

# EnnisNOW

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2013

Bluebonnet  
Trails Shopping  
Guide  
p. 21

## When Ennis Turns Blue

Gina Rokas and Paula Campo are the dynamic duo behind  
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At Home With Mary Nell Glaspy

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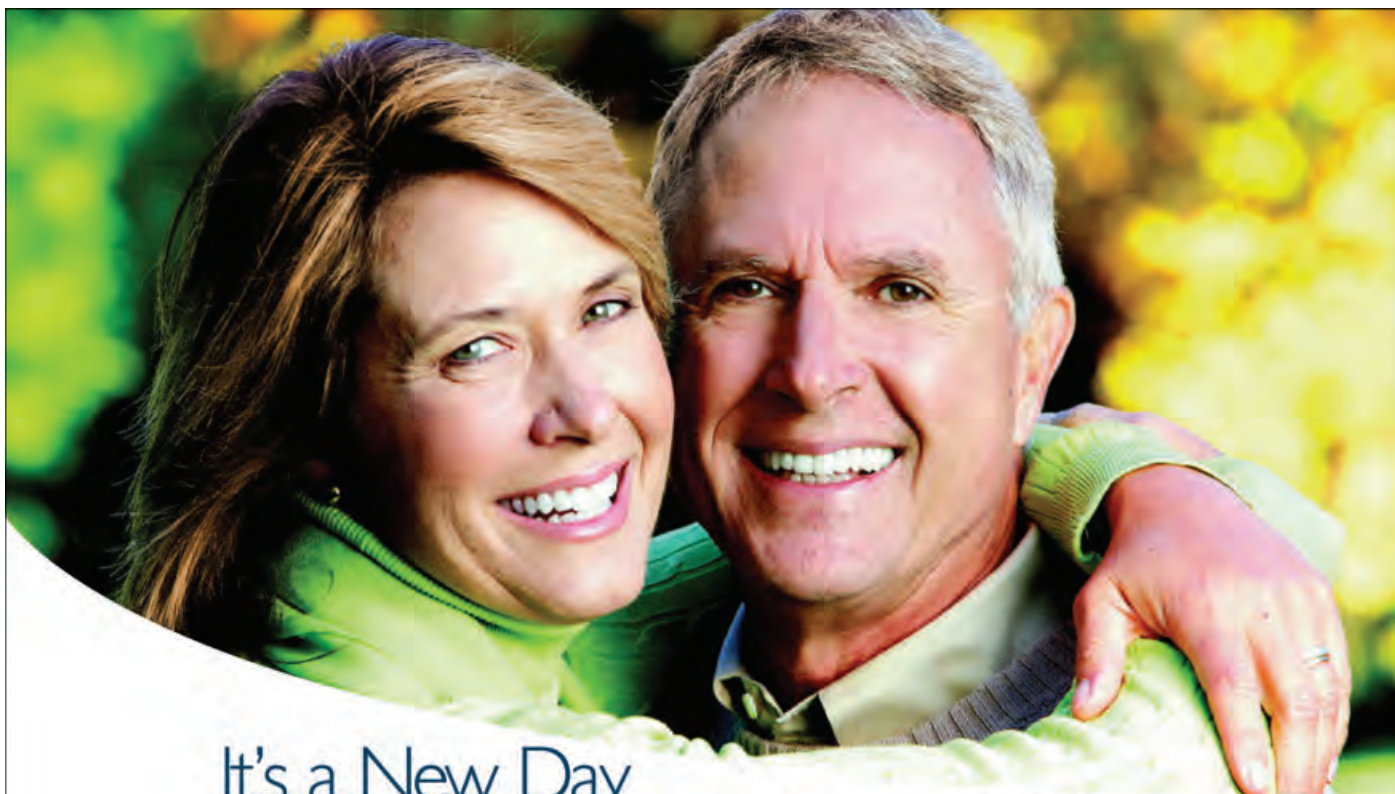
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*Ennis has the blues —  
bluebonnet style — all April long.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 875-3299 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).





## Editor's Note

*In fields of blue ...*

That's where I hope to be later this month when the Bluebonnet Trails Festival gets underway. Of course, all April is the domain of the state flower which also happens to be one of Ennis' claims to fame. Residents have had an official excuse to covet the bluebonnet since 1997 when the Texas Legislature designated Ennis the Bluebonnet City. But locals' pride predates that distinction to at least the 1930s when the first trails were marked near the old country club.

Growing up in Ennis, I admit to taking for granted the flower that's helped put Ennis on the cultural map. Not until I volunteered one year at the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau during Bluebonnet Trails, did I realize how special it was. People from all over the country stopped in for information on the best trails, and witnessing their excitement made me appreciate my hometown even more!

# Randy

Randy Bigham  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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# When Ennis Turns Blue

— By Donnielle Tyner

*This month the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival enters its 62nd year, and although the event is sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club, it is Gina Rokas and Paula Campo of the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau who actively promote the event, providing tourists information, maps and directions to the trails. “We are thrilled Ennis is finally getting the recognition it deserves as a prime destination to see the Texas wildflowers,” Gina said.*

For the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau (ECVB), the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival is the largest tourism draw. Gina and Paula take pride in offering such things as a restaurant guide and a list of where to find the best bluebonnets. “We’re all about customer service,” Gina explained, “and making sure visitors who come in this door will have the best experience Ennis can offer.”





In the past, the team has assisted tourists, professional photographers, even newlyweds, in finding properties where owners will allow them to take fun photos in the bluebonnets. “We know where to send people,” Gina stated. “One of the most memorable moments was helping a lady and her husband, who was going blind, to find bluebonnets for him to see for the first and last time in his life. That was one of the most emotional days for us and one we will never forget.”

The Ennis Bluebonnet Trails have a rich and interesting history. In 1939, the first bluebonnet trail was marked by Louis Clarke along a path near Country Club Lake. In 1951, the Ennis Garden Club appointed the first Trails Committee with Mrs. C.A. McMurray as chairman. From that day forward, the trails have consisted of three routes totaling 45 miles. All bluebonnets on these trails are natural and have never been seeded. In 1985, the original trail staked by Mr. Clarke became Kachina Prairie, a protectorate of the Natural Area Preservation Association.

Any day of the year, the ECVB may have anywhere from five to 10 visitors a day. During bluebonnet season, typically the month of April, the number of visitors jumps to an average of 500 a day. On Good Friday 2012, the center experienced a record 1,000 visitors. The next day, they received over 900 visitors. In 2012, the ECVB also had a repeat celebrity visitor — Morgan Fairchild, who first saw the bluebonnets in Ennis in 2003. To help with the influx of visitors, several



Gina Rokas and Paula Camp know their bluebonnets.





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volunteers from the Garden Club and the community in general assist Gina and Paula. These volunteers not only help with information about the Bluebonnet Trails and Festival, but encourage them to visit local markets, restaurants and hotels, which helps boost the Ennis economy. "We could not do it without the volunteers, and the Ennis Garden Club is a huge help," Gina said. "It has to be a team effort for us to survive."

Gina and Paula explained how Mother Nature can change even the best-laid plans. In the past, there have been years where bluebonnets didn't bloom well, causing some out of town visitors to be disappointed. However, in 2012, the bluebonnets were so plentiful that one landowner's 100-acre field, fondly called the Field of Dreams, was bathed in bluebonnets. Every year the growth trend changes, so it's important to check with the ECVB's Web site for updates before travelling to the Ennis area. For instance, last year the bluebonnets bloomed earlier.

Due to the drought in 2011, Ennis was the only place in Texas that had a significant crop of bluebonnets. A renowned movie director from Austin contacted the ECVB, needing bluebonnets for an upcoming film. The ladies gave him the information, and the result is that bluebonnets on the Bristol trail are now featured in a new IMAX-3D film, *Flight of the Butterflies*.

Paula, an Ennisite, and Gina, who moved to Ennis in 1990, are passionate about their city. Paula worked at the





center part-time until the city took it over in 2000, and she stayed on. She loves helping people locate relatives to expand their family's genealogy. They both contribute answers to genealogy questions. If one doesn't know, the other likely does. Paula's passion shines in the area of family history. "It's fun! I really like genealogy," Paula admitted with a smile.

Gina's degree, recreational

administration, and background are in the private club sector. Prior to working with the ECVB, she worked at the Ennis Colonial Tennis Club, now the EISD



Tennis Center, and when the position with the city became available, it was a natural fit. "Paula and I have the right personalities for this job," Gina admitted. "We love people."

Gina, in particular, wears many hats. She networks with local organizations, as well as helping plan the marketing and publicity for several local events. She is on the National Polka Festival Committee, an ex officio member of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and liaises

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with the Ennis Downtown Merchants Association. "I love selling Ennis," she said, "and I love selling the fun of Ennis."

The main focus of Gina and Paula's jobs is to advertise outside the city to bring people to Ennis. When people stay in Ennis, they pay a hotel/motel tax which funds the tourism budget. "If no one stays at the hotels, I don't have a budget," Gina stated.

Very seldom do they advertise in the local newspaper, instead opting to purchase billboards in the DFW area. They also work with a company, Certified Distribution, to print and distribute Ennis brochures throughout the North and central Texas area. All the



festivals bring overnight visitors, as do events at the Texas Motorplex. Even the Galaxy Drive-in has recently become an overnight tourist attraction.

In order to keep up with trends, Gina researches how people come to learn about Ennis. Many discover the city through the Internet. Using Google, for instance, the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival is one of the top links. Last year, Gina created a Twitter and Facebook page for the center, and she regularly updates the Web site to keep visitors informed on the year's growth forecasts for bluebonnets. Currently, she is working on making the Web site mobile-friendly for tourists and locals alike. In fact, even Ennis natives inquire about what to do around town. "The first thing they can do is stop by the ECVB," Gina said. "We'll give them information on the best places in Ennis to explore!" **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Visit [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org) for more information on Ennis and the Bluebonnet Trails Festival or contact (972) 878-4748.*



# Robert A Silverman M.D., F.A.C.P. Internal Medicine

*Dr. Silverman graduated from the Medical College of Virginia and completed his internship and residency at Wilford Hall U.S.A.F. Medical Center at Lackland A.F.B. in San Antonio. He has practiced in Ennis, Texas for the last 20 years.*



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# { FAMILY First }

## AT HOME WITH MARY NELL GLASPY

— By Randy Bigham



.....  
“I BELIEVE IN  
BEING HAPPY.”  
.....

*Mary Nell Glaspy is a real-life ray of light who's become one of this city's most beloved citizens, and her energy and cheer belie her 80 years. As director of the Golden Circle Activity Center, where she has served since 1996, Mary Nell captivates members and half the town with her upbeat attitude, frankness and sense of humor.*

Born in Palmer as the youngest of six children, the former Mary Nell Smith inherited her sunny view of life from her father. “He never met a stranger,” she laughed. “And I try not to!” She brings her warm friendliness into everything she does, from speaking to her Sunday school class at Baylor Baptist to greeting visitors at Kever Mortuary as that facility's evening hostess. “I keep busy because I want to be useful,” she confessed. “And I believe in being happy. If you can't laugh, you may as well be dead.”



Mary Nell knows what she's talking about. It required courage, as well as laughter to survive divorce over 40 years ago. "I was single with two kids to raise, and really had to just start all over again," she shared. Mary Nell soon made a success of herself as territory manager for the CertainTeed Corporation, and on retirement found her second calling as head of the Golden Circle. Her devotion to the senior citizens she entertains with games and crafts hasn't flagged in the 17 years since she took on the responsibility. "I love the job and the people," she said. "And I'm so grateful to the United Way. We couldn't operate without their help." Mary Nell is also full of praise for supporters of the center's chief fundraiser, the annual Golden Circle Golf Tourney, hosted by Kings Creek Country Club at Kemp.

.....

## "EVERYTHING IN IT HAS TO DO WITH MY FAMILY."

.....

As busy as she is, the grandmother of six enjoys her down time. Moreover, the lakeside home Mary Nell takes pride in reflects her devotion to family. "Some people just care about things being pretty or stylish," she observed. "They don't like to make their house homey with pictures and keepsakes of relatives. Well, those people wouldn't like my house, because everything in it has to do with my family."

The result is charming. The mixture of traditional and modern furniture combines to form a seamless whole. Photos, shadow boxes, paintings and other art, decorating walls throughout the house, tell the visual tale of ancestors near and far. And what observers can't glean from their framed beauty, chatty Mary Nell will fill in with her own bright charm. "That's a painting of my little ones," she bragged, pointing to a large portrait in her living room. "It was done by Sylvia Young in 1965 from a photo I took of my son, Joey, and daughter, Mary Jo." Their laughing faces are smudged. "They had been out in the sand box playing, so I put them in the double sink in the kitchen to scrub them down, and

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couldn't resist taking a picture," Mary Nell explained.

The furnishings in this room are French provincial in style, the upholstery creamy beige, and one chair has mother-of-pearl trim. The light fixtures are antique originals from her parent's former home, a Victorian structure that once stood on Baylor Street. And Mary Nell is equally proud of an old clock she salvaged from a long defunct eatery known as Thompson's Cafe.

A contrast to the elegant living room is the comfortable den where Mary Nell spends her leisure hours. Large windows overlook a carport but it's the enchanting scenery beyond — the edge of Kiwanis Park and the calm, blue waters of Old City Lake — that attracts this happy homeowner. "The den is my favorite," Mary Nell admitted. "Just look at that view. And when I come home, I go straight to my armchair and take a 20-minute nap." Although the den is large,

seating as many as 15 people, it's one of the most intimate rooms in the house.

The story of this civic treasure and her family's journey through the history of Ennis and Palmer greets the lucky guest in numerous portraits and collectibles.

One of the most striking of these is an oblong, wooden shadow box, containing keepsakes ranging from the thermometer Mary Nell's mother used when she and her siblings were infants to a World War II air raid warning card. Elsewhere



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is a quilt block embroidered by her grandmother in the 1890s and a painting of her family's old home. In this room, Mary Nell also proudly displays two pieces of Ennis history: the tiny secretary used by the owners of Hesser's Drug Store when they started in business and a clock that once chimed in the old Ennis Depot. "A man who found out I had this clock," Mary Nell recalled, "came right up to my door and asked to bid on it. I was flattered, but I told him it wasn't for sale." The clock, the desk and other mementos may be relics of Ennis' past but they are too much a part of her own family's history to consider parting with.

"Isn't it wonderful that these things will survive us?" their proud owner smiled. "They will go on forever if they're cared for." Elsewhere, other heirlooms peek out to amuse visitors. In the kitchen, which separates the den from her dining room with its blue and white china and Italian crystal, Mary Nell displays her grandmother's rolling pin, old spoons belonging to her mother,





pictures her kids drew. In the bedrooms once occupied by her son and daughter are shadow boxes holding photos of the boy and girl, along with the actual, time-yellowed clothes the tikes wore in those cherished images.

Over her own bed hang a pair of paintings of her children, commissioned in the late 1960s as part of a fundraising campaign to save the now demolished Cerf Mansion. Framed nearby are more precious souvenirs: her mother's comb and charm bracelet, her great-grandmother's lace handkerchief. Even the side yard of her house, with its wooded hill, yielded memories for Mary Nell as she peered from a window. "There's where Joey and Mary Jo had a tree house," she pointed out with excitement, as if she could still see it tucked away in the leaves.

But reviewing the past is no melancholy pastime for this vibrant lady who defies her age with gusto. "Hey, I've got plenty life in me yet," she laughed. "I'm so glad to still be working and helping others, which of course helps me. Life is what you let it be, so don't stand in its way. I never have, and it's taken me on a great ride!" **NOW**

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— By Rick Herron





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Marcey Norman and Marvin White, volunteers with the Ennis Regional Medical Center Auxiliary Association, faced that dilemma but have now found the perfect way to use their extra time. Every Tuesday and Thursday, Marcey volunteers in the hospital gift shop, usually spending about four hours a day, "maybe more if there are any special events in progress." She also acts as vice president and secretary for the auxiliary. "I like having contact with all kinds of



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people," Marcey said of her work with of the auxiliary, which she's been a part of on a regular basis since 2009.

Like Marcey, Marvin considers himself a people person, having taught high school in Pennsylvania before moving to Ennis in 2007 with his wife, Dr. Ruby Anthony White. "When my wife went to work for the hospital after it opened in its new location," he recalled, "I was asked by the auxiliary to coordinate the volunteer program, and I've been doing that ever since."

The Ennis Regional Medical Center Auxiliary was formed in 1952, and currently has 13 active and 20 inactive volunteers. As volunteer coordinator and treasurer of the auxiliary, Marvin spends two days a week at the hospital, but like Marcey, acknowledges, "I'm usually there more often," depending on special events or programs being held.

On the days he's volunteering, visitors coming through the main lobby doors will see his welcoming face at the reception desk. "I meet and greet folks as they come into the main lobby," he said. Marvin also responds to special requests from hospital staff in other departments, as well as to appeals from doctors and administration.

Marvin takes the helm when taking new volunteers through an extensive orientation process. As part of that course, he makes sure each volunteer receives a copy of "The Volunteer's Pledge," a two page document delineating all services performed by volunteers, giving instructions on recording hours and listing the numerous duties volunteers will be called on to do.

"If anyone wants to be a volunteer with the auxiliary, they need to come in, and fill out an application available in the gift shop," Marvin said. "We do a background check and drug screening. Then we will interview them and try to match them up to the right area, depending on their interests and skills."

After Marcey began volunteering at ERMHC, she quickly discovered how

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important it was to be able to respond to people dealing with a variety of challenges. "It's important for our volunteers to know everyone we work with is going through very different situations — some joyful and some distressing.

And it is also important to be able to freely give comfort and, when appropriate, hugs," she explained. "I can give that encouragement to everyone who comes into the gift shop and is in need of comfort or in need of someone to talk to."

Ennis Regional Medical Center volunteers can be found any day of the week, lending a helping hand at the information desk, the gift shop, outpatient admissions, emergency admissions, medical records, the



emergency room, obstetrics, patient ministry and special projects. For Marcey and Marvin, different factors in both their lives provided the impetus to begin volunteering. "My parents retired, moved to Florida and got involved with Meals on Wheels," Marcey said. "I saw how much personal satisfaction they got from doing that." Originally from Chicago, Marcey came to Ennis in 1995, got married and retired in 2007, the same year she moved her mother to live in her home.

Marcey became familiar with the hospital through her mother-in-law and aunt, who at that time were volunteers with the hospital auxiliary. In 2008, Marcey's mother passed away. "That's





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when I knew I needed to find something to keep me busy, and the auxiliary was a perfect fit," Marcey remembered.

Marvin credits his wife for getting him involved in volunteering. "After we moved here, she asked me if I was going to sit around and do nothing or what," he laughed. "We met with Jane Mize, who was the hospital volunteer recruiter. When she found out I had experience being a volunteer, I was hooked. It has been so worthwhile."

Jane, now with Air Evac Lifeteam, fondly remembers Marvin and the volunteer group at the hospital. "When Marvin came on board," she said, "it was a huge blessing for me and for the volunteers. He worked tirelessly to increase the numbers and provided an extra ray of sunshine to a group that already made the sun shine brighter at ERMHC."

Marvin and Marcey also volunteer their time in other venues. Marcey is involved with Meals on Wheels every Friday, First United Methodist and the Ennis Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child each year, joined by her husband Jerry. Marvin is on the board of the local American Legion and oversees the Legion's bingo commission.

Clearly, the time they spend at the hospital as part of the volunteer auxiliary provides them with a huge amount of personal satisfaction. "I get more out of doing volunteer work than what I give," Marcey said. "Just knowing you are doing good work that's appreciated makes such a big difference. I guess the popular saying these days is 'paying it forward,' because you do it not for any reward or paycheck, but just to help out and feel needed."

Marvin is quick to offer advice to anyone considering volunteering their time with the auxiliary. "Make sure it's what you want to do, and when you come in to do your shift, leave your problems outside the door and don't expect any tangible rewards," he said.

One section of "The Volunteer Pledge" Marvin believes is crucial for his volunteers to keep in mind: "A volunteer is an important member of the patient care team and is expected to show sensitivity and understanding toward human need." Under Marvin's guidance, Marcey and the rest of the volunteers with Ennis Regional Medical Center Auxiliary demonstrate that creed effortlessly and selflessly. **NOW**



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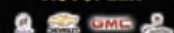
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# THE RETURN OF *The Dance*

— By Donnielle Tyner







Miranda Ramirez sings at the Opry.

*Ennis is known locally for its music and dance festivals, and for this reason James Gatlin and his wife, Linda, decided to expand the Bristol Opry to Ennis. "Ennis used to be a big dancing town. They would have dances everywhere, especially at the large halls," James explained. "But they don't do it very often anymore, and we would like to bring it back." Since March 2007, the Bristol Opry has been held at the Ennis VFW on the fourth Saturday of the month, but there is no place to dance. While some patrons are content to listen, others want to dance along. To satisfy all audiences, the VFW decided to combine opry with dance at the same venue every second Saturday of the month.*

James, 76, and Linda, 66, have been married for 37 years and are both retired. The Gatlins moved to Ellis County in 1983 and have been living in Bristol since 2002. Living in Ellis County is a solace and a blessing for the couple, and they

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love the hometown, rural atmosphere. "Out here you can count on your neighbor for anything," Linda admitted. "It's comforting."

Together they have a total of six children and nine grandchildren. Before they retired, Linda worked in communications for 29 years, and James, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in the Korean War, was employed by the state of Texas as a social worker. For 30 years, he also worked part time as a broker in his real estate business. In their down time, James and Linda like to visit different oprys and showcases in the area, enjoying the camaraderie they find in each venue. "We both have a passion for country music," Linda added with a smile.

James visited his first opy when he was 12 years old with an old friend. His experience left a deep impression. "There's something magical about country music and the message it portrays," James reflected. "Country



music takes you back to the basics of life — love, heartbreak, the whole spectrum of human emotion."

The Ennis Opry and Dance began July 2012 and has attracted a number of loyal fans, including four very special ladies nicknamed "the judges." Eight years ago, James and Linda had the opportunity to visit the Grand Ole Opry, and the Ennis Opry is a good local representation of that famous musical show — both in style and length. However, unlike the



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Grand Ole Opry, the Ennis Opry only showcases local talent, including both amateurs and semiprofessionals of all ages. The band members are a group of five local musicians who work with a variety of volunteer singers. The talent has been diverse. One singer used to play with the likes of Hank Thompson. "Our show is a good variety show," James explained. "We don't have the same thing all the time."

The Ennis Opry consists of divergent styles of music: classic country, bluegrass, polka, waltz, two-step, and on occasion, rock 'n' roll. Each performance lasts

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approximately two-and-a-half hours, with a 30-minute break in between. The band is happy to work with different singers and encourages them to choose what they feel most comfortable performing, including their own songs. James believes the Opry fills a need in Ennis by bringing people together who enjoy the old-time classics, and the smoke-free environment is a great place for the entire family.

Each performance of the Ennis Opry and Dance helps support both the VFW of Ennis and the Ellis County SPCA (ECSPCA). "We've always loved animals," James confessed. "We adopted a sweet little Dachshund two or three years ago.

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There is so much need. There are several charities around, but we wanted to focus on the SPCA of Ellis County.”

One of the ways the Gatlins attempt to raise funds for the SPCA is the so-called “50/50 Drawing” offered at every show. Patrons purchase chances for \$2 each or three for \$5, and at the end of the program the winning chance drawn receives half of the overall total collected. The remaining half is disbursed to the VFW to help with the Opry expenses. Any net profit is designated for the ECSPCA. “So far the Ennis Opry hasn’t provided any money to the ECSPCA, because we haven’t made any extra money,” Linda shared. However, last year the Bristol Opry was able to donate about \$315.

Without the support of the VFW Post, the Ennis Opry and Dance would not have become a reality. The Ennis VFW Post and its commander, Gilbert Wulff, were happy to open up the doors of the VFW for the Opry, in hopes of bringing in more people, thus increasing interest and involvement in the VFW. “They do a lot of good with the toy drives and other charities,” Gilbert stated.

James and Linda rely on local businesses and individuals who help sponsor the Ennis Opry and Dance, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. When the Auxiliary is able, the group assists in providing concessions during the Opry. However, there are times when they are not available to help. In these cases, Linda will organize a potluck or provide the food herself, never charging, but instead placing a donation jar on the table to help cover expenses.

James and Linda’s goal is to provide quality family entertainment. Children of all ages are welcome to come with their parents to the Opry and Dance. The couple even involves the younger children in the Opry’s performances. Their youngest granddaughter, Miranda, loves to sing and enjoys being up on the stage. It’s not just the young performers who are clamoring to get on the stage — performers vary from young to old.

The Ennis Opry’s oldest singer, an 87-year-old man, is a favorite performer. The Gatlins encourage everyone to come out and support the Ennis VFW Post and the ECSPCA. “We have the best show in Ellis County!” James said with requisite confidence and excitement. **NOW**



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reflects a broad scope of styles and vibes, downtown is a stand-alone experience. A new arena, baseball stadium, renovated hotels, restored attractions and venues, as well as the vibrant nightlife and entertainment options, create a one-stop spot for friends and family looking for fun. Downtown's anchors — the BOK Center and ONEOK Field, reflect just a portion of the nearly \$1 billion recently invested in the area. The 18,500-seat BOK Center (pronounced B-O-K, for Bank of Oklahoma) attracts premier entertainers regularly performing to sold-out crowds. Also home to the WNBA Tulsa Shock basketball team and the CHL Tulsa Oilers hockey team, the BOK Center hosts a number of sporting events throughout the year.

ONEOK (pronounced one-oak) Field is home to the Tulsa Drillers, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Colorado Rockies. This state-of-the-art facility is conveniently located in the Greenwood District, a historical area of downtown Tulsa that was once called the Black Wall Street of America. Now a fun district with restaurants and shopping, the field is perfect for a Friday night baseball game, complete with a fireworks display over a beautiful backdrop of downtown Tulsa. Neighboring ONEOK Field and the Greenwood District are the Brady Arts and Blue Dome Districts, home to nightlife, arts and restaurants.

Known for its funky vibe, the historical Brady Arts District is booming, with plans underway to create an entirely walkable arts district. A number of the older buildings have been renovated and several more are in the process, like





the Mathews Warehouse, which will soon house art collections from Philbrook Museum of Art, The University of Tulsa and the Woody Guthrie Archives. The recently completed Guthrie Green brings an urban park to the Brady. Named for famous Oklahoma singer and songwriter Woody Guthrie, the park features an outdoor stage for music and films by night, while the trails, gardens and fountains provide a peaceful escape and family activities for day-time visitors.

Amidst the many art galleries, shops, restaurants and nightclubs of the Brady, you'll find two historic entertainment venues, the Brady Theater and Cain's



Ballroom. The Brady Theater, built between 1912 and 1914, was originally designed to serve as the city's municipal auditorium and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Today, "the Old Lady on Brady" continues to be used for a wide variety of concerts and theatrical productions. Cain's Ballroom, a historic venue called the birthplace of Western Swing and the Carnegie Hall of Western Music, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. So much talent has passed through its doors, from Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys to Hank Williams and Patsy Cline. Later, names such as Van Halen, The Police and INXS joined the ranks. The grand ballroom attracts concert-goers today that are as diverse as the music that draws them.

The Blue Dome District is another center for downtown nightlife. Situated around a 1920s gas station that once attracted Route 66 travellers with its



Walker Sherrard was born on 01/04/2013 to Brad and Ashley Sherrard. Walker was diagnosed with Aortic Isthmus Narrowing and Atrioventricular Canal. Walker's left ventricle is not fully developed. At 6 days old, Walker had his first open heart surgery. The surgery was a temporary fix and he will have to have another surgery at 5-6 months old and another around 4 years of age. All of your thoughts, prayers and help are greatly appreciated.

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art deco-style blue dome, this district is now the place to enjoy pubs, restaurants, a vintage bowling alley or regional bands. Several festivals take place here including the Blue Dome Arts Festival, Free Tulsa music festival and St. Patrick's Day Festival. The interesting art deco architecture of the Blue Dome district is something Tulsa is known for, ranking among the top three highest concentrations of art deco in the country, following New York and Miami.

The collection can be seen across downtown, like in the meticulously restored The Mayo Hotel. A 1920s legend and once the state's tallest building and a destination for stars and celebrities, The Mayo lives again as luxury lofts and hotel rooms. Reopened in 2009, the Crystal Ballroom, restored in every way to its original 1925 appearance, is truly an art deco renovation project to behold. Another member of the National Register of Historic Places, the Atlas Life Building, was also recently renovated into a hotel property, now housing the Courtyard Marriot. These art deco renovations and others take great care in maintaining these pieces of Tulsa's history.

All of this awaits visitors to Tulsa. A few days in the city will wet your whistle to return to explore the community's modern renaissance, which is developing the deep roots of eras gone by into a new, exciting future. **NOW**

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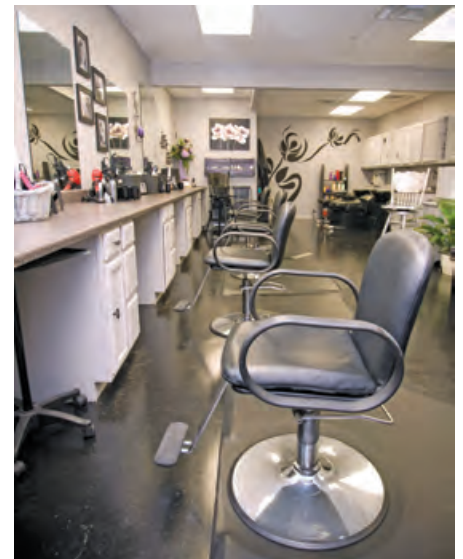


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With warm chit-chat and laughter, the team at Tisha & Co. greets clients like old friends.



# BEYOND BEAUTY

*Making clients happy, as well as pretty, is the specialty of Tisha & Co.*

— By Randy Bigham

A customer walking into Tisha & Co.'s new Ennis salon will notice two things right off the fashionable bat. First of all, the funny, upbeat stylists seem more like best friends than co-workers. Secondly, their smiles and banter welcome newcomers into the fold with as much warmth as they'd expect to be greeted by their own family. One client recently commented that she felt like she was entering a scene out of *Steel Magnolias*, the classic comedy starring Dolly Parton as the owner of a beauty shop called Truvy's. That's music to the chic ears of Tisha McElyea, owner of Tisha & Co., who's a fan of the movie and agrees her salon approximates a real-life version of the fictional business.

"We girls all work so well together," Tisha admitted. "And we have a lot of fun. We just cut up with each other, and our clients cut up with us!"

The girls are four in number: besides Tisha, there's Lacey Beggs, Corrie Underwood and Rae Ann Vasquez. Each is Ennis-bred, except for Corrie, who hails from Red Oak, and all worked together at Tisha & Co.'s original location in Waxahachie.

"About seven months ago we decided to move to Ennis to be nearer to our families," Tisha explained. "My daughter is involved in activities now, and I don't want to miss out on that." With 19 years of experience in the beauty business, 10 of which were spent in her shop in Waxahachie, Tisha sees her work as a



## Business **NOW**

calling. "I wanted to be a hair stylist from the time I was a little girl, so I love my job," she enthused. "Knowing I can help people feel good about themselves makes me feel good."

Lacey was also destined for the beauty field. A stylist for nine years, she recalls playing with makeup as a girl, painting friends' nails, even cutting her Barbie doll's hair. "I also cut a friend's hair once when I was in the third grade," Lacey related. "Her mom wouldn't let her have bangs, so I did it for her!"

Corrie has been styling professionally for two years but has enjoyed hairdressing for decades. "My dad ran a salon in Amarillo for 20 years," she pointed out, "so I have been around the business and have always loved it."

"Knowing I can help people feel good about themselves makes me feel good."

Rae Ann, a stylist since 2001, also has a family history in the beauty industry. "My mom was a manicurist, so I grew up around a salon," she confessed. "I love the interaction and helping people gain confidence through a new hairstyle."

Tisha & Co.'s high-spirited crew are glad to be working nearer to home, and are proud of the special arrangement they have with a neighboring spa which provides their mutual clients with a wide range of services. "It's just a unique way to come together and pamper our customers a little more," Tisha said. In addition to styling for men, women and children, coloring, corrective color, waxing and perms, patrons can indulge in body wraps, tanning, medical-grade facials and massages.

Tisha is pleased with her business' one-stop-shopping approach, but she's equally stoked about the camaraderie that defines the ambience of her salon. "I have the best group of girls I could hope to have," she insisted. "We are a real team. We give each other — and our clients — our all, and we are very proud of that!" **NOW**

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*Sam Houston Elementary students work diligently on a class project.*



*The Jodie Mikula Orchestra entertains fans at a recent concert.*



*Sterling House hosts Business After Hours.*



*Lori Redning and Susan Jones at Lummus Intermediate during Flapjack Fever.*



*Darren Slovak and Gerald Jenkins volunteer at a recent Ennis ISD fundraiser.*



*Local policemen were recently honored by Air Evac Lifeteam.*



*School chums, Suzie Manning Cox and Kay Gibbons Hammond, reunite at a recent party.*



*Travis Elementary students enjoy a sunny day during recess.*





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# Five Reasons Not to Be a “Do-It-Yourself” Investor

These days, you can go online and invest, for modest fees. You can also visit various Web sites for research and watch numerous cable shows for investment recommendations. So, why shouldn't you be a “do-it-yourself” investor rather than work with a financial professional?

Actually, there are at least five good reasons why a financial advisor can help make you a better investor. A financial advisor can:

- **Ask the right questions** — If you try to invest on your own, you may find yourself asking the wrong questions, such as: “What’s the ‘hottest’ investment out there?” A financial professional can help frame better questions, such as: “Given my individual risk tolerance and long-term goals, which investments should I consider to help me build a balanced portfolio?” In other words, a financial professional can help you ask the questions that can lead to better results.

- **Look at your situation objectively** — No matter how hard you try, you won't be able to take all the emotion out of your investment choices. After all, your investment success will play a large role in some key areas of your life, such as your ability to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Consequently, if you think you're not making the progress you should with your investments, you may be tempted to make a hasty decision to give your portfolio a jolt. Frequently, though, such choices can backfire. When it comes to investing, it's better to invest with your head, not your heart. A financial advisor can analyze your situation, assess your risk tolerance and make appropriate recommendations.

- **Show a deeper understanding of investment research** — You can look up many types of financial data on your own. But do you know how to put all these pieces together into a cohesive picture? A financial professional, with years of

experience and training, is generally more capable of finding the research sources and making the most sense out of the results.

- **Put experience to work in making portfolio recommendations** — Even if you've been investing for many years, you might be surprised at all the underlying influences that should go into making investment decisions. But a financial professional understands market patterns, the nature of diversification and other factors necessary in helping you make the right choices for your situation.

- **Spend time looking for opportunities** — Even if you enjoy the process of investing, the chances are quite good that you can't spend as much time on it as a financial professional. That means, among other things, you aren't constantly on the lookout for new investment opportunities. Nor are you always looking within your own portfolio for opportunities to rebalance or make other adjustments that can help you move forward toward your goals. But when you work closely with a financial advisor, he or she is exploring the financial markets for new investment prospects while regularly reviewing your portfolio for possibilities of upgrading quality, increasing diversification or making adjustments in response to changes in your life.

The “do-it-yourself” route may be fine for home repairs. But when it comes to managing your investment situation, there are benefits to working with a professional. **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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Tax-free income is the best gift you can give yourself at retirement. Converting to a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) from a traditional IRA allows for tax-free accumulation as well as tax-free withdrawals in retirement - which means you don't have to worry as much about what income tax rates will be in the future.

There are tax considerations and other factors that determine whether converting to a Roth IRA is right for you. Call today to schedule an appointment to learn more.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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# At Odds With Social Cues

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

From an online discussion on Asperger's syndrome, you can feel this mother's anguish as she describes her son. "My only son, who is almost 8 years old, has Asperger's. He doesn't understand personal space. He wants friends, but no one wants to listen to him ramble on about his interests for hours at a time, and he speaks very loudly. He gets beat up at school for talking too much. He can't help it. He gets very frustrated very easily. He doesn't understand things the way we do and has his own explanation as to why things occur and stands by them. School will always be very difficult for him. Homework is almost impossible. Socially he will always have difficulties."

She described in painstaking detail of how her son just does not quite fit in his group of friends. He has a developmental disorder called Asperger's syndrome, which affects a person's ability to interact effectively with others in a social situation. Even though someone with Asperger's displays a lack of social skills and difficulty in communicating, children with this disorder usually have normal intelligence and language skills. Some individuals with Asperger's have superior intelligence. Albert Einstein has long been thought to have had Asperger's syndrome.

Susan Stokes, an autism consultant states, "Children with Asperger's syndrome tend to exhibit a lack of effectiveness in social interactions rather than a lack of social interactions." These children

may feel awkward when trying to interact with others. A child can join others in a conversation and completely take over the direction and tone as it suits them to do so. They do not have the sense of inhibition and social tweaking children normally learn as they mature. They cannot discern social cues from others or understand others' points of view. They usually show an extreme, almost obsessive, interest in a few very specific topics, such as cars or one particular aspect of a sport. In communicating their interest, they will talk incessantly and in great detail about engines or schedules totally disregarding another's lack of interest in the conversation. They are unaware of the social cues or the normal give and take in a conversation. They are not able to read the expressions on the faces of others. Physically, they may have an awkward gait or seem clumsy and have some fine motor difficulty.

Asperger's syndrome has no cure, so the goal of treatment is to improve communication skills, social skills and behavior management. With specialized intervention, many children with Asperger's grow into well-adjusted adults, as they mature and learn new skills. **NOW**

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



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### Through April

62nd Annual Ennis Bluebonnet Trails, sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club. For more information call the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau at (972) 878-4748 or drop by the ECVB office at 002 E. Ennis Ave. To download Bluebonnet Trails maps logon to [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org).

### April 6

2nd Annual Ennis Cultural Music Festival: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., N.W. Main St. Event sponsored by the Ennis Arts Commission and Union Pacific Railroad.

### April 11— 27

Nunsense: 7:30 p.m. (matinee, April 28, 2:30 p.m.), Ennis Public Theatre, 2705 N. Kaufman. Book, music and lyrics by Dan Goggin. For more information on dates and times, call (972) 878-7529.

### April 13 — 14

Repticon Reptile Show: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., KJT Hall, 1216 S. Paris St. Live animal seminars and vendors offering reptile pets, supplies and merchandise. For more information, visit [www.repticon.com](http://www.repticon.com).

EHS Lionette Spring Show: 7:00-9:00 p.m., EHS Auditorium, 2301 Ensign Rd. Tickets available at the door.

Navarro College Brilliance-Fifth Annual Scholarship Gala: 6:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, Midlothian. Advance tickets are required: \$75 per person, \$600 per table. For reservations or information, contact Lynn Pike at (972) 923-6439 or [lynn.pike@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:lynn.pike@navarrocollege.edu).

### April 19

Ennis Garden Club Headquarters Tent: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., N.W. Main St. Bluebonnet Trails maps and souvenirs available.

### April 19 — 20

7th Annual Bluebonnet BBQ Cook-off: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 S. I-45. Event benefits the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Call (972) 875-9344 or visit [www.ennis-chamber.com](http://www.ennis-chamber.com).

### April 19 — 21

11th Annual Preston St. Historical District Garage Sale.

### April 20

Ennis Garden Club Headquarters Tent: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., N.W. Main St. Bluebonnet Trails maps and souvenirs available.

Lord's Acre: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Bardwell United Methodist Church, 104 Pecan St., Bardwell. Event includes a barbecue dinner for \$7 (dine in) or \$8 (carry out), a bake sale, silent auction and live auction will round out the evening.

### April 20 — 21

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival: 9 a.m.-5:00, N.W. Main, S.W. Main, W. Knox streets. Vendors offering arts/crafts, souvenirs and food.

### April 27

Polka Dance: 6:30 p.m., SOKOL Activity Center, 2622 Hwy. 34. Event features the Ennis Czech Boys and Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous Six.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [randy.bigham@nowmagazines.com](mailto:randy.bigham@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In the Kitchen With Carol Haden

— By Randy Bigham

Carol Haden sees cooking as an act of love. “It’s a way to bring everyone together,” said this grandmother of six (with one on the way). Two of her grandkids help her in the kitchen occasionally, although she admitted, “we’re still on pancakes.” But that’s alright with her because she knows she is carrying on a tradition.

“I was always underfoot in the kitchen with my mother or grandmother, learning what I could,” Carol recalls. “I never figured out how to measure out by ‘feel,’ though!”

Baking is Carol’s favorite way to cook, inspired by her mother’s delicious pies and memories of the smell of fresh bread when visiting her father at work at Mrs. Baird’s Bakery in Dallas. **NOW**

### Breakfast Pizza

Makes one pizza.

- 1 pkg. regular pork sausage**
- 1 8.5-oz. can refrigerated crescent rolls**
- 1 cup frozen hash brown potatoes (cubed or shredded), thawed**
- 4 oz. (1 cup) sharp cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten**
- 3 Tbsp. milk**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. black pepper**
- 2 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, grated**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 370 F.
- 2.** In large skillet, cook sausage over medium-high heat, stirring frequently until thoroughly cooked.
- 3.** Separate crescent rolls into 8 triangles. Place on ungreased 12-inch rimmed pizza pan with points toward the center, press together, seal perforations to form a circle 1 inch larger in diameter than bottom of pan.

Turn edges under to make a slight rim.

- 4.** Sprinkle cooked sausage evenly over the crust. Top with potatoes and cheddar cheese.
- 5.** Combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper in small bowl; stir well. Pour evenly over pizza; sprinkle with Parmesan.
- 6.** Bake 20 minutes, or until eggs and crust are golden brown.

### Baked Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

- 1 stick of butter or margarine**
- 3 Tbsp. honey mustard**
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 12 to 16 small Kings Hawaiian rolls**
- 3/4 lb. ham, thinly sliced**
- 1/2 lb. provolone, sliced**

- 1.** Melt butter and stir in honey mustard and Worcestershire sauce to create glaze.
- 2.** Brush bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan with glaze.
- 3.** Split rolls in half horizontally; layer bottom

of the pan with the bottom half of the rolls and brush the cut sides of the rolls with glaze; layer ham and cheese on each roll.

- 4.** Place top halves of rolls on the sandwiches; brush with remaining glaze. Bake in a 350 F oven for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

### Spiced Honey Pretzels

- 8 servings**
- 4 cups thin pretzel sticks**
- 3 Tbsp. honey**
- 2 tsp. butter, melted**
- 1 tsp. onion powder**
- 1 tsp. chili powder**

- 1.** Line 15x10x1-inch baking pan with foil; coat the foil with cooking spray. Place pretzels in a large bowl.
- 2.** In a small bowl, combine the honey, butter, onion powder and chili powder. Pour over pretzels; toss to coat evenly. Spread in prepared pan.
- 3.** Bake at 350 F for 8 minutes, stirring once. Cool on a wire rack, stirring gently several times to separate.

### Sausage and Cheese Crescent Squares

Makes 32 servings.

- 2 8-oz. cans Pillsbury refrigerated crescent dinner rolls**
- 1 lb. spicy or mild bulk pork sausage**
- 8 oz. cream cheese**
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Heat oven to 375 F.
- 2.** Unroll 1 can of dough into 2 long rectangles, place in ungreased 13x9-inch glass baking dish. Press to cover bottom and 1/2 inch up the sides to form crust.
- 3.** Cook sausage thoroughly over medium heat, stirring frequently; remove sausage from skillet. Discard drippings.
- 4.** To same skillet, add cream cheese; cook over low heat until melted, add cooked sausage; stir to coat. Spoon mixture evenly over crust; sprinkle with cheese.
- 5.** Unroll second can of dough onto work surface, press to form 13x9-inch rectangle; firmly press perforations to seal. Carefully place over cheese. Bake for 21-26 minutes, or until golden brown. Cool for 15 minutes; cut into small squares.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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