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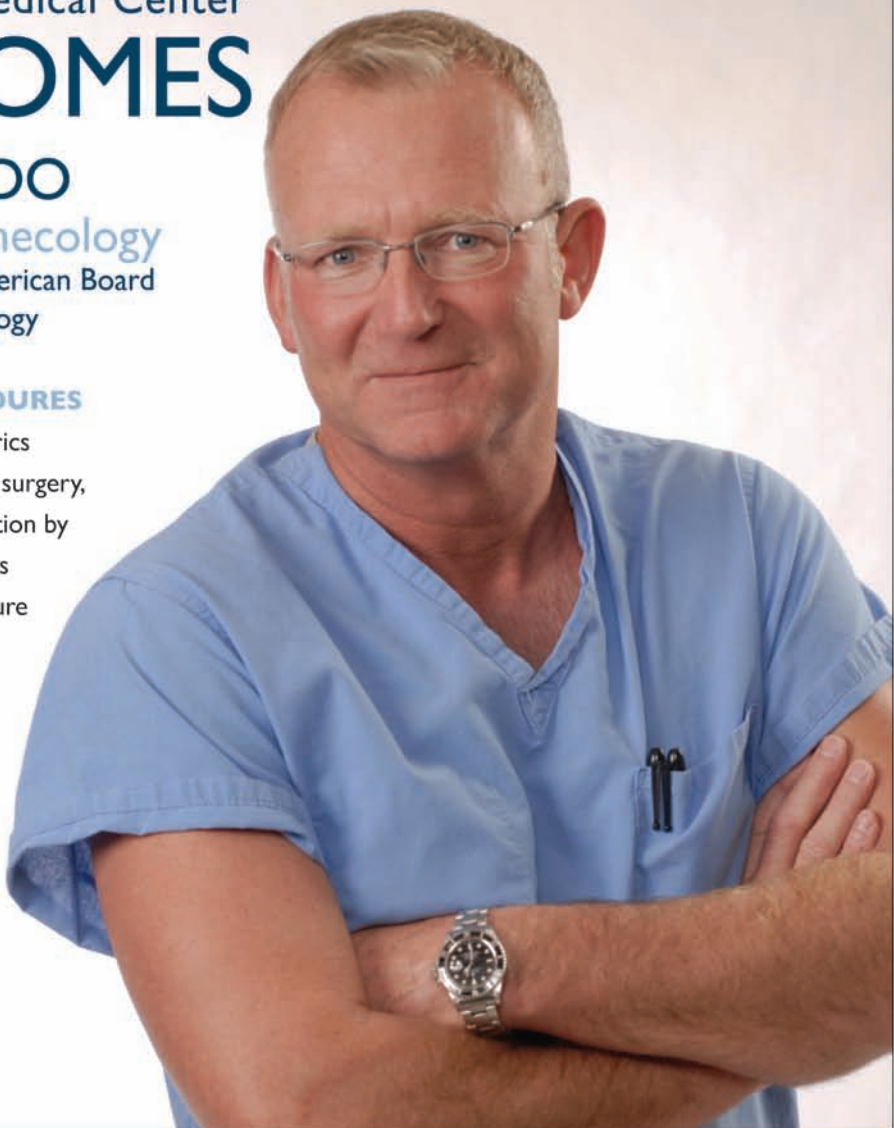
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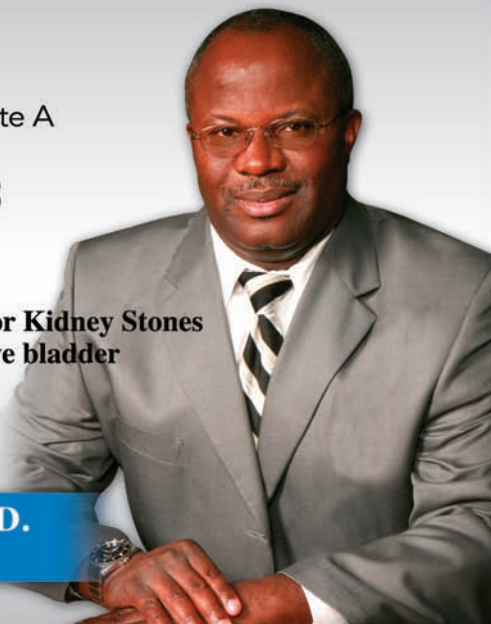
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## On The Cover



Freddie Santos received this miniature bell at his retirement celebration.

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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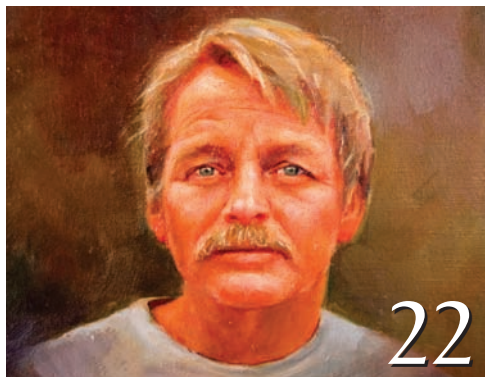
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## Editor's Note

*Hello Ennis Friends and Family,*

Someone once told me the art of letter writing was a thing of the past. I can honestly say I don't write many letters, but I've once again gotten in the habit of sending cards for all occasions. I keep a large stash of them at the house, just in case something "not already on my calendar" comes up. They have also proven to come in handy when one of my sons needs a birthday card for their dad or a Mother's Day card for me!

All joking aside, February is fabulous for me. Valentine's Day is my husband's birthday. I have three wedding anniversaries, one being my own. Five more birthdays make it easy for me to say I own stock at the local card shop. How does anyone stay on their New Year's diet with all this cake and ice cream? It's impossible.

### Sandra

Sandra Strong  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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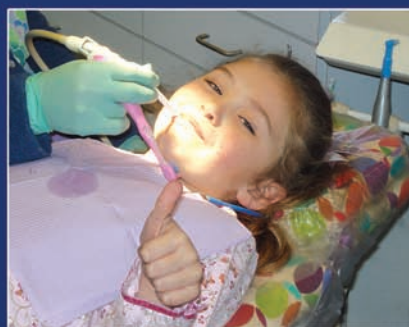
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1972 - 2011



# ays Answering the Bell

— By Janice C. Johnson

*Firefighters learn to respond instantly, even from a sound sleep, to the station's alarm bell. Before a civilian could figure out what the noise is, the firefighters are wide awake, in their gear and halfway to the ladder truck. Retired with distinction from the Ennis Fire Department last June, Freddy Santos has been answering that bell, in one way or another, for more than 40 years.*

First, Freddy has answered by making the most of opportunities as they arise. Beginning in October 1971 when, upon completing his U.S. Navy service, he pursued a new job. Having read of an opening for a Ennis sanitation operator, he met with Thelma Gooch, the city secretary at the time, to apply for the job. Instead, she sent him to see then Chief D.D. Day about an opening in the Fire Department. He still laughs about one of the chief's first questions: whether Freddy was tolerant of smoke and fire. "I told him I was raised around smoke and fire," Freddy smiled. "We had lived in several homes that used cast-iron, wood-burning stoves for cooking and heat. So there were days we would be run out of the house by smoke."

He was hired on a trial basis that month as a hose man, gaining permanent status in June 1972. The following

summer the fire department took over the ambulance service — before then, funeral homes provided the only emergency transportation to hospitals — and Freddy trained as one of Ennis's very first Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

A second way Freddy has always answered the bell is to do his best work, whatever the job. As he did, he rose through the ranks to make captain in 1977. Then, in 1999, he was transferred from firefighting to the Building Code and Code Enforcement program, under the direction of Fire Marshal and Chief Building Inspector Buddy Markham, who just recently retired on December 31, 2011. "I will always believe fire prevention is the backbone of the fire department's service," he said. His promotion to the inspection department allowed him to channel his energy into this top priority.

While Freddy takes fire prevention and safety very seriously, he appreciates humor and knows the value of having fun. During his firehouse days, he enjoyed the inevitable ribbing and practical jokes as much as anyone. But the magnum opus of the prank repertoire happened to every brand-new recruit early in his probationary period.

All the other firefighters would get up in the small hours one morning, tiptoeing out of the bunkroom to avoid disturbing the recruit. Then they would climb into full firefighting gear and pull the ladder truck out. The elaborate preparations included smearing soot on their faces and jackets and having someone start

“*Though I made many mistakes, the mark of a good person is not his downfall, but his rebound.*”





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Terri Miller, Donna Dodson

washing down the truck as if they had been on a call. When the stage was set, a couple of the men would clatter into the bunkhouse, waking the recruit and then act surprised to see him still there. "Man, you missed a fire!" they would exclaim.

A broad smile creased Freddy's face. "You should have seen the looks on their faces — they just knew they were going to lose their jobs. It was all in fun, of course. We never did any harm, and when the bell did ring — well, we were all business." Later, of course, the victim would enthusiastically help pull the same prank on the next recruit.

Besides seizing opportunities and giving his best effort, Freddy answers the bell through his fierce loyalty and respect for his many colleagues, regardless of rank. He would rather tell you about their leadership and



assistance over the years than talk about himself. In fact, since retirement, he said, "The most important thing I miss is the camaraderie of the people I worked with."

He is grateful to every member of the inspection department and the firefighters, both paid and volunteer. Each one has had an impact on his life, especially Buddy, under whom he retired. "We worked side-by-side for over 35 years," he said. "I would put Buddy up alongside any fire marshal and any building inspector in Texas, as far as knowledge of the job, and he would come out on top." He smiled and added,





“I’m not bragging — it’s just the truth.”

Freddy also singles out the fire chiefs who have led the fire department, from D.D. Day through Rocky Harber and Mike Seeley, to current Chief David Hopkins. All have contributed to its growth. Of Chief Hopkins, he said, “I’ve always thought of him as a visionary. When he first came [in 1986], he implemented the 9-1-1 system — the greatest thing that could have happened to Ennis.”

Freddy reserved his most eloquent praise for Lisa Laza, Ennis Fire Department’s secretary. “We served side-by-side for nearly 13 years, with never a bad word between us. She was my right arm, always willing to assist in every endeavor.”

The flip side of that loyalty and gratitude is Freddy’s humble sense of who he is. Despite the many awards and commendations he has received, including several Firefighter of the Year awards and the Medal of Valor, he refuses to take those accolades personally. Instead, he focuses on the department’s motto: “Protecting the Past ... Preparing the Future.” He also points to those who made his success happen, high among

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them his wife, Mary. "I would not be the man I am today without her by my side," he asserted.

But Freddy gives even more credit to Jesus, whom he said he serves first. The Serenity Prayer plaque on his desk "reminded me daily of how much God loves us." And he viewed his city vehicle as both pulpit and prayer station, praying each morning for wisdom and direction to do the best job possible.

The answer to that prayer was evident at his retirement celebration, where he received great honor and many gifts. One retirement gift sums up Freddy's service: a miniature fire bell, now displayed in his curio cabinet, engraved "Always Answering the Bell." Freddy still answers that bell, even in retirement, as he looks for new opportunities and challenges.

To young people considering a firefighting career, Freddy offers this advice: "Talk with some firefighters and make sure it's the career you want." As for himself, he is proud to have served. "Though I made many mistakes, the mark of a good person is not his downfall, but his rebound.

"It's been a long journey," he mused, then read the motto from the commemorative shadow box he also received at retirement. "It's important to have an end to the journey ... but it's the journey that matters in the end." **NOW**

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# Cupid's Arrows

— By Sandra Strong

## AT HOME WITH Joe and Irene Brown

*Joe Brown was born and reared in Ennis. He has spent the majority of his life watching the city evolve into the 21st century. Irene Brown grew up in Marshall, Texas. With that much distance between them, you might wonder how in the world they met. "We met at Walmart," they both laughingly said in unison.*

Sometime prior to meeting, Irene had made her way to Ennis following college graduation. A full-time teaching position brought her to the area in the early '80s. Joe, on the other hand, had moved to Dallas. Joe's young cousin was the one who shot Cupid's first arrow. "I was in Ennis visiting, when my cousin said she needed to go to the store," Joe remembered. "I didn't really want to go, but she talked me into it."

"His cousin was one of my sixth-grade students," Irene said.

When Joe and his cousin walked in, she quickly told him she wanted him to meet her teacher, who was working at the store on a part-time basis. He wasn't interested in meeting her — until he saw her at the register. "I took one look at her, and I knew I wanted to meet her," he confessed.

"I wasn't looking," Irene said with a smile, "and I wasn't interested."

Joe's cousin was determined. She wasn't about to give up after just one meeting. She had another plan in mind — a plan that would shoot Cupid's second arrow. "She asked me to attend open house at her school," Joe said. "When I saw Irene the second time, she was skipping. I thought she was skipping for me."

"I was skipping just to be skipping," she explained, "but I'd





probably skip for him today if I was still able to skip.” The suit he wore that evening could be what made all the difference in the way things turned out for the couple. “That suit looked a whole lot better than the fishing gear he was wearing the first time we met,” she admitted with a grin.

The couple began dating exclusively in February of 1986. They married the following year on April 18. “I knew he was the man I was going to marry after only four months of dating,” Irene stated.

“I knew she was going to be my wife the first time I saw her,” Joe said, shyly admitting it was love at first sight for him.



Joe continued to live in Dallas until they married, but once vows had been exchanged he moved back to Ennis.

They found a home in a newly established neighborhood early into their union. “We had looked at the house before,” Irene said. “Before we could finalize our contract, someone else purchased the home.” But in the long run, it worked out perfectly for the couple. “We ended up leasing to own in November of 1988,” Irene explained. “The opportunity to buy came in 1991.”

Once the home belonged to the Browns, they decided to make a few changes to open up and add additional space to the most used areas. The original back wall to the home used to be where the sink now stands. Knocking the home’s original back wall out meant taking in a large section of the back patio, but it was well worth it for Joe and Irene. Not only were they able to add a spacious family room, they were also successful

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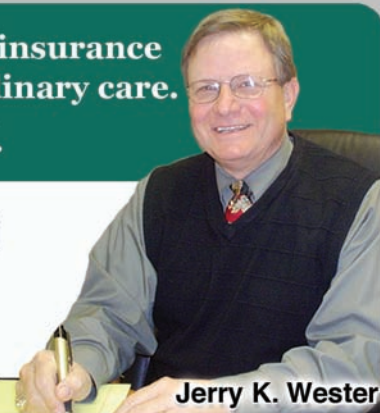


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in enlarging the bathroom in the master bedroom. "It went from a half bath to a full bath," Irene stated.

The open concept found in the kitchen and formal dining area was in place when they bought the home. At one time the archway between the formal living and dining areas was curved, but Joe and Irene decided to make the opening between the two rooms square, thus offering more space in which to move freely from one room to another during family gatherings and get-togethers.

The home's style is not something the couple finds important. "It's just our house, our home," Irene said, as Joe nodded his head in agreement. The home is filled with memories of family and a life filled with love. The coffee table, sofa table and large, ornate mirror in the living room once belonged to Joe's mother. Irene's mother had a small bell collection that now belongs to Irene.

A large corner-standing, glass-encased

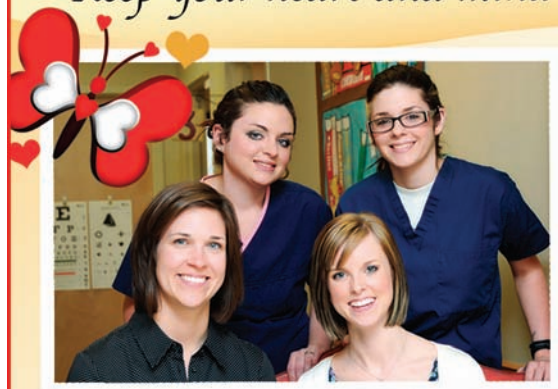
curio cabinet holds a display of crystal representing the couple's soon-to-be 25-year marriage. "Most of the crystal pieces were gifts from Joe and the boys," Irene said, referring to the couple's two children, Joseph and Andrew, ages 22 and 19 respectively.

The family room also holds treasures that are dear to Joe and Irene. The photographs displayed are priceless. Shenikka, the blessing from Joe's first



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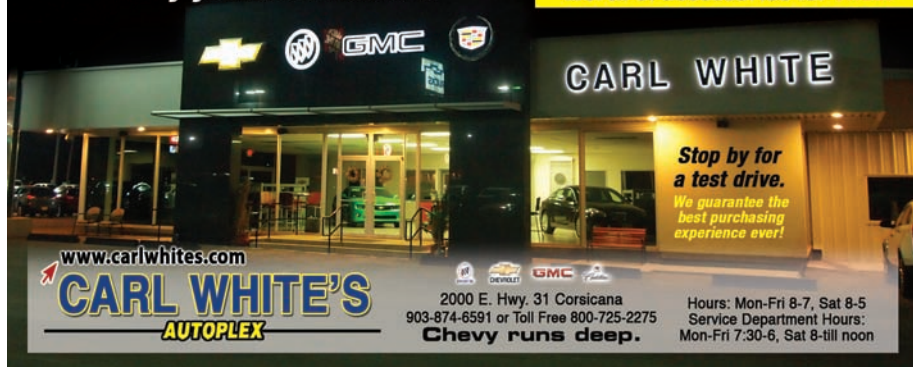
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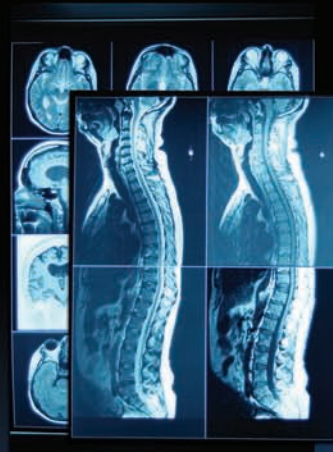
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marriage, is pictured with her two children, Nodika and Amari. Joe and Irene admit that having grandchildren has enriched their lives.

The collection of Sarah's Angels found on a shelf in the entertainment center began years ago when Joe purchased the first one from what used to be Tekell's Market. "Each one of them has a name," Irene said, as she handled them with care. "Love carries the Valentine's message. Rock-a-bye Baby is a detailed picture of a mom rocking her baby."

"I gave her most of them on special occasions," Joe said, referring to birthdays, anniversaries and those "just because I love you" days.

The boys' bedrooms are a perfect example of how two people who don't agree can live in the same house and love one another as brothers are supposed to. "My room is decorated in the Longhorns theme," Andrew said with pride. "Joseph's room represents the Aggies."

Irene is in her 31st year as a teacher in the Ennis Independent School District. Joe is enjoying five years at Ennis' JTEKT Automotive, while also serving as

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senior pastor at First St. Holland Baptist Church of Buffalo, Texas. "Teaching just led to preaching," he added.

Nearly 25 years later, Cupid is still shooting arrows in their direction. Joe



believes all days are special, but he knows better than to miss one of the special calendar days. "Women count special days, like Valentine's Day and their wedding anniversary, with great importance," he said. "I always get her a card, while she always gets me a card and some hard candy or a little chocolate."

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# Portrait of a *Lady*

— By Randy Bigham

*An artist who's lived in big cities and traveled the world now calls Palmer home. She enjoys every minute of time spent with her husband, their feline menagerie and the canvas and brush that record her view of the world and its people.*



An Atlanta native, Lois Nightingale moved to Ellis County with her British-born husband, Roger, in 2005. Although they were a part of the social whirl of Washington, D.C. and North Dallas, they haven't loved life more than they do now in their gracious home overlooking the distant, wintry valleys of Bristol. "We always thought we'd live in the country eventually," Lois said. "But the chance came sooner than we thought!"

The view from her second story studio is fittingly pastoral, and while she admits to drinking in inspiration from the sunshine and greenery, especially in spring when the hills are drenched in the hue and spirit of the bluebonnet, Lois is not a landscape painter. "My passion is portraiture," she explained. "I love the human face. I also like rendering animals, like our cats, and I do some still life. But painting people is what I do best. It's intriguing because of the bond you form with your subjects. After a time you kind of fall in love with them a little bit."

Painting came late for Lois. As a teenager she tried her hand sporadically, producing a few canvases, including one watercolor of a tiger, now grimacing on the family room wall. Yet a decade passed before she found the incentive to create full time. "I knew I had a natural ability, but I never thought I'd have an opportunity to really hone it," she said.

Always drawn to the visual, she studied design at the University of Georgia, afterward supporting herself as a graphic artist. But her busy life held no time for painting. That changed after her husband, an engineering manager in D.C., received



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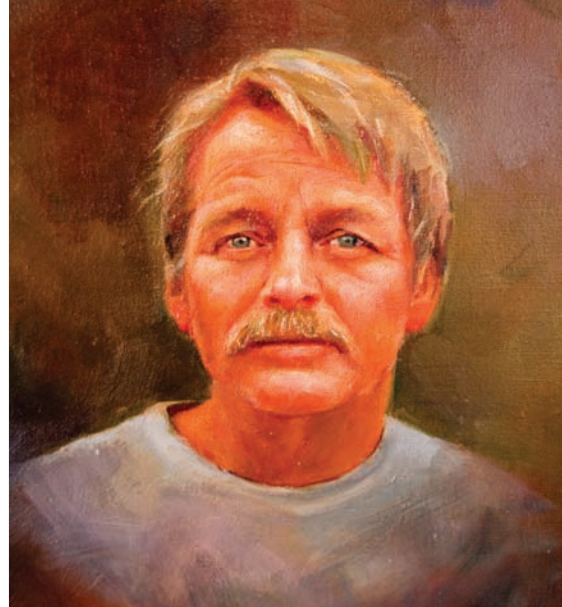
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a lucrative job offer in Texas, allowing her to retire. "Roger said, 'This is your time to paint,' so finally I had the time to work on it and to realize that it's what I want to do in life."

Moving to Dallas in 2001, Lois attended an exhibition by DeDe Barr whom she contacted and studied with later. "It all started then," Lois said. "I loved her style and learned so much. She's been the biggest influence on my painting." Her work with DeDe continued after Roger decided to purchase a local manufacturing business and the pair left Dallas for their current home, located seven miles from Ennis nestled in the countryside just outside Palmer.

Happy in her new house, Lois concentrates on her canvases, creating in pastel, watercolor and oil. She is modest about her talent, choosing to ascribe credit to her former teacher. But the artist's own imprint of personality and taste is unmistakable, illuminating the portraits of friends, family members and commissioned sitters lining the walls of her studio loft and in rooms throughout her home.

Her penchant for the color blue, particularly tones of periwinkle and turquoise, is a recognizable favorite in the moody scenes she specializes in. Typical subjects are a range of beautiful, tranquil women, one of whom is her sister, another a historical lady based on a John Singer Sargent classic; still others are sitters from her days as a pupil of DeDe Barr. The feeling of serenity in Lois' portraits is expressed primarily in the languid pose of her subjects, often caught in a pensive moment, some

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depicted in a reclining position. Each placid picture is enhanced by a suggestion of mystery in the fascinating play of light and shadow that is another hallmark of Lois' contemplative, romantic style.

The artist prefers to paint from life, but she has done subjects based on photographs, such as a piece she's currently working on for a civic charity, and one she created some time ago that left a deep impression on her. "I once painted a teenage girl in a bridesmaid dress from a photo her mother submitted," Lois recalled. "The girl had died in a car accident so there was a lot of emotion caught up in doing a portrait. As I painted her, I felt a spiritual connection and I completed the picture very quickly. It was like it was painting itself. I'm not a New Age kind of person, but I have to say it was an experience I've never had before. It was very moving."

Traditional inspiration for Lois stems from her family – her very first portrait was a pastel of her mother which she gave her for her 80th birthday. She has also painted her stepchildren and hopes to record for posterity all her eight brothers and sisters. Lois doesn't know where she finds her energy and commitment to the art she loves. "It's just a strong need, a passion. The feel of the paintbrush, seeing the paint taking form, is so absorbing. And since I don't have biological children of my own, I see my pictures as a legacy, a tribute to my family."

In her work, Lois also takes cues from the great masters she adores. Apart from Sargent, she is motivated by late 19th century French Impressionists. "They weren't known for portraiture," she admitted, "but I love their style."



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She admires Vincent van Gogh above all others. Roger likes van Gogh, too, and Lois credits that infamous artist for furnishing a special moment between husband and wife. "Roger didn't know a thing about art when we met in 1989," she laughed. "He says I saved him from being a total nerd. So he has always appreciated my art and has been my biggest fan."

Yet, Lois wondered if Roger really understood art and cared about it apart from the interest he showed in her own efforts. She got her answer when they attended a van Gogh exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, shortly before moving to Dallas. "He had an epiphany," she remembered. "The last picture in the show was the famous one of the crows flying over a wheat field, signaling the end of van Gogh's life. I didn't know if Roger would get it, but when I looked over at him there was a tear running down his cheek. So his reaction meant a lot to me, and it did for Roger as well."

Lois looks forward to expanding her repertoire of lovely ladies to include a few vistas. "Texas doesn't need another bluebonnet painting, but I'm not going to let another spring go by without doing one," she enthused. "We have such a great view from our property that it's wrong not to do a landscape!" **NOW**



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Saturday: By appointment  
May through December:  
Monday- Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



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# BALANCING ACT

*Tonja Barnebee, CPA, PC, continues to provide for your past, present and future. — By Sandra Strong*

Tonja Barnebee came into her career as a certified public accountant (CPA) at the age of 30. Looking back at her elementary and high school days, she remembers always having a passion for math. She credits Mrs. Ralston, her bookkeeping teacher at Blooming Grove High School, Mrs. Ralston, now 92, for making the transition from bookkeeping to accounting so smooth. “She was a great teacher,” Tonja recalled. “I acquired an excellent background in bookkeeping from Mrs. Ralston, and I really believe that’s why accounting came so easy to me.”

There are no gray areas in accounting where Tonja is concerned. She doesn’t mind asking the difficult questions. “It’s black and white to me,” she stated. “I will fight for all legal deductions. My first allegiance is to the client. I will go up to the line, but I will never cross over it.”

Tonja and her staff of five — director of First Impressions and Tonja’s right arm, Phyllis Hammond; bookkeepers, Wendy Slovak and Lori Alfaro; and senior associates, Dollie Houdek and Sherra McGaha — firmly believe in the honest approach. “Honesty is the best policy,” Tonja explained. “A mistake is a mistake. They are never made on purpose. We never make excuses here. I’ve learned you can’t argue with the truth in the numbers.”

At Tonja Barnebee CPA, PC, they also believe in the personal touch. So much so, that it’s incorporated in their company policy. “You will always get a call back,” Tonja said. “It may be that I’m out of town, but the caller will receive a phone call, from a staff member as soon as possible after leaving their message.”

Opening her Ennis office eight years ago has proven to be



a good business decision. "I was in Corsicana before relocating to Ennis," she said. "It's been wonderful! Ennis is a great place to work, and our clients are fabulous! We have clients from as far away as Honduras and as close as right down the street."



Tonja and her staff are community-minded individuals who take great pride in giving back. The entire staff supports such programs as Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America and American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. We always enjoy the Chamber of Commerce and Lights of Ennis functions. A fun part of each Monday is meal deliveries with Meals on Wheels. Also, Phyllis is an active member of the Relay for Life Committee and Leadership Ennis 2011. "We also try to give back to our clients with great refreshments and door prizes at the annual Christmas Open House," Tonja said. "During tax season, Girl Scout cookies are given with each paid tax return."

Tonja was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis three years ago. Since that time, she's learned the importance of having balance in her life, by putting God and family first. "We work hard for our clients, and at the end of the day, with God and family first, the business falls into place," she said.

Tonja and her staff feel they have been brought together, not just as a business office, but as a vessel. "Sherra and Phyllis speak often about God's hand on this business," Tonja shared. "We have so many people who come into the office for bookkeeping and become more than just clients. I've been blessed with great co-workers and wonderful clients!" **NOW**



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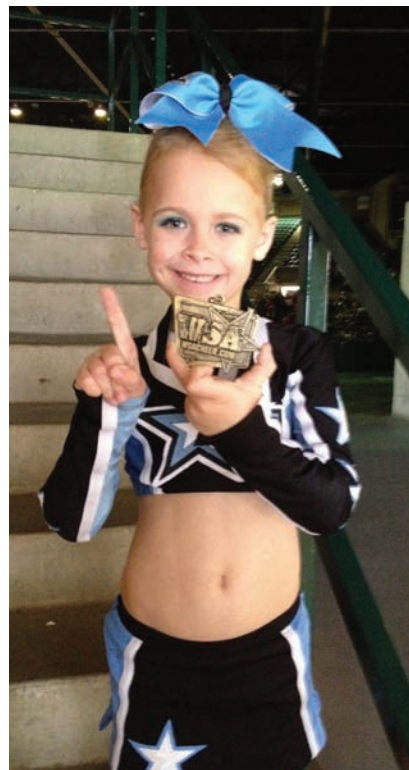
*A ribbon cutting is held for Culpepper & Lawrence.*




*Dr. William Davis and his staff hold an open house at Sensations.*




*Priscilla and James Gray wash their truck at Lion's Den Carwash.*



*Bella Bishop wins first place with her Liberty Cheer team at a competition.*

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Mason and Owen Zabojnik pose for a quick picture between scooter rides.



Garry and Kimberly Pickett renew their wedding vows as fellow CTI class members serve as witnesses.



After helping their school collect 120 cans of canned goods, the prekindergarten class at First United Methodist Church delivers them to Helping Hands.



Cason Hendrix, Cash Hendrix, Aspyn Newman, Ryder Newman and Noah Robles enjoy an afternoon at Lions Park.

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# Common Cold

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

It is that time of the year again. The common cold virus is everywhere. Even though viral upper respiratory infections can occur at any time, when it gets cold, we expect the sniffles to follow. Although it is easy to blame catching an infection on the change in temperature, the increase in colds during the winter is more likely from people being indoors together more and having more of an opportunity of passing germs between them.

Colds are caused by hundreds of viruses and are easily spread by direct contact. Anyone who is ill and sneezes or coughs in the air is releasing a multitude of viruses capable of infecting another person. Because there are so many viruses that cause the infection, you can become ill multiple times in a season. Your best course of action would be to try to prevent becoming sick.

High on everyone's list of prevention is to wash your hands frequently. If water and soap are not available, use a hand sanitizer. The cold virus can live on surfaces. If you touch an area that has been contaminated, you can easily transfer the virus to yourself. In that light, try to keep your hands off your face. If there is a member of the household who is ill, you can avoid getting sick by practicing good sanitation methods and disposing of contaminated tissues in the proper manner. Guard your health by drinking plenty of water and avoid smoking, even

secondhand smoke can be detrimental. Smoking irritates the nasal passageways, which interferes with its ability to filter out foreign substances. Try to get enough restorative sleep. Eat a balanced diet and take a multi-vitamin. Vitamins help your immune system. You cannot always tell if someone is sick so never drink after anyone. Just be on guard and avoid people who are sick.

If you do catch a cold, the bad news is there is no medication to make it go away. However, there are remedies to try to make your illness more bearable. Gargle with one-half teaspoon salt in eight ounces of warm water for your sore throat. Sucking on throat lozenges can help also. Drink plenty of fluids to help flush out impurities, to loosen mucus and to avoid dehydration if fever is present. Over-the-counter medications are usually sufficient for the symptoms of cough, runny nose, stuffiness and fever. A cold will usually last anywhere from 4 days to a couple of weeks. Although there are things you can do to feel better, try to not get sick by practicing good health. **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.*

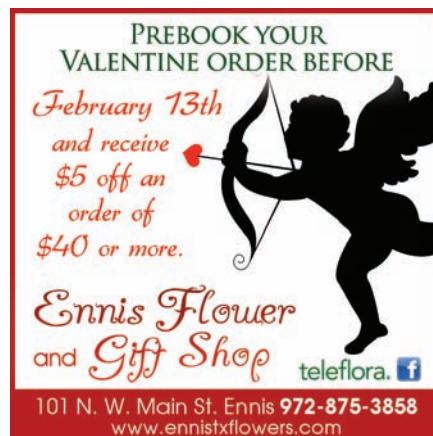


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# Five Good Reasons to Create an Investment Strategy

— By Jeff Irish

Some people buy investments here and there, now and then. Others open an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), put some money in it, and then forget about it. But this type of haphazard investment behavior can lead to haphazard results. On the other hand, you've got five good reasons for creating and following a comprehensive, long-term investment strategy.

- **Reason No. 1:** You want to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. For most people, building resources for retirement is the most powerful reason to invest. As a key part of your investment strategy, you'll want to consider investments that have growth potential. The proportion of your portfolio devoted to these growth investments should be based on your individual risk tolerance and time horizon. And, as you move much closer to your actual retirement date, you may decide to shift some — but certainly not all — of your portfolio from growth-oriented vehicles to those investments that can provide a reliable income stream and incur less volatility.

- **Reason No. 2:** You need to stay ahead of inflation. Over the past few years, we've experienced relatively low inflation, but over time, even a low inflation rate can dramatically erode the value of your savings and investments. That's why you may want to consider investments that provide the potential for rising income.

- **Reason No. 3:** You need to help manage the unexpected. You can't predict what life will hold in store for you. To cope with unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a new

furnace, you'll need to create an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses so that you won't be forced to dip into your long-term investments. And to deal with other major uncertainties of life, you'll need adequate life and disability insurance.

- **Reason No. 4:** You need resources for major life events. Your retirement may eventually require the bulk of your financial resources — but it's not the only milestone for which you'll need to save and invest. You may need a down payment on a house, or you may someday even want to purchase a vacation home. And if you have children or grandchildren, you may want to help them pay for college.

- **Reason No. 5:** You'll want to keep in mind investment-related taxes. Taxes, like inflation, can eat into your investment returns. You'll need to evaluate whether you can benefit from tax-advantaged investments and retirement accounts, such as traditional or Roth IRAs.

So there you have it: five good reasons to adhere to a unified investment strategy that's tailored to your situation. This type of "blueprint" may not sound glamorous, and it's certainly not a "get rich quick" formula, but it will help you stay on track toward your important financial goals. **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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# Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012

## All Month

*Till Beth Do Us Part* is playing at Ennis Public Theatre, North Ennis Business Park, 2705-C N. Kaufman Street. Call (972) 878-7529 for specific dates and show times.

## February 2

Special Event Ennis High School Powder Buff Volleyball Game Fundraiser Class of 2013: 6:30 p.m., Ennis High School Ensign Gym, Junior Boys vs. Senior Boys.

## February 4

Annual Mission Sale: 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church gym, 505 West Marvin, Waxahachie.

## February 10-12

Waxahachie Community Theatre presents *Harvey*: Dinner shows are **Friday and Saturday** at 6:30 p.m. and **Sunday** at 1:30 p.m., Park Meadows Baptist Church, 3350 N. Highway 77, Waxahachie. Dinner and show: \$20/person. Seating is by prepaid reservation only. Show-only: \$10/person. For information on tickets/reservations, visit [www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com). Tickets also available from any cast member or by calling the WCT box office at (972) 646-1050.

## February 12

Hope Through Hilarity, Comedy and Music: 7:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Worship Center,

1200 Country Club Rd. Call (972) 875-3861 or visit [www.tabennis.org](http://www.tabennis.org).

## February 13

Ennis Czech Music Festival at SOKOL Hall. For details, visit [www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com](http://www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com).

## February 26

Bridal and Special Event Show: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. Admission is \$3.

## Ongoing:

### Mondays and Wednesdays

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

### Fourth Mondays

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

### Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; meeting: 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 North Dallas Street. Contact Cecil Curry at [ccurry\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:ccurry_98@yahoo.com).

### Thursdays

Chess for Kids (elementary age and above): 6:00-

7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue. No sign-up required.

### 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. [ennismoms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ennismoms@sbcglobal.net).

### Third Fridays

Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Zula's Coffee House, 1804 West Highway 287 Business, Waxahachie. Contact Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or at [vetsnetgrp@att.net](mailto:vetsnetgrp@att.net).

### Third Saturdays

Covenant Treasures Institute College Level Classes: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Refiner's Fire Ministries International, 1611 W. Ennis Avenue. (972) 765-3530.

### Fourth Saturdays

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

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*



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## In The Kitchen With Linda Roberson

— *By Sandra Strong*

Linda Roberson enjoys cooking her favorite dishes. When preparing meals, she adds the ingredients she wants her family to have so they can lead a healthy lifestyle. "I cook meals in advance so when I'm going to be spending time in the kitchen," Linda said, "I make it special. I try to cook when I have the house to myself. I pour a glass of wine and put on some classical music or an old movie."

The recipes Linda's family loves are really a combination of those she's gathered over the years. "I put my own spin on them," she admitted, "especially ones I make a lot." Like her mom, Linda tries to cook things her son enjoys. "I make pork chops almost every week." **NOW**

### My Daily Green Salad

**1 1/2 cups mixed salad greens**  
**1/8 cup crumbled Blue Cheese**  
**1/8 cup Emerald glazed pecans**  
**1/2 Granny Smith apple, diced**  
**1 tsp. extra virgin olive oil**

**1.** Toss all ingredients and serve.

### Beef Bourgounione

**2-3 lbs. stew meat**  
**1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom soup**  
**1/2 to 3/4 pkg. dry onion soup mix**  
**1 cup red wine**  
**1 pkg. fresh mushrooms or sliced mushrooms, to taste**  
**Rice or noodles, your choice**  
**Sour cream, desired amount**

**1.** Place beef on bottom of casserole dish, then add soups, wine and mushrooms.

**2.** Cook covered at 300 F for 3 hours. Serve on top of rice or noodles.  
**3.** Top with sour cream.

### Mediterranean Seafood Stew

**1 medium onion, finely chopped**  
**1 1/2 tsp. garlic, minced (divided use)**  
**1 Tbsp. olive oil**  
**1/2 lb. plum tomatoes, seeded and diced**  
**1 tsp. lemon peel, grated**  
**1 tsp. red pepper flakes, crushed**  
**1 cup clam juice**  
**1/3 cup white wine or additional clam juice**  
**1 Tbsp. tomato paste**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1 lb. orange roughy or red snapper fillets, cut into 1-inch cubes**  
**1 lb. large shrimp, uncooked, peeled and deveined**  
**1/2 lb. sea scallops**

**1/3 cup fresh parsley, minced**  
**1/3 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise**

**1.** In a Dutch oven or large saucepan, sauté onion and 1/2 tsp. garlic in oil until tender.  
**2.** Add tomatoes, lemon peel and pepper flakes; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Add the clam juice, wine or additional clam juice, tomato paste and salt. Bring to a boil.  
**3.** Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 minutes or until heated through.  
**4.** Add fish, shrimp, scallops and parsley. Cover and cook for 8-10 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork, the shrimp turns pink and the scallops are opaque.  
**5.** Combine mayonnaise and remaining garlic. Use one dollop for each serving.

### Classic Ganache

**1/2 cup heavy cream**  
**8 oz. pkg. bittersweet, semisweet, milk or white chocolate, chopped**  
**2 Tbsp. butter**  
**Nuts, coconut or powdered sugar, if making truffles (optional)**

**1.** In saucepan, bring cream to a boil. Pour over chocolate; let stand 1 minute.  
**2.** Stir until smooth. Add butter; stir until melted. Cool.  
**3.** Serve as a sauce over ice cream or whip up a wonderful frosting by using an electric mixer and beating until fluffy. Then frost your favorite cake, cupcakes or cookies.  
**4.** For bite-sized truffles that are bliss: chill sauce until firm. Take 1 Tbsp. of Ganache and shape into 1-inch balls; roll in chopped nuts, coconut or confectioner's sugar.

### Brie Puff Pastry Appetizer

**1 sheet Pepperidge Farm puff pastry, thawed**  
**1 8-oz. Brie cheese round**  
**1 egg**  
**1 Tbsp. water**

**1.** Heat oven to 400 F. Unfold pastry sheet on floured surface. Place cheese in center. Fold pastry over cheese to cover.  
**2.** Trim excess pastry and press to seal. Reserve pastry scraps for a bow or leaf decoration on top, if desired.  
**3.** Beat egg with water. Brush seam of pastry with egg mixture. Place seam side down onto baking sheet. Brush with egg mixture.  
**4.** Bake 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 20 minutes.