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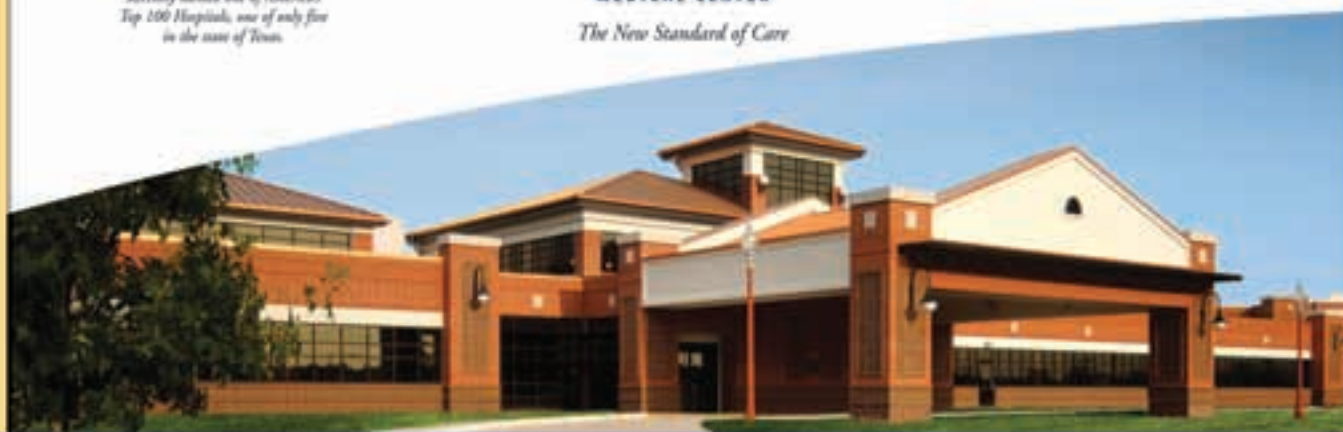
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Beautiful 2006 custom built home in prestigious Walker's Run Subdivision. This 2366 sq. ft. home boasts 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 baths, 3 car garage, stone w/tp and the conveniences of town, walking distance to elementary school. Call Laurie for more info and showing. \$259,000.



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The Thomases beautiful
backyard haven.*

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EnnisNOW is a NOW Magazines, L.L.C. publication. Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved. *EnnisNOW* is published monthly and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Ennis zip codes.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscription and editorial correspondence should be sent to: *EnnisNOW*, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates and other information, call (972) 875-3299 or e-mail us at: rhensley@nowmagazines.com.

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Ennis NOW

Editor's Note

Welcome to the blue skies of a Texas June!

If your heart is lifted by this happy time of year, use that good spirit to offer some kindness to a fellow citizen. When skies are sunny, we tend to forget that people need help year-round. In our main feature, we take a look at one of our own, Adam Fuentes, who is leading the way in community service. Adam is active as the United Way president in Ennis and also in sponsoring and coaching teams for local children.

Our very own mayor, Russell Thomas, and his wife, Nancy, Master Gardener and community volunteer, have offered you a glimpse into their private lives this month. Read our home feature to discover the warmth and joy they have experienced in Ennis.

We salute all of our 2008 graduates of Ennis High School and St. John School and wish you well on your future endeavors. In SportsNOW we focus on graduate Weston Montgomery, who is off to college soon to pursue his baseball career.

Kelly Kovar

EnnisNOW Editor

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Volunteering to help others allows everyday people to accomplish extraordinary acts. Having a servant's heart is what compels Adam Fuentes to volunteer his time to accomplish many acts of kindness. His two selfless parents showed him, by example, the gift of giving by helping others. "You learn from seeing your parents' actions," he said. "Growing up with parents like that, you see how you can help others who can't help themselves."

Adam became involved in The Greater Ennis United Way in 2004 when a colleague approached him about volunteering, and has been a highly active member ever since. During his tenure with the organization, he has received several Volunteer of the Year awards and has served on the board, as campaign chairman and as a member of the allocation committee. Now, after four years, he is the newly appointed president. His sudden ascension in office was not of his own



making. "You move up in the ranks," he said, "by nominations from your peers."

Being bilingual allows Adam the opportunity to offer even more to the cause. "I am not shy about my culture," he claimed. "I am able to reach out to those people who did not know how to find the resources to help. They really appreciate the United Way."

As United Way's president, his numerous duties include: setting goals for the upcoming years, reaching the milestones set in the desired timetable, setting up committees for various projects, raising money to reach goals, delegating distribution of funds and organizing campaigns to get companies involved. Adam jokingly referred to one of his duties as, "Try to get to the meetings first to get Liza's homemade cookies." He was referring to Elizabeth Fulton, the director of The Greater Ennis United Way. "She is the 'Big Boss,'" he said.

Adam's employer, Schirm USA, is a large supporter of





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the Ennis community and the United Way. They stay actively involved in community projects and encourage their employees to do the same. The company also believes in leading by example: by matching each of their employee's monetary donations.

Working for a company which supports his position serving the United Way allows Adam the flexibility to fit his volunteering duties in with



his important work duties. His position as safety, health and environmental manager entails conducting safety training classes, handling human resource issues, overseeing local, state and federal safety regulations and ensuring Schirm is in compliance with all environmental issues.

His giving nature was clearly impressed upon his soul by his parents. He remembers them as always giving their time to help others by painting houses, mowing yards and doing whatever else needed to be done. "My mom has always helped with church projects," Adam said. "My dad just followed her along to help." His parents travel to Mexico on missionary trips at least once a year, staying two to three weeks at a time. They take food and clothes to the families and help in the churches. "They have a good relationship with the people down there," he said. "They try to do everything they can

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before coming back."

One year, Adam followed them down to Mexico to see firsthand what their trips entailed. Staying a week was more than his giving heart could handle. "It is hard to see in person how they live," he said, referring to the overwhelming living conditions of their makeshift housing and the children's need for shoes. "If I had stayed any longer, I would have sold my car so I could buy all the children

"I am able to reach out to those people who did not know how to find the resources to help. They really appreciate the United Way."

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shoes." He sadly realized he could only do so much. "Going there makes you appreciate what we have," he added.

The support of his wife, Mary, is very important to his daily balancing act. "Her main support is being patient with me," he said. "She's always been involved by helping out wherever she is needed." Their four daughters, Makala, Amanda, Hannah and Amie, all share their parents' giving spirits. "They are the reason I got involved volunteering," he said.

Because of his daughters' interests in sports activities, Adam began coaching for the Ennis Boys and Girls Club and the Ennis Soccer Association. He started out coaching his daughters' teams and is now involved with coaching softball, basketball, soccer and baseball. Coaching gave him the clear perspective of how much the children of Ennis needed the Boys and Girls Club. "Coaching for them is the one thing I really have enjoyed," he said. "I saw firsthand the appreciation of the kids."

On top of everything else, Adam owns his own small business, ABF Concrete, thus allowing him the opportunity to sponsor the Ennis



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Girls Softball teams and Ennis Little League teams he coaches. He also is a member of the Ennis Lions Club, which does a lot for the community. "It's all starting to run together," he admitted. "I am running out of hours."

Spending time with the family does rank high on Adam's extensive to-do list. "In between all this, sometimes we do make time to go camping and fishing," he said. "After being involved with big crowds you need time to get away." On the few free weekends his family has, they pull their camper somewhere quiet and spend quality time enjoying each other's company. Adam uses another of his many talents on these outings. "I do all the cooking," he bragged. "I am a pretty good cook."

Musical talent can also be added to Adam's extensive résumé. His parents bought him a guitar when he was 10 years old. "My mom wanted me to play it in church," he recalled. Each of his daughters has a guitar, but Amanda is the one really interested in playing. He explained to her, "If you're really serious about playing, no one has to ask you to practice."

"Everyone has somewhere they fit," is Adam's belief, which coincides with United Way's statement: "We have 99 ways to help match your passion." The Greater Ennis United Way supports organizations like the Helping Hands of Ennis, the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Ennis Boys and Girls Club, Candy Cane Corner Child Care, Ellis County 4-H Club, Ennis Golden Circle Senior Citizen Activities, Ellis County Gingerbread House Children's Advocacy Center and Ellis County Foster Parents, making it easy for everyone to find their volunteering flavor.

Adam's contagious enthusiasm for the United Way makes him a valuable president. He would love to see more people and businesses of Ennis reap the rewards of volunteering. "We are always looking for volunteers," he urged. "When someone asks how they can get involved, I say, 'I can get you involved today!'" **NOW**

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The Roots of Service

— By Kelly Kovar

Russell and Nancy Thomas understand all about nurturing roots, tending young plants, observing the seasons and harvesting the fruit of their labors in due time. "In 2000, I got certified as a Master Gardener," Nancy said. "I just love gardening." Russell has been growing vegetables for 25 years. The principles they apply in their gardens have also served them well in life, as they have nurtured their three daughters into educated, ambitious young ladies. They have also tended their careers: Russell as an environmental engineer and Nancy as an occupational therapist.

At Home With

Russell and Nancy Thomas





They have observed the seasons of their family, honoring Russell's mother, a World War II veteran, with a charming home built on their property. They have also harvested the fruits of their labors in a community filled with friends and associates, who have been both a blessing to, and blessed by, the Thomases.

Their house in Ennis gives the impression of a place where people actually live. Yes, it is exceedingly



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attractive and thoughtfully furnished, but there is a definable sense of "these are books people actually read, these are chairs people actually sit in and this is a view which is truly enjoyed." It is, in the best sense of the word, a home.

"We have lived in this house 14 years," Nancy shared. "When we moved here, Dana Cody helped us make it look more homey and comfortable, and that is what we like to be. More recently, the dining room has been transformed into a study. "Jim Pitts gave us that chair," Nancy said, indicating a desk-chair with a Texas star.

Russell displays his knife collection here. "I have collected knives for years," he explained. "One has a turquoise inset. They are pocket knives, hunting knives, a lot of German knives, some Damascus knives. One was made by a friend in Wyoming."

The music room, where for years daughters Katherine, Anna and Becca practiced the piano, the French horn and the trombone, has been converted into a sitting and entertainment room. "We also spend a lot of our time in the sunroom," Russell mentioned, "which has a long dining table with room for big family dinners."

"We entertain a lot," they both agreed, "so we want a table for 12." The large central living area of the home is in the planning phase of becoming a grand dining room, which will take advantage of the spectacular view of the brilliantly hued azaleas outside. Beyond the flowers, Russell fondly reveals his neat and well-tended beds of potatoes, onions and asparagus. "There is a new garden this year, full of tomatoes and peppers," he said. "We usually have a lot of bluebonnets in the back and the Kachina Prairie is right behind our

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property." He has planted pecan trees and Nancy has designed beautiful landscaping and had a pool added.

"We have pretty much got the downstairs where Nancy and I can live in it by ourselves. It is built for us now," Russell mentioned, since their three daughters are grown. "Katherine is in law school in San Antonio and doing very well. Anna will be working at the Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery at Texas Tech in Lubbock and pursuing her masters in higher education administration in the fall."

"Becca is going to go to Texas A&M in College Station to study aerospace engineering," Nancy said. "She wants to get that degree, then get a law degree and then work for the CIA."

Recent changes to update the downstairs have given the kitchen and bathrooms new life. "When you go with decorators, they teach you things. Melrose French, who helped us with the recent renovations, said, 'Let's make a mirror out of the extra tile for the powder room,'" Nancy said. "Little ideas like that make it fun."

"The house is from the '60s, and the kitchen was dated," Russell explained. "The new backsplash is a travertine limestone; the countertops are Roman Gold granite. We extended the bar and dropped the height of it. The barstools are iron and leather."

"We love French or Italian countryside, so we are planning to have a mural painted over the sink," Nancy said. "The kitchen was finished in October; Becca developed Lyme Disease in November; Anna developed aplastic anemia in December. I am working

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less, which is great, because I can go out to Lubbock to see Anna, but we have put the mural and the new dining room table on hold.”

Nancy and Russell have learned that sometimes you have to wait for the right time. They met in '72 while Nancy was at Texas Women's University (TWU) in Denton and Russell was at the University of North Texas, but did not date until six years later. “She was dating my roommate,” Russell recalled. “I was dating her best friend.” Nancy graduated, and Russell went to South America to work in the oil industry, and they lost touch. “In '78 we ran into each other at a New Year's Eve party.”

“I was getting ready to move to Austin to work for the Austin Independent School District and he was getting ready to go to A&M to get a degree as a mining engineer,” Nancy said. After dating for a year and a half, they married in '81 and lived in Taylor for several years, commuting to jobs in Austin and Rockdale.

“It was fate that brought us here. I was transferred to Dallas,” Russell said. Nancy was eight months pregnant with Anna, so Russell came and looked all around and he liked the feel of Ennis. Ten years ago, Russell was asked by Gene Hodges to run for commissioner for Ward 5. “Two years later, Bill Lewis came to me and asked if I would consider running for mayor.” He has held the office ever since then.

In assuming the role of mayor, Russell saw his family history come full circle. “My great-uncle, Marvin





Thomas, was mayor of Ennis in '21. He opened Thomas Shoes in Ennis and had a corner Victorian house on Sherman, where Baylor Baptist is now." Hubert Rogers, a famous Ennis Lions Club member, who lived to be 104 years old, went to work for



Marvin Thomas at age 16. "The story is absolutely wonderful. My great-uncle Marvin moved to Dallas and financed the shoe store for Hubert, who operated the shoe store for 65 years here as Rogers Shoes. When we moved here in 1986, we joined the Methodist church and Hubert was the first person we met at the church."

Finding the connection to his family gave Russell and Nancy a real sense of history and belonging in Ennis. "I like it here. It is so pleasant here in this town," Nancy said.

When they moved to Ennis, they found more than a place to work and live. "Nancy and I found a home here," Russell said. "We have been blessed with it being a great place to raise kids. I'm sure we will always have roots here." **NOW**

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Joyce Edgell has aspired to be a puppeteer since she was a child. "I was always interested in puppets," Joyce remembered. "When I was 8 years old, my dad bought me a ventriloquist figure. I used to watch Paul Winchell and the Nestlé's Quik commercials with the puppets, and I dreamed about learning how to do that." As an adult, she was able to order training materials and learn the art of puppetry. Now, she is the puppet director for the Baylor Baptist Church puppet ministry.

About five years ago, Joyce started a puppet ministry, called Puppets of Praise, with children ages 8 to 12. "Sometimes the kids do skits, but for the most part they do songs. The kids love it. They perform about once a month during church services." The children in Puppets of Praise have worked hard to learn how to put up the stage. They have learned the basics of puppetry and how to take care of puppets.

Before long, Joyce wanted to start an adult puppetry group. Each year, her church choir takes a Christmas program to prisons. "I thought, if we had puppets, it would be an extra ministry to the inmates," Joyce said. "We performed the Christmas music with puppets and it was a hit. The prison inmates just love it. That was really an awesome feeling to be able to get their attention like that."

The group plays recorded songs and the puppets come up and lip-synch. "The first year, we sang two songs. We had a barn prop set up and a farmer-guy puppet comes out and sings, then

The Puppet Queen

— By Kelly Kovar



ARTS NOW

animal puppets come out and sing with him. It was kind of hilarious. It was a song with a message, but with the puppets doing it, it was really funny."

Now, they have an official adult group of puppeteers called Puppets of Praise AGU (Almost Grown Up), which includes Joyce, Judy Harrison, Eileen Eckeberger and Corrie Eckeberger. "We meet every Thursday to practice and talk about what we are going to do for our next program. We go over what places we have booked. If it is someplace we have already been, then we make up a new program so that they are not looking at the same stuff. We are just having a ball. Judy is our PR person, so she contacts the places and gets us dates to perform."

They have three stages. One is heavy, which they keep downstairs for use in the sanctuary. A more portable one can be disassembled and taken with them when they travel to performances. "The tricky part is tearing it down and setting up the set," Eileen explained.

Joyce also has a walk-around stage — a small one-puppeteer stage. "I bought that so we can have it for things like Halloween," Joyce said. "It straps on with suspenders to your belt."

When using the bigger stages, Eileen and Corrie use the bottom level,



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while Joyce and Judy take the top level. “I used to love watching *Sesame Street*,” Corrie reminisced, “and now I am in it. I call my favorite puppet Naomi Ruth, after my great-aunt.”

Everything the group does is for the enjoyment of the people watching. They go to the nursing homes with the puppets. “I love to see the audience enjoying [them],” Judy shared. “You can see the change on their faces.

Afterwards, we go and greet them and shake their hands with the puppets and it really makes you feel good.”

“It is fun to talk to people,” Eileen added. “They just get this childlike look in their eye. They get so excited, and I like that.”

“At least once a month, we try to get as many [shows] in on one Saturday as we can,” Joyce said. “It is a busy day. We have been to nursing homes in Waxahachie, Midlothian, Red Oak and Ennis.”

When planning a puppet show, Joyce has dozens of puppets from which to select for the performance. “We choose puppets according to what the voices are and what we think the puppet for that voice should look like.”

There are grannies, old men and children puppets. They also have animal puppets, including: a rat, an orangutan, frogs, a sheepdog and a cat. “My favorites are a girl puppet with blue hair and a pink baseball cap, and a boy puppet that looks like Elvis,” Judy mentioned. “The songs all get to be favorites; you are humming them day and night.”

“You have to make sure that your puppet’s mouth opens with each syllable,” Joyce explained. “It is hard to get used to at first. You keep your wrist bent, so your puppet is looking at the audience and not at the ceiling. You do exercises to strengthen your arms. Puppeteering is harder than it looks,” Joyce said, “but it is so much fun and I love it.” **NOW**



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Beginning a New Chapter

— By Sandra McIntosh

Weston Montgomery has been playing catch for most of his life. His parents, Danny and Rosemary Montgomery, remember back when he was only 3 years old. "Danny would throw to Weston from his easy chair," Rosemary laughed. "It didn't matter what he threw, Weston learned to catch it, and then he'd throw it back to his father." The game, which started inside, was soon carried outdoors. "If Weston missed throwing it straight to me," Danny said, "I'd make him chase after it himself." It was not long before the balls Weston threw began to hit their target perfectly. "Chasing the balls made him good," Danny added.

Weston remembers the story his parents retell, but he cannot help but recall the many ups and downs it took for him to get where he is today — making final preparations to take full advantage of a hard-earned baseball college scholarship.

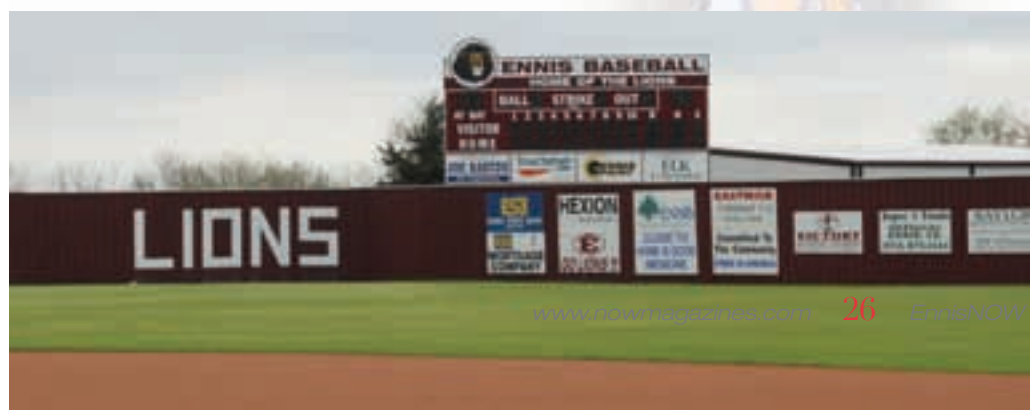
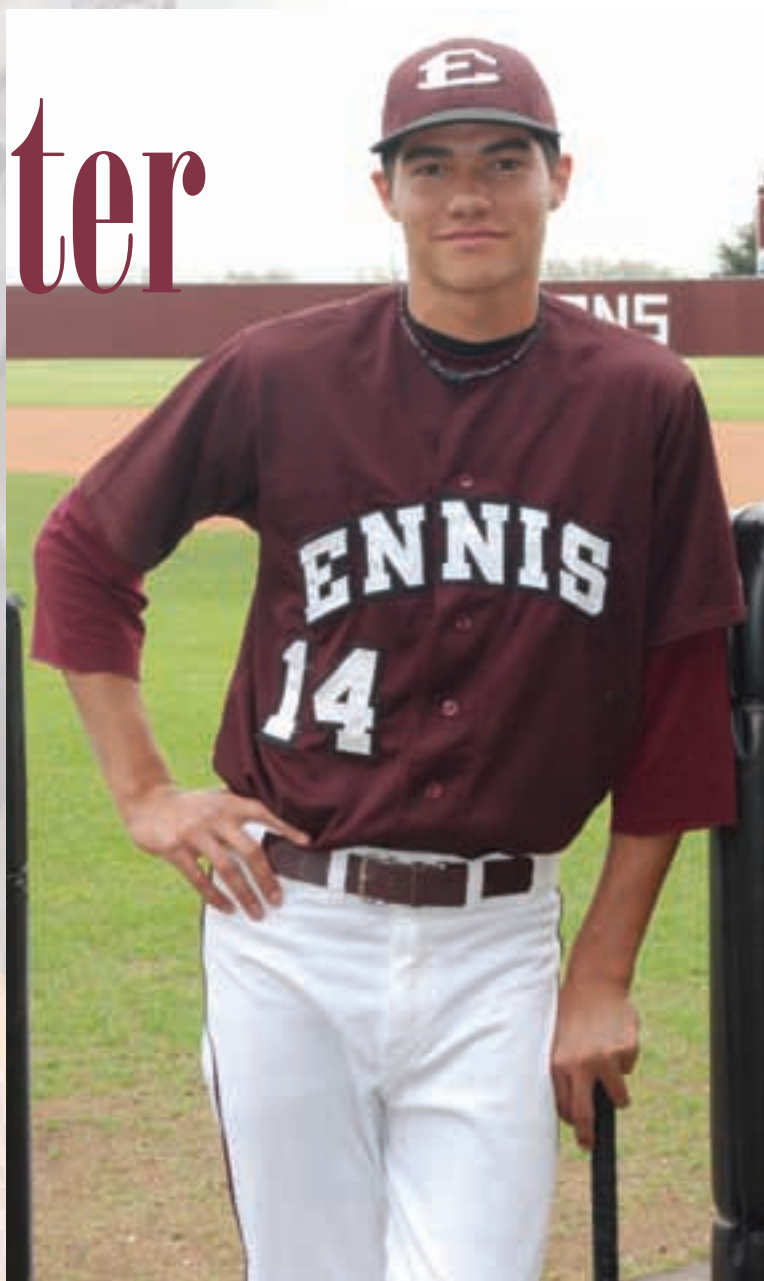
"As a kid, I was smaller than the other guys," Weston said. "I had to work harder to get the same results." The work habits he learned early in life carried him through his final game as short stop at Ennis High School this past season. He knows they will also serve him well in college play. "The work habits forced me to get better," Weston said, explaining he feels his talent was not so much God-given, as earned through hours of practice, weight training and a positive attitude.

Only once do Danny and Rosemary recall him seriously wanting to give baseball up and move on to something else. Since it was in the middle of that particular season, Weston knew in his heart he had to forge ahead. "My parents taught

me to always finish whatever I start," he explained. That year, he picked himself up and began working twice as hard. When the next season came along, Weston had forgotten that he had ever wanted to quit. "In fact," Danny said,

"there have been many times that I've had to sit on him to get him to rest."

As Weston began to excel at the game, his parents felt the need to offer him some stronger competition with young boys he had never met nor played with. At the age of 11, they signed Weston up with a select league out of Dallas, Texas. The whole



Sports NOW

family was "wowed" by the first practice. "I was shocked at the level of play," Danny said, still in awe at the memory. "I learned that whatever the coaches expected, the kids provided." The one difference found in select play that is totally different from high school is the number of times a team takes to the field during a single season. "I played 10 times as many games on the select team as I did in high school," Weston said, also stating

"As a kid, I was smaller than the other guys. I had to work harder to get the same results."

he has been fortunate to find himself on the same select team, the Dallas Mustangs, for three consecutive years.

What junior high and high school coaches taught Weston was only enhanced by the coaching provided through the select league. Weston spoke highly of Coach Tim Venetta, the coach on a team out of Waco with whom he played early on. "This man knew how to coach," Weston said. "He taught me the mental aspect of the game. He explained the importance of good attitude and [taught me] where the ball needed to be hit to be the most effective." Under Coach Venetta's tutelage, Weston quickly learned what he had already suspected — baseball is more mental than physical.

The fondest memory which comes to Weston's mind is the first homerun he hit during his sophomore year. "I know it took a while," Weston grinned, "because I was a little guy." It was the second game in District play against Corsicana. Stayton Thomas was Corsicana's pitcher and Ennis was either tied or down by one run. "I saw his first pitch," Weston said, "and I hit

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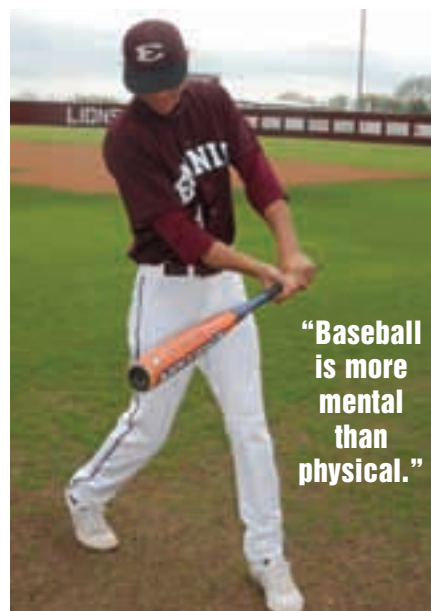
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it." Needless to say, thanks to his first homerun, the Ennis Lions went on to play another game.

Weston will be attending Texas A&M Corpus Christi on a partial athletic scholarship at the end of August. He looks forward to the college experience, but he reminisces back on his final game at Ennis High earlier this year



**"Baseball
is more
mental
than
physical."**

with sadness. "It closed one chapter and now college will open another one," he said. "I will probably miss playing with my friends the most." The friends and fellow EHS graduates of whom he refers are Rusty Collins and Chris Lewis. "I will miss them the most because the three of us are best friends," Weston said, adding that Rusty played dual positions at first and third, while Chris was pitcher.

As Weston finalizes his plans to move to Corpus Christi, his parents find bittersweet tears welling up in their eyes. Throughout his career thus far, Weston has earned his position on the team through hard work, never once asking or allowing his parents to "talk to the coaches" on his behalf. No doubt, his attitude and work ethic will carry him through college, and as Weston puts it, "into the big leagues." **NOW**



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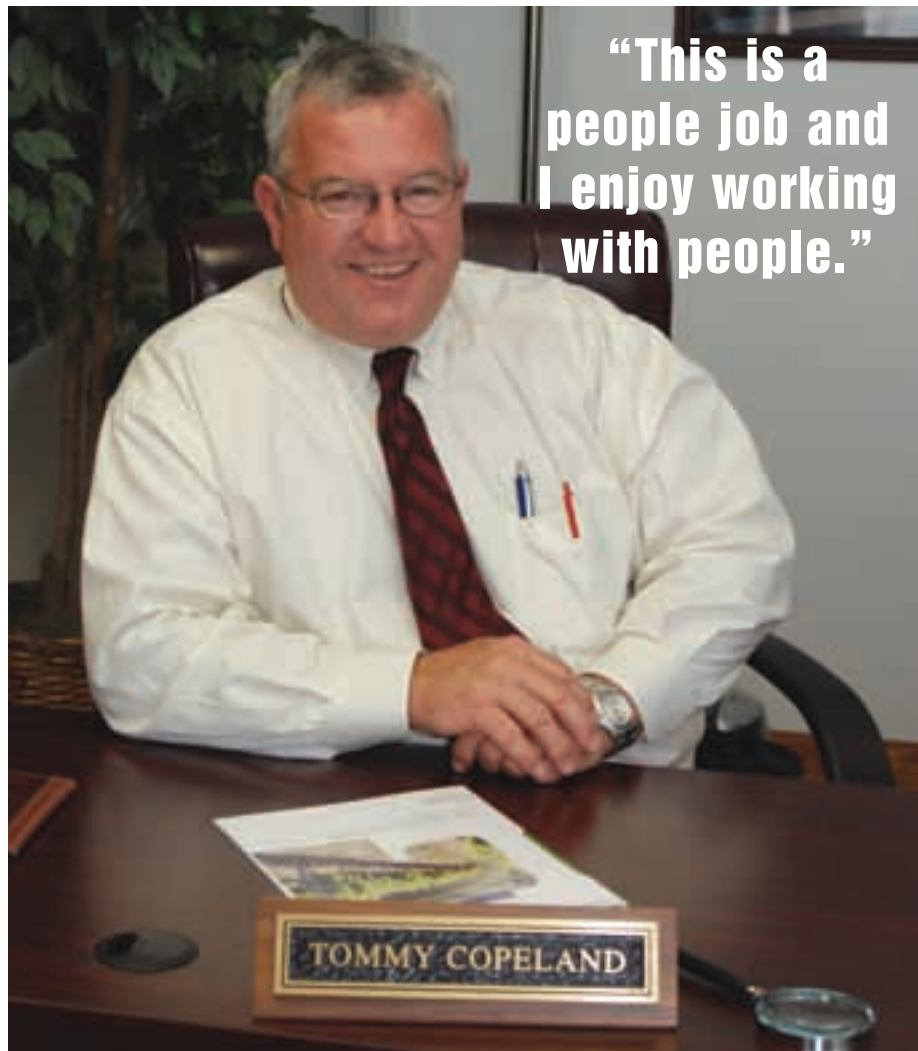
— By Kelly Kovar

Tommy Copeland, of The Monolith Group, is an independent sales representative who does financial planning. "I work with groups and individuals, achieving financial success through insurance, annuities or investments," Tommy explained. The Monolith Group has Texas offices in Fort Worth, Wichita Falls, Abilene and Ennis. "The Monolith Group is a member of the Lincoln Financial Network of companies, one of the largest, most enduring and financially sound companies in the world."

The Monolith Group offers a myriad of insurance investment products for individuals and businesses. "There is always a need for that," Tommy explained. "Insurance provides protection for your family." He offers term life, whole life, universal life, long term care, disability insurance and more — depending on a person's needs.

"We also sell mortgage protection, so people can protect their large home investment for their family. Mutual funds, annuities, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs are vehicles for retirement." They also handle medical insurance. "We can do individual plans or group plans. In helping many young adults, I find they need medical insurance, since a lot of companies are not offering medical insurance packages."

Tommy recommends saving for the future with a systematic retirement plan. "We are the sandwich generation. We are taking care of our moms and



"This is a people job and I enjoy working with people."

dads, while putting our kids through college. We are the group that could not save, because money was going out in both directions. We are trying to tell the next generation about retirement savings: 'This was our mistake; this was what we couldn't do. But you can,' because there are more vehicles now for retirement savings. When we were 20, there was nothing but a CD or a savings account. Now, we can offer a good solid investment plan in the Roth IRA. It

has the advantage of both being tax deductible and as a vehicle, it can increase in value," Tommy explained.

Tommy recommends using any retirement plans which your company offers first, in order to take advantage of matching funds. Afterwards, look at options to maximize your investment returns. "What I get the most satisfaction from is helping a young couple, who is just getting married, to establish a plan, which can build

Business NOW

up in the future, so when they retire they have a nest-egg."

Tommy has been in Ennis for 15 years and knows a lot of people in the area. "This is a people job and I enjoy working with people." He has worked as a vice-president and loan officer in an area bank. Previously, he worked in a bank in West Texas, and then in Wolfe City. "With this job, every day is different. I make calls out of the office. I usually go to Ft. Worth once a week for training and to see clients. I have clients from Ennis who have moved to the metroplex, so I call on them."

By coming to Tommy for financial planning, you gain the advantage of a smaller office, which allows more time and attention to be spent with each client. "Lincoln Financial is a huge

"It is my hope that anybody in a small town can have the same advantages as someone in a larger city when they are trying to make a financial plan that will bring them success."

organization though, so my clients have the strength of a large company in a small-town setting, where they get personal attention. They are going to see me in town. They know who I am and know that I am going to put their best interests at the forefront. It is my hope that anybody in a small town can have the same advantages as someone in a larger city when they are trying to make a financial plan that will bring them success.

"I have had a lot of people here tell me they just want to know who is going to deal with their money; [they want] to know them face-to-face rather than just send a check off and not know where it is going." For more information on financial planning, contact Tommy Copeland at The Monolith Group, 107 S.W. Main Street, or call him at (972) 872-2800. **NOW**

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Education
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Great Scott!

— By Kelly Kovar

In Dr. Beverly Scott's classroom are crayons, construction paper, glue, scissors and brightly colored markers. Assignments regularly include essay writing. Singing plays an important part in the curriculum. Games are used to review material. Have you guessed? Precalculus is Dr. Scott's subject! If you thought math was dry or pedantic, think again. "Precalculus" is written on her board in purple with pink curlicues around it. "That is kind of my personality," Beverly explained.

"In precalculus, I teach everything from advanced algebra to trig [trigonometry], plus polar equations and vectors," Beverly said. "I introduce them to integrals and limits. They have to do projects for me, and that is when they are creative." Students illustrate equations and word problems on poster board. "Some of them are so linear, with sequential thinking and they need to learn to be creative so their brain will start crossing over between the right and left hemisphere. The more crossover, the more intelligent you become."

Concrete aids, like hand tricks and singing, help students internalize math concepts. "I have songs for logarithms and derivatives — all kinds of silly stuff, but it works." Students investigate the use of math in the real world by interviewing a businessperson. "They learn we don't just do math for fun — there is really a purpose for it."

Students do scavenger hunts, working in pairs to solve equations found around the room. They play Matho, a math-oriented Bingo game. For a game called Thunder, Lightning, Storm, students brainstorm to solve problems. The Rotation game is similar to musical chairs, but involves solving math problems; Synergistics has students working in groups of four to learn topics. "They can get really tired of

Education NOW

sitting and focusing all day long and doing nothing. They are creatures of action, and so I just take what they like to do and put math in it."

Beverly has taught 17 years at Ennis High School, following eight years in Arlington. "I have always loved the idea of being a teacher. Sitting in an office all day is just not my personality. I feel like you are called to what you are supposed to do for a living. There is no doubt that this is where I am meant to be. I love my 11th and 12th grade precal babies." In addition to seven sections of precalculus, Beverly teaches TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) math, an after-school TAKS tutorial class and evening dual-credit classes. Through Navarro College, she teaches algebra and trigonometry night classes.

Beverly prepared for her career with a bachelor's and a master's degree in math from the University of Texas at Arlington, as well as a doctorate in curriculum from the University of North Texas. Some of her most cherished achievements are Teacher-of-the-Week awards from students. "I got the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award, and I've been in the *Who's Who in American High Schools* for the last five issues.

"My very favorite thing is interacting with the kids every single day. They come and hang out in my room and we talk; I guess it is a good place to be." One of Beverly's favorite student groups is her University Interscholastic League (UIL) Calculator Applications Team, which she took to Regionals this year. The five team members, Josh Hughes, Travis Dodson, Justin Munn, Bethany Slone and Amanda Vasquez have been on Beverly's team since



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ninth grade. Justin placed third at Regionals. “This group has just been incredibly special. They are all graduates this year. Not only are they a great team, they are fabulous people. We are like family.”

Beverly and her husband, Jacky, a carpenter for the school district, have reared five children of their own. Her lifestyle reflects her enthusiasm for the world around her. She commutes to

“They learn we don’t just do math for fun — there is really a purpose for it.”

school in her purple car from her restored Queen Ann farmhouse. On weekends, she can be found riding her purple Harley-Davidson. During school breaks, she enjoys cruises with her husband and every summer she takes a tour group abroad. "I love traveling. It is my favorite thing. I just like to go and learn and enjoy. This year I am going to China and next year to Egypt."

In a couple of years, Beverly and her husband plan to sell everything, move into the travel trailer and put the bikes in the truck. "We are going to hit the trail and see everything in the United States." For now, she is dedicated to her students. Visits from former pupils are always a highlight. "I have engineers of all kinds, doctors, nurses, accountants, CPAs and actuaries. Some come back in their Army or Marine uniforms and it makes me cry almost every time. These are my kids. I just absolutely love teaching. I have always loved it. I love to get up every morning and come in here and teach." **NOW**

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Mother's Day *Forever*

— By Nancy Fenton

Did you get one of those big, beautiful hydrangeas for Mother's Day? It does not have to be a one-time thing, if you are willing to give it a little help.

When it starts to droop inside, soak it overnight in a deep dish outside and find a good-sized spot near your back door for it. Get that spot ready by digging in lots of organic stuff like dead leaves or compost. Hydrangeas need lots of air and water and will grow large. Our clay/rock soil needs organic help in that area. Of course, we are talking about a shady spot since hydrangeas will not take hot sun without burning up. After the plant has soaked overnight, plant it in a wet hole in that shady spot you have ready. Planting it by the door where you walk in and out makes it easier to remember to water it!

The plants that are forced in a greenhouse will grow outdoors with a little extra care, but do not

look for luscious blooms next Mother's Day. It will take a bit longer, but they will bloom if you have not cut them back. All hydrangeas bloom on old wood, so trimming is in line right after they bloom. If you wait until spring, you stand a chance of cutting off all the stems that would have bloomed! They can be shaped up after blooming and left to make lots of new blooms the following spring.

Nurseries sell several varieties, if you did not get one for

Mother's Day. Bluebird is a sturdy variety with oblong olive leaves and flat lacecap flowers. Annabella develops into a white hedge, whereas the newest variety, Endless Summer, produces large, showy flowers over several months.

Winter care requires heavy mulching to protect the plant from the cold. If you have yours in a large pot, a light place in the garage will do. Plant and protect for a lifetime of blooms to remind you of a special Mother's Day. **NOW**



Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.



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Around Town NOW



The Ennis Garden Club had many souvenirs for sale, top left, during the annual Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Expo. Valerie and Kristin Pool, top row center, enjoyed a day at Sea World. Seven Ennis teens, bottom left, qualified to participate in the semi-state Bible drill tournament. Representatives from the Masons, top right, gave a presentation to the Ennis Rotary Club. Pastor Cord and Donna Blankenship, second row right, posed with the Rev. Patricia Smith during the final Covenant Treasure School of Ministry class held at Refiner's Fire Ministries, Intl. Ennis teens, bottom right, were among 900 students who attended the annual Homeschool Prom at the Dallas Sheraton.



ADD/ADHD Myths:

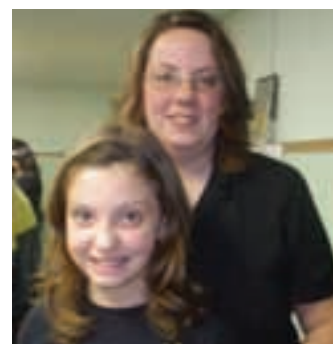
ADD/ADHD are not real disorders; ADD/ADHD effects only children; many more boys are effected than girls; ADD/ADHD is easy to diagnose and recognize, everyone with this disorder is hyperactive; children with hyperactivity are just not disciplined effectively.

ADD testing is an important factor. There have been many patients who were treated for ADD, but in fact had other conditions that had never been diagnosed or treated because of a lack of testing.

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Around Town NOW



The Pontiax played at the Bluebonnet Festival while also inspiring Michael Derfler, top left, to show off some fancy footwork. Bluebonnet magnets and t-shirts, bottom left, were hot souvenir buys at the booth manned by Ennis Garden Club members. EISD officials and supporters, top center, informed the public about the school bond election. The Boys and Girls Club director, Carey Bryan, second row left center, enjoyed lunch at the Ennis Country Club with his wife, Qilan and stepdaughter, Lan Meng Ma. EHS senior Aaron Schumacher, top right, was a National Merit Finalist. The Sixth Grade Center's wildflower notebook project brought families and friends together, second row right center, to identify spring flowers. Alicia Glenn's daughter, Ashley, bottom right, took a "perfect rating" home from the State Bible Drill Tournament.



Left to right: Linsley Johnson, Dietary Mgr.; Theodore Brown, Med. Record & Control Supply; Kristina Ortega, DON; Rocco Wright, Maintenance; Jodi Dickerson, Activity Director; Stephanie Seward, Bus. office Mgr.; From: Virgil Piazza, Administrator; Suzanne Wright, ADON

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH RICHARD REINHARD

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

High Point Inn, Winter Park, CO

6 chicken breast halves, skinless, boneless
6 thin slices Swiss cheese
6 thin slices Gruyere cheese
6 slices imported Danish ham, no water
3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. paprika
salt and white pepper, to taste
3 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. olive oil
2 eggs, beaten
4 Tbsp. Panko (Japanese) bread crumbs
1/2 cup Pinot Grigio dry white wine
1 tsp. chicken bouillon granules
1/2 cup chicken broth
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup heavy whipping cream
Place chicken breasts between 2 pieces of Saran wrap; using the bottom of an 8-inch frying skillet, pound the breasts to at least 1/4-inch thickness. Place a slice of each cheese and ham on each breast within 1/2-inch of the edges. Fold edges of chicken over filling; roll and secure with pointed wooden toothpicks.
Mix flour and paprika in a small bowl. Season chicken with salt and white pepper. Heat butter and olive oil in a

large skillet over medium heat. Dip each chicken roll in the following order: flour/paprika, beaten eggs and Panko bread crumbs. Sauté chicken in butter and olive oil, turning once, until chicken is 3/4 cooked and golden brown; about 3 - 4 minutes per side. Remove chicken and place in a buttered Pyrex baking dish with 3 tablespoons of chicken broth in bottom of dish. Remove toothpicks. Bake at 325 F until done, about 15 - 20 minutes. Be careful not to overcook or the chicken will become dry and all of the cheese will run out.

Add wine, chicken broth and bouillon to the large skillet, turn heat to low; reduce and simmer for a few minutes. Blend cornstarch with cream in a small bowl; whisk slowly into the skillet. Cook, stirring until thickened, for about 10 minutes; pour over chicken at serving. Serve warm.
Serves six.

RADISH AND CUCUMBER COCKTAIL

Escadrille Restaurant, Harrisburg, PA

12 oz. large radishes
12 oz. peeled cucumber (net weight after removing seeds)
2 Tbsp. olive oil
juice of a half of lemon
pinch of salt
pinch of sugar
1 medium onion, finely chopped

8 oz. tomatoes, skinned, seeds removed, chopped
1 clove of garlic, crushed
2 - 3 Tbsp. tomato ketchup
Cut the radishes (peel if desired) and cucumber in small strips; marinate for a few minutes only in olive oil, lemon juice, salt and a pinch of sugar. Mix onion, tomatoes, garlic and tomato ketchup to make a fairly thick sauce. Mix together the marinated radishes and cucumber; place in champagne goblets or cocktail glasses and cover with the sauce. This is healthy and very delicious! Serves 6.

LOBSTER NEWBERG

Gideon Putnam Resort & Spa, Saratoga Springs, NY

2 1-lb. lobsters
2 oz. brandy
4 oz. Madeira wine
1/4 pint of thick cream, keep back 2 Tbsp.
2 egg yolks
Boil lobsters for 20 minutes. Remove flesh from claws and tails; remove inedible parts and cut flesh into not-too-thin slices. Heat butter and toss [in, not out] the flesh; flame with brandy. Add Madeira; reduce heat. Simmer a few minutes in wine; add all of the cream except the 2 reserved Tbsp. Simmer a little longer and boil down. Season with salt and pepper; remove from heat. Thicken sauce with the egg yolks mixed with 2 Tbsp. cream kept



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Who's Cooking **NOW**

back for this purpose; do not boil. Arrange in a deep dish and serve with your favorite rice, couscous or seasoned grits dish. Serves 4

LAMB STEW

Sierra at Tahoe Ski Area, Twin Bridges, CA

(Cooking time 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours)

- 1 lb. lamb, cubed
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 oz. olive oil
- 1 tsp. tomato puree
- 1 small harissa (a paste made of fresh or dried hot red peppers, which are pounded to a very fine puree in a mortar with garlic, olive oil and a little coriander; well-mixed)
- 1/2 stick butter, salted
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped
- 1 lemon

Season lamb with salt and ground pepper; fry lightly in the hot oil for a few minutes. Add tomato puree and harissa with just enough water to cover; place a lid on the pan and braise slowly. When the meat is tender, check the flavor. Stir in butter. Serve on individual plates; sprinkle with very finely chopped onions, chopped parsley and lemon juice. Serves 4.

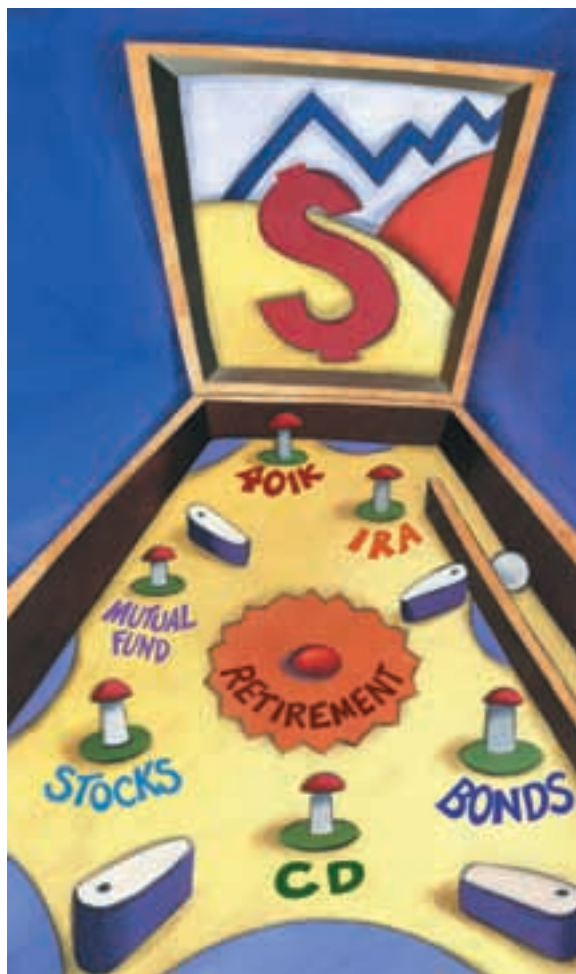
HOLIDAY ROAST GOOSE WITH CABBAGE AND DUMPLINGS

Camelion Room Restaurant in the Bank of America Tower, 52nd floor above the city of San Francisco, CA

(Cooking time 90 minutes)

- 2 geese, each weighing 3 1/4 - 4 lbs.
- 2 Tbsp. salt
- cumin, to taste
- 1 oz. flour
- 7/8 pint water
- BREAD DUMPLINGS:**
- 1 lb. 10 oz. flour (4 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 oz. baking powder
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 pt. milk
- 2 oz. butter
- 10 oz. white bread, cut into small cubes
- CABBAGE:**
- 3 1/4 lb. white cabbage, finely shredded
- 4 oz. chopped onions
- 1 oz. flour
- 2 oz. vinegar
- trace of cumin
- 2 oz. fat or drippings

Singe and clean the geese well; draw them. Season with salt inside and outside; sprinkle with cumin. Place in roasting tin with a little water and roast 350 F until golden-brown. Pour off almost all the drippings, setting the rest aside; add the flour, cook for a few moments, blend in 7/8 pint water, stir well, scraping the sediment off the tin; simmer for about 30 minutes, then strain. **DUMPLINGS:** To make the dumplings, sieve the flour with the baking powder and salt; work into a smooth paste with the egg yolk and milk. Add the bread cubes. Working on a flowered table, shape the mixture into oblong rolls weighing about 1 lb. Poach in boiling salted water, remove, drain well, cut into 3/4-inch slices, arrange in a heated dish and coat with warm melted butter. **CABBAGE:** Place cabbage in a pan with chopped onions, salt, vinegar, a little cumin and water, cover and stew until cooked. Pour off the surplus water; prepare a blond roux with the fat and flour and mix with the cabbage. Season to taste with salt, vinegar and a pinch of sugar. Carve the geese and handle the dumplings, cabbage and sauce separately. Serves 5 to 8.



This is a follow-up article to one that appeared a few months ago encouraging us all to develop a financial plan for 2008. Nobody really likes deadlines, but the truth is that they give us the 'oomph' we need to get things done. Try blocking a few hours on a weekend or a weeknight to get organized, to assign due dates for certain tasks, and to track your progress and follow through.

Finance **NOW**

A Time to Plan, Part II

— By Gary Hayden

With the volatility in the investment markets, it would be wise to re-examine your goals, your asset allocation targets, and your return expectations. By committing your intentions in writing, you have taken a major step in getting your investments on the right track.

Get your emergency fund in place. You need to know that if something unexpected comes up, you will be okay. If you are in your 20s or 30s, you can probably get by with three months of living expenses covered. As you get older and your income increases, you will want to increase that to cover approximately six months of expenses. Your emergency fund should be invested in something very liquid such as a money market or savings account.

Update your beneficiary designations. Make sure your beneficiary designations

on your life insurance, retirement plans and other contracts are current and up-to-date. There may have been some lifestyle changes lately and it is easy to forget to update these over time.

Throw out unnecessary paperwork. It is easy to accumulate piles of paperwork all over the house that you keep meaning to go through. These piles are not only

By getting your financial house in order, you should feel very good about this year.

a distraction to enjoying life, but can be a huge energy drain on you personally. So block off some time to clean

this mess up, and you will be amazed how much better you feel.

If you have younger children at home, review how much you have saved for their college expenses. Make sure you are on course to accumulate the necessary funds by the time the

IF YOU'RE NOT AT YOUR LAST JOB, YOUR 401(k) SHOULDN'T BE EITHER.

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child is ready for those post secondary educational expenses.

By getting your financial house in order, you should feel very good about this year. And if you can accomplish much of this by mid-November (remember those deadlines), you can relax a bit and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

My pre-New Year's toast to you: Congratulations on a very successful and prosperous 2008! **NOW**

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Recognizing Stroke Symptoms

— By Charles Williams, M.D.



A cerebral vascular accident (CVA) is commonly referred to as a “stroke.” Strokes are the third-leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States.

A stroke occurs when there is an interruption in normal blood supply to the brain. This interruption can occur when arteries supplying the brain with oxygen-rich blood become blocked by a blood clot or plaque (ischemic stroke) or as the result of a leaking or ruptured blood vessel in the brain (hemorrhagic stroke). Another condition that has been associated with a stroke is a transient ischemic attack (TIA), often described as a ministroke. Although many of the same symptoms occur in the event of all three conditions, there are signs and symptoms that tend to be more common to each. Recognizing the symptoms of a stroke or TIA and

seeking immediate medical care can greatly improve the chances of avoiding mental and physical disability or even death.

Those experiencing either type of stroke or a TIA may complain of:

- **A severe headache.**
- **Weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face or extremities on one side of the body.**
- **Difficulty walking.**
- **Loss of balance or coordination.**
- **Dizziness.**
- **Vision problems, such as blurred or double vision.**
- **Trouble speaking clearly, including slurred speech.**
- **Confusion or trouble understanding communication.**

Stroke symptoms may begin and progress suddenly, or gradually develop



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over the course of days. Symptoms of an ischemic stroke are generally focused on one side of the body, whereas the symptoms of a hemorrhagic stroke may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, confusion, neck stiffness, dizziness, seizures and/or unconsciousness. TIA symptoms closely mimic those symptoms of an ischemic stroke, but are usually short-lived and resolve within the matter of a day.

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a stroke or TIA and seeking immediate medical treatment can minimize the effects of a stroke and greatly improve your chances of avoiding permanent physical and mental disability, or even death. **NOW**

*Charles Williams, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Navarro Regional Hospital*

Tired of Snoring?

What's Your Snore Score?

Your answers to this sleep quiz will help you decide whether you may suffer from sleep apnea:

1. Are you a loud, habitual snorer?
Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Do you feel tired and groggy on awakening?
Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Are you often sleepy during waking hours and/or can you fall asleep quickly?
Yes ☐ No ☐
4. Are you overweight and/or do you have a large neck?
Yes ☐ No ☐
5. Have you been observed to choke, gasp, or hold your breath during sleep?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If you answer "yes" to any of the above questions, you should discuss your symptoms with your physician or call us for more information.

- Sleep Apnea
- Narcolepsy
- Movement Disorders
- Insomnia
- Other Sleeping Disorders

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The warmth of a summer sun, The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature, The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages, The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring, The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity, The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities, When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete, And so, He called it ... Dad

Life Should Be Worth Living

June 2008

Community Calendar

Ongoing

WRC Pregnancy Center State of Texas car seat safety classes at 100 N.E. Main, Suite B. Leave message at (972) 878-0784.

Up to June 2

Raffle to benefit the American Cancer Society. Purchase tickets at downtown Fire Department. Drawing held June 2. Two winners will receive a firehouse birthday party for 8 - 10 children. Ticket cost: one for \$2, three for \$5 or six for \$10.

Weekdays

Golden Circle Senior Citizen Center. Tuesday: singing and devotionals. Wednesday: Bible study. Thursday: exercise and pot luck lunch. (972) 875-6101.

Every Thursday

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

Every Friday and Saturday

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

Tuesday - Saturday

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

Daily

Grace Recovery Group (recovery from drug/alcohol addiction), 8:00 p.m., 107 S.W. Main Street. (972) 921-3275.

May 30 - June 1

2nd Annual Country Thunder USA Music Festival. Country music and camping, North of Hwy. 34 off 877 on Thunder Ridge Ranch. (262) 279-6960. www.countrythunder.com.

June 5

Circle of Friends women's group monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m. Call (972) 878-0740 to confirm date and location.

June 7

Annual Pancake Fly-In at Mid-Way Regional Airport, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Classic airplanes and fighters, plane rides, remote control model flyers, The Classic Swing Band, Midlothian Classic Wheels and other attractions. Breakfast tickets \$6.00. One child under 8 eats free with a paid adult ticket. Event and parking are free. (972) 923-0080.

June 6 - 7

Annual Historic Preston Street Garage Sale, 8:00 a.m., Templeton-McCanless Historical District. (972) 875-2696.

June 6 - 29

Ennis Public Theatre presents *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. (972) 878-PLAY. www.ennispublictheatre.com.

June 11

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

June 14

United Christian Brotherhood multi-denominational men's breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Baylor Baptist Church. (972) 935-6787.

June 18

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries, monthly luncheon at the Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B. Cost: \$13.00, inclusive. Nursery vouchers available for those with young children. Reservations are preferred, however, walk-ins are welcome. Call Kay at (972) 937-2807 or Mary at (972) 937-9984, or e-mail Kay at windchime@charter.net by June 15.

July 4

Fireworks and Independence Day Event at the Texas Motorplex. Drag racing, fireworks and performance by Grand Funk Railroad. 1-800-motorplex. www.texasmotorplex.com.

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

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.

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