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August 2008

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**Publisher, Connie Poirier**

**General Manager, Rick Hensley**

**Managing Editor, Becky Walker**

**Editorial Coordinator, Sandra McIntosh**

**Creative Director, Jami Navarro**

**Art Director, Chris McCalla**

**Office Manager, Lauren Poirier**

**Ennis Editor, Kelly Kovar**

**Contributing Writers, Faith Browning**

**Dr. Fatiregun • Bob Irish**

**Photography, Natalie Busch • Ivey Photography**

**Sandra McIntosh • Terri Ozymy • Monica J. Pechal**

**Contributing Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony**

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# Ennis NOW

## Editor's Note

*Dear Readers,*

August! It is too hot to think about anything, yet it is time to prepare for the changing season. It is a month of transitions. As it begins, children are at the swimming pool, families are vacationing and gardeners are bravely combating the heat. Businesses, teachers and parents are finishing plans for their fall agendas. EISD Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Cikanek, our education feature, has been hard at work all summer laying the groundwork for a successful year. EISD Owner's Representative Greg Burns, our main feature, has labored to bring to fruition the new senior high and junior high construction projects.

Before the month is out, young men and women will be packing their cars and heading for college, just as a new class of kindergarteners begins their educational odyssey. Through it all, we will be here to tell your stories.

*Kelly Kovar*

*EnnisNOW Editor*

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## **“We are all on the same team and we want to accomplish the same goal.”**



In August, the Ennis Independent School District (EISD) will open the doors of the new senior high school addition, as well as a new junior high. Greg Burns, the EISD owner's representative, has had a major role in seeing these projects to completion. The EISD wanted to insure that the new school projects were done responsibly. “They were looking for someone with construction background to coordinate and manage all new construction in the district, insure compliance with all planning and zoning requirements and work with Buddy Markum and Steve Howerton at the city,” Greg said. “I’m the ‘man-in-the-middle.’ I try to make everybody happy.”

Greg came on board in May of 2006, setting up the project with a series of checks and balances using the same testing lab that supplied the soils report. The lab monitors the depth of the piers, takes concrete samples and checks the wells and the connections in the structural steel. “As an owner’s rep,

there is value that I can add to the process. I looked into everything related to the inside of the building, from the wall tiles to the ceiling tiles to the kitchen floor finishes and identified areas that wouldn’t work. On the new construction, we have used drilled piers,” Greg said.

The new building project involved an architectural design team, SHW and a construction manager, Charter Builders. “My job decreases the school district’s risk and the construction manager’s risk,” Greg explained. An owner’s rep is appreciated by architects and building contractors because it gives them a single point of contact. The architects bring their artistic perspective, but the contractors are the ones who have to put it on the ground. “The architect wants things installed according to their design. The contractors suggest opportunities to save money. They both know if they call me I can give them an answer,” he added.

Greg has good reason to care about



the quality of Ennis school buildings. His wife, Jessica, teaches at the Sixth Grade Center, and his children go to school in Ennis. "I went to high school here, which makes it pretty cool to come back here and do all this. I was in the first freshman class that went all the way through in the new building." After graduating from EHS in 1985, Greg went to Texas



A&M and studied the management of building construction. After earning a construction science management degree, he worked in commercial construction as a supervisor, handling building management, scheduling and materials. "That makes this job easy for me, because I am dealing with people," he said.

Greg's familiarity with construction trades, including mechanical HVAC systems, plumbing systems, concrete, steel and bricks enables him to stay on top of all the aspects of building the new school buildings. "I meet with people daily in order to monitor the building progress and to solve problems every day. I monitor the relationship between the contractor and the architect. We are all on the same team and we want to accomplish the same goal, which is to give the school district the best building they can get with the money they have got. I let the architect and the contractor do their job, but I

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pay attention and look for opportunities that come up to make improvements. I evaluate things and come up with the best solution," he explained.

Greg has overseen many updates to the pre-existing area of the high school building, which will house the ninth and 10th grades. "In the central hall, there used to be lockers, and there was



so much load on the trusses, that the floor bounced when the kids walked through," he said. "We have moved out most of the lockers and now the floor is not shaking because the load is spread out better. The traffic moves better, because kids don't hang out in this area now." The old gym floor is being stripped to the wood and refinished. The administration offices and classrooms have new flooring, paint, light fixtures and a sprinkler system. There are new air conditioner units for each classroom. Skylights have been made in the hallways. The HVAC system and the lights are on an energy management system and all of the classrooms have indirect lighting.

The entrance of the new 11th and 12th grade section of the high school is reached by the rebuilt, seven lane, upgraded Ensign Road. There is a new centrally-located cafeteria. A library for research is designed for computers, and has college-style study carrels and conference rooms for small break-out groups. "There is a lecture hall that will seat about 200 people. It has a 3,000 pound rolling door so it can be closed off if the need arises for testing. The lecture hall can be used for



teacher training or combining three or four classes for special presentations with guest speakers. A large drop-down movie screen and marker boards are ready for use. The ceiling was designed by an acoustician," Greg said. The entire building has been hard-wired for Wi-Fi capability and all the classrooms have SMART Boards, which are touch-sensitive whiteboards combined with the power of a computer to display computer images as well as digital projectors. "SMART Boards are light-years ahead of what they used to have," Greg pointed out.

Greg is enthusiastic about the arts program amenities of the new senior high building. Art rooms have outside terraces for *plein-air* painting. Kilns and sculpting areas are ready for the students and there is an art computer room. The auditorium is state-of-the-art with an orchestra pit, a green room, dressing rooms for men and women with showers and restrooms, a make-up room with lighted mirrors all around, costume and prop storage and a new black box theater. There is a scenes shop for prop and set construction with loading dock access. A glistening wood floor with a dance bar is in place in the dance/cheerleading room.

There is a new weight room and a gym for varsity and junior varsity basketball and volleyball. Behind the 11th and 12th grade school is event parking and a road which connects to the new junior high. The junior high will have its own library and gym, with the attention to quality that Greg insures. "We were able to do a geo-thermal system in the junior high. It is a really neat building, ultra-sharp," he expressed.

"Greg looks out for our interests," David Averett, high school principal, said. "I'm not a construction expert. I don't have that training; he does. He knows what standards are. With Greg, we have somebody watching our backs."

"Everyone in the Ennis school business does it for the kids," Greg added. "I know in the long-run, the kids are the ones that benefit." **NOW**

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# Living Each Day to the *Fullest*

— By Sandra McIntosh

When Tim and Amanda Zabochnik moved into their three-bedroom, one-and-one-half bath home in October of 2004, it was everything but updated and modern. When they first arrived, all the walls throughout were a stark white. The flooring looked like something one would find in a new home built in the early '80s. "The chandeliers looked like something off *Dynasty*," Tim said, referring to the weekly TV series that was popular during the late '70s and early '80s. "Joan Collins would have felt right at home!"

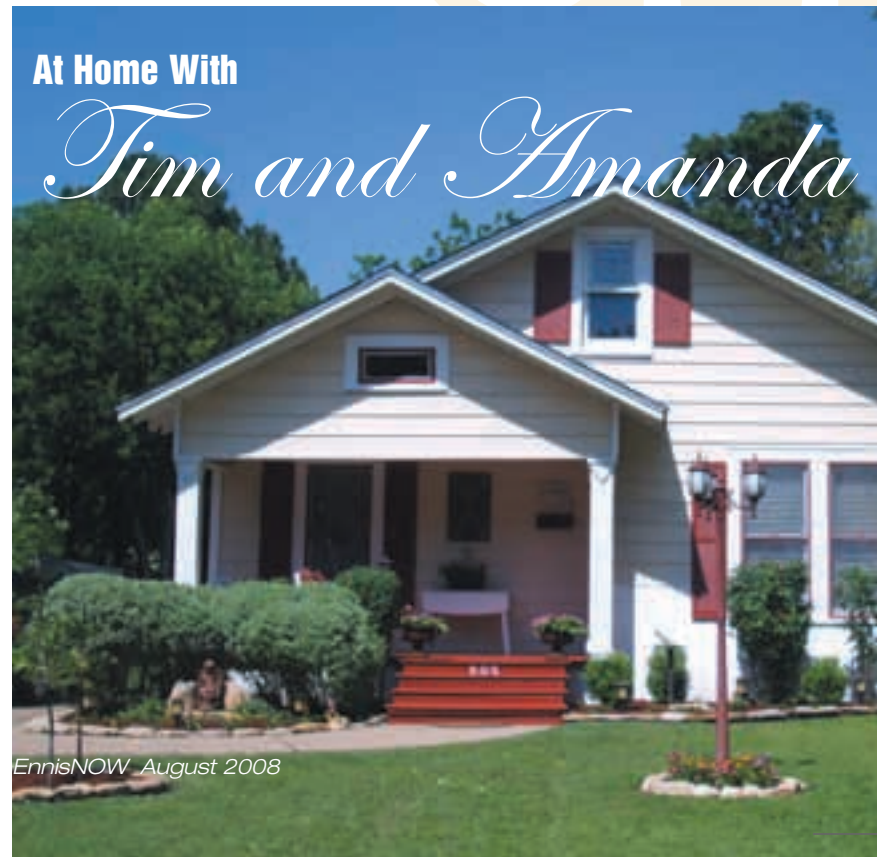
The cottage-style abode, built in 1930, was moved to its present location in 1997. The couple was told that after that move, the home was completely gutted;

At Home With

*Tim and Amanda*



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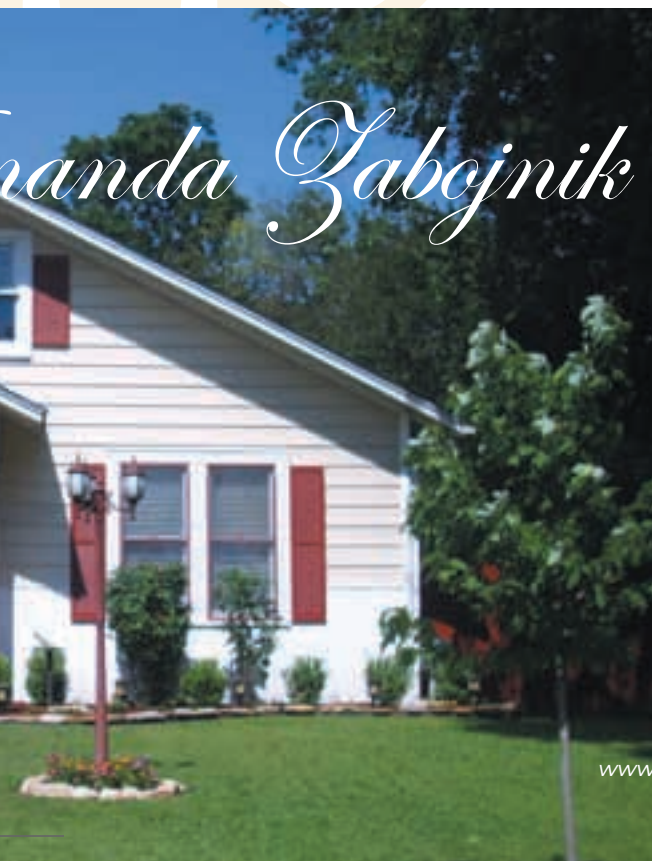
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everything from top to bottom had been redone. By the time the Zaboyniks purchased the place, it was in dire need of some tender, loving care. "So far, all we've done to the home has been cosmetic," Amanda said. "We've updated it to reflect who we are as a family."

After the remodeling, the home's interior offers a French country feel with contemporary undertones. The white floor covering in the kitchen was replaced with laminate that gives the appearance of hardwood. New faucets were installed throughout. "As you can see, every room is a different color," Amanda stated. "I wanted the



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colors to flow from one room to another while also capturing the mood of the room." Tim agreed to the array of colors because of the couple's two children, Mason and Owen, now 6 and 2 respectively. "It's a proven fact that colors stimulate a child's mind," he explained. The colors chosen are deep and rich, with black, white and red accents in all rooms except the children's rooms.

The living room is the first area

visitors experience when they enter the Zabojnik home. When the lights are on, the room is a deep shade of khaki, much like the color found in a U.S. Army uniform, but when natural light is available, the room takes on a soft, olive green hue. Doing most, if not all the work themselves, white molding was also added throughout, allowing the colors to pop. All windows and doors, including the French door leading out back, are original to the home.







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"The only things that are the same as when we moved in," Tim interjected, "are the carpet in the living and dining rooms and the ceiling fan in Owen's room." Hopefully one day in the near future, they would like to remove the wall between the living room and the formal dining room to make a family room that is spacious enough to accommodate family and friends, all at

the same time. "We also want to get rid of the Berber carpet," Amanda added, "and extend the wood laminate."

When choosing paint colors, Amanda was very careful to keep them compatible with one another. Her goal was to make the transition through the home one of comfort, coziness and ease. They only had one exception. "We let Mason pick her own color," Amanda said, as

Tim looked her direction and laughed. "We call it Pepto-Bismol pink."

Since Tim is the handyman around the house, finding bargains has become somewhat of a treat for the couple. One example of many is the old antique cabinet located in a corner of the living room. "We found it at Soul's Harbor," Amanda said. "We brought it home and Tim redid it." It is now home to photo albums, Amanda's sewing machine and "whatever else we can fit into it." Tim is hoping to find the extra hours needed to rework the interior of an antique armoire in the dining room that displays one of Amanda's many passions — her homemade candles. Her home-based business, Red Barn Candle Company, has made it possible for her to be a stay-at-home mom, something she and Tim had discussed at length prior to having children.

Most of the older family items found in the home belonged to Amanda's side of the family. Not long after the couple first started dating,

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they began antiques. In fact, even today it is an adventure for Tim. "Once he realized every item had a story, what he thought of as a wasted day soon became a history lesson," Amanda said. As they talk about the furniture they have been able to acquire, one can easily tell he enjoys the fact that his family brings an addition to each piece's history.



Collectibles include a modest number of roosters specific to the kitchen, which also happens to be Amanda's favorite room. "I also collect pitchers," she said. "I've been collecting them for about five years." She got rid of a few when moving to their new home. "There just wasn't room for all of them and some of them no longer matched the style of the new home." One of the oldest pieces is a lead crystal vase that has been handed down for several generations. "The vase belonged to my Nana, Pat Lipscomb," Amanda said. "It's well over 150 years old."

The work outdoors has been plentiful, too. Tim first replaced the rotted



boards on the front porch; then a shed and privacy fence were added. The yellow and white exterior was repainted, but now it also has a deep red trim that matches the porches, both front and back. The landscaping serves as the only accessory needed for a perfectly dressed house.

Everything in the home has a story to tell, from the island and pantry in the kitchen to the old headboard top in the master bedroom and the bench found at a garage sale that rests at the back entrance. "It's simply amazing what you find in your own attic or backyard," Tim said, his creative mind always at work. "All you have to do is look."

Since marrying on June 16, 2001,



Tim and Amanda have held fast to one philosophy that seems to be working well for them. "It's crazy to pay someone when we can do it ourselves and do it right," Tim commented. "Satisfaction of a job done well is better than writing a check." They redo things to make themselves happy. "If others like the furniture and decor," Amanda said, "then it's an added bonus."

Both Tim and Amanda become somewhat sentimental when it comes to reminiscing about their childhoods. Amanda gets tears in her eyes as she recalls her meager background. "My mom worked so hard to raise me and my sister while also putting herself through college," she said, while excusing her uncontrolled emotion. "She taught me the importance of living each day to its fullest." This type of living is now what Tim and Amanda teach their children, one example at a time. **NOW**

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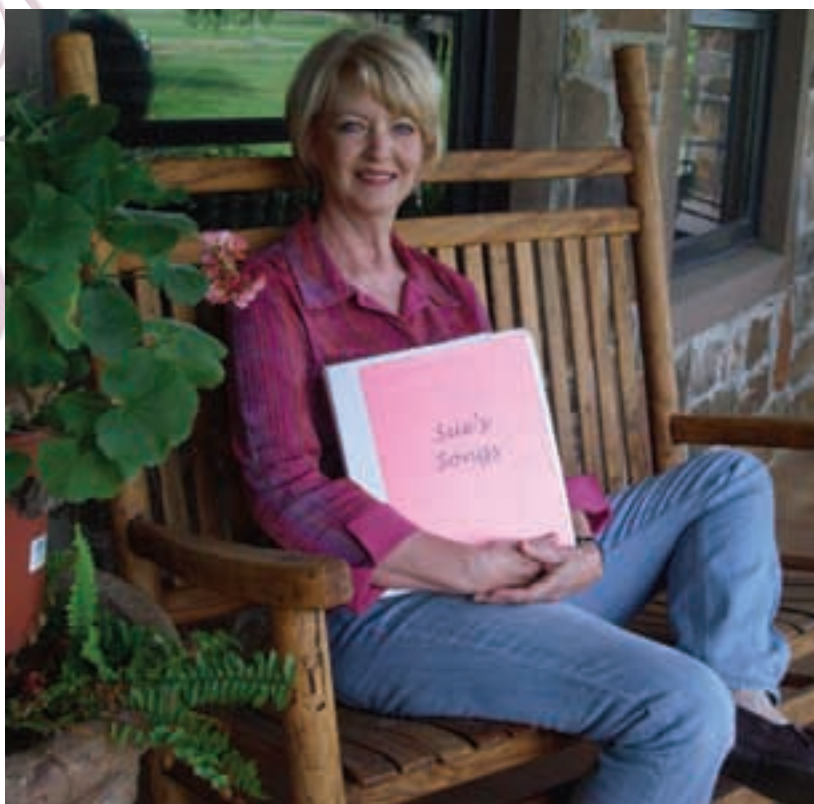


ARTS  
NOW

# Making Music

## With My Friends

— By Kelly Kovar



Singing is what makes Sue Neuhoﬀ happy. “Music is what makes me get up and go,” Sue said. “I have been singing since I was a kid.” She sang at the University of Texas with the Longhorn singers. For the last five years, she has been writing songs as well. “I write mostly country western and southern gospel songs. Even my gospel tends to sound kind of country western.”

Sue does not like to sing to recorded tracks. “I understand why people do it, because if you are a singer, and don’t play an instrument, you are dependent on a musician to accompany you. But I like people getting together and making music. I like live music. To me, the most fun thing in the whole world is to get a bunch of musicians around and I will stay up all night singing,” she said.

Her love of creating live performance music led her to establish the Gospel Music Ministry in Ennis. “There is a beautiful gospel song called ‘Loving God, Loving Each Other, Making Music With My Friends.’ That sums it up for me; that is what the Gospel Music Ministry is about,” she expressed.

Sue was not hearing the type of music she preferred, so she decided to create a venue for it to be performed and enjoyed locally. “So many of the good, old-fashioned hymns that I love have gotten kind of booted out — like ‘Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.’ If you do hear hymns in the church now, they are sung in a boring way. What I want is really upbeat new arrangements of old hymns, like ‘Will the Circle Be Unbroken’ and ‘I’ll Fly Away’ and ‘Amazing Grace.’ I

wasn’t hearing that music and that is what I love. I can sing all those old songs until I have no voice,” she said, adding, “I just think there are a lot of other people out there that feel that same way — especially people my age, and I want to get the younger group up there, too. If you do hymns with the right arrangement, where it is not stately sounding, young people like them.”

“I am not that big on praise songs, although some of them I like,” she said, explaining that the Gospel Music Ministry is for those who love the old-time hymns. “It is not traditional ho-hum and it is not screaming guitars. We have electric guitars and drums, but I don’t want it to sound like Mick Jagger is up there. I don’t want it real

loud because I like to hear the words to the songs.”

Two things happened that made the Gospel Music Ministry come about. “When I first got this idea, first I was praying about having more music in my life. That is just what I live for, really. God and family and music — that is it,” Sue declared. The second epiphany happened at a church meeting. “My pastor, Keith Murray, said if everyone just did the ministry that gave us the energy to get going, instead of being on 10 committees, we would have a ‘going’ church,” Sue recalled. “I thought, *God is trying to tell me something.* If

find Your Song? Sing it.



## ARTS NOW

you are fired up for music, and you think you can do some good through music, and that is what makes you happy, that is what you are supposed to be doing."

Sue gives credit to her friends for helping her with organizing the ministry. Russell Bailey provided contact information for area gospel singers. Judy Hejny helped design a logo and Jimmy Boon and Bobby Montgomery hung the banner. The shows include a headliner group that plays a 30-minute set. Glory Bound was May's headliner.

## "God and family and music — that is it."

Vicky Gatling and Southern Rain, who play country music, southern rock and gospel, will headline at the August 24 show, to be held at First United Methodist Church.

The Gospel Music Ministry is something in which the whole family can participate. "My kids and grandkids are coming. Between my husband, Joe, and me, we have eight children and 16 grandchildren. There aren't that many things that you can do with your kids and your grandmother," she pointed out.

"The May show was so much fun. We had 150 people there, which I thought was good for the first show. It was a neat cross-section of ... people. It was very casual. It was wonderful! That is exactly what we are after," she said.

"I get my best feedback when people come up to me at the grocery store," Sue mentioned. "They say, 'That was just what we wanted. That was so much fun. We never get to hear that kind of music. When is the next show?' So, that makes you want to keep going. I think it is fulfilling a need. It is a bunch of people having a real good time singing, and a bunch of people in the audience having a real good time listening." **EN**

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# Sports NOW



## They've Got Game

— By Kelly Kovar

At the Boys and Girls Club of Ennis, this year celebrating its 10th anniversary, basketball sign-up does not start until December, but the children are already congregating in the gym and practicing their game. "Basketball is the main sport we do during the school year," Sandra Poarch, director of finance and operations, said. Summer provides opportunities for bowling, swimming and field trips, but basketball is a year-round favorite. "Basketball is also part of the summer afternoon program," Sandra explained. "They rotate the different ages in to the gym to participate in three-on-three or basketball. They love basketball!"

During the summer, basketball games are sometimes organized by program director Dana Brim, but even when the kids have free time, they are on the court shooting baskets. "We are also set up for kickball and flag football and a made-up game called mat ball," Dana added. "The kids hit the ball, and then they have to make it to the base, but if they don't make it to the base, they [the opponents] tag them out." The players are divided into age groups for games, separating the 6- to 9-year-olds from the preteens and teens. "Every summer has been exciting," Dana said with enthusiasm.

"We are proud of Dana," Sandra said fondly. "We are a

team; together we can handle it all. We have to be ready for everything. On the first day of the summer program, at the Boys and Girls Club (BGC), we had 60 new kids, in addition to our regular ones. That means we have 60 kids that are not wandering around the streets. We were founded on a come-and-go situation, but they can stay here Monday through Friday nine to five, and the school does lunch for us." Swimming at the Optimist pool in Waxahachie is a regular weekly event. Many children sign up for educational field trips, such as the Fort Worth Zoo, or the Dinosaur Valley in Glen Rose. "They love it," Sandra said. "We go to the Texas Fishery in Athens. That is a good trip. We have about four field trips for the summer. The field trips are a way for them to experience things they might not experience otherwise. It is so exciting for them."

On a daily basis, participating kids move to the different activity areas in the BGC facility. "The games room is a favorite, but they love the gym, where they play games and basketball," Sandra said. "They will go outside and play kickball. Aerobics, or some kind of physical exercise, go on all year. We try to get them all moving."

Bowling, swimming and skating will go on all summer, until school starts. Then the focus begins to shift. "In August,



## Sports NOW

I make a whole new schedule because then we do the SMART Moves program," Dana said. SMART Moves is a program dealing with physical fitness and peer pressure, and it has several modules, including Smart Moves, Street Smart and Smart Girls. "Youth for Unity is another program we do that has athletics as well as teaching about different cultures," she said.

**"They will go outside and play kickball. Aerobics, or some kind of physical exercise, go on all year. We try to get them all moving."**

With basketball season on the horizon for ages 7 through 12, the BGC is signing up volunteer coaches. Volunteers are needed all year to work with the young people. Skills of all kinds are needed, from reading and cooking with the kids, to basketball coaches. Co-ed teams are formed and all are teaching teams, which do not require prior knowledge of the sport or any developed skills. Basketball is coordinated by the BGC Health and Fitness Director. The teams are set up in an internal league with brackets. At the end of the season, they hold a tournament.

"We are in the second year of a year-round program called Triple-Play, which focuses on mind, body and soul development," Sandra explained.



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## Sports **NOW**

"Basketball comes under the body aspect of the program. At the end of the basketball season, we give participation medals and we have a banquet."

Everything at the BGC is done for a purpose. "While they are playing basketball or doing board games, table games and pool, it just looks like they are playing, but they are learning social skills," Sandra pointed out. "We play games that challenge them mathematically and challenge their logical-thinking skills, and they don't even know. It is hard work, because we teach while we play. I have a



noncompetitive game called Skillastics that I bought where they roll the dice and a mat shows the kids what they have to do — like five sit-ups for example." Another program, called Fitness Authority, involves Frisbees, bowling, tug-of-wars and races for different age groups.

Last year was the 100th anniversary of Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The Ennis BGC celebrated their local 10th anniversary with the annual Steak and Burger Fundraiser this summer. "We are a small club, so we are not staffed with a director for every area," Sandra mentioned. "All of us here wear many hats. It is interesting, but it is physically demanding. My favorite part of working here is that I know, when I leave work, that I have made a difference." **NOW**



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## Business NOW

# A New Day

— By Kelly Kovar

The new Ennis Regional Medical Center building turned a year old in July and ERMC is pleased with the developments they have made in the last year, since moving to their new facility. "Patient satisfaction, the single most important tool to measure a hospital's success, has improved," said Andre Gonzalez, director of business development.

"We just had a birthday party, and two things we are celebrating are the advances we have made in our women's services and in our imaging center," Andre pointed out. "There are a lot of things we have to be proud of from yesterday to today."

"There is no need to drive to Dallas for women's health care," Jaime Choate, director of the medical imaging center, said. "Compared with hospitals in Dallas, we have the exact same thing and, in some instances we have better equipment. Our MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), CT (Computed tomography), nuclear medicine and both of our X-ray rooms are all brand new, installed last June. Our mammography machine is the latest and greatest technology and our lead mammography technologist, Kandace Stevens, has 20 years of experience."

Comfort and convenience are beckoning local women to make ERMC their healthcare destination. "When we installed all of our equipment, we tried to make it as user friendly as it could be," Jaime demonstrated. "Screening for osteoporosis, soft pad mammograms, and ultrasound are all inside the women's dressing area so women don't have to walk down the hall in a hospital gown. It is more private and comfortable." Making these facilities available to more working women was the goal when ERMC extended its hours to include 6:30 p.m. appointments.



*Dr. George Kingsley, ERMC's newest OB-GYN and his staff provide new options in women's healthcare.*

ERMC recently purchased an ICAD system (computer aided detection). X-ray images are run through a computer system that acts as a second set of eyes for the radiologists. A state-of-the-art PAC system (picture archiving communication) allows X-ray, MRI and CT images to be computerized, rather than on film. "We have viewers all through the hospital, and a web-based viewing program that referring physicians view in their offices," Jaime said. "To be where we are right now, in my opinion, is awesome. I couldn't ask for any better equipment."

The cavalcade of new healthcare options for women continues in the Childbirth Center. In addition to appealing new rooms, where mothers can labor, deliver, recover and have rooming-in with their babies, there are childbirth classes, sibling classes, breast-feeding support groups and well-baby checks available. We offer basically the same care to mothers that the big hospitals do, but you can get more one-on-one care here," said Suzanne Tarkington, childbirth class instructor. "You have a more personal experience here. The people who work here are the people who live in your community and also come here for their own medical needs."

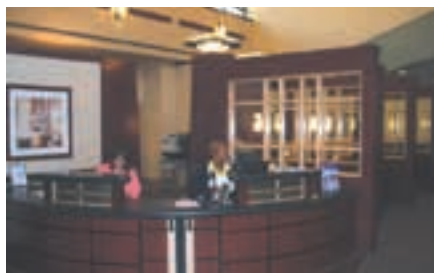
The breastfeeding class is not limited to mothers who



## Business NOW

deliver at ERM. “We are happy to help anyone,” said Brenda Dennis, director of med/surg and the childbirth center. “They can come to the support group or come and get help from our lactation specialist, Ginger Daniels.”

Dr. George Kingsley, ERM’s newest OB-GYN, offers women a new option called NovaSure for abnormal uterine bleeding. “This procedure takes under two minutes and is done as an outpatient procedure under light anesthetic. It is 92 percent effective and helps with pain, PMS and heavy



periods,” Kingsley said. He also uses a new sling procedure, called TVT Secure, for urinary incontinence that requires no skin incisions.

It is a new day for ERM. CEO Dave Anderson, who has been at the helm since November, has put a new team in place to meet the challenges. “We have the friendliest people and the nicest staff, who are so committed,” Dave said. He has worked hard to improve the community satisfaction level with emergency room care. “I’ve been oriented toward process improvement in order to make the experience better for the patient,” Dave said. “We don’t consider ourselves a sleepy, little, small town hospital. We are going to be a fantastic hospital.” **NOW**

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# Coming Full Circle

— By Kelly Kovar

Kathy Cikanek is genuinely an early morning person. “My most productive time is between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.,” Kathy said. As the Ennis Independent School District’s (EISD) assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, she works with a staff of three. “We are a great team. Brian Fry does our special programs and several other initiatives. Keith Larson oversees our textbooks, instructional materials and our state testing. Sherrie Stockton, my office manager, keeps us organized and makes sure we are at appointments on time.”

Once the school day begins, phones are ringing and campus visits begin. “We are at all the board meetings, and I try to make a lot of the sports functions,” Kathy said. Recruited by her mentor, Pat Cody, to join EISD’s administrative arm in 1991, Kathy not only had academic credentials — a master’s in elementary education from East Texas Commerce (which is now A&M Commerce), an administrative certification and a principal’s certificate — she also had over 20 years of experience teaching in the district.

Kathy arrived in Ennis for a job interview as a fresh-faced 20-year-old. As an August graduate from Tarleton State University, located in Stephenville, Texas, she was especially anxious about securing a teaching post before the semester began. Her first day in Ennis turned out to be propitious. On the sidewalk in front of the administration building, she ran into Ennis principal Millard Owens, who had been her elementary school principal from McGregor. “I played in his front yard many times. His son and I were the same age, best friends,” Kathy recalled. “He just took me right in and introduced me to the principal who had the position.”

Newly hired at Austin Elementary, Kathy lost no time moving into the apartments across from San Jacinto auditorium. “At that time, teachers lived in all those apartments,” she explained. Friendships and potluck dinners typified her early time as a single teacher. Kathy met an Ennis boy, Ronnie Cikanek, at a Willie Nelson/Waylon Jennings Black-Eyed Pea Festival in Athens, Texas, and after dating awhile, the couple planned a big Czech wedding. “It was kind of interesting, because my dad’s family is also Czech, so I grew up around the Czech culture. On my dad’s side of the family, when all the sons were home, it was not unusual to just speak Czech,” Kathy said. “I had no idea Ennis was a Czech community. I quickly learned when I started seeing the rolls. We tell new teachers, ‘You will learn to pronounce these Czech names.’”

After the couple married, they were perfectly happy in



Ennis. “Austin Elementary was my home. Those people took me in when I was 20 years old. They saw me through the birth of my children and the death of my parents,” Kathy shared. “Ronnie worked in Dallas for a while, but we still had this lovely community to raise our daughters, Linsey and Casey, in.” Ronnie now does quality control for Leggett and Platt in Ennis and their daughters are both teachers in the district. “Ennis is a great place to be; Ennis is home. Maybe that is why I came and just stayed, because it actually did become my home,” she added.

Kathy spent one year as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and 20 years as a kindergarten teacher. “All those people that worked at Austin Elementary just took care of me. They were like a family,” Kathy remembered. “But, when I moved to central office, I began to really look at all of our schools and I realized that there is really not one that is better than the other. There is something wonderful about each one of them.”

In her current role, Kathy oversees everything academic, including the counselors and nurses. “I make sure we have



## Education **NOW**

good goals and good plans. I make site visits a lot. On the campuses you really see the work that is going on. You see it on paper here, but being in those buildings keeps you more in touch. I never want to lose that perspective of what goes on in the classroom, because if you lose that, then this doesn't work. Teachers are the ones that are out there every day and the ones that make the impact," she said.



Kathy's philosophy is that there is not a lot of difference between a kindergartener and a senior. "They are both embarking on something new. They both like to be spoken to, they both like to be told they look nice [and] they like to be respected. The same philosophy holds true with teachers," she explained.

Kathy's background as a kindergarten teacher is complemented by the fact that she also is an education instructor at A&M Commerce. "I have come full circle, because I have actually taught students at the college level, whom I had in kindergarten, and now we have recruited quite a few to teach in Ennis," she said. Whereas many educators spend time in various communities, Kathy has been here since day one of her career. She added, "It is neat to see those children that you have helped nurture through school grow up and become successful. I do think in this profession, you get to see that you have made a difference." **NOW**

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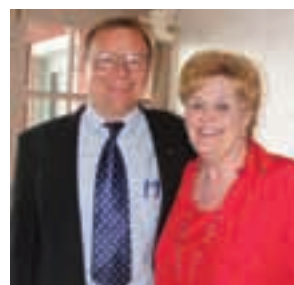
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## Around Town NOW



Gary Ramsey, top left, had some mechanical work done on the Ramsey race car. Amanda Merritt and Karah Grandon, top center, celebrated high school graduation. The cast of *I Ought to be in Pictures*, Delinda Ruffino, Brittany Willis and George O'Connor, top right, shined at the Ennis Public Theatre. The three-legged race at Travis Elementary field day, second row right, was a very popular event. Jane Mize, third row center, passed the Rotarian president's gavel to incoming president Carey Bryan. Parker Navarro, third row right, pointed to a hot air balloon as it landed while his twin brother, Tucker, looked on. New homeowner Janie Williams, bottom left, participated in the annual Preston Street Historic District Garage Sale. Travis Elementary Field Day, bottom right, was enjoyed by all who participated.



Left to right: Lashley Johnson, Dietary Mgr.; Theodora Brown, Med. Record & Control Supply; Kristina Ortega, DON; Ricci Wright, Maintenance; Josh Dickerson, Activity Director; Stephanie Seawell, Bus. office Mgr.; From: Virgil Patten, Administrator; Suzanne Wright, ADON

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## Around Town NOW



The Sixth Grade Center's Middle Ages day, top left, invited the "king and queen" to visit. A queen and her court, top center, ruled the day at the Middle Ages event. The Whos of Whosville, top right, were well-acted in *Suessical, Jr.* Kevin Six, second row left, applauded his daughter's part in *Suessical, Jr.* Sixth grade boys, second row left center, made a variety of costumes to represent Middle Ages royalty. Hannah and Holli Barker, second row right center, also played roles in *Suessical, Jr.* Cathy Criner, second row right, did a stunning job of directing the musical. Imaginative characters, bottom left, populated *Suessical, Jr.* Even the monks, bottom right, had fun during Middle Ages day.





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— By Faith Browning

## Look Who's Cooking

### IN THE KITCHEN WITH MYRA MORRISSEY

The residents at Oak Timbers Retirement Apartments, where Myra enjoys being the manager, cannot say enough about her cooking. Every month, her residents combine all their favorite recipes for their much-anticipated monthly “potluck” dinner. The honor of preparing the main dish for the dinner is one task Myra relishes. “I like dishes I can be creative with,” she commented. “I prefer foods that tease your pallet and make you chew them enough to savor the flavor.”

Myra also enjoys trail riding on her Tennessee Walking horses, which she has raised and shown. Just like the way she cooks, Myra lives her life as an adventure. “I don’t have any traditions other than spending holidays with my family,” she claimed. “I like changing things up all the time!” **ENNIS**

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

#### BEST EVER CHEESE DIP

1 16-oz. pkg. Philadelphia cream cheese, softened  
8 oz. sour cream  
1 bunch green onions  
1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese  
1 6-oz. can green chilies  
1 small pkg. thinly sliced ham, torn into small pieces

Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Finely chop onions; add all other ingredients. Heat in a double boiler, microwave or oven until melted. Great with crackers, vegetables or chips. You can also thin it out with milk and put over noodles or rice. Very versatile and very good!

#### BACON-WRAPPED SHRIMP

10 slices bacon  
salt and pepper to taste  
cayenne pepper to taste  
1/2 cup fresh chives, minced  
60 large shrimp, shells off and deveined

Adjust oven rack 6 inches from broiler. Line a broiler

pan bottom with foil and cover with slotted broiler pan top. Slice each piece of bacon lengthwise into 2 long strips; then cut strips into 3 short pieces. Spread bacon over 4 layers of paper towels with 2 layers on top. Microwave on high until fat begins to melt, but bacon is still pliable (1 1/2 minutes). Meanwhile toss salt, pepper, cayenne and chives together; sprinkle over shrimp. Wrap each piece of bacon around shrimp, tucking the ends under the shrimp. Broil until shrimp are pink and edges of bacon are brown (about 3 1/2 minutes). Skewer shrimp with toothpick and sprinkle with chives.

#### SPINACH AND LEMON STUFFED MUSHROOMS

24 large mushroom caps  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
1/2 cup spinach, squeezed dry  
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded  
2 oz. cream cheese, softened  
2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 garlic clove, minced

3 Tbsp. lemon juice  
3 scallions, thinly sliced  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup (or more) Italian bread crumbs

Move oven rack to middle position. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil, setting wire rack inside. Toss mushrooms in 1/4 cup oil, 1 tsp. lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper in a bowl. Arrange mushrooms, gill side up, on rack; roast at 450 F for 20 minutes or until juices are released. Turn over mushroom caps; roast until caps are well browned (10 minutes). While mushrooms are roasting, combine spinach, cheddar cheese, cream cheese, 2 Tbsp. olive oil, garlic, 3 Tbsp. lemon juice, scallions and 1/2 tsp. salt in a food processor; transfer into Ziploc bag. Take Ziploc mixture and stuff each cooled mushroom cap. Press each stuffed cap into breadcrumbs to coat. Arrange topping side up on rack. Bake until filling is hot and golden brown, 10 minutes.

#### PINEAPPLE ICE BOX PIE

1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand Milk  
1/3 cup lemon juice



Tommy Copeland

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## Who's Cooking NOW

1/3 cup chopped nuts  
8 oz. Cool Whip  
1 16-oz. can crushed pineapple  
2 9-inch graham cracker pie crust

Mix milk and lemon juice. Add remaining ingredients and mix. Pour into 2 graham cracker crusts. Chill at least 2 hours before serving.

### AUTUMN APPLE SALAD

Oak Timbers Family — Liz Zabojsnik

1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained  
2/3 cup sugar  
13-oz. pkg. lemon flavored gelatin  
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened  
1 cup Granny Smith apples, unpeeled and finely diced  
1 cup pecans, chopped  
1 cup celery, chopped  
1 cup whipped topping

Combine pineapple and sugar in saucepan; bring to boil for 3 minutes. Add gelatin; stir in until dissolved. Add cream cheese; stir until thoroughly mixed and let cool. Fold in rest of ingredients. Pour into a 9-inch square Pyrex pan. Chill to set.

### CONFETTI CHICKEN

Oak Timbers Resident Annette Faulk

1 small onion, chopped  
1/2 pint mushrooms, sliced  
1/4 cup butter  
3 cups chicken, cooked and chopped bite-sized  
10 oz. pkg. egg noodles, cooked and drained  
10 oz. fresh spinach, chopped  
4 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 12-oz. can cream of mushroom or chicken soup  
1 cup sour cream  
1 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated  
1/3 Chablis wine  
1 8-oz. can water chestnuts, drained  
1 4-oz. jar pimientos  
salt and pepper to taste  
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated

Sauté onion and mushroom in butter; add chicken and noodles. Mix together remaining ingredients, except cheddar, in large bowl; add chicken and noodle mixture. Place mixture in 2-quart casserole dish; top with cheddar. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 F. Serves 10 to 15.



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**FOCUS**



## Finance **NOW**

# Don't Let Market Volatility Derail Your Investment Strategy

— By Bob Irish

The last few months have been difficult ones for investors. From October 2007 to the end of June, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell about 20 percent. So, at this point, you probably have at least two big questions: What's causing this market instability? And how should you respond?

Let's start with the first question. What forces have caused the market drop? Here are some of the chief culprits:

- **Gloomy economic news** — Leading economic indicators suggest a significant slowdown in growth. For example, the unemployment rate hit 5.5 percent in May, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's an increase of over one full point in just over a year. Furthermore, oil prices recently hit another record high — over \$140 per barrel. Rising energy costs can significantly affect the economy — and usually not in a good way.

- **Subprime loan crisis** — While the subprime loan crisis has faded somewhat from the headlines, it's still having an impact on the investment scene. First, the problems with subprime loans hit the real estate industry and the financial services industry. But now, the subprime crisis may have spread to the extent that consumers are being forced to pull back from spending.

- **Decline in international stocks** — As a huge part of

the global economy, the United States is far from immune to what's happening in foreign stock markets — and many of these markets are down between 20 and 30 percent over the past several months.

So, in a nutshell, these factors have helped lead to the stock market decline. Yet, as an investor, you may have opportunities right now, because many stocks have already fallen 25 or 30 percent. And the decline in stock prices has also meant a drop in the ratio of share prices to company earnings ("P/E"). In fact, right now, the price-to-earnings ratio is pretty low, by recent historical standards.

In plain English, this means that stocks are now relatively "cheap." And yet, strangely enough, investors often stay away from the market when stocks are valued attractively, and only jump in when it's more expensive to buy.

Consider this quote from Warren Buffet, perhaps the world's most famous investor: "Most people get interested in stocks when everyone else is. The time to get interested is when no one else is. You can't buy what is popular and do well. The dumbest reason in the world to buy a stock is



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## Finance NOW

because it's going up."

So, if you have room in your portfolio to add appropriate investments, look for those opportunities now — but don't buy investments today that you would not want to own in a recession tomorrow. If you are already fully invested, with a diversified mix of quality investments, have the courage to be patient and do nothing. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.)

If you've created a long-term strategy — one that is suitable for your needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon — stick with it. Bad times don't last — but smart investors do. **NOW**

*Bob Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*

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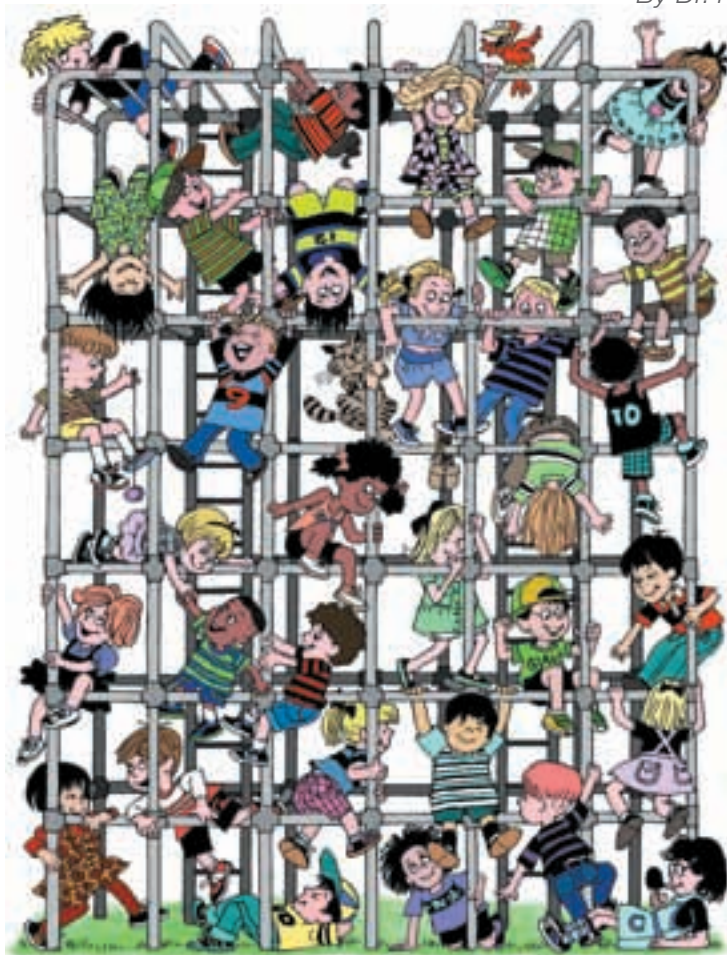
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# Summer Physicals **Keep Kids** Fit for the Fall

— By Dr. Fatiregun



The summer is probably our nation's favorite time of year. For generations, children have been known to celebrate their freedom from the classroom with hearty barbeques, camping trips, swimming expeditions, as well as trips to the many amusement parks in the metro area.

It is important, though, for the kids — as well as for Mom and Dad — to squeeze in an appointment (between carnivals and street fairs) with their primary healthcare provider. While children usually stay pretty healthy, especially after receiving their recommended vaccinations, it is still a good idea to be seen once a year for a thorough physical examination. Sports physicals done in school are helpful, but fairly limited. A complete checkup done by your child's doctor helps screen for certain problems that our youth can be at risk for such as: anemia, high blood pressure, low iron and high cholesterol. It also helps to make sure there are no

**It helps to make sure there are no vision or hearing problems that could affect children's education when school resumes in the fall.**

vision or hearing problems that could affect children's education when school resumes in the fall. Children of families that have histories of medical issues like heart disease or asthma should especially be seen because of certain genetic traits that can be inherited.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



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## Health NOW

Getting a yearly annual checkup this summer for children as well as adults helps catch certain conditions early enough so that they do not pose a health risk later in life. It is also a great opportunity to ask your doctor or clinician any question that has been on your mind for a long time, but you have not had the time to call about. Nutrition, acne, exercise regimens, dry skin, sleep habits and improving children's academic performance, are all topics that can be discussed at an annual checkup.

So be safe this summer. Enjoy the double scoop ice cream cones at Russell Stover. Spend some time relaxing at the lake. Just be sure to remember to mark your calendars with an annual physical for the kids so they will be fit for the fall. **NOW**

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# August 2008

## Community Calendar

### August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24

*Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley, presented at Ennis Public Theatre. Friday and Saturday performances: 8:00 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2:30 p.m. Adult tickets: \$15. Students and seniors: \$12. (972) 878-PLAY.

### August 3

NBBC "Run Toward the Son" Motorcycle Rally: 10:15 a.m., New Beginnings Bible Church, 1970 FM 983, Ferris. Motorcycle games, contests and door prizes. Enjoy free hot dogs and bottled water. Register online at [www.newbeginningsbiblechurch.com](http://www.newbeginningsbiblechurch.com) or call (972) 842-2800.

### August 6

Starting a Small Business workshop, presented by Navarro College Small Business Development Center: 10:00 a.m., Prosperity Bank Conference Room, 500 N. I.H. 35, Red Oak. Free but registration is required. Contact Dottie Ueberroth at (972) 937-2174 or [dottie.ueberroth@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:dottie.ueberroth@navarrocollege.edu).

### August 7

Sales Tax Workshop: 10:00 a.m. – noon, Corsicana/Navarro Chamber of Commerce conference room, 120 N. 12th St. Free but registration required. Contact Ophelia Mendoza at (903) 875-7667 or [ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu).

### August 16

25th Annual Ennis Chamber of Commerce Auction and Black and White Gala: Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Black and white attire. Ford Mustang to be raffled. Live Auction. Tickets \$35.00. (972) 878-2625.

### August 20

How to Write a Winning Business Plan session: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Prosperity Bank Conference Room, 500 N. I.H. 35, Red Oak. Cost: \$20.00. Limited seating; registration required. Call Dottie Ueberroth at (972) 937-2174 or e-mail [dottie.ueberroth@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:dottie.ueberroth@navarrocollege.edu).

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries, monthly luncheon: Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B. Cost: \$13.00. Walk-ins welcome. Nursery vouchers available. Call Kay at (972) 937-2807 or Mary at (972) 937-9984, or e-mail Kay at [windchime@charter.net](mailto:windchime@charter.net) no later than Sunday, August 17.

### August 21

Creating an Employee Handbook, sponsored by Navarro College SBDC: 10:00 a.m. – noon, Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 North 12th St. Cost: \$25.00. Call Ophelia Mendoza (903) 875-7667 or e-mail [ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu).

### August 23

4th annual benefit fundraiser BBQ dinner: 5:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall. Live and silent auction, dancing, live music by Ira Bradford & Bustin' Loose. Dinner: \$6 adults, \$4 children. Raffle Tickets: \$1. (469) 337-6479.

### August 24

Gospel Music Ministry concert: 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church. Guest headliner: Vicky Gatling and Southern Rain. For information, contact First United Methodist Church.

### August 25

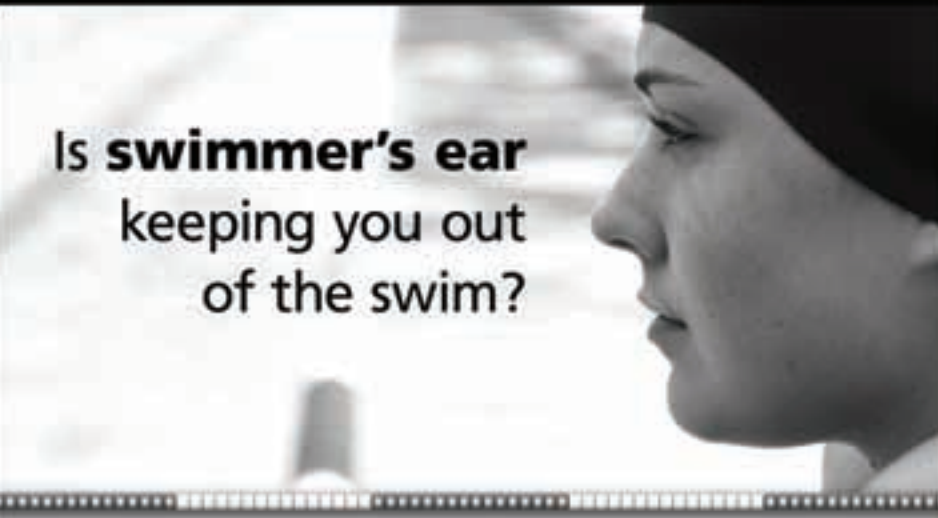
EISD First Day of school.

### August 28

How to Get Government Contracts workshop, sponsored by Navarro Small Business Development Center: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 North 12th St. Cost: \$25.00. Call Ophelia Mendoza (903) 875-7667 or e-mail [ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu).

For more community events, visit our online calendar at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold           | \$250-\$499     | Listing in the playbill.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver         | \$100-\$299     | Listing in the playbill.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze         | \$25-\$99       | Listing in the playbill. \$25 = 1 person; \$50 + = couple   |



by Beth Henley - Aug. 1-24



by Frederick Knott - Oct. 10-Nov. 2



by Jean Shepherd - Dec. 5-22



by David Bottrell & Jessie Jones  
Feb. 6-March 1



by George Abbott/Douglass Wallop, music & lyrics by Richard Adler/Jerry Ross - April 17-May 10



by Preston Jones - June 5-28

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Parkland Community Health Plan (Medicaid HMO)  
Private Health Care System (PHCS)  
Primary Care Case Management (Medicaid HMO)  
ProAmerica Managed Care  
Prudential Healthcare  
Sierra Health (Premier Senior)  
Southwest Preferred Network (SPN)  
Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)  
Texas True Choice  
TriCare / Champus  
UniCare Life & Health Insurance  
Unicare (Medicaid)  
United Healthcare of Texas  
USA Managed Care  
Vitas Healthcare Corporation (Hospice)  
Americaid & Amerikids (For OB service only)

## Are You Asking the Right Questions?

As a patient you have the right to know whether your healthcare facility is covered on your existing insurance. The time to find this out is before you've had expensive diagnostic tests... not after.

At Ennis Regional Medical Center trained physicians and staff use the latest in state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and it's all covered under most health insurance plans. Get informed and ask questions. You'll like the answers you get at ERMIC.



**Ennis Regional**  
MEDICAL CENTER

972-875-0900  
2201 West Lampasas,  
Ennis, Texas  
[www.ennisregional.com](http://www.ennisregional.com)

