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July 2007

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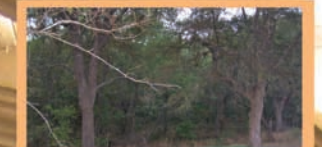
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## Editor's Note

*Hello, Ennis!*

Congratulations to this year's graduates of Ennis High School and of St. John High School and to our local college graduates. Dulce Hernandez is our featured graduate this summer. Her high school years have been filled with high achievements as well as fun activities. We commend all of our graduates for their accomplishments, and we wish them a bright future.

Speaking of things bright – enjoy our fireworks feature on Paula Craig, our resident pyrotechnics expert. She will be lighting up the night sky this month.

Local artist Rebecca Gillentine is doing her part to liven-up Ennis with her Czech-influenced paintings, and you will enjoy meeting Wilson and Judy Delancy. Judy is a Texas gal who has come home to roost.

Celebrate Independence Day this month with a sense of joy, gratitude and humility for the freedom we have in the United States.

*Kelly Kovar*

Ennis Editor

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# Heart of Fire

— By Kelly Kovar



The Fourth of July offers parades, patriotic speeches and picnics. But, we all know what is at the heart of every Independence Day celebration — fireworks! Ennis resident Paula Craig is a licensed pyrotechnician who has spent her career bringing the spectacle of fireworks to Texas and the world. “I’ve always loved fireworks,” Paula explained.

Growing up in New Hampshire, she worked on the Fourth of July show, setting up hay bales and barricades and making cotton candy. When she was 14, her older brother took her to the fireworks show on the lake in Chicago. “It was timed to music and it was the coolest thing I had ever seen. Between that and being a diehard KISS fan growing up, and wanting to know how they did everything technical, that absolutely inspired me.” New Hampshire had more to offer that inspired Paula. Maxfield Parrish, the American painter and illustrator who greatly impacted the Golden Age of Illustration, painted in the area, which was a haven for artists and musicians.

While at the University of New Hampshire, Paula worked for the college club that worked on concerts. She worked on The Beach Boys and Robert Palmer concerts. Lighting theaters for performances was so interesting to her that she pursued it as a career. A degree in lighting from the university landed Paula a job at

Walt Disney World, where she worked at Epcot Center on the lighting equipment on the fireworks barges. “It was great fun working at Disney,” Paula said.

During her 10 years at Disney, she did their firework shows at Epcot Center. Paula worked for industry pioneer Tylor Wymer at a division called Creative Entertainment. “We did live shows and movies, like *Splash, Too*, that were shot on the Florida property.”

While she lived in Florida, the city hall in Orlando was imploded, which gave Paula an opportunity to work on *Lethal Weapon 2*. “When buildings are imploded, movies acquire the right to that footage. *Lethal Weapon* bought the right to that footage.” Paula worked on one of the special effects crews for the movie. “That was pretty fun,” she reminisced.

Her increasing exposure to fireworks led to her next position as a show producer for Performance Pyrotechnic Associates (PPA), which is now a division of Pyro Spectaculars, the largest fireworks production

company in the world. Paula has an office at her home. “Ennis is very similar to my hometown in New Hampshire. We really like it here.”

Paula often works on cruise ships, such as *The Emerald Princess*. “I was just in Italy putting in the infrastructure for







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the control system on a cruise ship, and putting in shows," she explained.

"I do indoor pyrotechnics as well," Paula said. "It is similar; whether you are using electricity to do the lighting, or whether you are lighting it totally with pyrotechnics, you are being creative — capturing emotion, sound, texture and harmony with light." A firm appreciation of the safety criteria is essential. "Every pyrotechnician has a basic understanding of chemistry and physics. Both apply to a pyrotechnic device. Safety is the main factor; everything else — even creativity — is secondary."

Paula was one of several producers for the opening of the MCI Center in Vancouver, Canada. Four days of events included a three-hour gala that featured the National Hockey League team, the Canucks, figure skating, pyros, lasers and a female soprano singing a piece by the great operatic composer, Puccini. "At the end, it was very 'James Bond,' with *Cirque du Soleil* flyers on bungee trapeze [who] were flying around the scoreboard and rappellers [who] were coming into the house with pyro hanging from their feet so there was a big burst of pyro all the way around the arena," she commented.

Base jumpers, who had actually just worked on a James Bond film, were used as part of a production at one of the 13 Super Bowls that Paula has worked on. "The jumpers came down during Aerosmith, during the opening ceremonies," Paula said. "Aerosmith is from my hometown. They are a great band. I have worked with them a couple of times. They are very nice, very pleasant." Paula did the pyro for the Stars' big celebration when they won the Stanley Cup. "Panterra was part of that production." She has also worked with KISS, numerous Ozzfests, Ozzy Osbourne and AC/DC. "I did a couple of music videos, one of which won a Grammy for Smokey Robinson. He was standing on a space ship and we made it blast off."

"I work with two amazing guys. Jon Berson is our technical guru. Eric



Tucker, our designer, is sort of the golden boy of fireworks design. He has won several international competitions. He is like a Picasso of our world. Eric designs fireworks to music, and John and I make it happen. The Fourth of July starts the fifth of July with talking about how the shows went. By the 15th of July, we are talking about the next year's show. Each producer has their own clients. I do three clients for the Fourth of July. Three of us in my division, along with support from others at our company, produce Boston on the Charles River, Houston and Seattle. We all work together on the three shows, and then we divide up and each one goes to a show. I go to Houston. Everyone in the company works on the Macy's show in New York. It is the largest show in the country. Fireworks are always great over water, because over water you have a bigger safety parameter and you are able to shoot more diverse, usually larger things over water."

"After 9-11, in Houston, Eric designed the Fourth of July show with the presidential speech as part of the program. It is very powerful to combine recorded speeches with fireworks, if used appropriately." There are multiple sites for launching the fireworks at the Houston show, which is Paula's regular responsibility to produce. She stands where she can see and communicate with all the sites and the fire marshal. "From where I stand, I can also see the crowd. I see people crying and cheering. And, at the end of the show last year, people just took this moment of arrest, and then there was this catharsis of emotion. It was just so incredible."

Being a pyro show producer is a job entailing constant travel, year-round work and long days. But the appreciation of the audience keeps Paula going. Movie work was fun, but Paula said she prefers to work live shows. "I like to see the response of the audience. I like to know right away if the art that I have worked on was successful. There is nothing like the awe of a crowd." **ENNISNOW**

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# Blessing of a *Missed Flight*

— By Sandra McIntosh

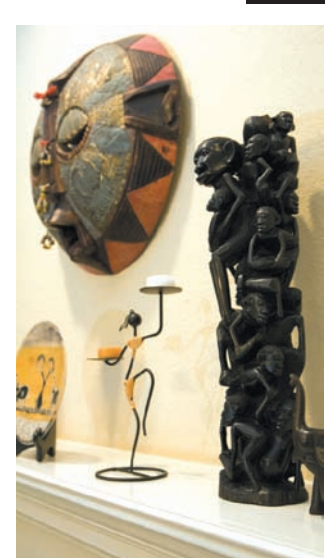
Many times, life opens doors of opportunity that are unexpected, unexplained and unplanned. Such was the case for Wilson and Judy DeLancy just over a year ago. “I was in the area attending a funeral,” Judy said. “I missed the plane back home, so a relative drove me around Ennis.”

It was during this drive that an idea began to form. Once Judy was able to return to her home in Seattle, Washington, she eagerly told Wilson all about the homes she saw and the feelings she was



At Home With

*Wilson and  
Judy DeLancy*





having about possibly relocating. "We talked a lot about it," Judy said. "We had tentatively planned to go to Florida to celebrate our 20th anniversary, but we changed our minds and came to Ennis instead."

A local real estate company was instrumental in helping them find the three-bedroom, two-and-one-half-bath house they call home today. Once they arrived in Ellis County, their Realtor had a list of possible homes lined up for them to look at. "This home was not on the list," Judy remembered. "We just happened to see it as we were going from one house to another."

By the time the tour of homes was complete, Wilson and Judy had two homes they were drawn to. "We shuttled back and forth from one house to the other," Wilson said. "Driving by the other home today, I know we made the right choice."

Wilson and Judy love working in the soil. This passion is apparent as soon as you pull into their circular



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driveway. The grass is green, the trees are healthy and the landscaping “pops” with color. Judy loves to work in the flower beds, while Wilson stays very active in his backyard garden. “He gets up with the birds,” Judy said. “He can do anything. He likes to stay busy.”

Upon entering the home, it is easy to see that Wilson and Judy are connoisseurs of fine art. They have an eye for beautiful pieces that compliment not only their taste in art, but the home itself. Paintings are displayed in every room beginning with a limited edition painting by Paul Goodnight in the entry hall.

The paintings, all framed by Wilson before the move, look as if they were framed specifically for the colors found in the home. The light khaki walls are the perfect backdrop for

the modern prints in black frames, as well as additional contemporary pictures in frames of antique gold.

Wilson’s eye for fine art comes naturally after years of experience in the art business. “We have several paintings by the same artists,” Wilson said. “All the pieces came from the gallery we owned in Seattle. They are personalized by the artists themselves especially for us.”

Judy has been able to create a warm, inviting home by intermingling antiques and family heirlooms with their collection of fine art. The den holds several special memories for Wilson. He came upon what he considers “treasure” when he visited the home of his late grandmother six years ago in Tobago, the smaller of the twin islands that make up the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. “The home was vacant

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at the time I visited," he said. "I found the cups and saucers, cleaned them up, realized their value and brought them home." Wilson never met his grandmother, but her memory lives on in the pieces of Woods China that date back to the early 1700s.

Another item that is priceless to Wilson is an NEC

Invitational flag. He was the maintenance supervisor for both the PGA and NEC tournaments. He has a passion for the game of golf, so working these tournaments was memorable and fun for him. Having worked the 1998 PGA Championship, in 2002, Wilson worked the World Golf Championship held at the Sahalee Country Club, located in Sammamish, Washington. "I got all the players to sign my flag," Wilson said. "There's only one name missing – Tiger Woods. Still to this day, Tiger doesn't sign autographs."

The kitchen, decorated in warm tones, is open to the den and offers a fine view of the large backyard. Open glass cabinets, light wood cabinetry and granite countertops offer the perfect spot for another painting that







evokes childhood memories for Wilson each time he looks at it. "It's another painting from Tobago," he said. "We called it a goblet. We kept water for drinking in it. It reminds me of home."

Judy considers the living and dining rooms her current "works in progress," while the library offers a peaceful,



quiet spot for her to pray, meditate and relax. Several awards that Wilson has received for his volunteer spirit are displayed in this room, but the one item that brings tears to Judy's eyes is found in the glass curio cabinet. "My brother passed away in 2002. Those flowers were on his casket," she said. "They are a reminder of him."

"Judy and her four siblings were born in Rice, Texas," Wilson said. "He was a dear brother to both of us. It was a great loss, but he would be thrilled to know that Judy came home again."

Other notable pieces include an antique cabinet that will one day hold Wilson's first "hole-in-one" golf ball, their granddaughter's talking doll house and the African family tree, carved from ebony wood, that is displayed on the fireplace mantle.

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Wilson and Judy may one day repaint and change a few things, but they have been lucky in that they were able to move into the home, unpack and begin enjoying what this new life after retirement has to offer. They continue to make new friends and have both found employment they love at La Galleria. He oversees the art gallery while she manages the restaurant.

When moving to Texas, Wilson had a list of three things he wanted. "I had a desire to be close to a golf course, a hospital and a church," he said. Wilson was able to find two of the three things he was looking for.

He plays golf at the Ennis Country Club and looks forward to the hospital's

grand opening. Until a church of their denomination opens in Ennis, Wilson and Judy will continue to make the commute to Dallas where they attend services at Dallas' First Seventh Day Adventist Church. "The Lord was instrumental in this move," Wilson said, while Judy shook her head in firm agreement. "It was a blessing God provided." **ENNISNOW**



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## Ennis Care Center is excited to announce the addition of Jennifer Penrod as Director of Rehabilitation Services

Jennifer Penrod has nine years of rehabilitation care experience and eight years of management experience. Among many new projects Jennifer is introducing to Ennis Care Center's patients is an intensive "fast track" rehabilitation program, coordinated with orthopedic surgeon Dr. Kevin Williams. "The goal behind 'fast track' is to get patients in and out of the center as quickly as possible to get them back to their home environment. This may require up to six hours of therapy per day for as many as seven days per week," Jennifer said.

Jennifer, born and raised in Ennis, recently joined Ennis Care Center after working for several years outside of this area. "I enjoyed working in Dallas and met some really great people, but there's just no place like home. Most of the patients that we treat here I know, or I may know someone in their family." Jennifer has a son, Cooper, and her husband, Todd, is an Ennis Junior High School teacher. Jennifer said that the best part of her profession is helping people get well again, and then seeing them out in the community, enjoying life.

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Rebecca Gillentine favors bright colors and Czech designs for her artwork, which she does with acrylic paint. Her intricately detailed borders and designs are drawn first on tracing paper, and then transferred, like a stencil, onto her painting. “I like to do a lot of Czech themes and Czech flowers,” she said. “I collect a lot of books and pictures for ideas. I especially like to paint women’s *croj* (traditional Czech attire).”

Rebecca’s creativity has extended beyond paintings, to all kinds of three-dimensional objects. “I liked the shape of wine bottles, and I thought, ‘I think I will try painting on that.’” Rebecca paints some bottles a solid color with acrylic paint and then creates a floral design on the painted glass.

“I love cats. I have a Siamese and a gray cat.” The cats have even been the subject of her artwork. “I ordered cat-shaped feeding bowls for each of them, and painted the dishes to look like my cats.”

Windows and walls have often been her canvas. Examples of her designs

can be seen at Pro-Cuts, Kolache Depot, Ennis Flower & Gift Shop and The Czech Heritage Shoppe, as well as in private homes in Ennis. First, she makes a design of her rough idea. She measures the room, takes a roll of poster paper and does the design on poster paper. She traces over the back of the design with pencil lead, positions the poster paper on the wall with tape and then traces back over it with a stylus, leaving an impression of the design on the wall.

A book with illustrations of fairies inspired Rebecca to do a fairy mural for a relative. “For a mural, I do a pencil drawing first. I do a dry brush technique. I take a good, stiff brush and dip it in acrylic paint, rub it off on a towel, [to] get most of the paint off. I dry brush it on to create my shading and highlighting. I color in all the figures with acrylic paint. Then, I take a really thin brush and outline everything in black acrylic.” Airplanes and bluebonnets have been themes for murals in other rooms.

With Rebecca’s full-time job

working for her father at Robert Slovak Construction, and her mother at Sports Connection, she just has enough time to pursue her artistic hobbies. “A lot of what I do, I make for gifts for weddings or birthdays or baby showers.” An angel painting has been a baby gift for a friend. For weddings, Rebecca likes to paint the couple’s name, in her own unique style, on canvas or on a block of wood. “One year, I did wooden crosses and sold them during Polka Fest.”

She also paints lampshades and refinishes furniture. Old furniture is sanded down, restained and designs are painted on the furniture. “A friend’s husband had a desk that he had used as a little boy,” she recalled. Rebecca sanded it down, painted it black and distressed it. She painted the husband’s race car on a canvas that fits the top of the desk under a piece of glass.

In addition to her paintings on glass that have topped furniture and desks, one of Rebecca’s most unusual canvases has been a seasonal painting on a shower door. “My mother’s cousin had an open house for Christmas and she wanted me to paint on her mirror and shower door. For that, I drew it out on paper, attached it to the back of the glass shower door, and painted right over it on the front of the shower door.”

Perhaps Rebecca’s most poignant artworks, and among her favorite subjects, are her paintings of children. Her paintings of her cousins depict them as children. All of the children are in informal Czech attire, with blue eyes and dark hair. The girls are holding hands in the middle of the painting. A border of flowers surrounds them.

She is working on fabric painting now. “I am working on painting the belts that go around the waist, and the ribbons that hang down on Czech costumes,” she said.

Rebecca began painting when she was 9 years old. “I was playing around, and





I discovered I could look at something and draw it almost exactly. In high school, I took art all four years. In high school, I did a lot of drawing and pastels and colored pencils. I had a scholarship and went to Navarro College and got an associate's degree in art." Navarro is where she began doing her work in acrylics.

Rebecca's artistic skills were called for when she was on the decorating committee for her Ennis High School Class of '95 reunion. She created a life-sized football player and prom and cheerleader paintings as photo backdrops. "They are the kind where you can stick your face in the hole," she explained.

"I don't know where she got her talent, but she has her own style," her mom said. The most fascinating thing about her work is the amazing variety of objects – everything from luggage to boots – that have turned into artwork under Rebecca's brush. **ARTS NOW**

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# The *Never Give up* Lion Spirit

— By Kathryn E. Eriksen

*The Ennis Lions select baseball team has learned to dig down deep to come up with great plays when the pressure is on.*

William King is the assistant coach of the age-11-and-under Select Baseball team called the Ennis Lions. The team, as well as its coach, has developed a real love for the sport. Along with developing their athletic skills, they have developed a spirit of persistence and determination which has paved the way for them to become a winning team in the Southwest Classic Baseball League. The path leading to the formation of the team was not as simple or direct as a home run around the bases.

William never thought about coaching baseball, not having played baseball growing up. When his son, Harris, expressed an interest in the sport, William soon learned why so many people love baseball.

Harris first played for the Cubs, learning the basics of the game. He switched to the A's and William became more involved in helping with practices. The A's became the Angela Turf and that is when William became assistant coach. "That's when I got hooked on baseball," he remembered. "I

put as many kids as I could in my truck and we'd go to the batting cages before a game." The team went to the playoffs that year.

The next step in recreational play was for Harris to move up into the next age group. A little known fact about "rec" teams is that the coaches draft the players. It is the coach, and not the player, who decides who will play on his team — just like in the big leagues. If your child is chosen for a team that does not practice, it can be a long season. "We only won one game that year," William said. "That one game is when my son pitched," he added with pride.

The coaching position for that team became available. William quickly accepted that spot, and called his friend, Gabe Martinez, to help. Gabe asked his friend, Daniel Navarro, about helping the team in the draft. Daniel knew all the players in that age group and a winning team was formed. "We went from winning one game to playing in the championship game," William said.



The next year, Harris could have moved up to an older category, but the league rules changed and, after a few calls from Gabe and Daniel, Harris decided to play with the same team. The league changed the team's name to Ennis State Bank and they went undefeated that year, winning the city championship. William recalled that the team "had a confidence that really helped them get through some tough games."



After the excitement of winning the city championship, the team wanted to keep playing ball. It was the off-season for recreational baseball and finding a competitive league took a little time.

"We were a recreational team that just wanted to keep playing in the off-season," William said. "Ennis was not affiliated with the Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association, Inc. or Southwest Classic Baseball, the two leagues within the immediate area playing fall ball, so we had to make some decisions if we wanted to play."

They put together the Ennis Titans and started playing in Midlothian. It was a mixed-age team that had a .500 season (they won as many games as they lost).

It was now the regular baseball season. William and his team had to make a decision on whether to continue playing in a select league or return to recreational play with the Ennis Little League.

The answer was obvious – continue to play select baseball – but it was

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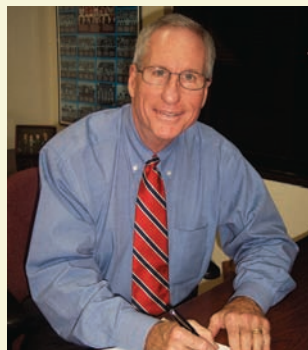
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## Sports NOW

more difficult to implement. Select teams must sign up through local organizations. The team affiliated itself with the Southwest Classic Baseball League under the auspices of the Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association and became the Ennis Lions select ball team. Dan Milliorn of the Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association graciously allowed the



team to play out of Waxahachie's local organization.

This season, William expects the Lions to end up in fifth or sixth place out of 12 teams. The most memorable game this season for the Lions actually occurred preseason. They were playing the Mid Madcatz and the Lions were down 11-1 at the top of the third inning. The Lions were flirting with the "run rule" that allows the umpire to call the game if a team is down by 10 runs at the end of the third inning. So the pressure was on.

The Lions scored one run before the third inning was over. They persisted and closed the gap by several more runs. The last two innings of the game, a new pitcher for the Lions was put on the mound. The resulting score was team history – the Lions won 15-12.

Many life lessons are learned on a baseball diamond. William recalled those times when their team was down by several runs and the end result looked grim. "These kids are amazing," he exclaimed. "It seems that when things look the worst, they dig down deep and come up with some great plays." The best part about coaching, he believes, is to "teach the kids to never give up." **ENNISNOW**

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# Personal Service

## is a Family Tradition

— By Kelly Kovar

Teddi Jo Walker Duval is the granddaughter of Bob Walker, and she is carrying on his family legacy of serving the Ellis County community at Bob Walker Insurance. “My granddad started the agency sometime before 1950,” she said. Her grandmother, Barbara, worked at the agency until she was 80 years old.

Teddi’s dad was Whitey Bob Walker, a Dallas fireman and a professional cowboy. “After he retired from the fire department, he dedicated himself to the office,” Teddi remembered. Whitey Bob continued rodeoing. “Cowboys gave him a nickname because, when he was young, his hair was so blonde, it was white.” Once, when Whitey Bob was at a Houston rodeo in the ’70s, he was approached by representatives of the Philip Morris Agency, who asked him to be the ‘Marlboro Man.’ “He really enjoyed doing that for a few years. At the time, they did all their shoots at historic ranches and battle sites and he got to see some interesting places in American history.”

Teddi’s brother, Byron, and his wife, Mary, worked at the agency also. “My dad ran it with the help of my sister-in-law and several good employees.

Frances Hillger worked here for about 17 years,” Teddi explained.

For eight or nine years after college, Teddi was a flight attendant, but she was ready to take up the reins at Bob



Walker Insurance Agency when her time came. When Whitey Bob passed away unexpectedly eight years ago, and Byron and Mary started a rodeo company,

Teddi knew it was time to step in. “This business has been here for so long, and it needed to continue and grow and prosper. [Now], I own and manage the agency. My employees are Maria Morales Suarez, who has been here 13 years, and Rosanna Baw, who has been here five years. Frances Hillger continued working with me here until she past away this year,” she said.

Bob Walker Insurance sells property and casualty policies. They offer home, auto, RV and mobile home policies. They also sell renters insurance and boaters policies. “We have a lot of customers that come in to make their payments, and we enjoy that because it is nice to sell a policy to somebody and then see their face and catch up with





what is going on in their lives," Teddi mentioned. "If you are in touch with your customers, you can better serve their needs."

Personal service is what people have come to expect at Bob Walker Insurance, and that tradition is still carried on. "Our service is good. It is honest. It is dependable. We write and service our policies." They are happy to sit down and talk with clients and determine their needs. "I think it is very courteous, friendly, professional service," Teddi said.



*Teddi Jo and Whitney Bob Walker*

She learned the personal touch from her father. "I carry on his policy of giving personal attention to clients," Teddi said. "My customers are my favorite part of the business; some have been here since I was born."

"I have lived in Colorado Springs and New York and in Houston, but Ennis has always been my home." These days, Teddi is happy to be home in Ennis with her husband, Chris, and their little girl, Jewel Walker Duval. "Ennis is a good community to raise children in," Teddi asserted. "People are happy to celebrate your life with you in Ennis. People say, 'Have you lived in Ennis all your life?' I say, 'No, but I'm working on it.' Hopefully, I will live here for the rest of my days."

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Ennis Regional Medical Center CEO Dan McLean, top left, gave Leadership Ennis students a tour of the new hospital. Ennis Noon Lions Club member Jerry Smith, top right, introduced his granddaughter, Miss Texas Outstanding Teen Kendall Morris, during a recent lunch meeting. Fifth-graders Kristin Pool and Sara Wolfe place first and second respectively in Athens during a University Interscholastic League competition. Kelly Wolfe, Sara Wolfe, Laura Wolf and Christopher Shorrock, bottom center, are shown at Brown Street Cafe for Fifth Grade Etiquette Day. Author and professor John Dwyer, bottom right, released his fourth book during the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival.

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Mother's Day Out students from Tabernacle Baptist Church, top left, held a Rodeo Day. The children wore cowboy boots and tall Texas hats to show their western spirit. Resident Emily Valek and maintenance supervisor Pete Putman, top right, plant an organic garden at the IOOF Nursing Home. Rileigh Pistejovsky, Faith Jones and Jack Wolfe, bottom left, proudly show off medals they won during the recent district UIL competition. Don Jose's has been the place for many gatherings. One such gathering, bottom right, included friends Tyra Burr, Tara Burr, Anaka Allen, Courtney Sancillo and Adrian Banks. The party was held in honor of Tyra.



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# College Bound

— By Melinda Hines

Dulce Hernandez, originally from Mexico, moved to Ennis with her family when she was 4 years old. Dulce, who is bilingual, said she speaks English and Spanish equally well, although her parents do not speak much English. “I came here at such a young age that I picked up English pretty quickly,” she said.

She has fond memories of attending the Houston Elementary Bi-lingual Kindergarten in Ennis. “I loved story time around the rug and hearing Ms. Solorio read to us,” she said. “My favorite book was *De Colores*, a book about colors that was actually a song, too.”

Coming a long way since kindergarten, Dulce graduated in May from Ennis High School (EHS). She is quite proud of her two brothers. Her older brother graduated from EHS in 2006 and attends Navarro College. Her younger brother will graduate from Ennis in 2008. “My parents taught us to do our best, keep trying and not give up,” Dulce said.

Dulce’s parents have good reason to be pleased with her. She followed their advice well. At EHS she was involved in several extracurricular-activities. She was the recipient of the National Hispanic Merit Scholar Award during her junior year. “The award was based on my PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test, an exam taken prior

to a student’s senior year) scores,” Dulce explained. “I was excited to win the award, and my parents were very proud. They told me I did a good job.”

Dulce has played the clarinet since the sixth grade, was a squad leader and during marching season served her squad as a quartermaster. “As a quartermaster, I made sure everyone in band had a drink of water during the third quarter after the halftime show,” she said. “As a squad leader, it was my job to teach the incoming students how to march, reinforce what the older students already knew and just keep everybody in line.”

Just this past April, Dulce joined the rest of the award-winning Ennis Lion Marching Band on a trip to Disney World in Florida where they performed in a parade at Magic Kingdom. “There were so many people, but it felt about the same as performing at the Ennis Polka Festival,” she said. “We also went to Universal Studios. Spending time with my friends was great.” Dulce said she also loved performing in the Parade of

Lights at Christmas every year, as well as at all the football games. “I will treasure all the fun I have had with my friends in the band, especially during football season,” Dulce said.

As a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), Dulce trick-or-treated, collecting monetary donations for UNICEF. As a NHS member, Dulce also participated in Special Olympics in 2006. “I took small groups of kids to each activity like lawn bowling, the bounce house, dunking booth and face painting,” she remembered. “All of the kids got blue ribbons for participating and seeing how happy we made the kids was awesome.”

As a member of the Key Club, Dulce participated in numerous community service activities including reading to Ennis elementary students. “Reading to the little ones,” she said, “and just being with them was awesome.”

Dulce also attends St. John Catholic Church and was an altar server from fifth grade through her sophomore year. “In 2006, I helped teach first grade Sunday school classes, and the





# Education **NOW**

year before, I ran errands and helped several teachers," she said.

While maintaining a high GPA and participating in all her other activities, Dulce has also worked at Julio's Market in Ennis for over a year. "During school, I would go to classes in the morning, get out at 2 p.m. and on the days I worked, I would go in at 3 p.m.," she explained. "I worked between 35 and 40 hours a week as a shift leader taking orders, making schedules, as a cashier and closing at night."

Several teachers at EHS have a fond place in Dulce's heart, including her Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus teacher, Ms. Lynn Speegle. "There were only four of us in the class so it allowed us a great opportunity for one-on-one help," she said.

She credits Andrea Webb, her Pre AP English teacher, for encouraging her to do well in school and to try things she thought might be too difficult for her. "It's really because of her that I have tried so hard in school, and that I took some more difficult classes," Dulce said.

Having known band director, Dr. Steve Shoop, since sixth grade, Dulce is thankful for his influence in her life, as well. "He often told me that things I had done were very important even when I thought they weren't that important," she said.

Dulce is just beginning the important things she is going to do. "I plan to attend Navarro College for my basics and eventually transfer to the University of Texas at Austin," she said. "I would like to do something with business, like management or finance, and I'm also interested in linguistics."

"In my free time, I love to listen to music. I have a varied taste," Dulce said. "I have a bookshelf full of books that I love to just sit and read, too." The love Dulce has for reading and music that was sparked in kindergarten has only grown over the years. **NOW**



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— By Kelly Kovar

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- 3/4 lb. sliced Velveta cheese
- 2 regular-sized cans ranch style beans (do not drain)
- 2 pkgs. corn bread mix (prepare as directed on pkg.)
- jalapeño peppers, to taste

Brown ground meat. Drain and add can of tomatoes, diced onions, taco seasoning mix and water. The mixture will have consistency of chili. Pour mixture into a 9 x 11 baking dish. Pour the

corn evenly on the meat mixture. Arrange cheese slices to cover the corn. Pour the beans over the cheese. Top with prepared corn bread mixture. Bake at 400 F for about 30 minutes or until the corn bread turns brown. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and sliced jalapeño peppers.

#### MONTEREY CHICKEN

- 4 - 6 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 onion
- 1 bell pepper
- 1 lb. sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup zucchini squash or fresh spinach
- 1 cup carrots
- 1 chopped garlic clove
- 1 16-oz. pkg. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- olive oil for sautéing

Grill chicken breasts. Chop all vegetables about the same size. Sauté vegetables and garlic in a little olive oil until tender but crisp. If using

**R**andy Wiemelt, former president of the Ennis Bank of America, and his wife, Pat, a retired accountant who has been putting her math skills to work as a paraprofessional teachers' aid at Ennis Junior High, both love to cook. "We cook everything," Pat said. "When we have people coming for dinner, he does the grilling and I do the side dishes." One of Randy's "cooking" hobbies is making wine. "He does merlot, ages it for a while, and it is really good." He even teaches his friends and neighbors how to do it.

When Pat is out of the kitchen, and they are not golfing or fishing, she likes to hit the antiquing trail. "I like decorating; I get some pretty good ideas junk-shopping. I like to take a find and do something different to it." **ENNISNOW**

spinach, add it when other vegetables are done. Arrange the chicken in a baking dish; cover with sautéed vegetables and top with cheese. Place in a warm oven until cheese melts. Serve with Spanish rice and sliced avocados.

#### STUFFED MANICOTTI

- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 lb. Italian sausage
- 1 tsp. minced onions
- 1 16-oz. jar of your favorite Italian sauce
- 8 - 10 manicotti pasta shells
- 16 oz. ricotta cheese
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup fresh spinach, chopped and drained

Brown ground chuck, sausage and onions. Drain and add the Italian sauce. Set aside and simmer until needed. Boil the manicotti shells as directed on box. After the shells are done, drain and set aside to cool. Mix together the cheeses

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# Who's Cooking **NOW**

and the spinach. Make sure you pat the spinach dry before mixing. With a long teaspoon, spoon mixture into the shells, stuffing as much mixture as you can into each shell. Arrange shells in a baking dish and cover with simmering meat sauce. Cover with foil and bake at 360 F for about 45 minutes. Serve with a fresh tossed salad and a slice of French bread.

## FRIED TENDERLOIN SANDWICHES

*My husband grew up in the Midwest. They ate fried tenderloin sandwiches like we in the South ate hamburgers. (Meat hammer and deep fryer or deep skillet needed.)*

unseasoned pork tenderloin, any size you like  
3 cups flour (approximate amount)  
salt, pepper, garlic salt and cayenne pepper to taste

1 quart buttermilk

2 eggs

3 cups bread crumbs (approximate amount)

peanut or canola oil, enough to cover the pork loin in your fryer

Slice tenderloin into 2 1/2-inch pieces. Flatten with a meat hammer until the slices are about 1/4-inch thick. Coat each piece in a mixture of flour, salt, pepper, cayenne pepper and garlic salt. Marinate overnight in 1 quart of buttermilk and 2 eggs. Remove from buttermilk marinade and coat in bread crumbs. Make sure all of the tenderloin is coated in bread crumbs. Return to the refrigerator for a couple of hours to absorb all of the flavors. Deep fry in peanut or canola oil at 375 F for about 3 minutes each or until a golden brown (do not overcook). Make sure the tenderloin is 1/4-inch thick so that the cooking time of 3 minutes will be perfect. Garnish your sandwich with mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup, tomato, lettuce and onion. Enjoy!

## BASIC WHITE BREAD

*This recipe is very simple. I promised the teachers at EJHS I would include this recipe, which is for a breadmaker.*

1 cup water

2 Tbsp. oil

1 tsp. lemon juice

1 1/2 tsp. salt

2 Tbsp. sugar

1 1/2 Tbsp. powdered milk

3 cups bread flour

2 tsp. active dry yeast

Add all ingredients in the order listed. Select the "Basic Bread" program and let the machine do the work. On most breadmakers it will take 2 1/2 - 3 hours total.



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# Three “Must-do” Steps to Work Toward Successful INVESTING

— By Angie Wingo-Juenemann

You’ve probably seen plenty of magazines featuring pictures of affluent-looking people who have “made it big” in investing. While these photos may grab our attention, the articles can be more illuminating. If they are honest, they will usually reveal that those investors who supposedly “hit the jackpot,” actually earned their prosperity by diligently following a few simple steps over many years. You, too, can make the same moves. What are these “secrets to success”? Here are three to consider:

- **Create a plan**

If you do not have an investment plan, you are susceptible to making all kinds of costly mistakes. For example, you may be tempted to chase after “hot” stocks only to discover that, by the time you buy them, they are already cooling off. Or, you may randomly invest in a stock here, a bond there, a CD next month, a Treasury bill next year and so on. You will not increase your chances of success just by adding more and more investments. That is why you need to create an investment plan that is based on your risk tolerance, your specific goals and your time horizon. By putting together a diversified array of high-quality stocks, bonds and other vehicles, you may be able to make steady progress toward your objectives. You can draw up this type of plan by yourself, of course, but you may find it easier – and more productive – to work with a financial professional who knows your situation and who can make objective recommendations.

- **Keep investment performance in perspective**

Many people make one of two mistakes when it comes to tracking their investments. They either forget about what they own, or they zealously follow every single price movement, large or small. Both of these moves can be troublesome. If you pay absolutely no

attention to what you have invested in, you could someday find that your investments are no longer suitable for your needs. On the other hand, if you are constantly fretting about price movements, you will be tempted to make hasty “buy” and “sell” decisions that ultimately may work against you. Instead of following either of these paths, look for a middle ground. Be aware of how your investments are performing, but always keep this performance in perspective. A stock could have a bad month, or even a bad year, and yet still have a promising future. Conversely, another stock may be “hot” at the moment, but face daunting challenges for future success. The bottom line? Review your portfolio regularly – at least once a year. Evaluate how your investments have done in the recent past and what they may do in the coming months and years. Most important of all, try to determine if your holdings are still doing what you want them to do. Are they growing at the pace you need? If they are designed to provide income, are you getting the amount you want? Again, when you are reviewing your portfolio, you can benefit from working with a financial professional.

- **Invest for the long term**

It sounds easy, but it is not. To really invest for the long term, you need patience, perseverance and the ability to

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focus on events that will not occur for several decades. That is not to say you will not have short-term goals, such as a down payment for a house, a family vacation, etc. There are some investments that are well-suited for these needs. Overall, though, you will probably find that most of your portfolio will be devoted to achieving your long-term objectives – a comfortable retirement, college for your children, etc. So, you must build, and maintain, the mix of investments that have the “staying power” you will need.

There you have it – three moves you will need to make to be a successful investor. By following these suggestions, you may never land on a magazine cover, but you should be pleased with the results. **NOW**

*Angie Wingo-Juenemann is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*

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## What Did You Say?

— By Vicki Sims

If this is a common question for you to ask, you may be interested to learn about some of the new developments in hearing technology (audiology). Millions of infants, children and adults in America have some degree of hearing loss in at least one ear, if not both. Science and technology continues to develop new ways of treating these losses.

Many hearing losses can be the result of a medical condition (i.e. ear wax, damaged ear drum or ear infection) that is easily treated with medicine or procedures. There are others that can be treated with assistive listening devices such as: TV Ears, amplified telephones, etc. Still, others can be helped with hearing devices.

Wait, do not stop reading now! We are not talking about your great-grandparents' hearing aids that always whistle or sit in a drawer. Recent developments in hearing technology allow us to fit most patients with hearing devices that look nothing like "hearing aids." Some adjust



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themselves according to the listening environment to allow the best possible hearing in any situation. Still, others monitor themselves for that annoying whistle and stop it automatically. In the near future, we will likely see hearing devices that interact with PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants).

Living with a hearing loss can lead to a life filled with anxiety, insecurity, isolation, embarrassment and depression. It can affect a school-age student's academic performance and social interaction. It can keep infants from learning language skills. If you suspect you or someone you know is suffering from a hearing impairment, urge them to see an ear and hearing specialist soon for treatment. **XXX**

*Vicki Sims, BC-HIS, COHC  
Corsicana Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic of  
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# July 2007 Community Calendar

## Every Thursday

Ennis Kiwanis Club meets at noon at IOOF Retirement Center, 3202 S. Oak Grove Road.

## First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants offers free informational sessions at 5:30 p.m. Call (972) 842-2999 for details.

## Second and Fourth Mondays

Texas Ladies Networking meets from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fire Mountain Grill in Waxahachie. For more information, call (214) 587-1221.

## Every Wednesday

Ennis Public Library hosts Story Time for ages 3 - 5 from 10 - 10:30 a.m.

## July 3

Crape Myrtle Festival Fireworks Show, Parade and Driving Trail in Waxahachie. Visit [www.waxahachiechamber.com](http://www.waxahachiechamber.com) for details.

## July 7 - 8

Texas Motorplex O'Reilly Bracket Series #9, 10 &

Good Guy #4. Visit [texasmotorplex.com](http://texasmotorplex.com) or call (972) 878-2641 for more information.

## July 13

Heart of Texas Arts and Craft Show, 3 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center. Free parking. Admission is \$3 for adults. Children under 12 are free.

## July 16 - 27

Ellis County Art Association's Summer Art Academy, a two week art academy for children 6 - 13 and teen 14 - 18. (972) 937-3414.

## July 19

Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Fire Department station on Water Street. For more information, visit [wd5ddh.org](http://wd5ddh.org).

## July 23

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meets at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Hwy. 287 at Ovilla Rd., Waxahachie. 7 p.m. Visit [CQGuild.org](http://CQGuild.org) for more information.

## August 5

Motorcycle Rally at New Beginning Bible Church. Free barbecue and refreshments starting at 10 a.m. This event is free for all ages. Bring your motorcycles so you can participate in the games or just come and watch. Location: 1970 FM 983, Ferris, TX. Call Kenneth Dunlap at (972) 842-2800 for more information.

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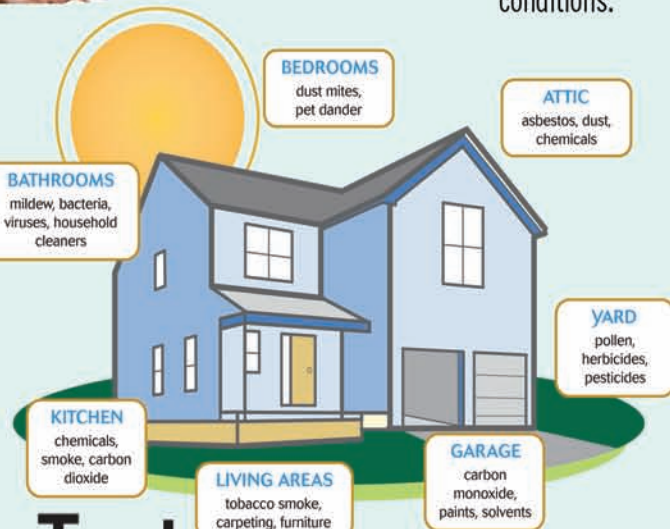
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