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ON THE COVER



Rhea Marshall is dressed and ready for her part in New Hope's Christmas show.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Merry Christmas!

As I reminisce about 2012, I realize just how fast time flies. I'm thankful for the months I spent with dad before his passing. I'm equally thankful dad got to meet his great-grandson; to see him laugh as he tickled his little feet. That's a memory I'll never forget.

I also have such fond memories to look back on as I venture into new territory with NOW Magazines. Beginning next month, I will no longer be serving the Ennis community as the community editor. I will be serving our 10

markets behind the scenes, as I continue to thrive as the editorial coordinator. *EnnisNOW* will be left in the capable hands of Randy Bigham. He will continue where I leave off — telling great stories about great people.

The time I've spent in Ennis will be treasured because of you. Like Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories!"

Sandra

Sandra Strong
EnnisNOW Editor
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From BETHLEHEM

— By Randy Bigham

New Hope Church has entertained the community since 2007 with its large-scale, Broadway-style Christmas celebration, merging the story of the birth of Jesus with sleigh-loads of music and holiday cheer. Although the creative team responsible for the spectacular annual production is taking a break this year, members resting on their considerable Yuletide laurels, the show thousands have come to love since its inception will return in 2013. But the church isn't completely abandoning its theatrical chops this year, and vestiges of the pageantry of New Hope's signature program will be glimpsed in its 10:00 a.m. December 23 worship service. "We just thought it was best to give our group some time to enjoy the season," explained Buck Marshall, pastor of New Hope,

a Church of God-affiliated ministry. "Ordinarily, none of us even put up our Christmas trees until the middle of December, because we're so busy rehearsing for the show."

This year, the cast and crew of some 150 volunteers will be able to spend more time with their families, tearing themselves away just long enough to stage a few highlights of the full-length extravaganza for the Sunday before Christmas. "It will be a candlelight service with components of the big show included," Buck said. "There won't be all the set changes, but there will be some of the historical costume segments and a selection of the most popular songs."

While Buck appears in the church's presentation — "I'm head elf, just so you know!" he laughed — it's his wife, Rhea,



to Ennis



Rhea Marshall, Worship Pastor/
Producer, and Steve Hoffman,
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who has directed it from the beginning. As modest as she is talented, Rhea is the force behind much of the success that New Hope's Christmas Celebration has enjoyed among church members, as well as the public at large who have flocked to the program over the last five years. But she sees it as a team effort, crediting the show's influence on the community to the dedication of the troupe of performers with whom she works.

"Christmas is a joyful time of year, but it can be a very hard time for people, too," Rhea pointed out. "This program



gives hope to those who are struggling. We really don't know what weight is on someone's shoulders when they walk in the door, so there's the potential to impact lives, and that's what motivates us."

The Christmas Celebration has proved more than a popular attraction. It's a family affair. Not only do Buck and Rhea perform in the musical, but their children, Caroline, 8, and Jonathan, 5, are in the play.

Their involvement underscores the bond the couple has shared since meeting on the campus of Tennessee's Lee University over a decade ago. Both came to the performing arts through their families. Buck's mother is one of the singing Rogers Sisters who performed all over Texas in the 1980s, and Rhea's father is a Florida minister who always encouraged his daughter's vocal and dramatic participation in church productions. "I've been interested in theater since I was a kid," she said. "From doing special effects and makeup to singing and acting, I love it all."

Her experience has stood her in good stead as the creative mastermind of a mammoth stage production,

incorporating all the sights and sounds of a full-on opera. Among the accoutrement of New Hope's sanctuary-turned-theater are a fiber-optic curtain, fog machines, scenery for as many as five set changes and thousands of dollars' worth of costumes. The props weren't always so elaborate. At first, essential equipment and other costly items were rented or borrowed. But as the reputation of the Christmas Celebration spread, donations of money and raw materials poured in from local businesses and individuals. As an example of New Hope members' own dedication to the program, Rhea recalled the expenditure of \$600 by Leslie Skrivanek for dressmaking fabric, in addition to countless hours of labor spent designing and making costumes.




The show has since developed into an expertly arranged, slickly produced number worthy of Las Vegas, Branson or indeed New York. For all the show's beauty and the sense of personal accomplishment it has brought to Buck and Rhea, it's the success of the message behind the dazzling scenes that the pair takes pride in. "Some people come to see our show who'd never attend a regular church service," Buck admitted. "So it's important that we reach them. We celebrate the nostalgia, the sentimentality, but the real meaning of Christmas is what we want people to understand." Buck hopes hearts will be touched in the subtext of the songs and dances, as well as more directly in the 10-minute gospel message he delivers.

Rhea stressed that the production is not only free to the public, it is open to people of all denominations. "We aren't trying to win new members," she said. "We even introduce pastors of other churches who are in the audience and encourage people to worship at their




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churches as well. We just want people to grow spiritually.”

The celebration provides many opportunities for audiences to be moved. Love and faith thread their way through every aspect of the show, from a classic recreation of Victorian London as a backdrop for carolers to the replication of the sacred manger in Bethlehem. Regular attendees have their favorites. It might be the English scene in the time of Charles Dickens, complete with a toy shop and an old-fashioned sleigh, or the elves skit, or the “Hot Chocolate” act



inspired by the children’s movie *Polar Express*. Ennis Mayor Russell Thomas and his mother, Maggie, are faithful fans. Their favorite part of the show is the “Happy Birthday, Jesus” number, put on by a cast of children, some as young as 5 and 6.

Rhea constantly updates themes in the show but one emotional part of the program called “People Need the Lord,” has remained unaltered. This scene, revealing the circle of Wise Men bowing before the baby Jesus, is gradually augmented by actors seated among the audience. These men and women, dressed as ordinary citizens — a cop, a waitress, a soldier — walk to the stage and kneel down. The final character to join the group is an elderly homeless woman who starts up the aisle but turns back, fearing she might be excluded. Instead, a child reaches out to her and draws her into the circle.

Buck feels this wordless byplay puts the truth of Christmas in perfect perspective. “It’s not about the rush to buy presents,” he said. “The truth is whoever you are, wherever you are, no matter what you’ve done in life or what’s been done to you, there’s hope for a better life.” **NOW**

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For Dr. Randolph and Sally Severson, residents of Ennis for nearly 30 years, nothing is quite like the Bluebonnet City for celebrating Christmas. The charm of history that first drew the couple to Ennis still intrigues them with its Victorian homes and tree-lined streets, the perfect setting for holiday entertainment. "The appeal of the town for me is that it is a small community, yet it's rich in tradition," said Randolph, a noted psychotherapist with a private practice in Dallas' Highland Park. "The historic district here in Ennis is very close in character to Highland Park, and even prettier, with all the old trees and homes that have been restored."

"We think Ennis is the ideal place," agreed Sally, an elementary teacher at Collins Catholic School in Corsicana. "When we came here from the Dallas area we were struck by how alive Ennis was. It was small and yet was thriving,

Yuletide & Yesteryear

At Home with
Randolph & Sally Severson

— By Randy Bigham



and the historic element was very exciting for us.”

It’s still a thrill for the Seversons to live in Ennis, and even more so to have their children nearby: their daughter, Melissa, and sons, Duncan and Samuel, are all Ennis residents. Randolph and Sally delight equally in their grandchildren — Kathryn, 16; Aiden, 5; and Ethan, 3.

Randolph, who grew up in the Oak Cliff suburb of Dallas, and Sally, who is originally from Illinois, wanted to live in a small town. Ennis didn’t disappoint when they moved their young family here in 1984. “It was a very interesting time,” Sally recalled. “There were a lot of things happening. People were beginning to take pride in the history of the city. The Heritage Society was just starting up, and the Cody family and others were doing so much in the way of preservation.”

Randolph equates the Oak Cliff of his youth to Ennis’ Historic Templeton-McCanless District today. “It’s a town unto itself, very self-contained, and everybody knows everybody.” He also finds it a quiet place to work. An award-winning expert in the field of adoption, Randolph is the author of six books, including *Adoption: Philosophy and Experience*.

When Randolph and Sally relocated to Ennis, they lived in an Edwardian-era house near the original site of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. “That house was built in 1912, and we loved it,” Randolph remembered. “We enjoyed learning about its history. Once, a lady stopped by to tell us that she had attended a big party there on the eve of World War I.”

But six years ago, the Seversons decided to move to their current home on one of the most desirable streets in the Historic District. Built in 1954, the house is more modern than many of its neighbors, but it has a history as fascinating. The original owners were the well-known Tolleson family, who are still prominent in the business world. Randolph and Sally purchased the home in 2006 from Eleanor Brewster, a popular clubwoman whose husband had been a leading civic figure.

From a crystal chandelier to ivory damask cornices, the eight-room, 2,800-square-foot house retains many of the elegant fixtures that distinguished it

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in its heyday. "We love the house," Sally confided, "and we've done very little to it except putting in new hardwoods and new countertops." For Randolph, the front yard, with its mammoth magnolia tree, attracted him most to the property. Another selling point was the spacious garden with its huge trees, one of which provided the backdrop for their daughter's wedding portraits.

Decorating has been an undertaking Sally has enjoyed. Perhaps one of the

most striking pieces she has acquired is a copy of *The Painter's Honeymoon*, an 1864 portrait in oils executed by Lord Frederic Leighton. Depicting an artist and his bride examining a large canvas, the pair resembles the Seversons in mood and looks. Decorating for the holidays is all the more fun in a house with such interesting original interiors. "I have always loved decorating for Christmas," Sally said. "The snowmen are my favorite. Little by little the theme came together,

and now we have them everywhere."

The formal living room, done in white and cream with tailored cloth and leather seating, affords the backdrop for the largest of several Christmas trees found throughout the house. The tree is all white, echoing the wintry motif Sally prefers, but the ornaments are colorful. Dangling from frosty branches are green, blue and pink bells and balls and the occasional stuffed Santa. Requisite cheer and a reminder of the real meaning of



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Christmas are seen on a marble-topped accent table where a cluster of candles, surrounded by greenery and an antique family Bible, are arranged.

The dining room's mural-like wallpaper, depicting garden scenes in ivory with muted greens and reds, seems to capture every season but is especially evocative of Christmas. "We love the old colors in the wallpaper," Sally said. "It's one of many things about the interior we have kept the way Eleanor Brewster had it." On the dining table is a centerpiece of porcelain Wise Men amid a cluster of glittering wheat fronds. Touches of blue and silver in the candlesticks flank this setting and are found in a small Christmas tree perched on a serving table.

Yet another Christmas tree is in the den. This one is the traditional green, covered with ornaments of every description: snowmen, reindeer, Santa Clauses, gauze-winged angels, kittens and Teddy bears. Tucked into nooks here and there, a family of snowmen outfitted in Dickensian costumes survey the room, and on the mantel various Santas intermingle with wreath-trimmed sleighs. Also looking down on this Yuletide scene are large framed portraits of ancestors, including Randolph's great-great grandfather, Texas legislator D.H. Hamilton, a relative shared with Governor Rick Perry. "I've never met



the governor," Randolph explained, "but we're third cousins."

Holiday merriment isn't confined to the interior of the Seversons' home. Outside, the beautiful brick façade is strung with white lights between the north and south wings. Entwined with the lights are silver snowflakes and icicles. Elsewhere, ribbon-trimmed wreaths festoon the eaves, bright poinsettias edge the porch, and lighted snowmen and their ladies twinkle on the lawn.

With or without decorations, the Severson home glimmers with the spirit of the season as its occupants prepare for another gift-giving, hot chocolate-sipping tribute to their faith in the quaint little town they adore. "We obviously love this area," Sally said. "And we look forward to many more holidays here."

Randolph agreed that Ennis is special year round. "For us, there's no other locale that has the same wonderful feel about it, whether at Christmas or any other time." **NOW**

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Blessings From Heaven

— By Sandra Strong

Six years ago, the Ennis Sheltered Work Center was included in the services provided by Lakes Regional Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. Although the work center has been in existence in Ennis since 1976, the merge with Lakes Regional has proven to be quite successful for all those concerned. Three years ago, the work center that aids those with



intellectual and developmental disabilities, relocated from their old location on Rumbo Road to their new, more spacious, building on North Preston Street. "The Rumbo location had been donated to this population of people," explained Kathleen Brown, regional director for provider services for Ellis and Navarro counties. "The old locale's capacity was 25. The move has allowed us to double in size, both space and individuals."

"We even have plenty of space in the backyard for outdoor activities," added Michele White, director of the Ennis Sheltered Work Center. "The old building definitely served its purpose, but we are very happy to be working hard from our new location."

As they look back, both ladies strongly agree the move was orchestrated by God. The facility was busting at the seams, figuratively, when a representative from Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS)



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came knocking at the door. "He wanted to buy the Rumbo location," Michele remembered. In order for the sale to take place, the center needed to find a new home. The new location was found and remodeled by ADS, with a ribbon cutting/dedication of the building on May 4, 2010. Word quickly spread throughout the community, thanks partly to John Culpepper, a 17-year client of the center. "He went to church and told everyone about the offer that had been made," Michele explained. "He also mentioned that we needed a new van." The center also needed to develop the backyard into a useful recreational area. Upon finding the new building, things quickly began to happen. "Once we were settled," Kathleen added, "we also received a one-eighth mile sidewalk, a fence for the backyard area, trees and an open playground with an area for volleyball. The blessings just kept falling down from heaven."

The nonprofit Ennis Sheltered Work Center, recently celebrated their third anniversary in the new facility. The move did nothing to slow down the production process. "The move did just the opposite," Michele explained. "A bigger building means twice as many working hands." Even though capacity is limited to 47 including four staff, Michele has 52 individuals listed on her current role. Following the strict government standards, Michele and Kathleen have devised a schedule that works for all those concerned. "Since we're only allowed 43 clients in the building at one time," Michele stated, "we came up with



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a schedule for each of them.” Some clients may come five days a week and work full-time each day, while others may attend two or three days a week to work, putting in less hours.”

The goals of the work center may seem simple to those who are already knowledgeable in the ways of the world, but once learned, these goals prove life-altering for the individuals who are served at the center. “Our primary focus is vocational training,” Kathleen said. “We want our clients to have the skills necessary to successfully transition into the community.” Vocational training includes education in life skills, behavior management and socialization, as well as relationship skills that offer tolerance of all, no matter what their differences may be.

There isn’t a single individual who gives less than 100 percent to the tasks set before them. They are hard workers who take great pride in the quality of the work they produce. “Many consider the center to be their job,” Michele admitted. “They will call in when they’re sick, asking for a sick day. We smile when they ask us about vacation days.”

The facility and its individuals are contracted to do the work for other businesses within the Ellis County area. The majority’s favorite contact, or job, is the one they’ve held for many years with U.S. Aluminum (USA) in Waxahachie. Tropar Trophy comes in at a close second. Hardware packages are bagged in assembly line style for USA, while boxes with protective corners are assembled for Trophy shipments.

John, Cathy Adair and Adrienne Williams are three individuals with three stories to tell. John is a young man who never meets a stranger. Talking to

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others, even those he's meeting for the first time, comes with such ease. His dad, Gene Culpepper, credits this ease to the dedicated efforts of the center and its staff. "This place has been a true godsend. John, now 38, has a place where he belongs — a place where he's always fit in," Gene emotionally stated.

"Yes, John is a go-getter," Michele added. "Not only does he work here at the center, but on Fridays he does janitorial work for a gas station in town."

"I clean all the glass," John shared. "And they sometimes let me vacuum."

Cathy's time at the center began when she was 17. At 48, she still arrives at work with a smile on her face. "I love the new building. I have room to work here," she said. "Oh yeah, I love the outside, too, because I love to swing." The most rewarding thing for Cathy is when a USA box is finally sealed. Each box holds 35 bags of sorted aluminum pieces. "I get to seal the box," she added with a grin.

At age 26, Adrienne is the newest member of the three. She's been coming to the work center for just over a year. "I've made lots of friends so far. I even met my boyfriend here," she shyly stated. "My favorite thing is learning how to get along with others."

Activities at the center aren't all geared toward the contracted work. The clients enjoy seasonal parties, garage sale fundraisers and down times when they can engage in conversation with one another. The growth of the center required a venue change for the Thanksgiving Dinner and upcoming Christmas dance. This year's holiday events took place at the KC Hall where the Catholic Daughters go all out with decorations and goodies. "They talk about these parties all year long," Michele added.

John, Cathy and Adrienne are three of the 52 voices that make up the team at the Ennis Sheltered Work Center. Some individuals arrive at 8:00 a.m., take a break for lunch and "clock out" at 4:00 p.m. Others work from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., the program's bulk hours. Everyone gets a break over the weekend. "Each client has a name and a unique personality," Michele said. "They're individuals who are learning how best to get along with others while finding their way in the community. They are the testament to the family we've created here." **NOW**

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From left:

Marilyn Wylie, Sandra Rodriguez and Shirley Martinez

Teamwork Pays Off

The main goal at Century 21 Judge Fite Company is to see Ennis grow.

— By Sandra Strong

Shirley Martinez, Marylyn Wylie and Sandra Rodriguez, Realtors with Century 21 Judge Fite Company, believe in teamwork. The trio has close to 100 combined years of valuable experience in real estate. "Our goal as Realtors is to bring more families to Ennis," Marylyn said. "The goal is to grow Ennis."

Shirley's career in real estate began in east Dallas back in the late '60s. She moved back to Ennis in 1978, at which time Shirley opened her own real estate office. She maintained that status until the mid '80s, when she made the move to northern California. "I got my real estate license in California," Shirley said. "I practiced real estate there until I moved back to Texas in 1991." Upon Shirley's return, she entered the corporate

world, where she worked until 2004. "It was at this time that I re-entered the real estate profession full time," she shared. "I kept my broker's license active during all these adventures."

Marylyn is originally from Colorado, where she continues to hold a real estate license. "It's always been a joy to help people realize their dream of owning a home," Marylyn shared. "I've always been involved with people. I especially like working with our veterans." Marylyn lost her husband in 1996, and remarried Randall, a wonderful Texan in 2000, and moved to Ennis. She is proud to call Ennis home. "I was retired when I moved here, but you can only make so many cookies," she laughed. "So I went to Century 21 and the wonderful Judge Fite family. Just remember,

under all there is land, and God's not making any more."

Sandra relocated to Ennis from California in 2005. "I didn't know anyone in Ennis," she admitted. "My Realtor at the time was Joan Glaspy. She talked to me about real estate. That talk caught my attention." During the summer of 2005, Sandra began to take the necessary classes to earn her real estate license. "By the summer of 2006," she said, "I had my license. I've been selling real estate

"I love to help people find the home of their dreams,"

ever since." As a mother of four, her career as a Realtor has proven to be all she hoped it would be because of the flexible hours.

Shirley, Marylyn and Sandra all came to Ennis by way of different journeys. But, they all agree that the most rewarding aspect of their job as Realtors is the people. "My biggest thrill is when my clients find the home they love, close the deal and move in," Shirley said. "Everyone is very excited and happy."

"I do what I believe in. I help people," Marylyn stated. "I've made so many good friends over the years because I've been 100-percent honest with them. I would go to the end of the earth to help someone as long as they are honest with me, too."

"I love to help people find the home of their dreams," Sandra added. "Handing them the keys is the most rewarding feeling."

The trio also agrees their job as Realtors at Century 21 Judge Fite Company is made easier by Lisa Burkes. "Lisa, an experienced senior loan officer with Cendera Funding, has been an integral part of our success in financing homes for our clients," Shirley explained.

It's evident that Shirley, Marylyn and Sandra find great joy in the careers they have chosen. They will no doubt "do real estate" until it's no longer enjoyable. **NOW**



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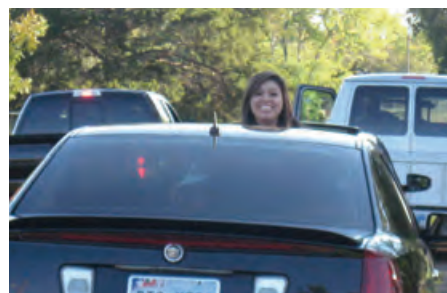
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Avianab Munoz shows off her fairy costume at the Ghosts and Goblins Bash.



A large crowd turned out for the Lights of Ennis Gala sponsored by Suez Ennis Power Plant.



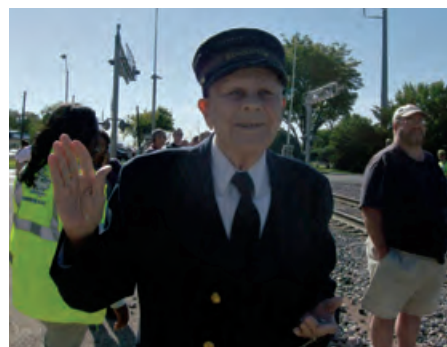
Valerie Robinson peeks her head out the sunroof to smile for the camera.



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Don't Overlook Financial Risks in Retirement

When you retire, you may well have accomplished some important financial goals, such as sending your children through college and paying off your mortgage. Yet, you can't relax just yet, because your retirement could easily last two or three decades, which means you'll need at least two or three decades' worth of income. This, in turn, means you'll need the proper savings and investment strategies in place. And, just as importantly, you'll also need to be aware of the types of risk that could threaten these strategies.

Let's consider some of these risks:

- **Longevity.** None of us can say for sure how long we'll live. But it's still important to have an estimate, based on your health and family history. So if you think you may live for 25 years in retirement, you'll want to withdraw enough from your investments each year to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle — but not so much that you deplete your funds before the 25 years have passed.
- **Inflation.** We've experienced pretty mild inflation over the past few years. But over time, even a low rate of inflation can seriously erode your purchasing power. To illustrate: If your current monthly costs are \$3,000, with only a three-percent annual inflation rate, that would be about \$4,000 in 10 years. And in 25 years at that same rate, your monthly costs will have more than doubled, to about \$6,200. To help protect yourself against inflation risk, it's important to have at least some investments that offer growth potential, rather than only owning fixed-income vehicles, such as certificates of deposit (CDs). You'll also want to consider sources of rising income potential, such as dividend-paying stocks. (Keep in mind, though, that stocks can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time and are subject to market fluctuation and loss of principal.)

- **Market fluctuations.** When you retire and begin taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio — that is, when you begin selling off investments — you'd obviously like prices to be high. After all, the classic piece of investment advice is “buy low, sell high.” But it's impossible to try to “time” the market this way, as it will always fluctuate. That's why you may want to consider sources of income whose value is not dependent on what's happening in the financial markets. Your financial advisor may be able to recommend investments that can provide you with this type of income stream.

- **Low interest rates.** Many retirees depend on fixed-rate investments for a good portion of their retirement income — so it's a real challenge when interest rates are low. Consequently, when you retire, you'll certainly need to be aware of the interest-rate environment and the income you can expect from these investments. Longer-term fixed-rate vehicles may be tempting, as they typically offer higher rates than shorter-term ones, but these longer-term investments may have more price fluctuation and inflation risk than shorter-term investments. Consequently, you'll still likely need balance between short, intermediate and long-term investments to provide for a portion of your income in retirement.

Retirement can be a rewarding time in your life. And you can help make your retirement years even more enjoyable by understanding the relevant investment risks and taking steps to address them. **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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Strep Throat: Symptoms and Solutions

Symptoms of strep throat, which is very common among kids and teens, include fever, stomach pain, headache, loss of appetite, nausea, rash and red, swollen tonsils. Strep throat usually requires treatment with antibiotics. With the proper medical care — along with plenty of rest and fluids — a child should be back to school and play within a few days.

How Strep Throat Spreads

Anybody can get strep throat, but it's most common in school-age kids and teens. These infections occur most often during the school year when big groups of kids and teens are in close quarters. The bacteria that cause strep throat (group A streptococcus) tend to hang out in the nose and throat, so normal activities like sneezing, coughing or shaking hands can easily spread infection from one person to another. That's why it's so important to teach kids the importance of hand washing. Good hygiene can lessen their chances of getting contagious diseases like strep throat.

Diagnosis

If your child has a sore throat and other strep throat symptoms, call your doctor. The doctor will likely do a rapid strep test in the office, using a cotton swab to take a sample of the fluids at the back of the throat. The test only takes about five minutes. If it's positive, your child has strep throat. If it's negative, the doctor will send a sample to a lab for a throat culture. The results are usually available within a few days.

In most cases, doctors prescribe about 10 days of antibiotic medication to treat strep throat. Within about 24 hours after starting on antibiotics, your child will probably no longer have a fever and won't be contagious. By the second or third day after taking antibiotics, the other symptoms should start to go away, too. Even when feeling better, your child should finish the antibiotics as prescribed. If he or she stops taking antibiotics

too soon, bacteria can remain in the throat and symptoms can return.

A person whose strep throat isn't treated is most infectious when the symptoms are the most severe but could remain contagious for up to 21 days. Lack of treatment — or not finishing the prescribed course of antibiotics — also can put someone at risk for other health problems, such as rheumatic fever (which can cause permanent damage to the heart), scarlet fever, blood infections or kidney disease.

To prevent your sick child from spreading strep throat to others in your home, keep his or her eating utensils, dishes and drinking glasses separate from others' and wash them in hot, soapy water after each use. Also, make sure your child doesn't share food, drinks, napkins, handkerchiefs or towels with other family members.

Make sure your child covers his or her mouth and nose during a sneeze or a cough to prevent passing infectious fluid droplets to others. Also, throw out your child's toothbrush after the antibiotic treatment has been started and he or she is no longer contagious, and make sure your child uses a new one.

Caring for Your Child

You can help your child feel better while battling strep throat. Provide plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration, such as water or ginger ale, especially if he or she has had a fever. Avoid orange juice, grapefruit juice, lemonade or other acidic beverages that can irritate a sore throat. Warm liquids like soups, sweetened tea or hot cocoa can be soothing. **NOW**

Katherine Brown, M.D. is a pediatrician practicing in Ennis and is on the medical staff at Ennis Regional Medical Center.


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Calendar

DECEMBER 2012

Through January 2

Christmas in Ennis Festival of Lights: Contact Harriett Adams at (972) 878-2400 for more information.

Through December

Ellis County College Showcase: For baseball players 16 to 18 years old, hosted by Gear Up Baseball Academy. For more information, call (972) 845-7053.

December 1

Benefit for Lori Lopez Strunc: 5:00 p.m., KJT Auditorium, 1216 S. Paris. 5:30/fajita dinner, 7:00 p.m./live music by The Pontiacs. Other features include a silent and live auction and a cash bar. Call John at (972) 935-8148, Norma at (972) 935-1564 or Denise at (214) 549-0379 to purchase advance tickets.

December 1-2

2012 Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College, Waxahachie. Christ's birth is reenacted, performances repeated every 30 minutes. For more information call (972) 937-2390.

December 1-3

The Three Musketeers: **December 1**, 7:00 p.m.;

December 2, 3:00 p.m.; **December 3**, 7:00 p.m., Ennis High School Auditorium, 2301 Ensign Rd. The Ennis High School Theatre Production students present the famous story adapted by Ken Ludwig. Admission is \$5.

December 6-23

Christmas Belles: Ennis Public Theatre, North Ennis Business Park, 2705-C N. Kauffman, a seasonal family comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. For more information, visit www.ennispublictheatre.com or call (972) 878-7529.

December 7

Friday Night Bash: 7:00-11:00 p.m., Sokol Clubroom, 2622 East Hwy 34. Live music by The Studebakers. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (972) 875-7959.

December 8

Shepherd's Run Holiday Bazaar: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Covenant Place, 401 Solon Rd., Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 923-9911.

December 14

Friday Night Christmas Party: 7:00-11:00 p.m., Sokol Clubroom, 2622 E. Hwy 34.

Live music by Czech & Then Some. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (972) 875-7959.

December 14 and 18

Ennis High School Band Christmas Concert: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Ennis High School Auditorium, 2301 Ensign Rd.

December 15

Santa Claus is Coming to Adam Rope State Farm: Noon-3:00 p.m., 1314 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie. Event offers photos with Santa and accepts donations of unwrapped toys. For more information, call (972) 938-3232

December 23

Special Christmas Service: 10:00 a.m., New Hope Church, 2003 E. Ennis Ave. The church's regular Sunday worship service will incorporate elements of its famous Christmas Celebration. For more information, call (972) 330-4490.

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



Katherine Brown, MD, FAAP
Elaine Donet, FNP-BC

Merry Christmas!

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In The Kitchen With Nancy Coffey

— By Sandra Strong

Nancy Coffey grew up with three brothers and two sisters in the small Texas town of Brandon. They all thrived on good old home cooking. Nancy's mother was her main teacher. "On weekends when my mother cooked, I asked questions and learned," Nancy said. "We had fresh vegetables from our garden. The meat we ate came from the cattle we raised."

Nancy's parents worked outside the home, so at age 12, Nancy began preparing supper for the family. "Today, I cook for the occasion," she said. "It could be for family, friends, potluck suppers or holidays." Nancy admitted she loves adding her touch to the recipes she prepares. "Sometimes it doesn't always come out as I expected," she smiled, "but most of the time it does." **NOW**

Gingerbread Pumpkin Truffle

- 2 boxes gingerbread mix
- 1 5.25-oz. box Cook & Serve vanilla JELL-O pudding
- 1 30-oz. can pumpkin pie mix
- 1 8-oz. container Cool Whip
- 1/2 cup chocolate sprinkles

1. Prepare gingerbread in a 13x9-inch pan according to box directions. Use both boxes. Set aside to cool.
2. Cook pudding as directed on box. When done, mix in the can of pumpkin pie mix. Stir well.
3. After everything has cooled, crumble half of the gingerbread into a large deep bowl. Then add half of the pudding. Top with a layer of Cool Whip. Repeat this with the remaining halves.
4. Decorate the top with chocolate sprinkles. Place in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Holiday Cauliflower

- 1 large head cauliflower
- 4 oz. mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 cup green pepper, diced
- 1/4 cup red pepper, diced
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded

1. Break cauliflower into medium size florets. Cook in boiling water until crisp and tender, about 10 minutes. Drain well; set aside.
2. Sauté mushrooms, green and red peppers and butter in a quart sauce pan. Gradually blend in cornstarch and milk; stirring constantly over medium heat until mixture has thickened. Stir in salt and cheese.
3. Place half of the cauliflower in a buttered 2-quart casserole. Cover with half the sauce.

Repeat a second time using the remaining cauliflower and sauce. Bake at 325 F for 15 minutes.

Hoppin' John

- 1 lb. pkg. dried black eyed peas
- 1 cup celery, finely cut
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic, pressed
- 1 10-oz. can RoTel
- 5 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 lb. Homes Smoked Sausage, slice in 1/2-inch slices
- Salt to taste

1. Sort peas to remove culls or small pebbles. Soak peas in 6-quart pot overnight. Drain and put peas back into fresh water when ready to cook. Water should be at least 3-4 inches above peas.
2. Add all other ingredients. Cook on medium heat for approximately 2 hours or until peas and celery are tender.
3. Can be served with rice and/or cornbread.

Splendid Shrimp Creole

- 1 cup celery, diagonally sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup parsley, minced
- 1 bay leaf, crushed
- 1/4 tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. onion salt
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper, crushed or 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 3/4 lb. shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 1/2 cup canned whole ripe black olives, pitted
- Cooked rice (generally 1/2 cup per person)

1. Sauté celery and garlic in butter until crisp and tender. Stir in tomato sauce, water, parsley, bay leaf, thyme, onion salt and red pepper or cayenne. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
2. Add shrimp and olives. Simmer for 5 more minutes. Serve over cooked rice.

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



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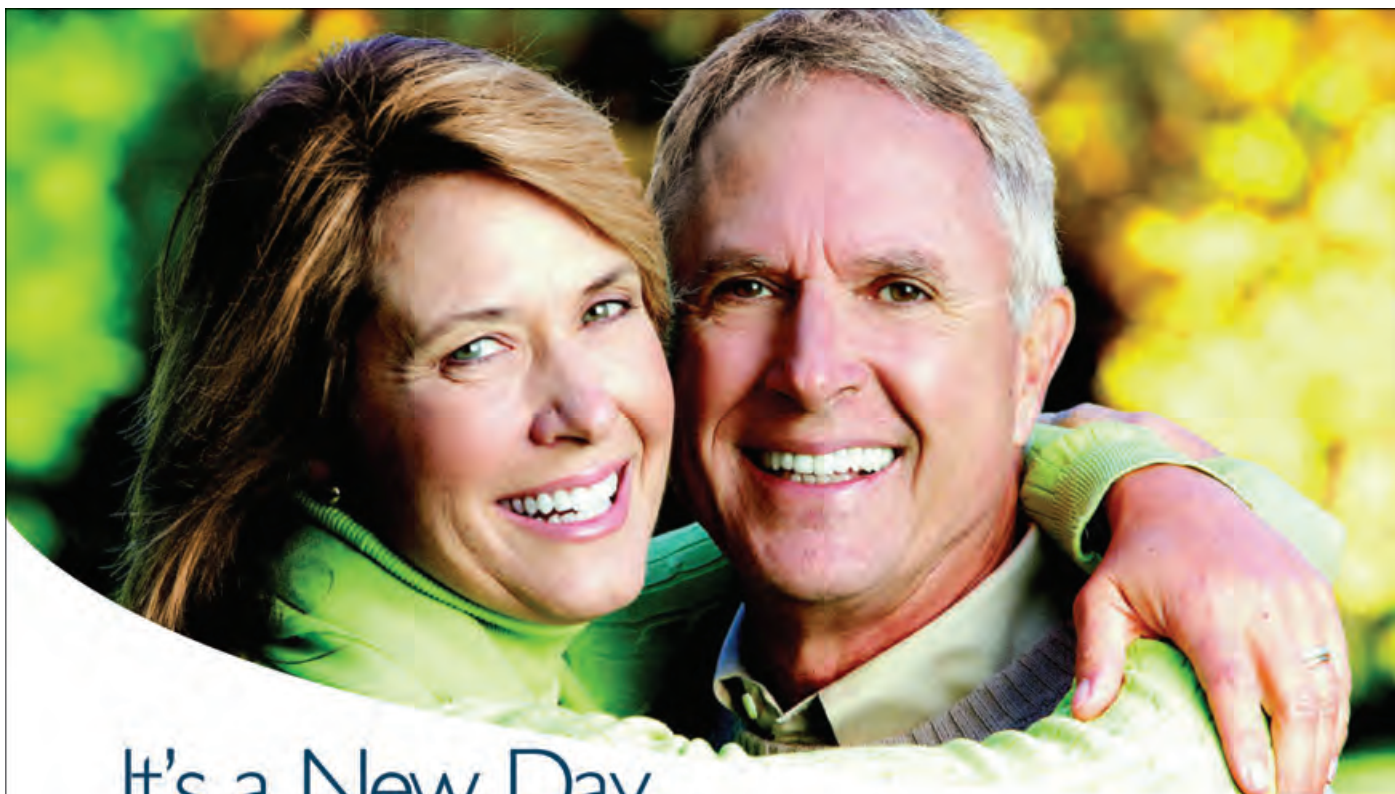
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