back in March — first place for his vocal solo and second place for the band's performance — not as the capping off of a school contest, but as the start of something bigger.

**"I do want
to pursue
music as
a career."**

"We actually first got together just to do the Battle of the Bands, but we ended up staying together," Blake explained, adding that the members' shared vision bonded them from the beginning.

The 2011 graduate also believes he and Tripwire placed at the top as much for their cohesiveness as their talent. "Playing in a band can be tough as far as personal relationships go," he admitted. "Everybody has to be at the same level



of skill, and everybody has to be fully in it. We've got that covered." With band mates he can rely on, Blake is shooting for the stars, and humdrum daily life poses no threat to his ambition. "I do want to pursue music as a career," he said. "It's hard right now, working five days a week, but I definitely plan on giving it a shot. It's my dream."

The dream started for Blake when he got his first guitar at 13 and taught himself to play it. "But I always had an interest in music," he qualified. "My dad loves music, so it's always been around." Becoming proficient on the guitar was difficult without formal training, but he stuck it out, and by age 16 he had joined a local band called Sanateria, which played some original rock songs

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he wrote, as well as covered the music of popular groups like blink-182. “I guess blink-182 has been the biggest influence on me,” Blake said. “I started out playing their songs on my guitar. Then I got into heavier stuff like Ozzy. My favorite guitar players are Synyster Gates of Avenged Sevenfold and Zakk Wylde from Ozzy and the Black Label Society. Pretty much, punk and metal have been my thing.”

Before auditioning for the Battle of the Bands in eighth grade, Blake and fellow Sanateria members racked up gigs in Dallas at such popular teen hangouts as The Door and the Curtain Club. They came in third out of 55 bands at a battle of bands event at The Loft, also in Dallas, where the experience of playing live prepared the group for future bookings. “We were together for only a little over a year,” recalled Blake, who served as lead singer. “But we played everywhere in Dallas, produced a CD with Crystal Clear Studios and even had our own T-shirt line.”

When Blake left Sanateria for Tripwire while in junior high, he knew he had made the right decision, however difficult the transition was. Joining as vocalist and lead guitarist, he hit it off instantly with fellow singer and rhythm guitarist Michael Valek, bassist Joel Watson and drummer Brett Patak. “We are very in sync,” he said, pointing out he was surprised he connected with Michael so well, having sparred with other guitarists in the past over stylistic differences. “There have only been two guitarists I’ve



been able to play with,” Blake confessed. “Michael is great. He’s the first I ever played with and the first I ever wrote music with.”

The four young musicians pooled their talent and wits for this year’s Battle of the Bands, rehearsing religiously and selecting songs that would best showcase their gifts — a ballad called “Lost in Space,” put over with appropriate angst by Blake and a cover of blink-182’s “Growing Up,” performed with requisite audacity by Tripwire. “I was proud of how the band did ‘Growing Up,’” Blake said. “It’s one of my favorite songs. It’s just about life. It was one of the first songs I played on my guitar.” The ditties paid off, and the teens took their back-to-back wins graciously.

The band members’ parents have been equally supportive. “There was a time when I wasn’t doing too well in school and I got grounded,” Blake remembered. “But my mom and dad didn’t ground me from the band. It was the only thing I wasn’t grounded from. They said they didn’t want to stand in my way if things took off for us.” While there was initially some concern on the part of the boys’ parents about the safety of the venues where they were playing, they have renounced their opposition. “My parents were strict at first until they knew there was always an adult there to keep an eye out,” Blake said. “So they’re not too worried about it now.” He added that his parents are even considering letting his little brother Cameron play in the band in the near future.

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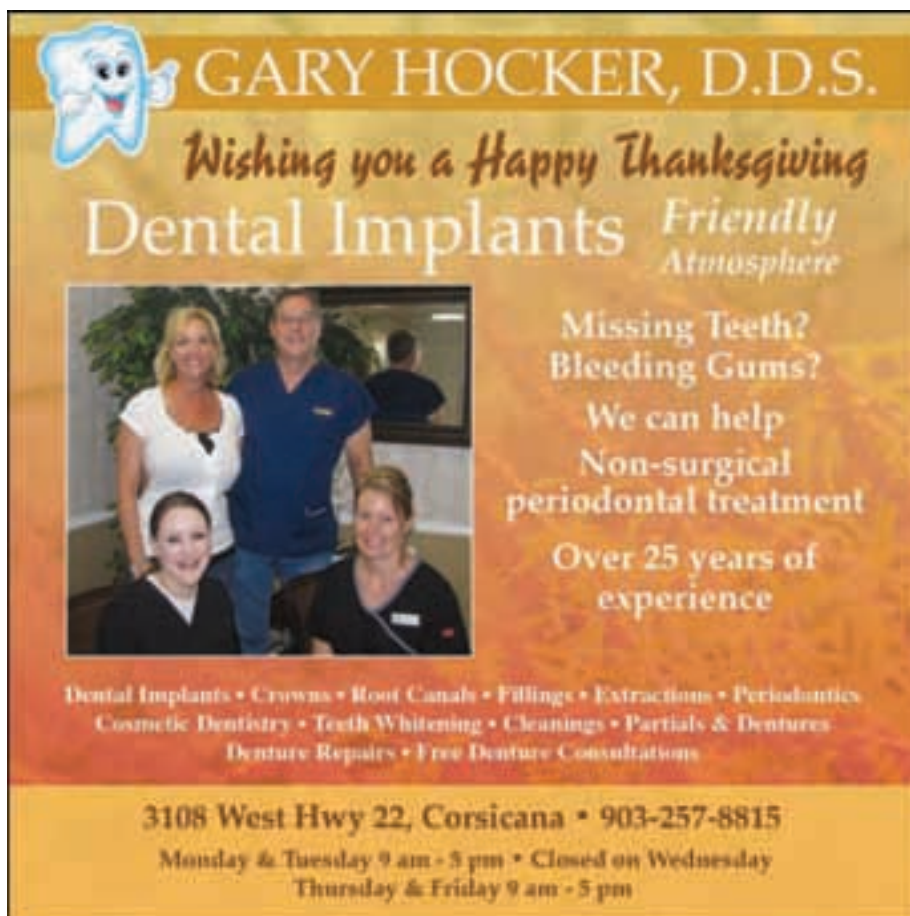
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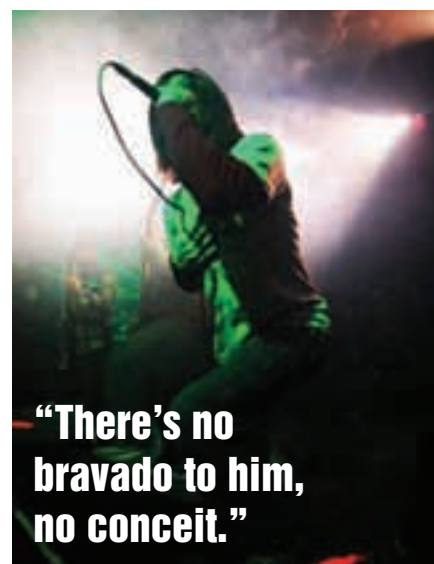


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Asked for his response to those who are critical of the seedier elements of the rock lifestyle and fear the youths might be drawn into it, Blake was matter-of-fact. "The reason there's a negative connotation is because of the media's focus on the drinking, drugs and other things that happen with some of the bigger bands," he said. "It's all people



hear about. The truth may be that a lot of bands are like that, but not all. We weren't — and aren't — like that."

Many in the community know that and have supported Tripwire from its inception. "I even had my history and art teachers come out to one of our shows in Dallas," Blake said. "And my karate teacher and his wife showed up at the Curtain Club one night. That was really cool."

Currently, Blake is concentrating on improving his voice. "Vocals are not something that comes naturally to me," he shared. "When I first started playing guitar, I couldn't figure out how to sing and play at the same time. It was really hard. So I had to work on it, and I'm still working on it." Most of all, the budding entertainer enjoys songwriting. "That's pretty much all I do now. I don't really bother with covering unless the band's for it. The creative process is what I like."

Tripwire took a short break during the summer, but they are in the process of getting back into the swing of things. Blake looks forward to exposure through a new CD deal and has high hopes for another series of concerts in Dallas. "We just want to go for it!" **NOW**



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Dr. William Davis has expanded his chiropractic care office to one that focuses on overall chiropractic wellness; spacious waiting area; and comfortable patient rooms.

Expanding His Reputation

Dr. Bill Davis is steering his practice toward those with chronic maladies.

— By Sandra Strong

This month marks a very important milestone for Ennis Chiropractic and Wellness Center, PA. Dr. William Davis, along with his staff, will celebrate his 10-year anniversary in Ennis. When he first began offering chiropractic care, his office was located on the outskirts of town. As his reputation grew throughout Ellis County, he needed to expand, which brought him to his present location in downtown Ennis.

As his patient list grew, so did the list of services. “I listened to what my patients wanted, what they were saying and what I knew as a chiropractor they needed,” he said. “As a doctor of chiropractic, I wanted to provide those things and so much more.” Maintaining good, overall health is of the utmost importance to Dr. Davis, so it was no surprise when he opened

Sensations, a 24-hour workout facility for women in the building right next door.

“It’s a two-fold entity,” he added, reiterating the importance of maintaining a healthy body. “We also offer classes at Sensations that include Zumba Gold, Yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi. If you want to work out and feel refreshed and invigorated, then Tai Chi could be the group for you. Tai Chi relaxes you as you reduce stress. Dr. Davis’ wife, Deanna, is one of the Zumba instructors for the Downtown Zumba. She is also the owner of Confetti’s Tent & Party Rentals, a registered nurse and mom to the couple’s four beautiful children, ranging in age from 3 to 15.

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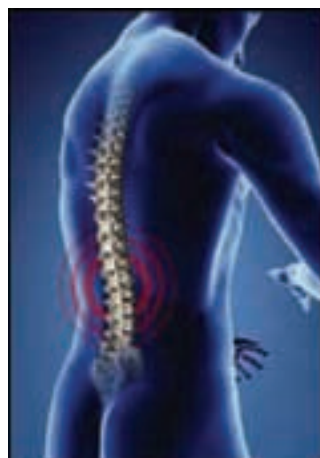
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Acupuncture has been around for 5,000 years. There are 2,000 health maladies helped by acupuncture. Dr. Davis added. "We're always looking for the next best technology for our patients." Acupuncture works great when it comes to chronic pain anywhere in the body, infertility and other complex maladies. Dr. Davis has also seen great results when it comes to patients suffering with seizures, MS and Parkinson's.

The past decade has seen Dr. Davis grow from a practice of basic chiropractic care to one of overall chiropractic wellness. Patients can continue to benefit from what the next 10 years will bring, while Dr. Davis' family continues to drive him to be the very best he can be. **NOW**



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Flag Wildcats, Levi Hortman and Malachi Perez, listen at a team meeting prior to a game against the Red Oak Cowboys.



The staff at the Ennis ISD central office shows its support for the Rangers.




Jordain Castillo poses with her big brother, Michael Nicklas.



Michael Lukas Espinosa enjoys his first pony ride at the Fall Festival.



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Why Should I Have My Baby Immunized?

— By Barry Davison, M.D.

That, as the saying goes, is a “real good question.” According to the immunization schedule endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), during the first 18 months of life, children will receive vaccines that protect them from 14 infectious diseases. If a child acquires these infections, he stands a chance of either dying or, if he survives, being left with permanent, severe handicaps. For the most part, these diseases do not have very satisfactory treatments, but are easily and effectively prevented by vaccination. Nevertheless, doctors still encounter the rare family that either wants to delay starting their children’s shots or, less frequently, reject having them immunized at all. Fortunately, most of these folks can be convinced, through focused discussions and review of reliable, factual literature that such decisions are not in their children’s best interests.

With the exception of the hepatitis B (a viral infection of the liver) vaccine, no immunizations will result in an adequate immune response in infants until they are 2 months old. Therefore, the first hepatitis B shot is given at birth, and the other immunizations are started at the 2-month-old checkup. The strategy behind all those shots that babies receive during their first year is to get them immunized against these diseases as quickly as possible, since these preventable illnesses have their most devastating

effects on infants and toddlers. The limiting factor is these youngsters’ evolving immune systems. If vaccines do not induce an appropriate immune response until after a certain age, then they should not be given at an earlier date. Some examples of this phenomenon are the vaccines for chickenpox, mumps and measles. These are not administered until 12 to 15 months of age, with a second dose around age 4 years.

The arguments against immunizations are, at best, rather feeble. They include misperceptions such as: “It is better for my child to have the natural disease than the vaccine to prevent it; vaccines cause (pick one) autism, brain damage, injury to the immune system, etc.; my child’s immune system cannot handle all the shots he is supposed to get; vaccines don’t work; and I don’t want to be told what I should be putting into my child’s body.”

One must also be careful about researching vaccine information online. There are many anti-vaccinationist Web sites out there that contain information that simply has no truth to it. Reliable Internet sources of immunization data include Medscape and WebMD, as well as any articles authored by Dr. Paul Offit. The bottom line is to keep your children healthy and safe. **NOW**

Barry Davison, M.D., Pediatrician • Ennis Regional Medical Center

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Remarriage May Require Refocus on Financial Goals

— By Bob Irish

If you're planning to get remarried, you have plenty of company: More than 40 percent of all U.S. weddings are second marriages for at least one of the participants, according to an estimate by the National Stepfamily Resource Center. Naturally, a second marriage will bring many changes to your life — not the least of which may be changes in your financial strategy and goals.

In fact, your remarriage should cause you to take a close look at these areas:

- **Past financial obligations** — Before even discussing your investments, you and your new spouse should decide how to handle past financial obligations, such as child support, alimony and debts. Consider temporarily managing three accounts — his, hers and ours — to keep track of these various payments.

- **Retirement accounts** — You and your new spouse may want to examine your respective retirement accounts — such as your 401(k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) — to determine if there are areas of duplication you may wish to avoid. If you both have the same types of investments, you may be more susceptible to downturns that primarily affect one industry or economic sector. By diversifying your holdings, you can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolios. Keep in mind, though that diversification cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

- **Insurance** — Evaluate your medical insurance plans to decide which policy is more economical and comprehensive for you, your spouse and any dependents. You may also want to review disability insurance to ensure appropriate coverage is in place. Also, review life insurance policies and update

beneficiaries and coverage.

- **Income taxes** — When you consult with your tax professional to discuss the tax implications related to your marriage, be sure to adjust your tax withholding on Form W-4 to reflect your marital status. You may also want to discuss whether your Social Security benefits will be impacted if you remarry and are under age 60.

- **Estate considerations** — Remarriage almost certainly will require you to work with a legal advisor to make changes to the following: will, living will, durable power of attorney, health care power of attorney and trust. If you have children, this step is critical toward ensuring your wishes will be carried out. You can also speak with your legal advisor if you are considering a prenuptial or postnuptial agreement.

And perhaps above all else, you need to communicate effectively with your new spouse about your respective ideas on managing finances and investments. To develop a joint investment strategy that addresses your goals and your individual differences, you may want to consult with a financial professional.

Remarriage can be a joyous occasion. And by making sure you and your new spouse are “on the same page” with regard to your financial situation and goals, you can make a positive contribution to your new life together. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Calendar

NOVEMBER 2011

November 4, 5

Heart of Texas Arts and Craft Show: **November 4** from 2:00-8:00 p.m., **November 5** from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Admission: adults \$4, children 12 and under are free. For more information, visit www.heartoftexasshow.com.

November 6

Daylight Savings Time ends.

November 11

Veterans Day

November 12

Ellis County Veterans' Appreciation Ceremony 2011: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Waxahachie Civic Center. For more information, contact David Hudgins at (972) 937-1200 or Perry Giles at (972) 937-6171.

Old Fashioned Singing: 7:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Waxahachie.

November 21-25

Ennis ISD Thanksgiving Break.

November 24

Thanksgiving Day

December 1-31

Lights of Ennis. Historic downtown Ennis will be decorated for the holiday season with thousands of white lights.

December 2, 3

Waxahachie Junior Service League Christmas Market and Preview Party: **Friday**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Preview party will feature an exclusive shopping experience that includes cocktails, refreshments, live entertainment and a silent auction. Admission is \$25 and is good for Saturday also. Saturday's market will feature unique gifts, photos with Santa, door prizes and more. WJSL cookbooks will also be available for purchase. If you only want to attend Saturday, admission is \$5, children 10 and under are free. For more information, visit www.waxahachiejls.org. To purchase tickets in advance, call (214) 636-2020.

Ongoing:

Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org.

Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Avenue.

Third Tuesdays

Skyblazers of Waxahachie R/C Club: 7:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building in downtown Waxahachie.

Wednesdays

GriefShare: recovery seminar and support group: 6:15 p.m., Palmer Christian Child Care and Day School, located at 510 S. Dallas Street. For more information, call Vivian Saladino at (214) 802-2256 or e-mail griefshare@fbcpalmer.com.

First and Third Thursdays

Mom's Connected: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Free fellowship for moms of all ages. For more information, contact ennismoms@sbcglobal.net.

Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

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In The Kitchen With Teresa Price

— By Sandra Strong

Family is all the inspiration Teresa Price needs when it comes to cooking. “It comes from my love for my family,” Teresa explained. “It’s in my nature to do my very best at whatever I do, and I love to please my guys.” Her “guys” include her husband and four boys. Over the years, the family has grown to include a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, as well as a few girlfriends.

Teresa enjoys down-home cooking and grilling. “I’ve been told by a few that I smoke a mean brisket,” Teresa smiled. “My smoked turkeys are pretty good, too.” When not in the kitchen or at work, you can find Teresa singing and playing her guitar at church or enjoying a round of golf with “her guys.” **NOW**

Pork Loin Casserole

12 thin slices boneless pork loin
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 -1/3 cup flour
1 14-oz. can mushroom soup
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 -3/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 small onion, diced
1-1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly salt, pepper and flour each slice of pork loin. In a large skillet, lightly brown the pork loin slices. Set aside.
2. Mix together soup, salt, pepper and garlic powder.
3. Layer half of the pork loin, onion and soup mixture in a 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle

1/3 of the cheese on top. Repeat process; sprinkle all remaining cheese on top.

4. Bake for 30-40 minutes; until cheese has browned and soup mixture is bubbly. Pork loin should be fork tender.

Corn and Smoke Sausage Chowder

1 lb. smoked sausage, diced
1 bay leaf
1 medium onion, diced
1 stalk celery, diced
2 carrots, diced
6-7 medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced
1/4 tsp. dried thyme
1/4 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper
26 oz. chicken stock
3 cups frozen corn
4-5 cups milk

1. Brown sausage in 6-qt. stock pot. Remove and retain meat for later. Sauté onion, celery and carrots in the same pot with the sausage grease.
2. When vegetables are slightly tender, add potatoes, thyme, oregano, garlic, salt, pepper, bay leaf and chicken stock. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to simmer for 15 minutes. Add corn and let simmer for another 10 minutes.
3. Return sausage to the mixture. Add milk. Do not allow soup to boil once the milk has been added. Keep heat on low for another 5-10 minutes, while flavors come together. Remove bay leaf and serve.

Potato Soup

6 slices bacon
1 medium onion, diced small
3 garlic cloves, minced
8-10 medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced into 3/4-inch pieces
26 oz. chicken stock
2 pinches dried thyme
1/2-3/4 tsp. dried parsley
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 qt. milk
1/2-1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
Goldfish crackers (optional)

1. Fry bacon over medium heat in a 6-qt. stock pot. Remove bacon and all but 1-2 Tbsp. of bacon fat. Add onions. When onions are translucent, add garlic, potatoes, chicken stock, thyme, parsley, salt and pepper.
2. Cover; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer for about 20 minutes.
3. When potatoes are tender, stir gently making sure to mash some of the potatoes to thicken the soup.
4. Add milk; turn off heat. Ladle soup into bowls that have some of the cheese and crumbled bacon in them. If desired, add crackers.

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