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M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2012

courtship in words

Rocky Denton uses the narrative from his parents' wartime letters to fill in the blanks for readers.

Also Inside:

More Than Good Meat

A Family Focused On Crafting
Community Representation

In the Kitchen with Jeanette Ferguson

Historic Abode

At Home With
Dr. Fred & Nora Puckett.

AMANDA CHRISTENE DLABAJ

to Wed

DR. KEVIN ALEXANDER WILLIAMS



Amanda is the daughter of Debra Wright of Ennis, Texas, and the late Stanley C. Dlabaj, Jr. Amanda's grandparents are the late W.R. & Beatrice Wright, and the late Stanley & Eleanor Dlabaj. She is currently attending Navarro Jr. College where she plans to pursue a degree in Nursing.



Dr. Williams is the son of Herbert & Alice Williams of Valdosta, Georgia. He attended college at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and Medical School at Columbia University in New York City. He is an established Orthopedic surgeon having been in practice for over 12 years now. He currently serves as Medical Director at Baylor Surgicare at Ennis and as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Dallas Medical Center. His main office is in Ennis, Texas, located at the Ennis Doctor's Center.

The couple plans to wed on November 3, 2012 in Dallas, Texas.

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On The Cover



Love Letters from WWII tell
of a unique courtship.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy Mother's Day,

It should have been a small job. It should have taken only half the day. But, it seems the small jobs around my house always turn into major undertakings. April showers may have helped my flowers grow, but it took lots of patience, a pair of kneepads and some good ole sweat and tears to get the flowers planted. Planting flowers in the front yard turned into pulling the soaker hose up and replacing it with something less costly. I can't tell you how many bags of "good dirt" were added, but my sore back and tired muscles say it was more than just two or three.

Everyday is a celebration when I spend it with my mom, but I want to do something "special" on May 13, Mother's Day. I wonder if she'd like to help plant some more flowers.



Sandra

Sandra Strong
EnnisNOW Editor
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I am a Republican Candidate seeking the duties of Ellis County Constable Precinct #1 in the May 29, 2012, Primary Election. 25 years of Law Enforcement Experience here in Ellis County has prepared me for this Challenge. I am a fourth Generation Ellis County Resident and have resided in the Ennis area my entire life. I am married to Karen, and we have 4 lovely children: Megan, who is a Sophomore at Baylor University; Natalie, who is a 7th grade student at Ennis ISD; Garret, who is a 3rd grade student at W.B. Travis Elementary; and Lacey, who is 6 months old.

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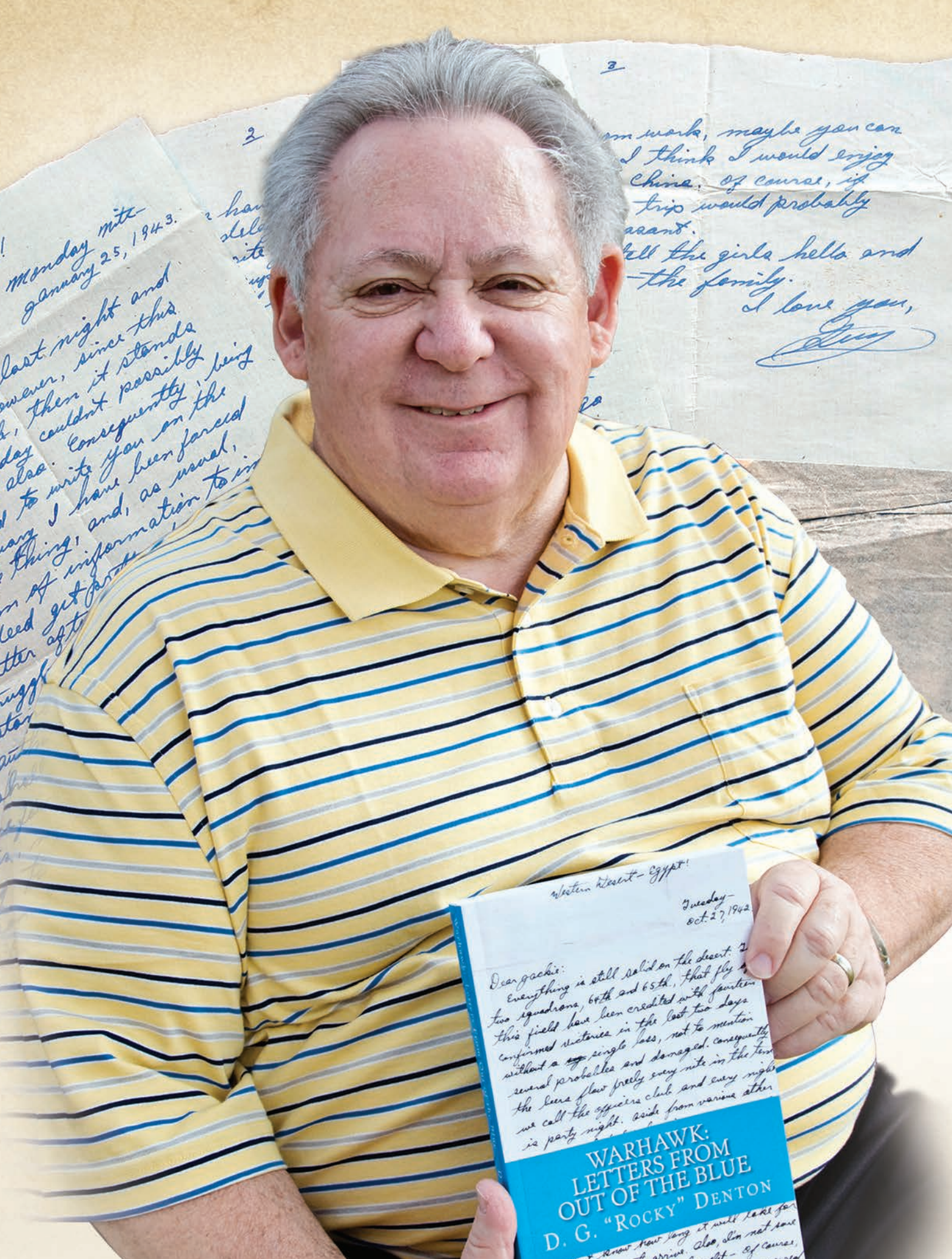
Monday mite
January 25, 1943.
last night and
however, since this
day, then it stands
also. Couldn't possibly
to write you on the
thing, and, as usual,
of information to in
get post

2

have
delivered
mited
up

3

work, maybe you can
I think I would enjoy
China. Of course, if
trip would probably
assant.
tell the girls hello and
the family.
I love you,
Dug



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Tuesday -
Oct. 27, 1942

Dear Jackie:
Everything is still solid on the desert. 2
two squadrons, 60th and 65th, that fly
this field have been credited with fourteen
confirmed victories in the last two days
without a single loss, not to mention
several probables and damaged. Consequently
the boys flow freely every mite in the tent
we call the officers club and every night
is party night. Aside from various other

**WARHAWK:
LETTERS FROM
OUT OF THE BLUE**
D. G. "Rocky" DENTON

know how long it will take for
to arrive. Also, I'm not sure
Of course,

Courtship in Words

— By Sandra Strong

Books are a wonderful escape. Words in those same books can take you away to places both far and near. Rocky Denton's latest installment, Warhawk: Letters From Out of the Blue, takes the reader back to the time when World War II was raging, but love was still very much in the air. "Three years ago, Mom asked if I'd like to read the letters she'd received from my dad when he was on active duty in WWII," Rocky said, referring to the time before his birth when his late father, Guy Denton, was serving some 6,000 miles from home. "Of course, I said, 'Yes.' I loved history, but I was also curious about my parents."

Growing up, Rocky knew how articulate his father was when it came to writing. After some pondering and getting the clearance he felt he needed from his mother, he decided to compile his father's letters to his mother in a book that could be shared with others. Even though Guy and Jacquelyn are his parents, Rocky knew the "courtship in

letters" had merit. "I wanted to share the history of wartime," he admitted. "I felt others would be as intrigued and interested as I was when I read the letters for the first time."

In his first edition, the letters were transcribed in chronological order, with all mistakes and misspellings left intact. Putting them in order was not the ordeal some might think, because his father had not failed to date each letter, while including details of the where and when. "People who read the first edition said they would have loved to read more about the history of wartime," Rocky said. "They wanted commentary from others, including my mom, along with the letters. That's what prompted the second edition."

To fully understand the weight and importance of Guy's letters, we must return to the time when Jacquelyn had just

turned 18. She had met, courted and married a fellow named George Wrigley, who is no relation to the Wrigley Gum company. They were married in January of 1941, but Rocky's mother will never forget the announcement that took George away. "We were in a movie theater in Tampa, Florida, on December 7, when the movie stopped and the lights came on," Jacquelyn remembered. "An announcement said all military personnel must report for duty."

George was a sergeant in the Army Air Corps. He was only given three to four days to prepare for his journey into WWII. "He was a bombardier," Rocky explained. "He was the one who rode in the nose of the plane and released the bombs."

"We weren't even married a year," Jacquelyn said, with tears in her eyes for her first love. "We were still considered newlyweds."

George never returned. In mid-August, 1942, the B-17 bomber he was in was hit during a scheduled mission. Everyone was ordered to bail out. When George exited the hatch, he was slammed into the landing gear, which caused his parachute to tear. It never opened. George fell to his death in the desert below. Jacquelyn wouldn't get word of his tragic passing for several days.

"It wasn't but a month or two later that she met my dad," Rocky said. She had moved to Tallahassee, and was still very

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much in the grieving process. Realizing the picture show she had gone to see was about the war, she quickly vacated the theater. She went to the drug store across the street to get a Coke. "She was sitting there when my dad and his friends came in," Rocky shared, retelling it the



same way his mother had told him. "Guy walked boldly over to her and said, 'You look as pitiful as a dying calf in a snow storm.'"

She didn't waste any time telling him why. Once her story about George was complete, Guy felt just horrible for his insensitivity. "He talked to her and tried his best to cheer her up," Rocky said. "He told her he was sent to Tallahassee to



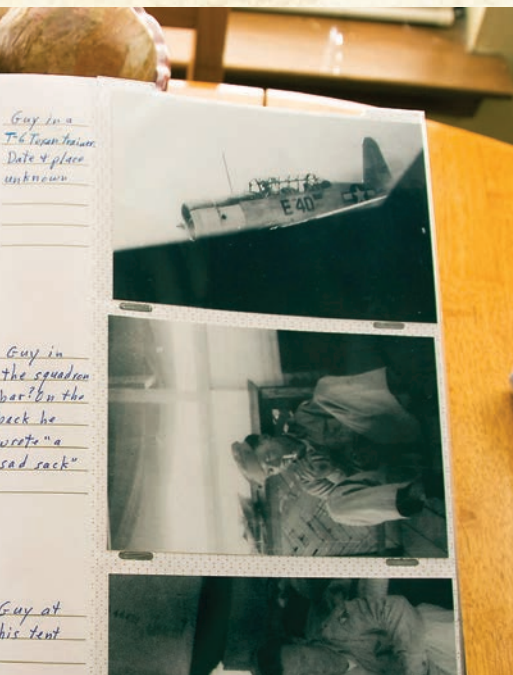
cheer up the civilian population, and he was going to start with her.”


Her heart was still broken. She wasn't interested in Guy, but it was a much different story for Guy. He was “head-over-heels” for her from the start. After a great deal of prompting, she later



agreed to go on a group date with Guy, his friends and their girlfriends. That first date took them to the Edgewood Club. Before long, Jacquelyn became close friends with Guy's best buddy, Harry Duncan. “I think she liked him because he was the best dancer in the group,” Rocky laughed. “She dated Dad, but she was always dancing with Harry.”

They dated for a month before Guy, a






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P-40 fighter pilot, was shipped overseas. "Mom said she couldn't afford to give her heart to another," Rocky said. "But the letters from Dad over a course of a year changed her mind and her heart."

Guy's letters to Jacquelyn were witty and charming. He was able to be serious and a jokester at the same time. "Here was great pathos," Rocky said with pride. "He wrote with such detail about the things not of the war. My narrative between his letters allowed me to tell the parts he was unable to tell due to security issues. Thanks to Dad, I was able to fill in the blanks."

The wedding proposal came via the mail. Jacquelyn answered, 'Yes' in her reply, also in the form of a letter. These two letters started a series of letters where the couple planned their wedding.



Theirs truly was a courtship in words. "They only knew each other for a month before he shipped out," Rocky stated. "The courtship really did take place thanks to Dad's way with words and the postal service."

The couple finally exchanged vows on November 7, 1943. "During his time in WWII, my dad saw so many horrific things," Rocky confessed, "but he never let it define who he was. He never considered himself to be a hero. It was his job, and that's how he looked at it."

Compiling the love letters from his father to his mother into a book has meant a great deal to Rocky. He's shared his father's extraordinary courage, which was an ordinary characteristic during WWII, while also sharing the long-distance love story he finds great pride in retelling. "I told their story as a way to give tribute to both my parents," Rocky admitted. "I wanted something I could hand down to family and friends who knew them." No doubt, *Warhawk: Letters From Out of the Blue* does that and so much more. **NOW**

Tonya Youngblood

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Dr. Youngblood graduated from Texas A&M University and completed her residency at The University of Mississippi. She is board certified in family practice and has practiced in Ennis since 2001. Dr. Youngblood is accepting new patients of all ages.



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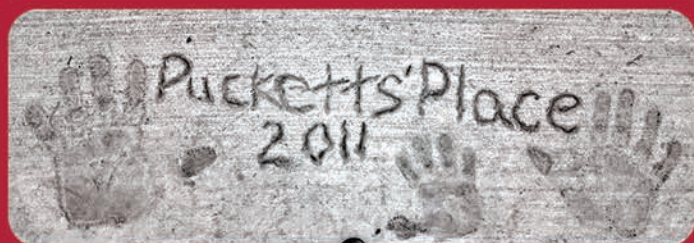
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Historic Abode

AT HOME WITH
Fred & Nora Puckett

— By Randy Bigham



A young couple, recent converts to Ennis life, has found the house of their dreams nestled in the heart of an idyllic neighborhood in the small town they've come to love. The leafy charm of the Historic Templeton-McCanless District, laced with Victorian and other period homes, first captivated Fredric and Nora Puckett in 2009 when they purchased one of the jewels of this picturesque enclave, the 1904 Campbell House with its green-painted façade and uniquely angled position to the well-known thoroughfare it faces.



"We fell in love with the house from the start," admitted Fred, whose family medicine practice prompted the move that brought him and his wife to Ennis from Fort Worth three years ago. He and Nora are history buffs who always hoped to restore and live in an old house. Improving upon upgrades made by previous owners, local builder, Bob Agar, helped Fred and Nora complete major renovations to the home's interior before they moved here. Later, Fred collaborated with builder and neighbor, Paul Penfold, to refine the front porch, a key feature of the house. Fred, who learned construction from his tradesman father, has made significant improvements to the storage buildings and children's play house.

When not looking after the couple's children — 4-1/2-year-old Penelope and 1-year-old Eric — Nora conducts tours at the Dallas Museum of Art, a job that comes easy to the young mother whose education is in art history. But Nora also applies her interest in history locally as secretary of the Ennis Heritage Society, spearheading projects to promote information on historic properties through printed and online materials. "I have enjoyed working with the Heritage Society," she said. "It's a great group of people."

Through neighbors and fellow Heritage Society members, Nora and Fred have learned a lot about their elegant old house. Built by Dr. W.E. Campbell, one of Ennis' first surgeons, the home is familiar to locals for its unusual orientation to the street, sitting at a 45-degree angle. The prettily gabled house with a sunburst motif over the porch was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. According to a program for the 2001 Tour of Homes, "the plan is a variation of a common regional L-shaped house with a front entry door placed diagonally

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at the junction of the two ells of the house.” The five-bay front porch once extended farther along in a wrap effect and was formerly screened in.

The floor plan is octagonal and the home’s many windows allow for varied views of bordering homes and the shady street beyond. Originally one story, later owners installed a second floor, an innovation that increased livability without compromising the house’s curb appeal. The Pucketts hope to learn more

about the pioneering doctor and his family who first lived in the house. Dr. Campbell was one of the first medical practitioners to offer his services at the Ennis Municipal Hospital, which opened its doors in 1924. He was also a member of the Ellis County Medical Association, a 1912 meeting of which was photographed and is now archived at the Ennis Public Library.

Fred enjoys the link his house has to an earlier doctor. “Older homes have a

character of their own,” he said. “They’re not just shells. They have a life already because of their history.”

Both he and Nora appreciate the house’s roots in a simpler time and the small town aspect of the neighborhood. “It’s a slower pace here, and we like it,” Fred continued, adding that living in the Bluebonnet City melds a countrified existence with modern city life. Nora agreed. “Coming from a big city, a lot of things you think you would miss, you

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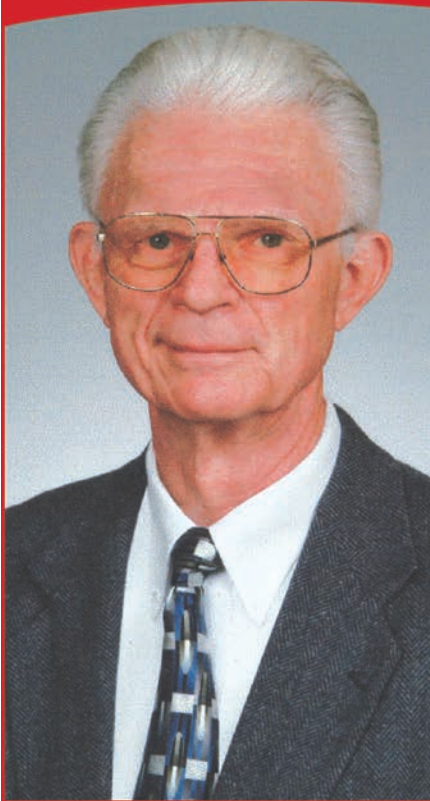


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Donna began her career in the title industry in 1985 with Lawyers Title and in May 2011, she was chosen to transfer to the Ennis location as the Ellis County manager. Donna remains excited about working in her hometown where she grew up with so many people. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, deep-sea and fresh water fishing with her husband and Texas Hold 'Em poker.

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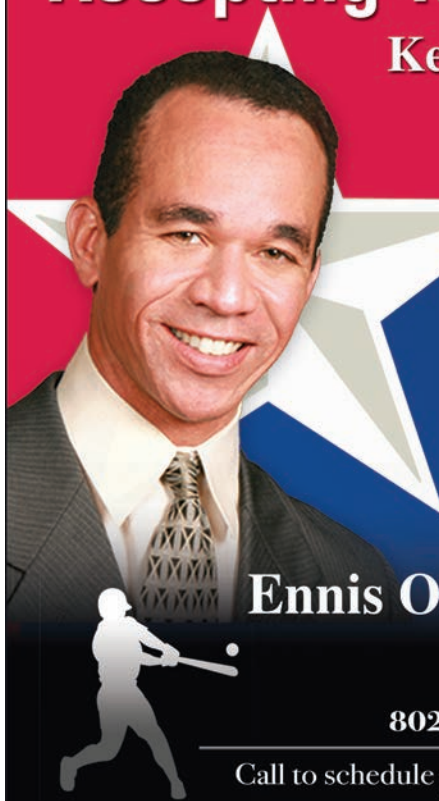
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really don't," she pointed out. "Ennis has been perfect for us, and the people have been so welcoming."

She singles her neighbors out as particularly hospitable. "There is such a community atmosphere here," Nora said. "There's a great sense of family, yet the people represent all phases of life." She values the friendships she and Fred have made and the feedback they've received as they renovated their house.



Nora has implemented her good taste and knowledge of art in the color scheme and furnishing of her dream home. The dark wood trim has been painted white for the effect of greater space that it affords, and while bird's eye molding and some original fixtures have been retained for their vintage feel, the overall look Nora has evolved is modern. She has mixed genuine antiques, some of which are family heirlooms, with period-inspired furniture from Ikea. The result is both eclectic and practical, a combination suited to a growing family (with two dogs, Chip and Lulu) that desires comfort without sacrificing style.

The foyer permits a view into the main living area, the dining room and a smaller sitting room, all echoing a restful mood in light blues, greens, cream and white. This interplay of color is seen in upholstery, walls and accent pieces, and it blends well with the hardwood floors, which have been faithfully preserved.

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"There were places where the flooring had to be patched," Nora conceded. "And it was hard finding the right replacement wood, but we did it, and we're happy with how it turned out."

The dining room comprises modern and antique influences in such a way that it's hard to differentiate which is old and which is new. This theme is carried out in other rooms, such as in the children's bedroom where neutral pastel colors provide the perfect contrast for a Victorian, white-painted door with its decorative glass pane and original knob intact. The master bedroom and bath likewise employ vintage and up-to-the-minute details, which Nora has assembled with the eye of the art historian she is. And throughout the house there is evidence of Fred's handiwork, such as a rocking chair he built and a desk.

Plenty of space for the kids to enjoy being kids can be found in the special playroom the Pucketts have devised out of what was originally an open porch that previous owners transformed into a closed-in breakfast nook. The playroom is filled with toys, dolls and games to occupy their little minds while Mom attends to meals or snacks in the adjoining kitchen. Penelope and Eric will



outgrow their play area someday, but it's unlikely their proud parents will outgrow the delight in tailoring a home to suit their needs as a young family in the city that has become their new hometown. "We love Ennis," Nora said. "It's everything we wanted." **NOW**

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More Than Good Meat

— By Rick Herron

On Saturday, May 19, everyone in or around Palmer will detect the sumptuous, mouth-watering aroma of hot, savory brisket in the air. This won't be just any backyard cookout, but the 6th Annual Community of Faith Brisket Cook-off, a gathering of many Ellis County churches who compete each year to see who can make the most delicious brisket in the county.

This much-anticipated yearly event, free and open to the public, begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Palmer Middle School Pavilion, according to Mark Mitchell, elder at the J Bar C Cowboy Church. "Everyone will start setting up for the cook-off early, around 7:30 a.m., getting tents up and chairs out, and we'll start serving food around 11:30 a.m. until around 1:00 p.m." he said. The event will wind down at 3:00 p.m.

The cook-off, organized by Palmer's J Bar C Cowboy Church, provides for churches from across Ellis County



to participate as sponsors in what the cook-off's mission statement describes as an event designed "to show strength and unity among churches of the community." Churches signed up as both sponsors and competitors this year in the brisket cook-off include: First Assembly of God of Palmer, J Bar C Cowboy Church of Palmer, First United Methodist Church of Palmer, First Christian Church of Palmer, Cowboy Church of Ellis County and 7th Day Adventist Church of Waxahachie.

"We plan to have lots of games for the kids to play like Wheel of Fortune. There will be a cakewalk, face painting and a three-on-three basketball tournament. Several bands will be on hand to provide live music throughout the event," Mark explained. "The Marine Corps have also

come out at past cook-offs

and set up a booth, and we

expect them to do it again this year.

We're also going to see if the fire department will bring a couple of their trucks to the event." Raffle drawings will be held every hour on the hour with



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The cook-off, which is always held on the third Saturday in May each year, was started in 2006 by J Bar C Cowboy



Church's then-pastor Brad Borstad, who met with local pastors and came up with the idea of a brisket cook-off. "Brad — who resigned as pastor in 2010 — reached out to all the churches in Ellis County and invited them to participate," Mark said. Planning the event starts in January each year when local churches are invited to participate as sponsors.

Event coordinator, Jean Stout, said the church that wins the brisket cook-off gets a plaque they can display for a year. "Each church will cook four briskets for the cook-off. There will also be homemade beans and potato salad," she said. "We ask them all to make enough of the side dishes to feed everyone who will be there from their church with a little extra." Soft drinks, tea and water will also be provided free of charge.

"There will be prizes available at each game, at least one bounce house, and the youth from each participating church will be responsible for organizing two games per church," Jean shared. "We'll also have a Carter Blood Drive bus onsite for people who want to donate blood, something we've included in the last two cook-offs."

The cook-off, previously held on the Palmer Square, will be held at the Palmer

Middle School Pavilion. "Our goal is to have it there from now on," Jean added.

Both Mark and Jean emphasize this is a free event, open to the public and is not a membership drive in any way, shape or form. The event is about giving praise to God, sharing fellowship and giving back

to the community.

"We want to remind everyone there's no money exchanged anywhere during the cook-off, that it's 100-percent free," Mark said

Jean agreed. "It's just a day of fellowship. We think Psalm 133:1 best expresses the reason behind why we do this every year: 'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!'" Sponsoring churches will start

cooking the night before, filling the pavilion with the scrumptious smell of brisket emanating from the smokers the participating churches will bring in.

"The event is about giving praise to God, sharing fellowship and giving back to the community."

Since its inception in 2006, the cook-off has been a collaborative effort between all the participating churches in Ellis County, and each year past participating churches try to get additional churches involved. "We reach out to radio stations to spread the word, as well as make sure the event is on the Ellis County community calendars," Mark said. "We schedule our first planning meeting right after the first of the year, then meet once in February, March and April. In May, we start meeting once a



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week here at the church, right up to the night before the event, to iron out the details."

Mark, who lives in Waxahachie, started attending J Bar C Cowboy Church in 2007. "After I joined, I became a team leader, then a lay pastor and was eventually asked to be an elder of the church last year," he said. The church's open-door "come-as-you-are" policy was one of the things that attracted him to the J Bar C, which is the first western heritage church in the Palmer area, according to the church Web site.

Jean has lived in Palmer for 11 years and is going on her second year as a member and her first year of organizing the community brisket cook-off. "A lot of people put in a lot of work toward this event starting in January," she explained.



"There's a lot of preparation involved over a long period of time, which makes it work so well every year."

With last year's attendance exceeding 400, Jean thinks the cook-off's success each year boils down to the fact that it is a no-strings-attached opportunity for fellowship among the county's churches and the public. "It's really about unity and the community," she reflected. "It doesn't really matter where people go to get the Word if the churches in our county can come together and show that kind of unity through events like the cook-off." For Mark, Jean and the hundreds who look forward to the annual event, it's become so much more than good meat. **NOW**

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A Family Focused



on Crafting

— By Janice C. Johnson

Long practice at the art of living within their means and conserving resources has given Jeremy and Brooke Ruffin a hands-on approach to life, which they call “old school.” Years ago as newlyweds, the two came face-to-face with the reality that their income was not unlimited. Instead, they would need to plan and budget to make ends meet. “We were both spoiled growing up,” Brooke admitted. “We had to learn the hard way.”



Rather than doing without some of the items that were beyond their budget, they discovered that they could make and repair things themselves. Along the way, the process spawned some new skills, which are now percolating into their four children's lives as hobbies.

The three oldest, all boys, have been learning woodworking in the garage workshop from their dad. The shop is well-appointed with power tools and Dallas Mavericks posters. While keeping safety a top priority, Jeremy said, "I give them their heads and let them do as much as possible on their own."

Lucas, an eighth-grade honor student, is the eldest. Now 14, he has advanced to using the scroll saw. He put that skill to good use last year with an Alamo project for his history class. He designed and created a three-dimensional model made of thin pieces of wood, each cut to shape and then stacked and glued together. Lucas plans to one day attend Texas Christian University (TCU).



As a 10-year-old, Cameron's skills do not lag far behind, while he also keeps busy with sports and student government. An outstanding baseball player, he wants to try football, too. Meanwhile, the goal-oriented fifth-grader has been elected to the student council at his school and is already making college plans.

Bryce, the youngest son at 9, adds a little humor to every situation. Whether intentional or not, "He's just naturally funny," Brooke said.

Each of the three boys have created ball-point pens by turning a small length of one-inch-square wood on a



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lathe, then polishing and adding the mechanical parts. Before crafting the pens, Jeremy took the boys to a woodworking store. "Each one got to pick out the blank he wanted to use. The blanks can be wood or acrylic," he remarked. Though the boys did not try to outdo each other with elaborate carving, they did race to see who would go first. "But everybody gets that one-on-one time with Dad," Jeremy added.

The pens take less than an hour to turn, polish and assemble. The various grains make each wooden pen unique, while the acrylic pens, like the purple-and-black one Jeremy made for TCU fan Brooke, have their own elegant look.

As for the family focus on crafting, Brooke actually started it all when the couple was expecting their youngest child, now-5-year-old Grace. "I taught myself to sew while I was on bed rest," she said. Months later, with a small baby, three older children and no paying job, Brooke began to make custom accessories and clothing for little girls. She still sews professionally. "The kids were my test dummies — that's why Grace ends up with so many clothes. She still tells me every day, 'You should make a new shirt for me.'"

In turn, Jeremy's woodworking interest sprang from Brooke's need for a desk. He decided he could figure out how to build one for her. One thing led to another, and Jeremy began crafting wood products for sale. Now the sawdust often flies in the garage, while KLT radio competes to be heard over the noisy power tools. As Jeremy accumulated tools, he built his own wooden cabinet with flat drawers to hold them. "I could have bought a metal one cheaper," he admitted.

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While Grace has yet to take on the woodworking tools, she loves every aspect of sewing. She enjoys planning the colors, never seems to run out of ideas, and eagerly does as much of each project as her mother will allow. The boys have no interest in sewing, but they readily lend their muscles to their mother when it is time to carry or organize her materials.

As they teach crafts, the Ruffins are also handing down their financial wisdom to their children. "We want them to learn from our example — from our mistakes," Jeremy said. "We teach them to save and to live within their means."

"We taught our kids to give."

"We're also truthful with the kids when money is tight," Brooke agreed. Though they never lack anything they need, their parents never hesitate to tell them, "You're not going to get everything you want."

Creating things for themselves has given the Ruffin children some added benefits. First, everyone in the family has a strong sense of self-sufficiency. "All of us, even the kids, actually prefer to do things for ourselves," Brooke pointed out. This attitude has spilled over from craft projects into household chores. The children generally cooperate with their assigned responsibilities, and they all cook dinner together — everything from scratch, of course — on most evenings.

Growing less dependent on money to provide for everything they need has



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also allowed the family to freely practice generosity. "We taught our kids to give," Brooke said. The children realize that, even with little money, they can use their talent to benefit others. For example, they have been known to sell home-baked goods and donate the proceeds to a charity.

At the same time, the two older boys are earning their own spending money by working with Jeremy in his part-time lawn care business. Lucas, thinking ahead a few years, is saving for a vehicle.

Of course, a certain amount of trial and error is part of the adventure. "We try new things, and they don't always work," Brooke said. "The office and shop are full of half-finished projects."

Things are rarely quiet at the Ruffin home. Jeremy holds a full-time job and runs two part-time businesses, while Brooke juggles working from home with keeping up the household and ferrying the kids back and forth. On Sundays, Jeremy and Brooke take the family to church and often host groups of church friends. In between, the family cheers for their beloved Mavericks and Texas Longhorns and squeezes movie or game nights in among the activities. Two nearby parks give the children space for riding bikes, skateboarding and outdoor games. Two lively dogs — Dirk, the boxer and Ricky Bobby, the terrier mix — add to the general commotion. "It's crazy but it works," Brooke observed.

With all the coming and going, "We are a chaotic mess most of the time," Jeremy said. "But it all gets done." He shook his head. "When there's nothing going on, it doesn't feel right." **NOW**

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Community Representation

The business relationship between Wayne Norcross and Linda Rudd is a perfect fit. — By Sandra Strong

As an entrepreneur, Linda Rudd has always felt responsible for shaping her own destiny. Three years ago, she wanted to make a change. Linda had a strong desire to open a real estate office in Ennis, the community where she grew up and where she lives. “I knew what was important for me, and I knew what would represent my community the best,” she explained. “Knowing your market is a plus for any Realtor.”

Linda began the search for a broker to help in her venture. Finding that special someone who shared the same code of ethics as she did was easier than she originally thought it would be. After meeting with four different brokers, Linda was given some advice from Vanessa Zmolik, a close friend and business associate. “Vanessa knew what I desired and what I needed,” Linda admitted. “She told me I needed to talk to Wayne Norcross.”

Wayne had recently come back to the Ellis County area from Austin. His wife, Marlene Belew Norcross, was from the Ennis community. Linda made the call that brought her dream to reality. “Wayne and I met over lunch,” she said. “I shared my desires.”

He in turn asked Linda if she had a plan in place. “I had already investigated buildings and possible locations for an office,” Linda said. “I had a place in mind that would support the downtown area. Why would I want new when I fully believed in the downtown area?”

Linda was drawn to the little office that now houses City Real Estate. She felt something the very first time she laid eyes on it. In fact, it actually needed her more than she needed it. When the business relationship between Linda and Wayne was

agreed upon, the office, which had been a dog grooming salon before it became a successful real estate agency, underwent a complete facelift.

"I really had plans to open an office in Waxahachie to just broker other individuals," Wayne shared. "After meeting with Linda, Ennis and all it had to offer just made sense." Linda had already found a home for the City Real Estate name. She already had several well-established agents on board. "Linda made it so easy for me to make a decision," Wayne added.

"Knowing your market is a plus for any Realtor."

"The business relationship was, and still is, like putting on an old pair of your favorite shoes," Linda confessed. "It's a perfect fit. I didn't need a couple days to think about things. The connection was immediate. We were a match. We're like-minded people."

The office currently sponsors 10 agents, which include the core group, Liz Taylor, Amelia Valdez, Jackie Junger and Kim Lu, who came on board when City Real Estate opened its doors for business. Vanessa, a loan officer with Guild Mortgage, has also had an office at City Real Estate since the beginning. "We are all entrepreneurs," Linda reiterated. "We are each responsible for our own destinies."

Wayne not only helped Linda realize her dream, he has also become her sounding board. He's just a phone call away. "He isn't competition for us," Linda explained. "He allows each of us to do our own thing."

Linda has over 11 years of experience as a Realtor. She's handled hundreds of transactions. "No two are alike," she said. "There's always something new to learn, and you're only as good as your last transaction." **NOW**



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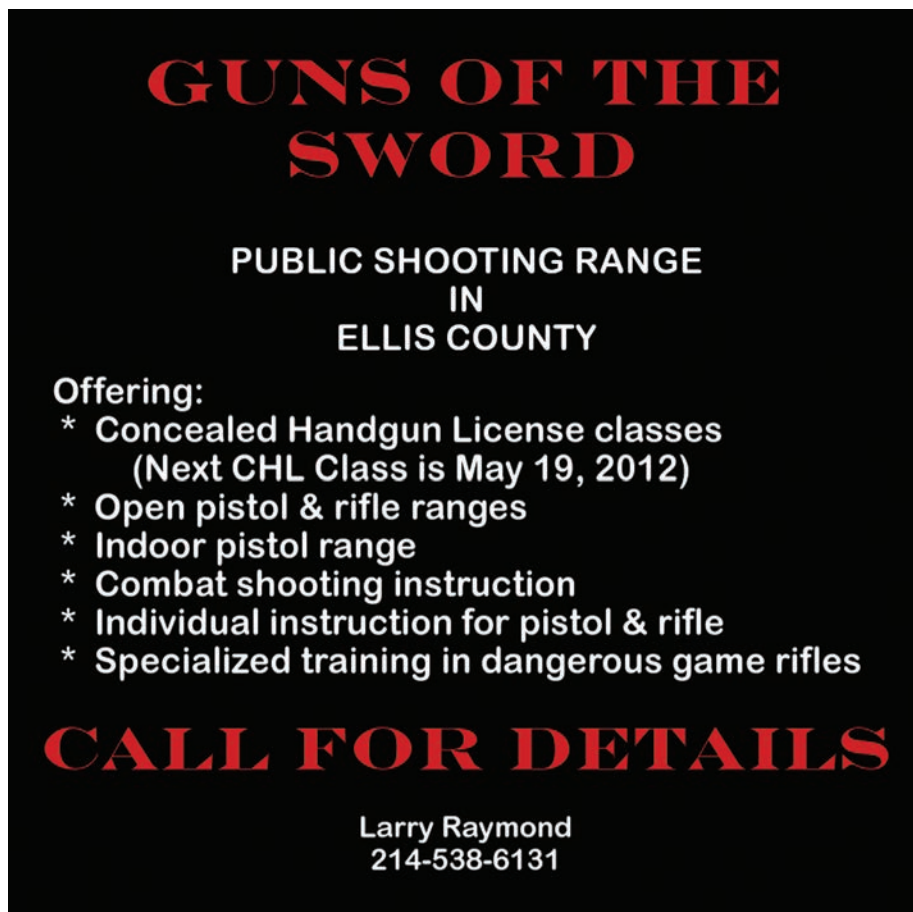
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Medical Marvel

— By Edward L. Holt, DO - Obstetrics and Gynecology

If someone asked you to name a marvel of modern medicine, would the Papanicolaou (Pap) smear be one of the breakthroughs that you would consider naming? I would suggest that it should be. With its introduction in the 1940s, early detection and treatment of preinvasive malignancies of the cervix became possible. Subsequently, by the end of the 20th century, the incidence of and mortality associated with invasive cervical cancer in the United States decreased by approximately 75 percent.

Despite these statistics, cervical cancer remains a significant problem within our society. The Centers for Disease Control estimates the incidence of cervical cancer to be 7.9 cases per 100,000 women in the United States. The incidence is even higher in Black and Hispanic women, rising to 10.2 and 11.5 cases per 100,000 respectively. Over 12,000 women in the U.S. were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2007. There were over

4,000 deaths associated with cervical cancer in that same year.

These numbers clearly illustrate the importance of continued emphasis on the need for cervical cancer screening and should serve as a reminder to all women that interval screening is a necessity. In fact, new screening recommendations have recently been issued by the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force (USPSTF) and the American Cancer Society/American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology/American Society for Clinical Pathology (ACS/ASCCP/ASCP). These recommendations are listed below. Should any of these recommendations raise questions, schedule an appointment with your doctor. Take advantage of the protection offered by one of the marvels of modern medicine. **NOW**

Source: <http://www.acog.org>.

Edward L. Holt, D.O. - Obstetrics and Gynecology

Ennis Regional Medical Center

POPULATION	USPSTF	ACS/ASCCP/ASCP
Younger than 21 years	Recommends against screening.	Women should not be screened regardless of the age of sexual initiation or other risk factors.
21-29 years	Recommends screening with cytology every 3 years.	Screening with cytology alone every 3 years is recommended.
30-65 years	Recommends screening with cytology every 3 years or for women who want to lengthen the screening interval, screening with a combination of cytology and HPV testing every 5 years.	Screening with cytology and HPV testing ("co-testing") every 5 years (preferred) or cytology alone every 3 years (acceptable) is recommended.
Older than 65 years	Recommends against screening women who have had adequate prior screening and are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer.	Women with evidence of adequate negative prior screening and no history of CIN2 within the last 20 years should not be screened. Screening should not be resumed for any reason, even if a woman reports having a new sexual partner.
After hysterectomy	Recommends against screening in women who have had a hysterectomy with removal of the cervix and who do not have a history of a high-grade precancerous lesion (i.e. CIN 2 or 3) or cervical cancer.	Women of any age following a hysterectomy with removal of the cervix who have no history of CIN2 should not be screened for vaginal cancer. Evidence of adequate negative prior screening is not required. Screening should not be resumed for any reason, including if a woman reports having a new sexual partner.
HPV vaccinated	Women who have been vaccinated should continue to be screened.	Recommended screening practices should not change on the basis of HPV vaccination status.



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Give Your Portfolio a “Spring Cleaning”

Springtime is here. If you're like many people, the arrival of spring means it's time to spruce up your home. But why stop there? This year, consider applying some of those same spring-cleaning techniques to your investment portfolio.

Here are some ideas you may want to put to work:

- **Get rid of clutter.** You probably don't have to look too far around your home to find things that are broken or simply no longer useful to you. If you poke around your portfolio, you might make similar discoveries: an investment that has chronically underperformed, duplicates another investment or met your needs in the past but is less relevant to your current situation and goals. Once you identify these types of investments, you may decide to sell them and use the proceeds to take advantage of opportunities that may prove more valuable to you.

- **Consolidate.** Over the years, you may have accumulated multiple versions of common household items — brooms, mops, hammers — which pop up mysteriously in various parts of your home. You might find it more efficient, and even less expensive, if you consolidated all these things in one centralized location. As an investor, you also might find that consolidation can offer you some benefits. Do you have one Individual Retirement Account (IRA) with one financial services provider and a second IRA with another? Do you have a couple of old 401(k) accounts with former employers? And have you scattered investments here, there and everywhere? By consolidating all these accounts in one place, you can cut down on paperwork, reduce fees and, most importantly, unite your investment dollars so that it's easier for you to see what you have and then follow a single, coherent investment strategy.

- **Prepare for turbulent weather.** As you know, springtime can bring heavy rains, hail, strong winds and other threats to your home. As part of your overall spring cleaning, you may want to check the condition of your roof, clear branches away from your house, clean your gutters and downspouts, and take other steps to protect your property from the ravages of Mother Nature. And just as you need to safeguard your home, you'll want to protect the lifestyles of those who live in that home — namely, your family. You can help accomplish this by reviewing your life and disability insurance to make sure it's still sufficient for your needs.

- **Get professional help.** You may find that you can't do all your spring cleaning by yourself. For example, if your carpets and rugs are heavily soiled, you may need to call in a professional cleaner. Or if your tree branches have grown out of control, you might need to bring in a tree trimmer. Similarly, when you decide to “tidy up” your portfolio, you'll need some assistance from a financial professional — someone who can study your current mix of investments and recommend changes, as needed, to help ensure your holdings are suitable for your risk tolerance, time horizon and short- and long-term goals.

Spring cleaning can reinvigorate your home and your overall outlook. And by tidying up your investment portfolio, you can help gain some of that same optimism — for your future. **NOW**

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

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May 5

Ellis County Barbeque Cook-off: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. For entry forms, rules and information, contact Maria Urias at (972) 937-4477 or Rhonnie Tompkins at (972) 935-9188. All proceeds benefit Daniel's Den.

Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta: 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. For more information, contact Julissa Martinez at (817) 781-9532 or www.waxahachie5de5.com.

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Month of June

God's Favorite is playing at Ennis Public Theatre, North Business Park, 2705-C N. Kaufman Street. Call (972) 878-7529 for specific dates and show times.

June 2

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport off Hwy. 287 between Waxahachie and Midlothian. Breakfast tickets: ages 8 and over: \$6; ages 3-7: \$3; children 2 and under: free. Event and parking: free. Contact Tammy Bowen at (972) 923-0080.

June 2 and 3

Gingerbread Trail Home Tour and Arts & Crafts Fair: Call Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce (972) 937-2390 or Ellis County Museum at (972) 937-0681.

Ongoing:

Sundays

GriefShare, a grief recovery support group: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2734 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie. www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

Third Tuesdays

Veterans Networking Group: 5:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Hwy. 287 Bypass and 77. Call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

Fourth Saturdays

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

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.

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In The Kitchen With Jeanette Ferguson

— By Sandra Strong

Jeanette Ferguson learned to cook by helping her mother and grandmother in the kitchen, beginning at a young age. “My grandmother taught me to make cornbread when I was about 7 or 8,” she admitted. “I cook for my family and friends. I especially enjoy preparing food for special occasions and holidays with my daughters. I taught them to cook when they were young, and they have surpassed me.”

Her favorite kind of cooking is baking. “However, every summer my husband has a very large garden,” she shared, “and I love preparing fresh vegetables.” Jeanette enjoys inventing recipes, while altering others. “The sugar snap peas evolved over the years,” she explained. “Whenever possible, I alter recipes to make them healthier, but I do love butter.” **NOW**

Mama’s Fudge Squares

Brownies:

1/3 cup cocoa
1 cup sugar
1 cup Crisco
2 eggs
2 cups flour
1 tsp. vanilla
1/8 tsp. salt

Fudge icing:

2 cups sugar
1/3 cup cocoa
1 stick butter
2/3 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla

1. For brownies: Mix well as you add each ingredient. Dough will be very stiff.
2. Smooth onto greased 9x12-inch pan. Bake in preheated 375 F oven for about 12 minutes. Do not overcook. Mix fudge icing in the same pan.
3. For fudge icing: Mix all ingredients; bring to a boil on high, reducing heat to medium. Cook to soft ball stage.
4. Remove from heat; beat until creamy. Pour over warm brownies.

Oatmeal Cookies

1/2 cup Crisco
1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar

2 eggs
2 cups flour
1 tsp. soda
Pinch of salt
1 heaping tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla
4 Tbsp. milk
2 cups uncooked oatmeal
1 cup raisins
1 cup pecans

1. Cream Crisco, butter, sugar and eggs together. Add flour, soda, salt and cinnamon.
2. Add vanilla, milk, oatmeal, raisins and pecans.
3. Drop onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F for 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Stir-Fried Sugar Snap Peas

2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 pkg. frozen sugar snap peas or equivalent of fresh peas
2/3 cup almond slices
1 Tbsp. soy sauce
1/2 tsp. ginger
1 tsp. minced garlic
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

1. Heat oil in skillet or stir-fry pan. Add peas and stir until almost done.
2. Add remaining ingredients and stir-fry until peas are crisp and tender.

Glazed Carrots with Bacon and Onion

1 lb. pkg. baby carrots
3 bacon slices
1 small onion, chopped
3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. seasoned pepper

1. Cook carrots in boiling water for 15 minutes or until tender; drain.
2. Cook bacon until crispy; draining on paper towel and crumble. Reserve 1 Tbsp. bacon drippings.
3. Sauté onion in bacon drippings until tender.
4. Stir in brown sugar, pepper and carrots. Cook for 5 minutes or until carrots are glazed and thoroughly heated.
5. Transfer to serving dish; sprinkle with crumbled bacon.

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



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