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March 2008

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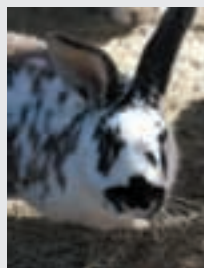
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Ennis NOW

Editor's Note

Hello Ennis,

This month, we would like to take the opportunity to salute two young African-American women from Ennis who are making a difference in the world, Sherrita Gardner and Kim Goodwin. Sherrita hopes to bring her education and abilities to focus on a career in broadcast journalism. Kim is bringing Ennis her vision of a future based on unity, through a dramatic retrospective of African-American history.

The source of hope, Easter, comes early this year and we think you will enjoy a light-hearted bunny tale with a heartfelt message in our main feature.

It is March, and that means it is time to fill up your plates at the Bowie Elementary Spaghetti Supper on March 7. Do not forget to get a taste of spring at the Ellis County Master Gardener's 8th annual Lawn & Garden Expo on March 29. See our calendar for details.

Kelly Kovar

EnnisNOW Editor

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Therapeutic *Bunny* Love

— By Sandra McIntosh

Richard and Jackie Woods never could have imagined the ministry that has grown from their son's request seven years ago. "Dalton asked if he could have a rabbit," Jackie recalled. She does not advocate impulse-buying of rabbits, so she made sure they were prepared to take care of it properly. "Once we were sure he fully understood the commitment involved, we bought him one." Dalton named him Joe the Bunny.

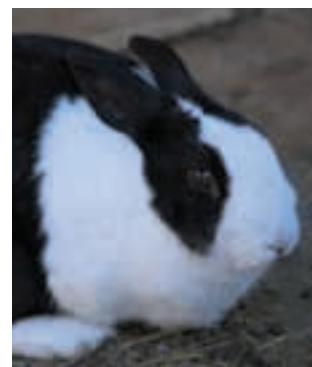
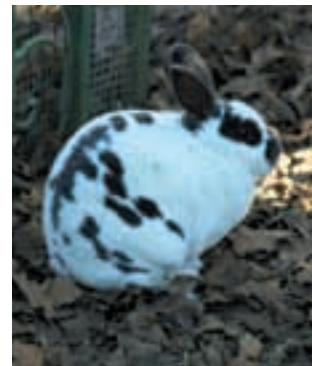
Nearly a year after Joe the Bunny was purchased, Jackie remembered absent-mindedly listening to the news on TV. "They were saying that a lady had given a sizable donation to help build a new animal adoption facility [in the Dallas area]," she explained. As Jackie began to listen more intently to the broadcast, she saw pictures of two rabbits being flashed on the screen. Soon thereafter, she picked up the phone and gave the facility a call. "They told me the rabbits were the two newest ones up for adoption," Jackie said. "I asked them

if they had any long-term rabbits." That was just the beginning.

When the two newly adopted rabbits, Miss Chelsey and Shirley, were introduced to Joe the Bunny, that made three. Several years and hundreds of 50-pound bags of rabbit feed later, the Woods now proudly house and care for 55 rabbits in all shapes, sizes, breeds and colors in their own rabbit retirement/refuge/rescue facility aptly named Joe Bunny Rabbit Sanctuary. Once other adoption facilities, veterinary clinics and rabbit owners learned of what Richard and Jackie were offering, they began receiving calls from all over. It may have started

with one black bunny, but word of mouth is what has grown their facility to its current size.

One day, out of the blue, a teacher at Travis Elementary School, who knew all about the rabbit refuge in Bristol, asked Jackie if she would be interested in bringing a few of the rabbits to class. "Of course, I couldn't say no," she said. On that initial visit, Jackie first talked to the four- and five-year-old students about the rabbits, prior to introducing them face to fur. "I wanted them to enjoy petting and playing with the rabbits," she said, "but I wanted them to know some facts about them, too." Jackie continues



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to explain during visits today that a rabbit's bad eyesight is counterbalanced with their outstanding hearing ability. "I also tell them that rabbits have molars in the back of their mouths," she said, "and that the rabbits like being held a certain way." Finally, it was time for the four-legged creatures to be brought into the room.



Jackie further explained the importance of contact between the rabbit and its owner. "Socialization keeps them living longer, happier lives," she advised, cradling her own baby, Red Barron, a Flemish Giant, in her lap. "I tell them that rabbits need friends just like they [the students] do." She laughed as she reminisced about that first class and how things over the past several years have not changed. "The kids still say 'Wow' when I tell them that 10 years later they can still have their rabbit if they take proper care of it," Jackie said, clarifying that she explains the care and upkeep on a level children can easily understand. "They are amazed to learn they can still have their pet and a driver's license at the same time!"

Jackie and her furry friends stopped visiting the elementary schools once the Early Childhood Center (ECC) opened its doors to Ennis' youngest students. At the ECC, visits began with one teacher and soon escalated to one hallway of classes and then finally to the entire campus. "All classes see the rabbits," Jackie said, "even the special needs classes. The visits seem to bring out



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the very best in all the children.” Before her passing, Samora was one of Jackie’s most beloved rabbits. Due in large part to her calm nature and easygoing personality, Samora spent a great deal of time at the ECC. “I remember one day dropping her off at the special needs classroom first,” Jackie said. “I made my rounds with the other rabbits, only to come back an hour later and learn that Samora had spent the entire time in this one classroom.”

Visiting the ECC is a two-day event. “Each day, the rabbits come home like wet noodles,” Jackie said. “They are so tired.” Another favorite

“The visits seem to bring out the very best in all the children.”

among the children in Ennis, as well as the students at Ferris Elementary, is a little black rabbit named Larry. “He was born with a birth defect,” Richard chimed in. “One of his back legs is missing the ball and socket joint, but it doesn’t slow him down.” In fact, the children love him so much they have started asking for Larry by name.

The most docile rabbits also visit area nursing facilities once a month. “The seniors love to tell stories about the bunnies they had as children,” Jackie said. “The memories are good memories of cotton tails and red-eyed rabbits.” The most poignant memory Jackie will carry with her for a lifetime took place during a visit to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Nursing Home. She likes to refer to this memory as a “warm fuzzy.” “I stopped by a room where several individuals were holding vigil for a resident on death watch,” Jackie remembered, as tears filled her eyes. “At the family’s request, I laid a towel down on her tummy and then gently placed the rabbit on the towel. She responded almost immediately. She began to extend her fingers

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toward the fur. Ever-so-lightly, she began to rub the rabbit." Jackie knows she will always remember that one particular 30-minute visit. "I'll never forget the lady's fingers as they began to uncurl long enough to pet the rabbit," she said.

As new rabbits are invited into the family, Jackie puts her skills to the



test. It is up to her to evaluate each new rabbit to make sure she places them into the right warren, or group of rabbits, located within the five color-coded areas of the Woods' backyard. "Rabbits are very social creatures," Jackie explained, "so understanding their temperament is important when placing them in the right warren. They not only hop around the yard together, they also live, eat and sleep together. They must be trained and acclimated," Jackie added, "before I can think about taking them into the schools and nursing homes."

Once again, Jackie and Richard share a laugh as they look around the backyard with its wind chimes, planter boxes, knickknacks and lace curtains that serve as inexpensive windbreaks. "It may look like a couple of rednecks live here," Jackie said, "but all the items in the backyard have a purpose. They help keep the hawks away and give the 55 bunnies lots of places to hide!" **NOW**

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A Passion for Contemporary Design

— By Kelly Kovar

When Jess and Brenda Haupt moved to Ennis in 1992, they began life here in a very traditional home. “We basically gutted it room by room and it was contemporary by the time we left it,” Brenda recalled fondly. “It was great, and I loved that house and I still love it.” Nevertheless, with children Claire and Will getting older, Brenda felt the families needed more space and began working with a Realtor.

By the time their current home came on the market, Brenda had already looked at a number of houses. “I had never really paid much attention to this house because from the outside, it fit into the neighborhood,” she said, explaining that she was looking for a very contemporary house. When she walked through the fluted glass front doors and into the round entryway with its soaring ceiling and custom marble mosaic floor, however, she knew she was home. The house, a product of builder Bob Agar, also won Jess’ approval once he was convinced to view it. After the purchase, he outfitted a theater room and an exercise room to make it suit their needs perfectly.

Many of the contemporary furnishings from their previous home work well in their new space. “We call this our kryptonite table,” Jess said of the unusual dining room table. The room’s buffet and china cabinet have translucent glass fronts. Brenda’s art glass collection and stunning, etched mirrors are displayed here.

At Home With Jess and Brenda Haupt





Brenda must have known the living room would have to be spectacular in order to hold its own with the unique entryway. She retained interior designer Harriett Adams to help her furnish it, and the results are amazing. An apple green couch faces a pair of matching upholstered swivel chairs. Side chairs in a green, white and tan geometric print and curving glass tables complete the design. "I think she enjoyed doing it," Brenda said. "It was a small scale and something different for her." The addition of a cut glass framed mirror and a family portrait by Charla Holmes of Corsicana complete the décor.

"The master bathroom is my favorite room," Brenda declared. "The whole floor is tiger's eye granite." A scallop-edged tile cascades asymmetrically behind the tub and shower areas. Warm wood cabinetry accents the double sink areas. A double-sided



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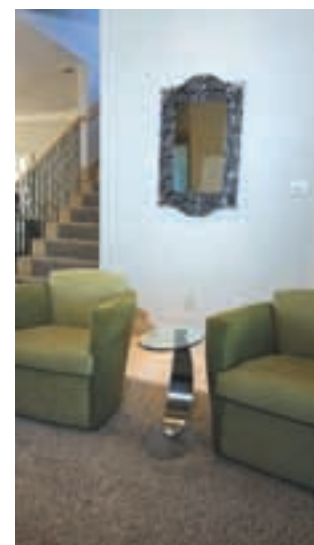
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fireplace overlooks the tub, the other side serving to warm the master bedroom. A platform bed and matching dresser made of Brazilian wood with a very high gloss are set off by the pewter-colored bedding. Carl Block sculpture pieces ornament the dresser. "I found his work at the Webb Gallery [in Waxahachie] and I bought some at Interior Ideas [in Ennis]."

The office, accessible from the living room, is secluded behind a glass door with a curved etched pattern that picks up the design of the curved staircase balustrade above. This room boasts a window wall view of the pool. The desk is a wide expanse of curved



glass and the bookcase is a modern affair with vertical stacks of biographies, fiction and history books. Family pictures decorate the étagère, including one of Jess and Brenda's wedding.

After meeting in Dallas through a mutual friend, the couple married in 1985. Although Jess is from Wisconsin and Brenda grew up in Kansas City, they have made Ennis their home, as well as the location of their business. The couple owns Globe Products, which sells largely to automotive and plumbing industries, with

Jess working as CEO and Brenda as vice president. "Our main product is hose ferrules," Jess explained. He admits to

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being an artist and a creative type. Although he got his start in marketing, he has enjoyed several creative outlets over the years, including drawing, playing guitar, making homebrewed beer, wine and, most recently, roasting his own coffee. "We love coffee, so I've been roasting coffee for three or four years now," he said, telling of the natural progression to start their own coffee roasting company, Buna Bean Coffee. "The original coffee came from Ethiopia and buna means coffee in Ethiopia."



Jess is also one of seven board members with the Economic

Development Corporation, which encourages economic growth in Ennis through presenting the city as a preferred industrial site and a desirable residential location.

Additionally, Jess is the chairman of the board of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce.

"I also sing in the choir at St. John's occasionally," Jess mentioned. Brenda volunteers as a Eucharistic minister through St. John's, serving Claystone Manor. "Once a month I go to the nursing home and visit the residents and bring

them communion if they would like it," she said. "Some people want to pray; some people want to tell you about

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their life. You hear some interesting stories. St. John's has a pretty active home ministry. They have three homebound routes and all the nursing homes are covered. I have really, really enjoyed that ministry."

Their son, Will, aged 13, attends St. John School and their 15-year-old daughter, Claire, attends Ennis High School. They enjoy having a second floor game room, complete with a mini-kitchen perfect for study breaks. "I like this house because it is bigger, and we have a whole floor to ourselves," Claire said. Will's room features a modern painting of Neil Young playing guitar by Ennis artist, Marty Sanchez. As his room indicates, Will likes music. "I play harmonica," he said.

While Brenda expresses her creativity through contemporary design, Jess expresses his through creative cooking. "He started cooking dinner about two or three years ago," Brenda said. "I love it. It is great because we get excellent food. We are spoiled rotten. We don't really like to go to restaurants anymore



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because it is better here." Jess added, "I like to cook at this house because I am not closed up. I can watch TV from the kitchen. It all goes back to liking to create things." At first, he just grilled, but as he started looking at cookbooks, he decided to give cooking a try. His attempts soon became a passion. "I think I have the knack for balancing the ingredients just right. It gets pretty complicated since I don't measure. I like to try different cuisines all the time, like Italian or Chinese. The kids are going to be hurting when they go to college since, when we go out to eat, they say my cooking is better."

The Haupt's kitchen and den are one large, open area. A gas fireplace is a focal point with its unusual contemporary mantel. The den features black leather couches and a matching black leather banquette. Cobalt blue artwork and cobalt blue pendant lighting unite the den and kitchen. "This is where we are most of the time," Brenda said. "We sit here and watch Jess cook." ■■■■■



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ARTS NOW

She Has a Dream

— By Kelly Kovar

Kim Goodwin has an exciting vision for Ennis. "Art is something that can cross over boundaries regardless of where you come from," Kim said. "If you like music and art, you like it." She is producing a retrospective musical depicting the history of African-Americans that is designed to cross those barriers. Kim studied vocal music in Austin at Huston Tillotson University, a historical black college. She has worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Ennis; was a program director for Girls, Inc. for six years; and now sells television commercials for nationally known advertisers. Kim also enjoys traveling as road manager with her brother Adrian's singing group.

Adrian appears in Kim's current musical production, singing, dancing and acting in several scenes. "Adrian



grew up here since seventh grade and was in the choir at Ennis High School (EHS), completing all-regional and all-state here." Kim and Adrian's grandparents have lived in this area since the early 1980s, so Kim has seen the cultural arts in Ennis evolve over a long period of time. "I think this is the time for Ennis to become more socially diverse, as far as cultural events, because this is becoming such a cultural place," Kim explained. "People need to learn

how to socialize with one another and interact with one another and the only way they can learn that is if they do it."

Tapping into the cultural diversity in Ennis was a goal of Kim's as she cast her musical, which is in rehearsal now at EHS. Young people and adults from all over Ennis are involved in the large cast. A community choir has been formed and will provide choral numbers during the show. Kim has brought on two choreographers to orchestrate dance numbers. "My production definitely has a very diverse cast," she said. "It will be at San Jacinto Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on March 8."

The free production, underwritten by a grant from The Ennis Arts Commission, is called *Hear tha Sound, Feel tha Beat*. It is a dramatic interpretation of African-American history from slavery to present day. Kim wrote the drama, which is interspersed with musical selections. A narrator will lead the audience through the program, and various segments include dance, drama, choral and solo music, as well as film clips.

Kim loves music and enjoys singing, but her love of history is also foundational to her desire to produce *Hear tha Sound, Feel tha Beat*. "I like writing, and I love to be able to tell a story," she explained. Her program will begin with a jungle scene, colorful with authentic costumes and dances. Youth have been busy beading the costumes, and Kim has collected African-style fabrics to use in the opening scene's outfits. As the musical segues into scenes in cotton fields, on into the early 20th century and then into the Civil Rights Movement, costumes will reflect the changing times and styles. "I want people to realize that all along through history, there have always been white people who have supported the cause of African-Americans. Even when slaves were brought here, there were white people who were against it from the beginning." The scene then changes to



ARTS NOW

the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. "I want it to be as real as it can, and there were white people there for the movement that wanted to further the effort for African-Americans."

The music flowing throughout the production is indicative of traditional black gospel music and is integral to the story. It includes traditional spirituals and maintains an upbeat tone. Kim has brought in her brother Adrian and also Fran Anderson to work with the choral numbers. "I think the music is what connected African-American people. Even if they were from different tribes, they all had music and dancing in their tribes. That was something that they could all appreciate about one another. Once they learned the language here, music and dance was something they could all do."

Finding the common ground of music and dance connected them historically, and in the same way, Kim aims to lay a bridge to that common ground by uniting the Ennis community at a cultural event that will reach across racial lines to embrace all of us. "We are all a part of each other's history. So, that makes us all one. Our histories have intertwined throughout. With this production, I want people to understand that you can get along with anybody. You just have to try. You just have to work at it," Kim stated.

"Art is something that gets kids' attention," she continued. "People who have a heart for children know how to help them interact. As a leader of young people, you can encourage your youth to be sensitive, to be well-rounded, and to know how to talk to people. I feel that cultural arts and people who are in the arts and love the arts are accepting and understanding. Building a production like this gives young people with artistic gifts and talents a chance to connect with each other and to discover and realize their gifts." **ARTS NOW**

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Sports NOW

Giving Baseball a Boost

— By Kelly Kovar

Suzie Betik, treasurer of the Ennis High School Linebacker's Booster Club, loves baseball. "I got involved in the booster club when my daughter, Laurie, played softball and volleyball," Suzie remembered. "I did mostly football because football is the main booster club, but I am treasurer of both the football and baseball clubs, as it was easier just to have one person doing it that was familiar with it."

Suzie and her husband, Steve, saw their daughter graduate from Ennis High School (EHS) in 2003, and this January, they watched her marry Blake Butler, manager of The Greenery, located in Ennis. Laurie will do her student teaching this semester in the Ennis Independent School District, which will involve rotating between different schools and grade levels. Suzie enjoys supporting their son, EHS senior Corey Betik, and his sports through her work with the booster clubs.

"Kevin Kalinec is the head baseball coach. He is the varsity coach, and he oversees the whole program. His budget allows him to provide uniforms and do field work," Suzie explained. "Anything extra, related to baseball, is purchased by the booster club." Last year, the booster club remodeled the concession stand/press box, putting in a room where radio announcers or scouts can sit. This year, they were



very pleased to be able to provide a laptop, with software that will keep stats as the game is going on.

"Previously, at the end of a game, they would have to go in, read the book and figure out who did what. Now, they will have running stats in the dugout. So, for example, when the game is over, they know how many pitches a pitcher pitched."

"We bought a four-wheeler for the coach to drag the field with, and when they did a lot of leveling at the baseball field this summer, we paid for sand," Suzie said. This year, the booster club provided new warm-up jackets for the varsity baseball team. "Each year, the coaches can ask the kids to participate in one fundraiser, which we assist ... in." This year, the kids are going to be selling Dallas coupon books. Any



Baseball Booster Club officers Danny Montgomery, Greg Hobb, Suzie Betik and Deliah Lewis.

additional fundraisers will be done by the parents.

Currently, baseball parents are selling Texas Ranger Baseball home tickets for four select dates to help fund the coach's ultimate goal. "His dream is to have an indoor batting cage to use all year round," Suzie explained. "Baseball starts in January, and if the weather is bad, the team has to go into the gym and all they can do is throw the ball around. We would like to get enough money to enclose something so that they could practice indoors. The idea is to spend money on what he needs, but to put enough back every year so that at some point, he can have the indoor batting cage."

See the community calendar for information on obtaining Ranger tickets, which are discounted below face value. When 1,000 Ranger tickets


Sports NOW

have been sold, the team will earn the privilege to play its March 18 game against Mesquite at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. "The team knows it is coming, and they will get excited about it," Suzie said. "They played there last year, with lots of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles there to watch, and the boys were just floored. The game is free to the fans. Last year, the boys were so excited. You could see it in their eyes."

Another fundraising project that the baseball booster club handles is offering advertising signs to area businesses and hanging them on the outfield fence. Original sales and yearly renewals augment the booster club funds. "I have set it up so the EHS metal shop makes all our signs, and [the shop] teacher can make a little money for his group, instead of us going off-site. We try to use school resources as much as we can," Suzie said.

This is the second year that the baseball team has had its own booster club, with officers. According to Suzie, it all boils down to getting parents who are willing to work and then letting them organize it. "Once you get the right people in there and you get it organized, it runs pretty smoothly," she said. This year's officers are Danny Montgomery, president and Greg Hobb, vice president. Suzie is the treasurer and Deliah Lewis is the secretary. "Deliah is kind of in charge of the concession stand, which we remodeled last year," she said. Deliah is also in charge of the signs. "We do a schedule at the first of the season and try to get every parent to work once in the concession stand," Suzie mentioned.

"The booster club is a lot of work, but I do enjoy doing it because my kids are wonderful children, and I enjoy being with them," Suzie said. "With them playing baseball, I want them to have what they deserve on the baseball field. This is our way of trying to help." **NOW**




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Business
NOW

Leading the Community Forward

— By Sandra McIntosh

If it has been awhile since your last trip to the bowling alley, now would be a great time to take advantage of the new and improved All Star Bowl, located at 2303 W. Ennis Avenue. Manager Austin Spillar is moving the bowling facility forward with changes that are not only family oriented, but also eco-friendly. On February 1, the facility became smoke-free from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with plans to be totally smoke-free except in the bar area beginning on June 1. "I like being a leader in the community," Austin said, referring to his decision to ban

smoking. "The goal is to keep the world healthy for generations." By implementing this change, Austin feels as if he and the owners, Randy Isenberg and Jamie Brooks, are doing their part in the overall effort to keep Ennis beautiful for years to come.

Austin comes from a long lineage of bowling enthusiasts. His grandparents owned their own bowling center and Randy's partner, Jamie, comes to the business with over 50 years of valued experience. Austin moved from San Diego, California, to Ellis County following an offer he could not pass up. "Randy Isenberg is my uncle. I was in college studying to be a lawyer when he offered me the managerial position here in Ennis," Austin explained. "This career move gives me the opportunity to not only excel in the business of

bowling, but also in restaurant and bar management, food service and guest relations. I am challenged by the overall variety."

Needless to say, Austin has taken full advantage of the experience backing him while putting his smile, positive attitude and ability to think "outside the proverbial box" to the forefront. His hands-on approach and willingness to succeed have seen many changes already manifested with many more to come. One upgrade in the beginning stage is the addition of automatic bumpers to the 24 available bowling lanes. "The bumpers come up or go down when there's a need," Austin said, pointing to the bumpers already installed on the first two lanes. "Seasoned bowlers and those just beginning the sport will be able to bowl together on the same lane."

Austin has many other goals in



Business NOW

mind to turn All Star Bowl into the bowling center all other centers strive to be, including: involving the local high school in a full-time bowling program, possibly adding more lanes, expanding the bar area and stepping up the menu. He also mentioned the college scholarship money that can be obtained from the sport of bowling.

"We are not the ordinary bowling

"Bowling is an all-inclusive sport. Anyone can bowl."

alley," Austin stated. "My goal is to always stay one step in front of the competition. Bowling is an all-inclusive sport. Anyone can bowl," he said. "Getting a ball in their hands is the first step. The rest could easily be history.

Randy and Jamie's goal is to continue locating bowling facilities in need of a professional touch. They hope to find struggling centers and hire people like Austin to help turn a failing business into a prosperous bowling facility offering fun for the whole family.

Austin readily admits that he is still learning, so listening to his employees and his customers has become key in running a successful business. "I look at my position here as a longtime investment," Austin said. "If I move forward by putting my mind to it and having faith, then I can achieve it." All Star Bowl is now open for your convenience seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. with the bar area open Sunday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. - midnight and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. For further information, call (972) 875-1558. **NOW**



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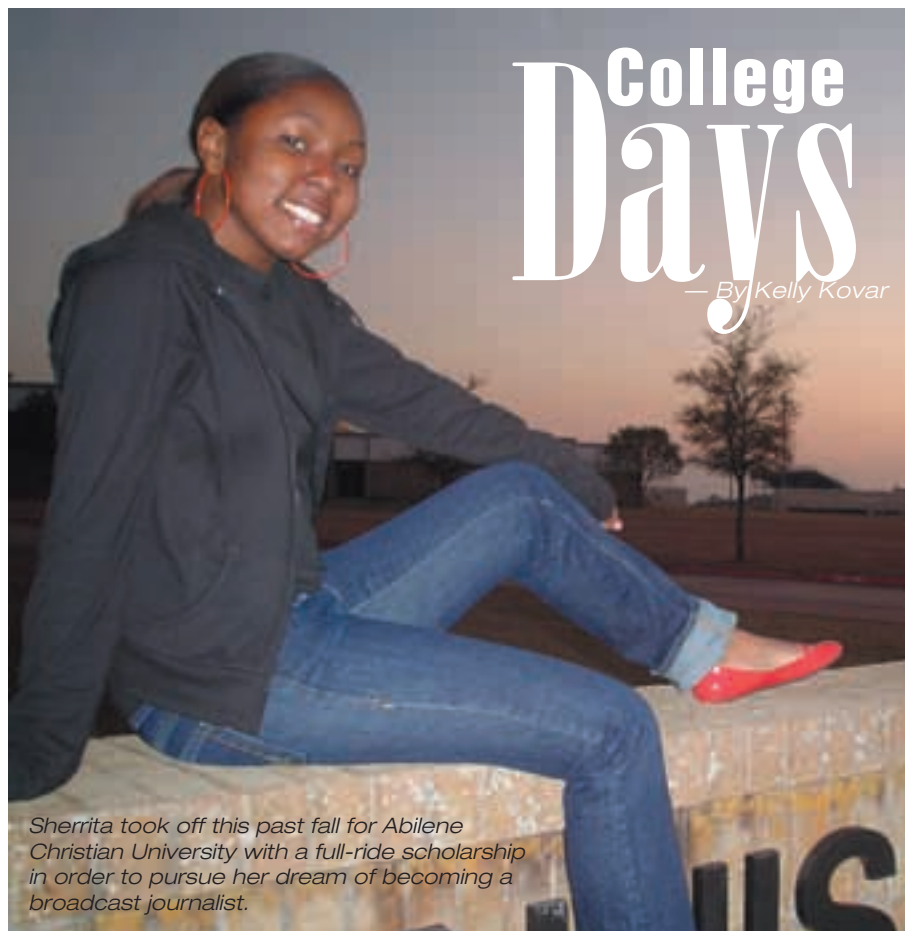
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Education

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Sherrita took off this past fall for Abilene Christian University with a full-ride scholarship in order to pursue her dream of becoming a broadcast journalist.

High school is a launching pad for students embarking on a variety of careers. When a bright object is launched, it is always interesting to watch its trajectory and imagine the worlds it will encounter. Such is the case with Sherrita Gardner, 2007 honor graduate and senior class vice president of Ennis High School (EHS). Sherrita took off this past fall for Abilene Christian University (ACU) with a full-ride scholarship in order to pursue her dream of becoming a broadcast journalist. Going to college has been an exhilarating blend of beginning to prepare for her career and enjoying a new life on her own. "Getting ready to go off to school was very exciting," Sherrita shared.

The first order of the year was getting a roommate and decorating their dorm room. Sherrita and her roommate,

Nicole, chose pink and green, their favorite colors, and matted pictures of people they love on colored paper. "I have Maya Angelou, Oprah, Martin Luther King and Paula Dean."

Getting matched up with Nicole was a propitious surprise, since the two have so much in common. "We each expected two different people that never showed up, and we ended up together," Sherrita said. "It worked out great, and we hit it off perfectly. She is white and I am African-American, but we were really cool with everything. You just learn new things about each other." They cook a lot in the dorm or eat in the ACU eateries, which include: The World Famous Bean, Pizza Hut, Quiznos or Smoothie King. In spite of all that eating, Sherrita still keeps her figure trim. "We live on the third floor, and I stay in shape because

I go up and down stairs a lot every day. I like to work out, and I run two miles with my friends a couple of times a week on the school track. I am always on the go and that keeps you in shape," she shared.

Being on the go was typical of Sherrita during her high school career as well. She was involved with drill team, student council and Spanish Club during her freshman and sophomore years at Duncanville High School. After moving to Ennis, she continued her student council involvement; she also became president of the Pan American Student Forum (PASF). "I joined Key Club which does a lot of volunteering including reading to students on Fridays," Sherrita recalled. "I love volunteering." She also was chosen, along with Robert Scott, as a Camp Ryla participant. Ryla, a function of Rotary Club, is a leadership camp offered to two EHS students each year. "Ryla taught you a lot about yourself and about how you could come back to your school and make some impact. When we came back we reinitiated the Interact Club, which is sponsored by Rotary, and focuses on doing service projects. Robert was the president and I was the vice president."

Her favorite teachers at EHS were Daphne Hill Pesina and Tonya Harper. "They are down-to-earth and really personal about connecting with you. They were really interested in your success, in what you wanted to do, in your emotional life, and just how you were doing. They are really genuine," she expressed.

Broadcast journalism classes at EHS gave Sherrita a good start for the communications field she has chosen. "We did a lot of interviewing and stories," she said. She also participated in Prose and Poetry for University Interscholastic League (UIL). "I placed second in our district and we were state-qualifiers. I had two poems. One

Education **NOW**

of them was called "Essence 25" and it was about the African-American woman and the place that she has in society and the differences they have made and the impact in America. The second poem that I recited was called 'How to Write a Political Poem' and it was written from an African-American perspective." Her activities in EHS

"Ryla taught you a lot about yourself and about how you could come back to your school and make some impact."

drama, playing the Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, gave her even more communication experience. "It was really fun and I plan to take theater classes in college. In February, I sang in *Sing Song*, a major annual production at ACU," Sherrita added.

"I really love ACU. I'm learning how to be a journalist, a reporter and how to be a producer. You learn about behind the scenes and on stage. I am pretty sure I will stay there for my master's, unless I go to Pepperdine [University, in Malibu, California]. I have gotten so many great opportunities being there [at ACU] even in my freshman year. I am a member of LYNAY (Love Your Neighbor as Yourself), VAHS (Virtuous African Heritage Sisterhood) and FAC (Freshman Action Council)," this busy young woman stated. She also enjoys being involved with Minda Street Church of Christ. "We have a game night and we play Taboo and get really into it." If that is not enough, Sherrita works at the after-school children's program at the YWCA and also at Dillard's. Sherrita foresees Abilene being a part of her life for several years, but she still loves Ennis. "I like to come back and see my friends, who are at college now too, during school breaks when everybody is here," she said. **NOW**

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 Vicki Johnston, Director of Medical Records, came to us from Baylor Waxahachie. Her organizational skills, her laughter and her passion for our residents, have made her a vital part of our Management Team. You may see her dressed as Raggedy Ann or dressed in uniform, but each time that you meet her you know that she loves what she does. We are very blessed to have her as part of our Team. Please come out to meet Vicki, she will share with you our mission. Quality of Life for our residents is what it is all about.

 Mark Phelps, Director of Maintenance has been with us for 1 1/2 years. He finds his work to be exciting and fulfilling. He enjoys the many projects that he has been a part of like floats for the Christmas parade, National Nursing Home Week and our Fall Festival. The residents enjoy watching him work. Mark is looking forward to many more years at Trinity Mission of Italy.

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Around Town NOW



Ennis singers, top left, rehearse for a community musical. A computer class taught by librarian Karen Witte, top middle, is held at the Ennis Public Library. Connexion Youth Night at RFMI, top right, brought out area teenagers, as well as adults, for an evening of praise and worship. Norma Black and Dr. Ruby Anthony-White, second row left, exhibited programs and a souvenir booklet from the 6th annual Ennis King Celebration. MLK Oratorical Contest judges, second row right, had a difficult time picking the winners. Ennis residents, bottom left, took up the "The Biggest Loser" 1,000,000 pounds challenge from the television show. Members of the RFMI youth praise and worship band, bottom right, performed to a naked house.

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Around Town NOW



New Hope Baptist Church hosted the Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest. The happy winners, top left, took monetary prizes home. MLK Oratorical Committee members Maggie Carr, Fran Anderson, Judy Delancy and Hollie Crayton (not pictured), top right, held a successful event. Young Ennis students, second row left, proudly showed off their certificates after being named winning contestants in the MLK oratorical contest. The Pontiax, along with wives and significant others, second row right, rang in the New Year at Marsala. Linda and Rusty Rudd, third row left, enjoyed a Sunday luncheon with their daughter-in-law, Destinee Rudd and their new grandchild. Dancers, bottom left, practice for *Hear Tha' Sound, Feel Tha' Beat*. Rocio and Emmanuel Gonzalez, bottom right, with one of their beautiful daughters.





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Look Who's Cooking

— By Stephanie Brewer

IN THE KITCHEN WITH DR. RICHARD SKUZA

Dr. Richard Skuza, an inspiring, motivational educator of 20 years, finds great enjoyment in cooking for family and friends. As Bowie Elementary principal for the last 11 years, Dr. Skuza has made strong, lasting friendships participating in the Bowie Spaghetti Supper. "The community atmosphere of bringing together parents from all walks of life, and seeing them work together, is the most valued benefit of our annual Spaghetti Supper," Dr. Skuza said. "The activity spurs tradition and camaraderie that supports our community members for a lifetime."

Dr. Skuza enjoys cooking beef and chicken fajitas for his faculty as well. "Friendships developed participating in our cooking extravaganza every year are very important to me," he said, "and to Bowie Elementary School." **NOW**

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- 2 cups Kikkoman soy sauce
- 4 Tbsp. Tones Canadian Steak seasoning

Place steaks in a shallow pan and cover them with soy sauce and marinate anywhere from 2 hours to overnight. Drain off marinade and spread seasoning on each side of steak. Rub seasoning into the steak with fork to ensure the seasoning adheres to the steak. Sear steaks on a charcoal grill 2 minutes on each side over direct heat. Place steaks on indirect heat for 30 minutes on a closed grill, turning once.

NO BOIL LASAGNA

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 15-oz. container of ricotta cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese (divide in half)
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, divided use
- 1 26-oz. jar of spaghetti sauce
- 12 lasagna noodles, unboiled
- 1 cup water

Brown ground beef. While ground beef is browning, mix ricotta cheese, egg, half of mozzarella cheese and half of Parmesan cheese in a separate mixing bowl. Mix well and set side. Drain ground beef and mix with jar of spaghetti sauce. Pour the cup

of water into empty spaghetti sauce jar and shake. Add the jar of water to spaghetti sauce and meat. This should yield about 5 cups. The extra water will cook the noodles while the lasagna is baking. Pour 1 cup of spaghetti sauce into a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. This will keep the first noodles from sticking. Place 3 noodles on the initial spaghetti sauce, layer 1/3 of the cheese mixture on top of noodles and then pour 1 cup of sauce on the cheese layer. Repeat 2 more times. Place the final 3 noodles on top and pour all remaining spaghetti sauce on top of noodles. Sprinkle the remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese on top of the sauce. Cover tightly with greased foil. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake at 400 F for 10



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Who's Cooking **NOW**

additional minutes. Remove from oven and let stand for 15 minutes before serving.

CAJUN CATFISH

10 catfish fillets – cut into four pieces each
1 14-oz. bottle French's Mustard
1/2 cup Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning
1 small bag of corn meal

Pour the entire bottle of French's Mustard into mixing bowl. Add Creole seasoning and mix well. Pour corn meal into a second mixing bowl. Thoroughly coat catfish chunks in mustard mixture and then coat with corn meal. Deep-fry coated fish chunks in preheated 350 F oil. Remove fish from deep fryer when it floats (about 6 – 8 minutes).

OATMEAL WAFFLES/PANCAKES

2 cups milk
1 1/2 cups quick cooking oats
2 1/2 Tbsp. sugar
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 cup flour
2 eggs, well beaten
1/3 cup vegetable oil

Mix first 5 ingredients. Add flour and stir. Add eggs and oil and stir. Spoon onto hot griddle and/or waffle iron. Cook until golden brown.

CHICKEN SHRIMP WRAPS

1 lb. chicken breast
1/2 lb. bacon
2 cups Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing
20 medium uncooked shrimp
4 jalapeño peppers

Marinate chicken for 2 hours in dressing. Julienne cut jalapeños. Remove shells from uncooked shrimp. Cut chicken breast into 3 x 2-inch pieces, cut incision into each piece without cutting piece in half. Place a piece of sliced pepper and one shrimp into incision. Fold chicken around shrimp, wrap with bacon and secure with toothpicks. Grill on indirect heat for 45 minutes.

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Finance **NOW**

A Time to Plan

— By Gary Hayden

Studies have shown that few individuals make good on their New Year's resolutions. One of the key reasons for that lack of success may be that those resolutions are often overwhelming. If improving your finances is on your 2008 list of resolutions, do not despair. Whatever financial goals are important to you, break them down into bite-sized tasks that you can accomplish as the year unfolds and as your schedule allows. Put them on your calendar now, and plan to stick to these appointments. Even though this is a March issue, let's start off with a game plan for the first six months of 2008.

January

Start the year with a fresh look at your net worth and also set up a budget.

February

Get your tax information collected and submitted to your accountant. Do not delay. Haste makes waste.

March

Examine your investment plan to make sure you are properly diversified and on target to reach your goals. This year is shaping up to be a bumpy ride and proper allocation of assets is critical for every investor's financial well-being.

April

Get your estate planning in order. Too many times the "stuff" of an estate — money, real estate, things — gets in the way of the true inheritance of a family — faith, love, education, integrity, work ethics, etc.

May

Make sure you protect your family and your property with insurance. Life insurance, disability insurance, homeowners, car insurance, umbrella coverage, health insurance and long-term

care insurance should all be reviewed to make sure they are up to date and consistent with your current goals and lifestyle.

The heart of good stewardship is planning.

June

Protect yourself from identity theft. It can take 500 hours of your time to undo the chaos created by identity theft. If you have not done so already, buy a shredder and routinely shred any unnecessary financial paperwork or records. Get a free copy of your credit report and check it for accuracy. The three credit companies that provide these reports are Equifax (888-766-0008), Experian (888-391-3742) and Trans Union (800-888-4213).

We will address financial tasks for the second half of the year in an upcoming article. At some point, most adults experience the "when — then" attitude toward life. When I graduate

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from high school ... from college, get a "real" job, marry, get the kids out of diapers ... started to school ... graduated from high school ... married, pay off the mortgage ... retire ... then I will study, pray, serve others, volunteer, give ... plan.

Plan. The heart of good stewardship is planning. The faithful steward substitutes "today I will" for "when — then." Whatever stage of life you are in, make plans for a confident future. **NOW**

Gary Hayden is a financial consultant with offices in Ennis.

Gary Hayden is a Registered Representative of, and offers Security, Investment Advisory and Financial Planning services through, MML Investors Services, Inc. Supervisory Office: 777 Main Street, Suite 2260, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 o (817) 332-4451. Hayden Financial Partners is not an affiliate or subsidiary of MML Investor Services, Inc.

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When a Tonsillectomy is Necessary

— By Matthew Branch, M.D.

That pesky sore throat that comes with the cold or flu every year may actually be tonsillitis, and a throat lozenge just will not cut it when it comes to relieving the pain. While tonsillitis usually occurs in children, adults can be affected as well.

Tonsils are part of the immune system, which helps the body fight disease and infection. Tonsillitis is the inflammation or infection of the tonsils, or the collections of tissue located on either side of the throat. It is contracted when small droplets, which carry bacteria or viruses, are moved through the air as an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.

There are two types of tonsillitis, both with their own symptoms and treatments. One type is a viral infection. A viral infection usually lasts about two weeks and will go away without any prescribed medications. Symptoms of tonsillitis caused by a viral infection are cold-like, including a sore throat, runny nose, sneezing or coughing. Antibiotics are not effective when treating a viral case of tonsillitis, but there are a few remedies to alleviate pain like gargling salt water, drinking warm tea or taking a nonprescription pain reliever.



Tonsillitis may also be caused by a bacterial infection like strep throat. Symptoms include a sore throat and a sudden fever without any other upper-respiratory problems.

Warning signs of bacterial tonsillitis can include a dry mouth and tongue and ear pain. When these symptoms arise, individuals should visit a physician for diagnosis and proper medication since untreated cases can lead to serious complications.

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial cases of tonsillitis, and it is important to finish the prescribed dosage, even if symptoms have disappeared. Bacteria may become resistant to the antibiotics if they are not taken as directed.

In some instances, a physician may recommend a tonsillectomy. This procedure is performed under general anesthesia and the tonsils are removed completely. The incisions heal naturally in about two weeks. A tonsillectomy should be considered if someone has:

- Frequent or chronic infections.
- Enlarged tonsils that interfere with breathing or general well-being.
- A boil or sore on the tonsils.



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After a tonsillectomy, a humidifier, ice packs and soft food may help alleviate pain or discomfort. Once a person has recovered, the frequency of throat infections should decrease, but may not go away completely.

While tonsillitis will usually go away with time or some medication, there are a few simple tips to keep you from catching the disease, like: avoiding close contact with someone who has been infected, washing your hands and regularly disinfecting surfaces such as door knobs and countertops. If you or someone in your family is experiencing any of these symptoms, or has frequent throat infections, talk with your physician about possible treatment options. **NOW**

*Matthew Branch, M.D.
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March 2008

Community Calendar

Every Monday

Ladies' Bible Study, "Redeeming the Tears"; Men's "Round Table Bible Study and Topical Discussion"; Arena Barrel Practice (weather permitting), 7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis.

Every Tuesday

Morning singing and devotional, Golden Circle Senior Citizen Center. (972) 875-6101.

Every Wednesday

Youth Group, grades seven - 12, and Pre-Teen's, grades three - six, 7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis main church area.

Bible Study, Golden Circle Senior Citizen Center. (972) 875-6101.

Every Thursday

Chess for Kids, Ennis Public Library. (972) 875-5360.

Team roping practice, 7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis outdoor arena. Call (972) 872-9942 to confirm in case of inclement weather.

Exercise and pot luck lunch, Golden Circle Senior Citizen Center. (972) 875-6101.

Every Friday and Saturday

Live Bands at Red Moon Café. For upcoming events visit www.theredmooncafe.com.

Every Saturday

Men's Saturday morning breakfast, hosted by the Cowboy Church of Ennis, 7:00 a.m., The Ranch House Café, I-45 at Exit 242 in Rice.

Tuesday - Saturdays

Ennis Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, 8:00 p.m., 1301 S. Kaufman.

Daily

Grace Recovery Group, 8:00 p.m., 107 S.W. Main Street. This is a support group for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. (972) 921-3275.

March 5

Red Moon Café Karaoke night, 8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

March 6

Circle of Friends monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m. New members enthusiastically welcomed. Call (972) 878-0740 to confirm date and for location.

March 8

Gospel Music Concert at Martin's Music Hall. Dining: 6:00 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10. For information or directions, call (903) 872-8226.

March 12

Curbside Recycling. Obtain free yellow recycling bags at City Hall. (972) 875-1234.

March 19

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection monthly luncheon, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 South. \$13 for lunch and vouchers for child care. For reservations, call Kay at (972) 937-2807 or Mary at (972) 937-9984 or e-mail windchime@charter.net by March 17.

March 21

Annual Good Friday Fish Fry held by Garrett Area Rural Fire Department, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall. Serving catfish, hush puppies, fries, beans, slaw, dessert and tea. \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Carry-out available. Silent auction and a drawing for a picnic table, smoker/propane grill, and wooden butcher block table. For more information,

contact Chief Robert Wilkinson at (972) 875-5898 or (972) 935-7273.

March 27

Blood Relations, a one act play contest produced by the Ennis High School Theatre, 7:00 p.m., San Jacinto Auditorium.

March 28

Good Friends Now and Forever ladies social group meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Ennis High School. Guest speaker: Sandra Wakefield. Door prizes, snacks and games. Open to all ladies age 18 and older. Ladies only. For more information, call Connie Lewis at (972) 627-3640.

March 29

Ellis County Master Gardeners 8th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 1950 N. I-35E, (Hwy. 287 and I-35E). Cost \$3. Children under age 12 free. Keynote speakers: Neil Sperry, Dotty Woodson and Gaye Hammond. Children's hands-on workshops, Master Gardener breakout sessions, 4-H concessions, over 100 lawn and garden exhibitors, plant sales and door prizes. For more information, call (972) 825-5175 or visit www.ECMGA.com.

To have your events posted on the community calendar, e-mail us at: kkovar@nowmagazines.com.

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