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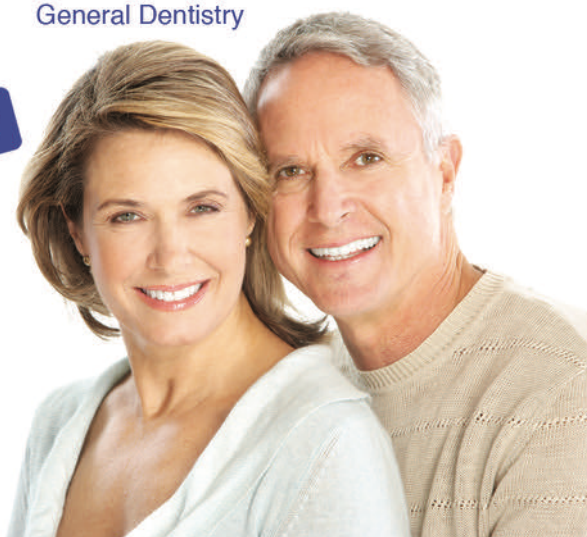


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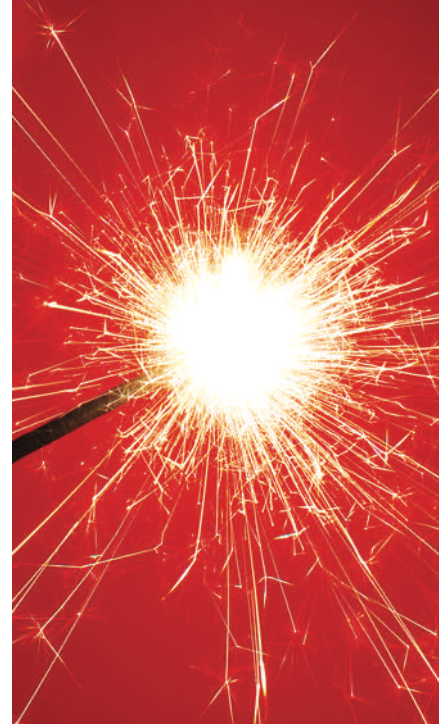
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ON THE COVER



Angie Juenemann serves as the first female mayor of her hometown.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly. I can look back and smile at so many days in the past 12 months that brought laughter and a lifetime of warm memories: coloring inside the lines with Easton, playing dinosaurs with Zane and hearing little girl laughter as Karleigh chases the dog on hands and knees. I thank God daily for His gift of grandchildren. Now that I have

my own, I don't know what I did all those years without them.

I look at my grandchildren as a second chance to get it right. I'm a lot older and much wiser than I was when I was raising my own children. Experience allows me to say, "No," and mean it, while it's also taught me that the housework can wait. I've learned a game of Break the Ice or Candyland is much more important than making a bed or washing up some dirty dishes. And sitting on the couch watching them eat white powdered donuts is priceless!

Wishing you only the best in the coming year!

Sandra

Sandra Strong
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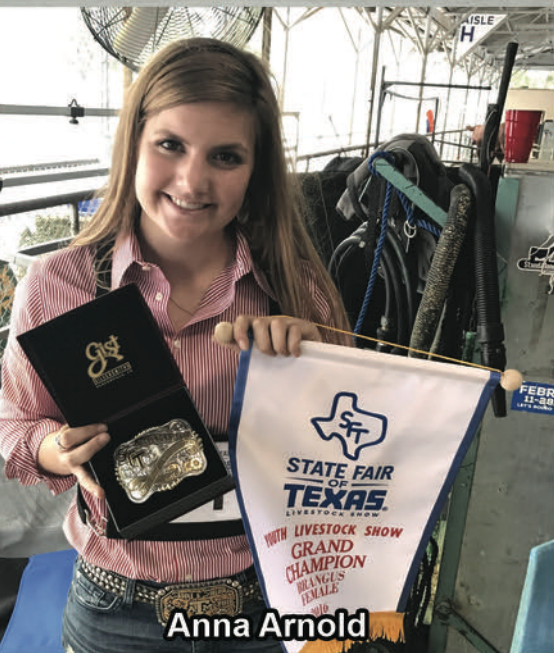
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Weaving People *Together*

— By Sandra Strong





Angie Juenemann has always been an Ennis girl. The home she lives in today was purchased by her parents in 1968. It's the same house that Angie was raised in, and it's the same house where she and her husband, Dennis, raised three children and where memories with the seven grandchildren continue to be made. When Angie ran for mayor in the recent city election, it came as "little" surprise to her family and friends. Family and friends are the contingent that had been encouraging her for the past five years to get involved further in her community by running for some form of public office. "The timing always seemed off," Angie said. "I actually never expected to run for mayor — it was never on my radar."

As she reminisces back on the past year, she realizes the call to run for mayor was part of God's plan for her life. "I kept hearing a voice in my head that said *I must do this. I must run for mayor*," she explained. "I tried to ignore the voice, but it kept getting louder."

When she finally relented to that loud voice and filled out the necessary paperwork to have her name added to the ballot, she quickly came to realize she'd been training for this position her entire life. First and foremost, she is an Ennis native, born and raised. She comes from a large family that has always believed in the importance of being involved in the community. Secondly, Angie has taken an active role throughout the years on several city boards and in leadership positions. And

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thirdly, working 12 years as an Edward Jones financial advisor groomed her for the mayoral position she has currently held since May 2016. As a financial advisor, her main responsibility has been listening to and implementing the needs of her clients. As mayor, she will be listening to the voices of the individuals in the Ennis community.

As the first female mayor in the city's history, Angie takes her newfound title seriously. The main asset she possesses is her uncanny ability to listen. "Being an intent and good listener is the most important aspect as mayor," she reiterated. "All people want to be heard, and they want to know their voice matters. Many times, all they need to do is vent to someone. I want to offer the open door that allows them to do that."


Angie compared herself to a spider — a good spider — one who weaves people together in a positive way. She strongly believes that bringing people together is one of her talents. "As mayor, I understand decisions won't always be black and white. Many times, the answers will be found in those gray areas," she stated. "Knowledge is power. The more I know, the better equipped I will be to make the necessary decisions." The only way for her to find the knowledge she seeks is to humbly listen to the members of the community in which she serves. When she makes decisions as mayor, Angie will be weighing each opinion very carefully. "I am a respecter of all opinions," she added.

In her seven months as mayor, Angie has fallen in love with the city of Ennis all over again. She's also found several



different layers to each new challenge she's faced. But her thirst for further knowledge is making her a better-rounded individual, as well as a mayor her constituents can be proud of. "I am committed to this city," she admitted. "I am a servant for the people."

In the November election, a vote for term limits passed. Elected officials, such as mayor, are set with a two-year term and a cap of 10 years. "These new term limits allow for fresh blood and new eyes in the office," she stated. Angie is still finding a balance in her position as mayor. She is beginning to chip away at who she is and who she wants to be. "People are drawn to people who get things done," she continued. "My goal is to engage people and let them know their voices really do matter to me."

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Ennis has been expanding in many areas over the past few years, and continued growth is part of the future. Angie's plan is to be pro-active in the processes she helps establish that will direct and mold Ennis in a positive manner. "Changes are coming," she said. "We can either manage them, or they will end up managing us. Growth is inevitable, but we have to handle those changes in the right way for it to be successful."

Some of the anticipated changes will be found in new eateries and local shopping venues. As the population in Ennis ages, Angie would also like to see some processes put into place that will engage the seniors in the community. "In incorporating all this growth, we don't want to lose the charm of the city and all its awesome cultures," she explained. "We want to keep all these wonderful things intact as we grow."

Angie's vision as mayor is to be part of these positive changes for the community she loves. She is so looking forward to watching the growth for the future generations still to come. "As a whole, the city is a masterpiece in progress," Angie said. The long-range goals for the city remain the same. "We all still want to be part of the American dream, no matter who we are or what we do," she stated. "We all want to live a life that is safe. We want to be healthy and happy — to love and be loved." And as a community, individuals still want the best schools, the best jobs, the best houses of worship and an overall quality of life.

To live in a community that embraces the differences in its members means a great deal to Angie. To be the mayor in this same community is priceless. "My heart is on fire for Ennis," she shared. "I want to take what is already good and make it even better!" **NOW**

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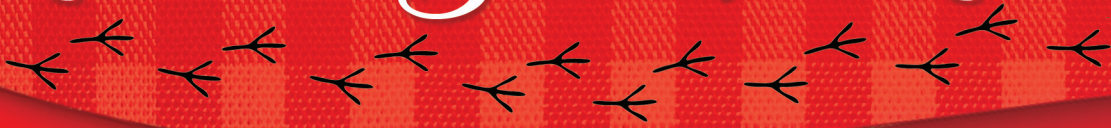



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Ruling the Roost

— By Jill Martinez



At Home With
Danny & Shirley Slovacsek

The Slovacseks, a couple with strong roots in Ennis, toured this dream home when it was first built in 2004. They fell in love with it, but Danny wasn't quite ready to let go of the house they had called home for nearly 30 years. A little over a year ago, Shirley was taking her evening walk when she saw the "For Sale by Owner" sign in the yard. She quickly sent a text to Danny, who wasn't going to let this beauty slip through his fingers again. Danny quickly sent a text, making an offer to the homeowner. "We spent three months moving out of our previous home and into this one. It was a sentimental move," Danny said.

After all, there was a lifetime of memories and possessions to sort through. Now that they are settled, they couldn't be happier with their decision.





The circular drive and the front door, which faces the corner of the property, are just two of the features that caused Danny and Shirley to immediately love this home. "Very little has changed since we originally toured the house," Shirley said elated.

Wagon wheels, once part of a mule-drawn wagon that belonged to Danny's grandfather over 100 years ago, adorn each side of the front door. Just inside the house, a Texas star is etched into



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the stained concrete flooring that covers most of the common areas. "When people visit, I want them to feel welcome here," Shirley shared.

The formal dining nook is tucked just around the corner from the entry. Shirley selected a dark wooden hutch and a matching dining table, which have semicircle carvings along their edges. The leather dining chairs are accented with round upholstery nails, adding a rustic charm. "We host all the family here for a Christmas Eve fish fry," Danny said. "It's part of our Czech Catholic tradition."


Though Danny and Shirley occupy this home by themselves, family is dear to their hearts. In the living room, the heart

of the home, there's an arrangement of photos showcasing each of their parents, their son and their grandson. The couple enjoys cozy evenings in their light brown recliners facing the fireplace. There is room for friends and family on the suede-like sofa arranged parallel to the chairs. A lovely Aztec-themed rug with hints of burgundy, tan and green pulls the room together.

Though both sets of their parents are gone now, along with some of their other relatives, the couple remembers them fondly through photos, memories and possessions they inherited from them. One memory Danny has of his father was when he was 13 years old.

They had traveled to Dallas for Danny's orthodontic appointment, but before he could be treated, word came over the radio that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. "On the way home, we were stopped at a police blockade and had the trunk of our car searched," Danny recalled. "It's a day I'll never forget."

Just behind the sofa are a few antique furniture pieces that were passed down from Danny's mother and aunt. A lovely Singer sewing table now holds images of their grandson, bringing the former generation in touch with the future one. To the right is a handkerchief chest and mirror. Shirley has displayed old-



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fashioned oil lamps on each side with a white-washed basin and pitcher in the center. To the left of the sewing table is a cedar chest tastefully topped with a white lace table runner and greenery.

Shirley, a former credit manager, has an eye for bargains and enjoys shopping for items at estate sales, garage sales, antique stores and auctions. This way, she gets the most bang for her buck and finds all kinds of interesting pieces. She started a collection of chicken-themed items several years ago. At one point,



she had over 400 pieces, but when she moved into this home, she scaled it down to about 200. Her kitchen displays her varied collection. She has everything from dish towels and rugs to tea pots and tureens — and everything in between! It's truly impressive. "Most people have a kitchen nook. Not me. I have a chicken nook!" Shirley explained, as she pointed out the china cabinet brimming over with pieces from her brood.

When Danny and Shirley want to enjoy themselves, they head out to the large deck at the back of the house and relax under the canopy-style gazebo, while viewing the serene woods. To get there, they pass through the solarium, which was formerly a small, covered porch. This is where Danny keeps his weightlifting equipment, and Shirley tucks her plants safely away during the winter. Now that Shirley is retired and Danny is semiretired, they have time to enjoy these simple pleasures.

The bedrooms use a split floor plan, with the master and en suite bathroom to the right of the living area. Shirley has adorned this room in turquoise and brown. The Texas star theme and the dark wooden furniture overflow

from the common areas into this room. "What drew me to this bedroom set was the chest of drawers and the dresser. Although they are not antiques, they remind me of some I've seen. I just fell in love with it," Shirley commented. The master bathroom boasts double sinks, a large shower, a Safe Step walk-in tub complete with jets and a walk-in closet.

The guest room furnishings closely resemble those of the master bedroom. The dark brown and black leopard bedding, tan carpeting and cream-colored walls harmonize to create a cozy retreat. With a well-appointed guest bath located just across the hall, overnight visitors are sure to be comfortable here.

Though Danny and Shirley's son lives in San Marcos now, he does pop in for visits around the holidays, so they have reserved a room for him. Some of his boyhood memorabilia is displayed, which reveals his passion and participation in basketball, baseball and football. He is sure to rest well in the mahogany four-poster rice bed, which Shirley selected for



him. His personal effects can be neatly tucked away in the art deco vanity, which rounds out the room in perfect style.

The office is located to the left of the living room, just through the French doors. A vintage roll-top desk houses traditional German beer steins, while a corner table showcases a miniature slot machine and a Czech doll. The walls are plastered in a Tuscan style, bringing Old World charm to the room.

Everyone knows that a house does not make a home. It's not about the things inside as much as it is about the people who share the memories made there. Danny and Shirley have carefully crafted a peaceful place to enjoy the rest of their days together. **NOW**

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A PLACE HAPPINE

From about the age of some of his students at the Ennis ISD Carver Early Childhood Center, Eric Pierce was inspired to become a teacher. He grew up in nearby rural Bardwell around farming and ranching, but all the while, he was being moved toward a life in public service by an aunt who teaches for EISD and his dad and grandfather who were police officers in Ennis. "Those are my roots," Mr. Pierce stated.

"I enjoyed school. It was that place of happiness where everything was fun, exciting and new. When I asked questions at home, my dad always told me to ask my teacher, so I thought teachers must be noble people because my parents had such a belief in them," Mr. Pierce recalled. On occasion, he helped his aunt prepare lesson materials and bulletin boards. "I knew I would love working in that environment," he added.

Along the way to becoming principal and self-described "chief learner" at the CECC, Mr. Pierce has been influenced by friends, teachers, coaches and mentors. The sign above CECC's main doorway, written in English, Spanish and Czech, expresses his early school days — *The Adventure of Learning Begins Here!* Mr. Pierce attended EISD through seventh grade, transferring to Palmer ISD, from where he graduated high school. "I kept my friendships I'd made in Ennis though," he explained.



OF SS

— By Virginia Riddle



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Two people inspired Mr. Pierce to go to college as a first-generation college student. "My stepdad had some college credits, and he inspired me to continue my education, while my mom helped me enroll at Navarro College," he said. Following graduation, he enrolled in Navarro College as a general studies major and a walk-on with the football team.

It was during a drive down Ennis Avenue that he and his fiancée, now wife, Cecilia, had a life-changing conversation that solidified his decision to make education his career. "We met around age 19 and got married after college. We both knew then that we wanted to be educators," Mr. Pierce remembered. He commuted to The University of Texas at Arlington to earn a bachelor's degree and earned a master's degree at Concordia University Texas in Austin. The University of Texas at Tyler provided Mr. Pierce the semester hours needed for superintendent's certification, and he's on the "final stretch" to an earned doctorate in education leadership from Dallas Baptist University. "I chose Concordia and DBU for their spiritual growth factor, which I believe is a strength to possess," he expressed.

Gaining experience was important, and he gained it through special education teaching positions and coaching in Palmer ISD and EISD. In 2005, Mr. Pierce got the chance to coach in Alvarado ISD, under his former coach in Palmer, Jeff Dixon, followed by a coaching/teaching position at Sunset High School in Oak Cliff. "That was when I went into salvation mode. I was working seven days a week as a coach and needed more time with my family," Mr. Pierce said. Graduate school and administration became the plan. By 2008,

he was gaining administrative experience at Pinkston High School in Dallas, the Early College High School at Mountain View College in Dallas and at Legacy Prep Charter Academy in Mesquite.

"I fell in love with administration and seeing students earn dual credit — about half of our graduating class each year had earned associate degrees. Dr. Janice Lombardi was a key leader and mentor to me. She focused on academics and professional relationships," he recalled. "My career in and around Dallas was golden, but Cecilia was having health issues, and I needed to be closer to home," Mr. Pierce explained.

He applied to Ennis ISD and came back to the community of his youth as an assistant principal at Ennis High School. "I saw this job posting at CECC, applied and got it. I love it here. There's lots of cultural change happening, and the staff is happy — good things are happening here," Mr. Pierce stated. "I enjoy this community of educators and the rich traditions of Ennis. Here, I know each person by name, his or her role in the district and something unique about them. That's a recipe for positive relationships. Under Dr. Chapman's leadership, I continue to grow, still."

Providing servant leadership to both the students and teachers is his goal. "I support them, even if it's nothing more than simple high-fives in the morning, fist bumps or smiles through the day," Mr. Pierce said. He adheres to the tenets stated in *Leading by Heart*, one of his favorite leadership books. "I connected with the book's stories. An effective leader goes far beyond the superficial," he stated.

Three visionary goals are driving this school year at CECC. "We want to see our cultural conversation initiative come to fruition, grow and leave these walls and go



The Pierce family enjoys the opportunities Ennis has provided them.

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into the community. Secondly, we need to cultivate and support the teachers, and thirdly, we need to make sure the students grow academically and learn soft skills like shaking hands and saying hello," Mr. Pierce stated. Time is his main challenge. "I intentionally walk with and amongst the troops, like Abraham Lincoln did, so I can observe things. I need to put on the shoes of our clients by first listening and then trying to understand the problem from their perspective and, ultimately, finding a solution," he said. With over 300 pre-kindergarten through kindergarten students on campus and 34 staff members, his job requires a unique skill set. "I help ensure that we have a safe environment, adequate resources, quality teachers and parent involvement," Mr. Pierce said.

He is venturing out to local church groups, talking with people who live around the school and bringing community leaders into the school. "This is my mission, since I feel I can relate to anybody in any culture," Mr. Pierce stated. Cecilia is Hispanic, and the couple was married in Mexico. She's a Spanish teacher at Ennis High School. "I'm proudly half-Czech. We're both proud of our cultures and 'smashed' them together. Our conversations are open and frank, whether we're eating klobása or enchiladas," he quipped. The couple are parents to Andrew, Mackenzie and Salomon. Hunting and kids' sports take up most of Mr. Pierce's "spare" time, but he also lives to fish. "I love the outdoors," he said. Mr. Pierce has come full circle in his career, too, by following that lineage of service back to Ennis and becoming a mentor to students and fellow educators. **NOW**

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The staff at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged tirelessly works to make the facility better than it's ever been. One new offering is respite care.

Friendship, Love & Truth

Residents of Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged are living life to the fullest.

— By Sandra Strong

As the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged re-establishes itself as one of the premier facilities in the county, they do so by continuing to provide quality care in a safe and secure environment. "The facility is open to the public," Director Levonne Cannaday said. "You no longer have to be a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and age-appropriate amenities offered here."

Located just 1 mile south of downtown Ennis and five minutes from the local hospital, the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged offers so much for the loved one who is looking for that special home away from home. Levonne and her two office

helpers, Amanda Woods and Lueann Wilhoite, are working as a close-knit team to rebuild all the offerings that were in place when the facility closed for a nine-month period nearly two years ago. "We've been open for almost a year, and we are currently still in the rebuilding phase," Levonne stated. "Several updates have been completed, thanks to the help of Patrick Rose, our maintenance technician. We are working diligently to make the facility the very best it can be."

Residents at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged live an independent lifestyle. The in-home choices are many. The chapel provides a quiet place to pray and participate in Bible

studies, while the library is stocked with books in all genres. Movies are shown at least twice a week in the theater. Sometimes the movie featured will be a new release, while other times a classic film will be playing. Residents take part in a friendly game of Bingo once a week, as well.

Many of the residents still enjoy crafting, quilting and working their magic with fabric. The sewing room allows them the creative outlet they are looking for with its sewing machines, serger and fabric and craft supply choices. Judy Cryer still arrives on Saturdays to “do hair.” “Judy has been with us for a very long time,” Levenne admitted. There’s also a game room and an exercise room. As the resident count continues to increase, so will the selection in activities.

Residents attend community activities, go on local shopping trips to Wal-Mart and/or the grocery store, and make it to their doctor’s appointments stress-free and on time, thanks to the transportation offered. The monthly fee also includes the privacy of a spacious room; an oversized, cozy community living area; a large, communal dining room; and an in-house laundromat.

Diet and nutrition for the residents at the smoke-free facility are provided by Linda Smith, the home’s longtime kitchen manager. Linda ensures residents are fed well and that special diets are prepared for individuals, as required. “The residents get along well with one another,” Levenne shared. “Mealtimes, of which there are three, are great times for them to socialize with one another.”

A new offering for the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home for the Aged is respite care — a comfortable home away from home — allowing caretakers the opportunity to vacation, while their loved ones are taken care of by individuals who have a heart for seniors. The facility also offers guest rooms for family members who travel to see their loved ones. “The home combines independent living in a community setting designed especially for the aged,” Levenne said. “Through friendship, love and truth, we as a staff are dedicated to providing quality care to all who come to make their home with us.” **NOW**

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Bob Taylor greets EHS basketball coaches Byron Northrup and David Kirkpatrick.



The manger scene was one of many floats at the Lights of Ennis Parade.



Linda Roberson introduces coworker and guest speaker, Sandra Strong, during an Ennis Noon Lions Club lunch meeting.



Gloria Haupt, Claire Haupt, Rosalie Jones and Brenda Haupt shop at Kindred Soule to support "Shop Small."



Geoff and Grayson Gorman enjoy an evening at the home of Harriett Adams as Lady looks on.



Mrs. Coleman's pre-K class at David Crockett Early Childhood Center enjoy taking a photo during their annual Thanksgiving feast.



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“Regrets? I’ve had a few.” — Frank Sinatra. Mr. Sinatra, one of the most famous entertainers of the 20th century, did things his way, but he was also familiar with remorse. He’s not alone, of course. We all deal with regrets — and financial ones are among the most troublesome.

Here are the leading financial regrets, according to a recent survey by Bankrate.com, along with some suggestions for avoiding them:

- *Not saving for retirement early enough.* This was the top regret expressed by survey respondents. Saving and investing early for retirement offers you two key benefits. First, the more time you give growth-oriented investments, the greater their growth potential. And second, by saving and investing for retirement early in your career, you will likely need to put away less money each year than you would if you waited until, say, your 40s or 50s. So, if you aren’t already doing so, contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. And increase your contributions every time your salary rises.

- *Not saving enough for emergency expenses.* You can’t plan for all expenses. Your furnace might die, your car may need a major repair, you may incur a sizable doctor’s bill — the list goes on and on. If you don’t have the money available to meet these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments. That’s why it’s important to maintain an emergency fund, containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses, in a liquid, low-risk account.

- *Taking on too much credit card debt.* If you don’t overuse your credit cards, they can be handy and helpful, in many ways.

Try to keep a lid on your credit card debt, keeping in mind that your debt payments reduce the amount of money you have available to invest for your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

- *Not saving enough for children’s education.* This may be perhaps the most difficult regret to address — after all, it’s not easy to save for your own retirement and simultaneously put money away for your children’s college educations. However, if you can afford to save for college, try to do so in as advantageous a manner as possible.

- *Buying a bigger house than you can afford.* If you tie up too much money in mortgage payments, you will have less to contribute to your various retirement accounts. And while home equity certainly has some value, it generally does not provide you with the same liquidity — and probably not the same potential for growth and income — as an investment portfolio that’s appropriate for your needs and risk tolerance. So, think carefully before purchasing that big house. You might be better served by scaling down your home ownership and ramping up your investments.

You can’t avoid all the doubts and misgivings you’ll encounter at various stages of your life. But if you can reduce those regrets associated with your finances, you could well increase your satisfaction during your retirement years. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.

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What Is Rosacea?

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Diana, Princess of Wales, celebrated for her loveliness, had a facial skin condition expertly hidden from the world. Rosacea didn't care if she was royalty. That diagnosis made her one of many with rosacea. This skin condition typically occurs in people over the age of 30, and fair skinned individuals are most susceptible.

Small blood vessels under the skin swell and cause your cheeks, forehead, chin and nose to have a reddened or flushed appearance. It can resemble an acne breakout, allergic reaction or other skin conditions. The redness may come and go. Over time the color deepens and becomes persistent with spider web-like veins appearing in the face. If rosacea isn't treated, symptoms will worsen with pimples and bumps appearing on the flushed skin. Another rare complication is called rhinophyma in which the skin thickens and causes the nose to appear larger with a bulbous effect reminiscent of the comedian, W.C. Fields.

Another complication from rosacea is ocular rosacea where the eyelids become inflamed and irritated. Styes may develop, and the eyes may feel gritty and look bloodshot.

The cause of rosacea has not been established but there are contributing factors that may precipitate or aggravate the condition. Familiar history can be a factor if a close relative has the condition. Possible abnormalities in the blood vessels in the face could cause the flushing in the skin. Females are more prone to this disorder, but males typically have the worst cases.

Triggers of rosacea can be anything that causes the blood vessels to increase flow to the surface of the skin. Hot drinks and caffeinated drinks, such as tea, coffee or caffeinated soft drinks may be culprits. Sunlight, spicy foods, exercise and even some medications can be triggers. Alcohol does not cause rosacea but can aggravate the condition.

At this time, there is no cure for rosacea, but there are avenues for relief. Treatment focuses on lessening the signs and symptoms. Medications used may be oral or topical in nature with the aim of reducing the inflammation and redness in the skin to bring symptoms under control. Laser treatment to shrink the blood vessels in the facial area may be used. Someone with the skin thickening from rosacea may seek help from a plastic surgeon. Those with this condition have to be diligent with personal care in applying sunscreen for protection and to prevent flare-ups, dressing appropriately for cold or windy weather and taking care to use gentle skin care products. Because of the varying degrees of symptoms and severity of this disease, let your physician guide your treatment plan for best results. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

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January 5

The Dream Box Workshop: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Gallery Schloss, 204 W. Knox St. Those participating will create their own dream box. For more information, visit www.juliaschloss.com.

January 14

Ira Bradford & Bustin' Loose: 6:00 p.m., Double D Dancehall Saloon, 3701 I-45. Live country music performance by one of Ennis' local favorites. For more information, call (972) 872-9000.

January 21

Polka Month Dance: 5:00-11:00 p.m., KJT Hall, 1216 S. Paris St. Featuring Brave Combo and Czech Then Some.

January 28

Corsicana Ducks Unlimited Banquet and Auction: 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center, Corsicana. For more information, contact Ross Reamy at (903) 654-7704.

February 2

6th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance "Be Our Guest": 6:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, Waxahachie. Food, fun and

dancing. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Civic Center during regular business hours. Tickets will go on sale **January 3**. Tickets will **NOT** be available the night of the dance.

February 2 — April 12

AARP Tax Assistance: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Call the library at (972) 875-5362 for additional information on what documents to bring.

February 17 — 19

Annual Gingerbread House Chili Cook-Off: For more information, call (972) 937-1870 or visit www.elliscountycac.org.

February 17 — 26

100 Years of Broadway: Ennis Public Theatre, 2705-C N. Kaufman St. Visit www.info@ennispublictheatre.com for curtain times and ticket information. Also, watch for the theater's grand opening in the downtown area coming soon.

February 17 — 27

The Sunshine Boys: weekly on **Friday** and **Saturday** night, Theatre Rocks!, 505 N.W. Main St. Visit www.theatrerocks.com or

call (972) 877-5126 for curtain times and ticket information.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Acrylic Painting Class: 4:00-6:00 p.m., Interior Ideas, 211 W. Knox St. Classes offered by Jana Jennings. \$75 (one time only) supply fee for the year, plus \$15 per class. For more information, call (972) 878-6868.

Second Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

Fourth Thursdays

MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

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



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In the Kitchen With Helen Brasher

— *By Rachel Smith*

Fifty-eight years ago, Helen Brasher started her cooking journey after the bells sounded for her biggest moment in life — marriage. After her mother and mother-in-law's teachings, cooking for her husband and family has kept her learning. "I enjoy cooking for family," she admitted. "I love all types of food, but mostly family style."

The holidays are her most memorable moments in front of a stove. Whether at Christmas serving cornbread dressing, gravy and lots of sweets or New Year's making the traditional black-eyed peas and red and green cabbage, the seasons stay festive. She loves keeping food on the table for anyone wanting a bite. "My grandsons like to come to Nanny's for a meal," she smiled. "And that's definitely good for my ego!" **NOW**

Chicken Chile Stew

6-8 servings.

- 3 whole chicken breasts, cut into pieces
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 14.5-oz. cans stewed tomatoes, diced
- 1 15-oz. can Ranch-style pinto beans, drained
- 2/3 to 3/4 cup Ro-Tel
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Rice, to taste (optional)

1. Cook chicken pieces, onion, garlic and bell

pepper in vegetable oil in a Dutch oven until chicken is brown. Add remaining ingredients; simmer 20 minutes.

2. Ladle into a bowl. (Can be served over rice, if desired).

Slow Cooker Chocolate Candy

Makes 30-40 pieces.

- 2 lbs. salted dry roasted peanuts
- 4 oz. German sweet chocolate (about 4 squares)
- 1 12-oz. pkg. semisweet chocolate chips (about 2 cups)
- 2 1/2 lbs. white almond bark

1. Place the peanuts in the bottom of a

4-quart slow cooker. Layer the chocolate in order of sweet chocolates, chocolate chips and then almond bark over the peanuts.

2. On low-heat, cook for 3 hours, but do not stir. After 3 hours, stir the mixture with a wooden spoon, until smooth.

3. Drop candy into mini cupcake liners, using about 2 Tbsp. per liner. Allow the mixture to cool completely before removing liners.

Granny's Pink Lemonade Pie

- 1 small can frozen pink lemonade
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 8-oz. carton Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 9-inch graham cracker pie shell

1. In a large bowl, mix lemonade, milk and Cool Whip until smooth. Pour into pie shell; refrigerate until firm.

Baked Spaghetti

Makes 6 or more servings.

- 1 8-oz. pkg. spaghetti, cooked and drained (mix with 2 Tbsp. butter to keep from hardening)
- 1 24-oz. container ricotta cheese (can substitute with cottage cheese, if desired)
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated (divided use)
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 28-oz. jar crunchy garden-style pasta sauce
- 1 8-oz. pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Line a 13x9x2-inch baking sheet with Reynold's nonstick foil. Add spaghetti to baking sheet; spread ricotta cheese over spaghetti, sprinkle with 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese.

2. Brown meat and drain. Add pasta sauce and heat until bubbly. Spoon over cheeses. Top with mozzarella cheese and remaining Parmesan cheese; cover with foil.

3. Bake 30 minutes; remove foil and cook 15 minutes longer. Let stand before serving.

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



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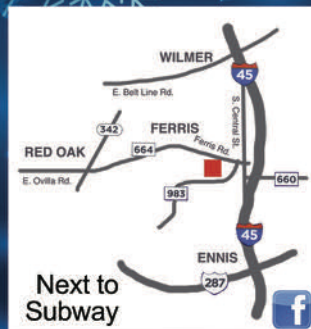
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