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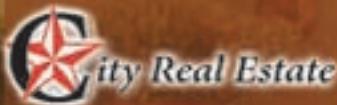
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 875-3299 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

Editor's Note

Listen up, friends!

The Precept's Men's Conference will be held August 21-22. "Breaking the Power of the Past" is the theme for this event, and men from Ennis, and across the metroplex, are signing up to attend the workshop at the Waxahachie Civic Center. For more information, text Glenn Hejny at (214) 534-6927.

Enjoy these "dog days of summer" with your family and friends. Some of the best memories of childhood are made in the summer. You cannot escape the heat, so you just have to embrace it. Shorts, flip-flops, watermelon, grilling, snow cones, swimming, late nights at the drive-in theater — whatever the best of summer means to you — do not let it slip away without putting on your shades and sunscreen and finding the smile that grows from deep inside when the sun is shining on summer fun.

Kelly Kovar

EnnisNOW Editor

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Aggie Spirit

— By Kelly Kovar



As a new school year rolls around and A&M University prepares to welcome its largest freshman class ever — with 8,200 new students — former A&M students in the Ennis area like to gather to wish Aggie students well. “In July or August, before the kids go back to school, we have a big ‘hamburger cook,’” said Robert “Bob” Erisman Jr., charter member of the Ennis A&M Club. “We give them all a little care package to take back to school.” The hamburger cook is just one of several yearly events the Ennis A&M Club plans. “We have chartered buses and gone to football games,” Bob mentioned. Club members appreciate any chance to get together.

“When I got out of school, there was not an Ennis A&M Club,” Bob recalled. “We were getting more and more and more Aggies in this area and we started talking about forming our own club,” he said. “We wanted to do some things on a local level. We wanted to start giving scholarships to local kids here in Ennis that were going to A&M.” On August 29, 1973, they got their charter for the Ennis A&M Club. Charter members included Bob Erisman, Dr. Raymond Cook, Bob Stone, Warren Jamison, Bob Carter, Dick Roberts, Jim Bain

and Terry Lamkin. “We have between 40 and 50 members now.”

Dues are used primarily for scholarships. “I think the first year we might have given a \$200 scholarship. This year, we were able to give three scholarships: a \$500, a \$1,000, and a \$1,500 scholarship.” Every March, the club secretary sends scholarship applications to the high school. Seniors who have already been accepted to Texas A&M can apply. Club officers and directors meet and decide on the recipients based on academics and financial need. “There is also another scholarship which is given through the A&M Club,” Bob said. “That is the Buster Callaway Scholarship. Buster was a dyed-in-the-wool Aggie; he was a football player down there; he was part of the club.” Buster’s wife Pat (Budai) and his two children, both A&M graduates, give a memorial scholarship each year. “Buster was a very outgoing, vivacious, personable type guy and the Callaways look for a student who meets that criteria.” The annual club fundraiser is a golf tournament. “This year



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we raised \$3,700, about a \$700 increase over last year."

The scholarships are awarded on April 21 each year, during "Aggie Muster," which is one of the most significant nights of the year for all Aggies. On this night every year, Aggies traditionally gather together in groups, wherever they are, to reflect on their A&M memories and to solemnly pay respect to those Aggies who have died since the last muster. A roll call of deceased Aggies is read, and friends or family members answer "here," and light a candle to honor their missing loved one. This has been practiced since 1883. In 1922, April 21 became the official day to observe muster. "The largest Muster ceremony is on the Texas A&M campus in College Station, but it is celebrated in over 400 places worldwide," Bob explained.

The allegiance to A&M is often passed from generation to generation. When Bob attended A&M, he had several professors who had taught his dad, Robert Erisman Sr., Class of '36. "Dad wanted to go to A&M so badly, that he just packed up and left with no idea how he was going to do it. He said when he got to the A&M campus he had a \$1 bill in his pocket. He got a job digging ditches on campus." Those "ditches" can still be seen all over the A&M University campus. They are called steam tunnels, and they were designed so that a large boiler in the physical plant could pump hot steam to all the buildings, powering the radiators. "Dad also worked at a cafeteria, at the Aggieland Inn and was the campus dog catcher. He also sold hot tamales and apparently worked up a pretty good business." Robert Erisman Sr. worked his way through school and then returned to Ennis where he had a veterinary practice. He passed his love of A&M on to his son, Robert (Bob) Erisman Jr. "I bleed maroon," Bob said, referring to the school colors.

Bob grew up in Ennis, and his wife, Peggy, is from the adjoining Oak Grove community. "We went to school

Richard P. Harper DDS, PhD, FRCDC
Oral Surgery and Anesthesia



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- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Specialty, University of Toronto
- Medical Research Council of Canada Fellowship

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Jessica Jeanne-Manager Rachel

together in Ennis," Peggy said. They were in the same grade, and graduated together from Ennis High School. Bob attended A&M University while Peggy worked. "I was a beautician," she said. "We got married his junior year and lived in College Station."

After Bob's graduation in 1962, Bob and Peggy moved to West Texas where Bob worked for the Farm Bureau. After nine years of dealing with dust and tumbleweeds, Bob was transferred back to Ennis in 1971. "We bought a house next door to my mother on Denton Street," Peggy recounted. "Then we moved to a house on the corner of Preston and Tyler. We were there for 15 years, and one day Bob said, 'Let's move to the country.'" The couple found a former dairy farm in the Oak Grove community and renovated the house there. Bob's office is decorated with an A&M theme and displays a photo of Bob as an A&M Corps cadet. Over the years, they reared three children, Robert, Jamie and John. "We have eight grandchildren now." Bob retired two years ago this past March, after working for the Farm Bureau for 43 years, and now has more time to enjoy helping with the Ennis A&M Club.

"People ask me all the time, 'What is there about A&M that is so different from other organizations?' It is really an indescribable phenomenon," Bob explained. "You have to experience it. The Aggie spirit is very real. There is a closeness, and there is a fellowship among Aggies. The true spirit of Aggieland is all for one, and one for all."

"Aggie spirit is a bond. If an Aggie ever gets in trouble somewhere and hollers, 'Old Army Fight,' and there is an Aggie within hearing distance, he is going to come help you." One thing Bob is sure of is that there is no such thing as an ex-Aggie. "Many times someone in their course of conversation will say, 'I understand you are an ex-Aggie.' No, there is no such thing as an ex-Aggie," he said. "There are just former students. Once you are an Aggie, you are always an Aggie." **ENNISNOW**

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Romantic **Redneckville**

— By Sandra Skoda



At Home With **Jeff and Rhonda Aycock**

Some high school sweethearts really do fall in love and live happily ever after. Jeff and Rhonda Aycock are one shining example of how love grows throughout the years, while also building a happy home filled with compassion, caring and coziness beyond measure. “He’s the only one I’ve ever dated,” Rhonda said, smiling at her husband of 30 years. “And we’re still dating.”

The Aycocks have lived in Ennis since marrying, but they did not relocate to the “country” until four years ago — July 2005 to be exact. The three-bedroom, two-bath, Australian-

themed, Western-style home which sits back from the main road, has offered exactly what the couple was looking for when they decided to “get out of the city.”

“The peace we’ve gained since moving to the country is immeasurable,” Rhonda said. “Nothing compares,” Jeff quickly added. They are happy to return daily to what Rhonda lovingly refers to as the “Aycock homestead” to just enjoy the tranquility the abode and its surrounding acreage provide.

The builder, Jim Marshall, was the home’s only other occupant. Jim was Australian, hence the Australian theme found not only in the home’s interior, but also in the way the home’s exterior was designed. “It has something to do with the pitch of the roof,” Jeff explained. “At least that’s the main Australian feature Jim spoke about when we originally looked at the house.” Smiling at one another, they remembered how it used to be. “When we moved here there were no flowerbeds,” Rhonda





remembered. "We only had field grass." Looking around today, one can easily see what a huge difference four years can make.

They both admit they love spending most of their at-home time outdoors, at least when the weather permits. Rhonda can generally be found working in the yard. "We choose to take vacations right here in our own backyard paradise," she commented, as she walked to the backside of the pool to turn on the pump and the pool's unique stone water feature. The windmill, which was purchased from a gentleman in Glenn Heights, stands beyond the back fence. Rockers dot the oversized patio area, which has proven time and time again to be perfect for outdoor church gatherings. Twinkling lights line the fence, adding



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ambience to an already peaceful place. "It's Romantic Redneckville," Jeff said, laughing aloud.

Rockers, porch swings and a large assortment of greenery and flowers also adorn the front patio. Red-tipped photinias, which once lined the immediate front yard area, were recently removed and replaced with a cedar fence that adds even more character to a landscape filled with mismatched cowboy boots, birdhouses, yard swings and antique metal pieces. Left standing on their own, one might consider all

these items to be someone's trash, but when merged together with tender loving care, they quickly became treasures to the Aycocks. "Around back," as Jeff puts it, is what most would call a three-to-four-car garage or shop. "I call it the man cave," he said. One wall displays deer horns and old license plates. Jeff's ninth Jeep since marrying Rhonda takes its spot in the center of the building.

Even though Jeff and Rhonda spend most of their time outdoors, the home's interior is well-worth mentioning. The

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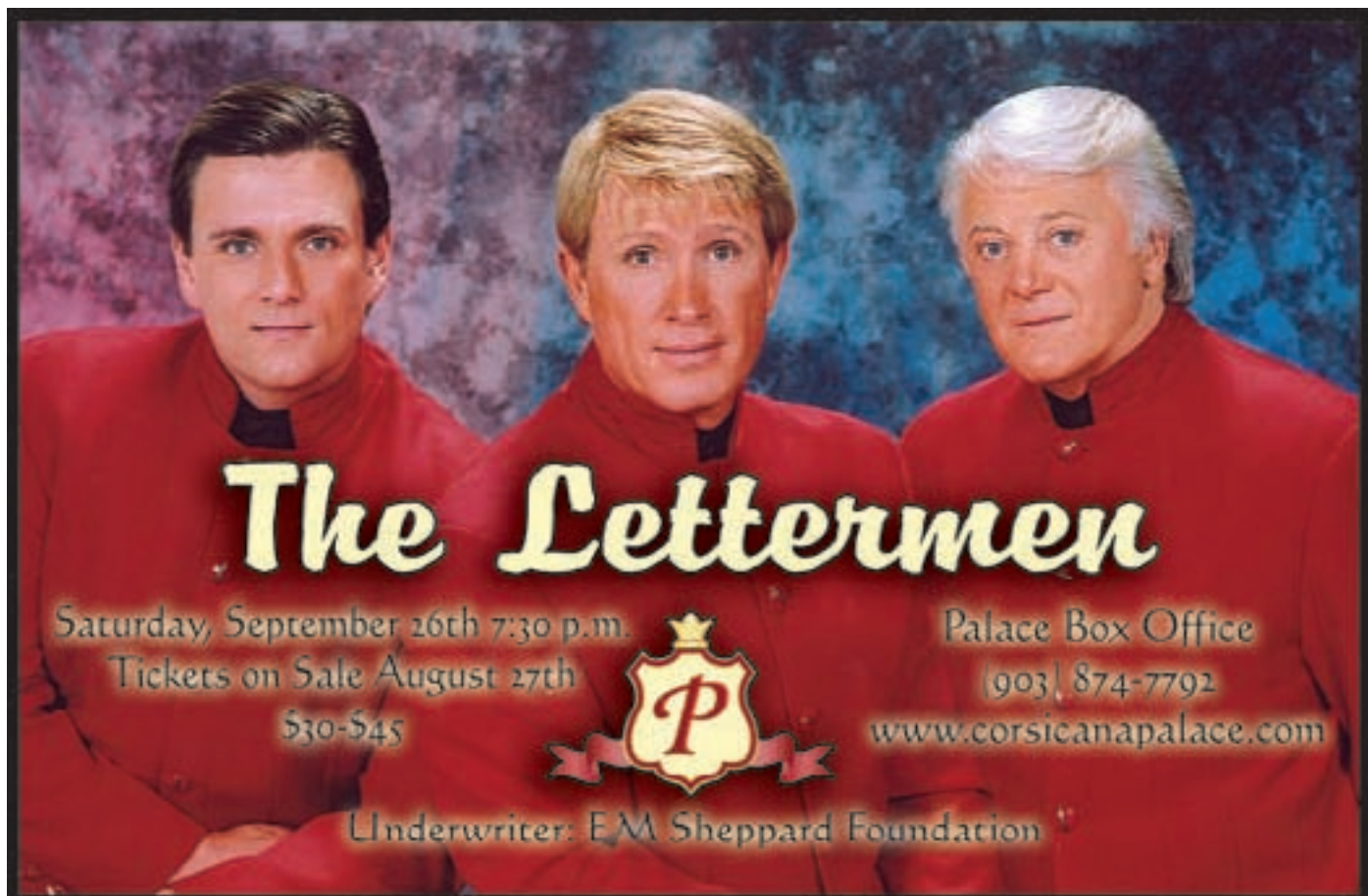
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unique decorating style Rhonda has successfully incorporated outdoors can also be found throughout the home's interior. "We are not formal people, so you won't find anything formal in the house," Rhonda said. "You know what we do here? We live here." Memories of both their fathers also live there. Rhonda's father was a taxidermist, so the big elk head overlooking the family room is a tribute to the "other man in her life." Cowboy hats, spurs and a rope gently remind Jeff of his father,

but the newly remodeled guest room represents his father's years with the Southern Pacific Railroad. The leather couches, rustic coffee table and brick fireplace complete the family room.

The home was not complete when the Aycocks purchased it. In fact, Jeff and Rhonda still consider it a work in progress. They added all the cedar found both inside and out. This gave it the western feel they both have come to agree upon over the years. The kitchen, which Rhonda said will

be their next major project, is quaint, yet a bit too compact for her liking. The bar area is open to the dining area, but in time, Rhonda is hoping to knock out the wall facing the foyer and the entire bar area to enlarge the space. The table in the dining area is unique because it is not really a table. "It was an old door we found in Graham, Texas. It's perfect for our family," Rhonda said, sure to mention the couple's children, Janie and her husband, DJ Williams, and Jeffery, who still lives at

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home with his parents.

The handcrafted crosses, mirrors and signs exude the couple's belief in the Lord. The old quilts placed throughout the home have been gifts from friends and family or special finds on Rhonda's many trips to First Monday Trade Days in Canton. Jeffery's room is also unique because of the way barn wood and scrap metal were used. Barn wood serves as the chair railing, while tea-stained brown bags blend perfectly as the wall treatment. Metal panels from the old Aycock barn cover the ceiling.

Another one-of-a-kind feature is

found in the couple's master bathroom.

"They used hay from the backyard to texture the walls in here," Rhonda said, still not sure if she likes the treatment or not. The view from the master suite windows is priceless to Rhonda. "I'm able to see the land that my children just bought," she beamed. "I stand here at the window and thank God for what He's going to do. As a family, we've always known He would make a way for us all to be together." The sign in the hallway which reads, "I Have Learned That Being With Those I Love Is Enough," could easily be Jeff and

Rhonda's family motto.

The Aycocks feel the home's interior is secondary. They love being outdoors, because it is only when they are outdoors that they find what they call the "nuggets" of life. Nuggets for them include the seasonal storms blowing in unexpectedly, the stars that are so much clearer in the country and the birds regularly flying overhead. "Out here, you see a bird," Rhonda said, "but the bird is a bald eagle. Now that's a nugget. Everything here is special. It's all about those little things that one day become big things." **ADAM**

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He's Got..... BRASS

— By Kelly Kovar

For Dr. Stephen Shoop, becoming a composer was a natural extension of his musical interests. As an accomplished tuba player, he is active in composing solos, which can be performed by two of the low brass instruments — the tuba and euphonium (a small tuba). In the brass section, tuba is the most important rhythmic instrument. “There are not a lot of good pieces for teaching tuba, and I see a need for music,” Steve said. “I have all kinds of things I am working on composing all the time.” Steve has over 40 published arrangements and compositions to his credit. A number of his pieces appear on the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) Prescribed Music List and also on contest/festival lists in several other states.

Besides holding a membership in ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) and the International Tuba-Euphonium Association, Steve is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association and Phi Beta Mu (an honorary bandmaster fraternity). As a composer, he enjoys both composing and arranging pieces for low brass ensembles and has also composed some Christmas music. He composed a solo for tuba entitled “The Soloist,” which Ennis sixth-graders have played at an ensemble contest. Another piece, called “Five Whistling Tunes” was performed at a University of Texas at Arlington band camp. For both of those compositions, Robert Brazier (former EISD elementary music teacher) wrote the piano arrangement.

“Tuba and electric bass guitar are the instruments I play,” Steve said. In June, he performed with the Mesquite Symphonic Band. “I was invited to perform a tuba solo, “Solo Pomposo,” which is 100 years old, by the famous march composer, Henry Fillmore.” He also plays tuba in the Texas Dixieland Band, which performs throughout the North Texas area.

“I am the primary coordinator of the annual Dallas and Fort Worth Merry TUBACHRISTMAS concerts,” Steve mentioned. “Over 300 tuba and euphonium players participate each year.” The Dallas concert takes place in Thanksgiving Square right before Christmas, with 500 to 600 people



attending. “My tuba teacher at Indiana University, Harvey Phillips, started TUBACHRISTMAS in New York City in 1974. They have it all over the United States and Canada, now.” Steve has been organizing the Dallas event for 25 years and the Fort Worth event for 20 years.

Steve’s musical taste is not confined to band and symphonic arrangements. “I like just about any kind of music. I play electric bass with the faculty rock band; we play rock ‘n’ roll. “My teacher, Harvey Phillips, said, ‘The really good people who play in a rock band are as serious as a symphony musician about what they do.’”

In addition to composing and performing, since 2004 Steve has been a music publisher. “The main thing that I do is publish, not only my pieces, but other people’s pieces,” he said. Through Stephen Shoop Music Publications, he currently carries about 90 pieces. “Mainly, I publish low brass and marches for school use and historical pieces.”

His biggest publishing find, and a core part of his publishing company, is the work of Fred Geib, a tuba player in the New York Philharmonic from 1910 until 1928. Geib’s 80-year-old granddaughter contacted Steve about preserving her grandfather’s music. Steve has done research on Geib and his musical contributions. “Meredith Wilson, the man that did *The Music Man*, played flute in the New York Philharmonic with Fred Geib,” Steve mentioned. “I find those things fascinating. I feel like I know the guy, because I have done so much research on him.

Steve’s academic pursuits have not been limited to researching the composers he publishes. In fact, he has earned several music degrees: a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University, a Master of Music Education from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education

from the University of North Texas. "Music education is a hard degree; it requires a lot of multitasking, a lot of multiple talents and being very organized," Steve said. "We take many, many classes in college on teaching and playing all the band instruments, string instruments, vocals and piano."

In addition to teaching clinic-workshops, master-classes and summer band camps, Steve has been teaching band for 25 years in Texas schools, the last 15 at Ennis High School (EHS). "Unfortunately, there is a high rate of attrition for band directors, with an average length of service being five years, because it takes an awful lot of



time; it is long hours and there is not a lot of downtime," Steve said. "But, I wouldn't do anything else. It is not just a job; it is a life." As associate director of bands, he works with the high school marching and concert bands primarily, teaches a low brass class, assists with the junior high band program and has revived the EHS jazz ensemble. "Without a doubt, the thing I like best about working in the high school is working with the kids. The main thing I want to do is try to bring out the different talents each one has." **ARTS NOW**

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Sport of Choice

— By Sandra Skoda

Many young athletes play every sport available to them, while others, like Austin Fry, focus on one individual sport in which they excel. His sport of choice since the age of 7 has been baseball. “My dad played in high school,” Austin said. “He said it might be fun.” Austin grabbed his inspiration from his father and found out he was pretty good at the game. “From then on,” Austin added, “playing has been my decision.”

What began as tee ball at the age of 7, soon progressed into Austin’s involvement with a select baseball team at the age of 12. “I’ve not played in the city league since that time,” he explained. “I play baseball almost all year long. I play on the high school team during their season, and then I play the rest of the year on a select team.”

When asked to explain the difference in a select team and his high school team, Austin chose his words wisely. “Select teams are made up of some of the best players in the game,” he said. “In select, all nine batters are good. The whole team is ‘up there.’” Austin stated that college scouts seem to frequent select baseball games. “It’s really hard to explain,” he added. “It’s a serious type of play. The level of intensity is great.”

Austin’s baseball season really does run for most of the calendar year. High school play begins in the spring and competition play lasts about two to three

months, depending on whether the team makes it to the playoffs. From summer to fall, Austin begins his commute to and from Dallas to compete at the select level. He will practice with his new select team members two to three times and then once competition begins, there are no more scheduled practices.

His off-season begins in November and ends in January. That is the only time during the year he is not taking his place on the field as pitcher, first baseman or one of three outfielders. During the off-season, Austin still works diligently to keep himself in shape for the next season of baseball. “It’s a personal decision,” he explained, when talking about his off-season workout. “What I’m taught on the field forces me to run and lift weights in the off-season. It’s important for me to keep in shape.”

The commitment to playing select baseball is great. Not only does Austin need to stay conditioned year-round, he must be prepared

to play ball on a daily basis, sometimes several games in a single day. “Last season, we played 28 games in 26 days,” he admitted. “The teams elect to play league ball during the week and double-headers and tournament play every weekend.” Austin and his family stay busy all week and weekend long, but for them, it has



been the right thing for Austin. "My parents really care about me playing select ball," Austin said, "so they work hard to make it all possible."

When pitching, Austin's main objective is to throw as many strikes as possible. He admitted that some days his pitching is off, and then the very next day he can strike out the opposing players one after another. As a first baseman, his focus is on getting the runner out. "Sometimes it also means stretching as far as I can stretch," he laughed. Playing outfield means catching fly balls for the out, or stopping grounders in time to throw the ball to get the lead runner out. "I've done this for

"I've done this for so long that changing my mindset for each position comes naturally."

so long that changing my mindset for each position comes naturally," he said.

Austin's main goal as a junior at Ennis High School is to continue to work hard and listen to his coaches so he can play baseball at the college level. He hopes to one day attend either the University of Oklahoma or San Diego State University. Like any young man who excels at the sport of his choice, Austin also dreams of one day playing professionally, and the team he plays on really does not matter.

Baseball is as tough a game mentally as it is physically. The game has taught Austin so many things he will carry into adulthood. "It's taught me a lot about commitment and responsibility," he stated. "It's also taught me the importance of being disciplined, as well as helping me grow in my leadership skills." Austin will be the first to admit some players are in the select league to be seen, but he is there to play. "It's my passion," he added. "It's a part of who I am." **NOW**



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fun, fabulous hair

"May you
always have
fabulous hair."

— By Kelly Kovar

Stephenie "Stevi" Loren Hauk opened Stevi Loren Salon in August of 2008 in the well-known "Frank's Towne" building, owned by Henrietta Novotny. "When I saw that this place was empty, I peeked in the windows and thought, *Oh this could be the cutest salon,*" Stevi said. "When I told Henrietta that I wanted to turn it into a salon, I found out that many years ago, she too was a hairdresser."

Stevi's salon is a fun juxtaposition of the new and the old. Contemporary red chairs cozy up to vintage couches. A chandelier lends a touch of elegance to the whimsical turquoise and purple paint colors of the interior. Clients are greeted by a costumed mannequin in the window. "Isn't she fun?" Stevi asked. "I change her clothes once a month; I even put her in a polka outfit for Polkafest. My mom found her on eBay and ordered her for me from New York."



The salon showcases vintage salon equipment. "My favorite thing to do in my time-off is shop thrift stores to add fun pieces to my eclectic collection." She proudly displays a pink and black hairstyling dryer which Henrietta's husband, Frank, bought many years ago. Displays of Avon collectibles play against an Andy Warhol-style print of Marilyn Monroe. "This is my first salon, and I hope it is a reflection of me. I knew what I wanted it to look and feel like."

creativity," Stevi said. "They pride themselves on finding a variety of ways to customize a look for each individual, and I trust all of them with my own hair." In addition to Stevi, the salon features stylists Shari Childress, Breona Bates and Ashleigh Snipes. "Through their haircuts and extraordinary hair color techniques, clients are sure to always see something new and exciting," Stevi mentioned. "You will never find

a cookie-cutter technique or a bland look from these ladies; we are a fun salon and we do modern hair." Shari has been with the salon since its opening. "She and I are big on being 'green.' We incorporate earth-friendly practices into

the salon." Shari is educated in CHI and Biosilk products and also carries the new CHI Organics line. Stevi carries an organic line called Peace, Love and the Planet, as well as Rusk products. "I specialize in color and cuts," Stevi said.



The stylists at Stevi Loren Salon keep up with changing styles and trends by attending statewide hair shows and classes. "All of our stylists are very talented and showcase their unique

"One of the product lines Breona uses is Mizani. Among her list of services, Breona offers hair extensions, relaxers and temporary eyelash extensions." Ashleigh is familiar with TIGI products. "Ashleigh used to work for Toni and Guy, so she has awesome cutting skills." Stevi's assistant, Ivana Trinidad, a 2009 graduate of Ennis High School's cosmetology program, received a superior rating for a demonstration of daytime and evening make up at the



2008 Cosmetology Skills USA State Champions competition.

The salon's slogan is: "May you always have fabulous hair." "Our clients range from 5 to 80. We have a lot of guys that come in, a lot of young girls and a lot of working women." Stevi Loren Salon is located at 113 N.W. Main Street in downtown Ennis. "I love my shop," Stevi said. "I think it is so fun; it doesn't even feel like work." To make an appointment, call (972) 875-2230. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but appointments before or after hours are available. Visit www.stevilorensalon.com for more information including a menu of services and pricing. **XXX**

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Every Child *is Special*

— By Kelly Kovar

Melissa Brown is a content mastery and resource teacher for special education students. She is involved with the inclusion program at David S. Crockett Early Childhood Center (ECC), and primarily works with 5- and 6-year-olds with learning disabilities. "Inclusion means that the special education students are mainstreamed into a regular classroom setting here," Melissa explained. "We are very fortunate that our principal, and our district as a whole, is very supportive of the inclusion program. The trend in the state of Texas is to include them as much as possible. It is amazing to see where kids start and how well they have done in regular classes."

Two to four special education children will be in a regular classroom, and they have a paraprofessional in the class who is responsible for assisting those students. Melissa works with many teachers who have her students spread out in their classes, and she goes to the different classrooms and works with the children. "We have seen way too much progress with the inclusion method, to ever go back to having special education in a self-contained class. Socially, it helps them to function in society and in the workplace. It helps them with their language skills. The extra help they get from seeing their peers reading and writing has improved their skills. The higher you set the bar for those kids, the more they are going to try to succeed."

The special education students are with their regular teacher for the majority of the day, and then Melissa pulls them out for some one-on-one and small group instruction to reinforce skills. "The thing that is great about bringing them into my room for a little while, is that I can present a concept which they are having trouble with, in a totally new way," Melissa explained. "The same information, presented in a different format, may click." Normally, at any given time, there are around 10 kids in her classroom. Two paraprofessionals, Christy Newman and Marilyn Glasscock, work with her. "They are both wonderful." In Melissa's classroom, she tries to make it as fun and hands-on as possible. "We play a lot of games with music; we get up and move around a lot which helps them remember things. They love to come in here;



they think it is fun." To encourage attendance and behavior, the students get stickers and rewards. "The encouragement gives them confidence to do the best they can."

Many children come to the ECC special education program when they are 3 and stay until they are 6 or even 7. "Most 3- and 4-year-old children stay half a day, and then the 5-year-olds and up stay a full day. We try to make sure that every child is getting what they need. We may not see huge success at the beginning of a year, but by Christmastime they are moving along. It means a lot to them to see when they have done something good." When the children have met the goals and objectives set for them, teachers know they are ready to move on to first grade. "We do have some kids that may stay an extra year, just to give them a little longer to grow and mature, but the majority of my kids move on to their first-grade campuses when they are 6. The first kids that I worked with here are mostly in the fifth grade now. To see where they started and then see them as they get older and grow is really neat."

Melissa has taught for 15 years, and this will be her seventh year to teach at the ECC, where she is the team leader for special education. Before the ECC, Melissa taught one year in Corsicana, where she is from; six years in Duncanville, and two years at Sam Houston Elementary in Ennis. "The thing I love about living in Ennis is when I go

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in the grocery store, I see my students there, and they are so glad to see me. I just feel this is what I am supposed to be doing; I have learned so much from these kids.

"Ennis as a whole is right up there with some of the larger school districts as far as what we can provide," Melissa said. In the district, Rhonda Simpson is the special education director and Cliff



Mathes is the special education supervisor. "At the ECC, we have three PPCD (Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities) teachers plus two "readiness" kindergarten special education teachers. In our building, we have an occupational therapist and a speech therapist who help." Special education has gone from being an isolated unit, to being in the same building with regular education.

"To see where they started and then see them as they get older and grow is really neat."

"We build our schedule around our kids," Melissa said. "Very rarely do you have a special education child who has exactly the same needs as another child. You have to be flexible and ready to change. You cannot give up. One thing that has been great about having inclusion in this school is that it has taught all of us to be willing to see when things don't work and then try new ideas." **NOW**



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• The youngest Refiner's Fire Ministries International members, top left, shared a song they learned in children's church with the congregation. • Ennis teenagers, top right, modeled vintage hats at a recent fashion show. • Cast members of Ennis Public Theatre's production of *Damn Yankees*, bottom left, posed for the camera. • Eugene Lockhart, former Dallas Cowboys linebacker, second row right, signed an autograph for an excited fan. • Brian Mahagan, bottom center, traveled from Allen, Texas, to surf at Lake Bardwell. • Beautiful ladies, bottom right, enjoyed the opportunity to wear either glamorous or fun hats at the "Hat Affair" Tea Party.



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Pictured above are:
Ana Lara, Manager; Whitney Trevino, Senior Assistant;
Leandra Gonzales, Assistant Manager



Trish Dougherty grew up knowing the value of a loving meal. “My parents were both raised on farms,” she recalled. “I grew up with everything being fresh and made from scratch.” She trained to be a commercial cook and became a sous chef by age 18. Trish now has her own catering company where she can truly express her talent. “I deliver ‘fresh homemade comfort food.’ I make everything from scratch,” she said. “I even grind my own spices.”

Caring for rescue animals is also a love Trish shares with her husband, Kevin. “We have a working farm we call PurrFect Harmony Farm,” she explained. “The name comes from our love of cats and the fact that we try to do everything in harmony with nature. I was doing things ‘green’ way before it became cool!” **NOW**

IN THE KITCHEN WITH TRISH DOUGHERTY

BANANA CAKE

This is my favorite cake, and we always have it for my birthday cake.

1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 eggs
2 cups flour
1/4 tsp. baking powder
3/4 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
2-3 ripe bananas
1/4 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla

ICING:
1 cup butter
4 cups powdered sugar

Cream together shortening and sugar; add eggs. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add bananas, milk and vanilla. Place in a greased pan. Bake at 350 F

for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Cream together icing ingredients; ice cake.

FRUIT PUNCH

This is complimentary to birthday cake and ice cream.

1 can limeade
1 can lemonade
1 can orange juice
ginger ale

Make sure you get the same size of each flavor. Combine all in a punch bowl. Substitute ginger ale for the required amount of water for each can of juice.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

1 lb. grated Colby cheese
1 lb. bacon, cooked crisp, chopped small
1 bunch green onion tops, minced

1 clove garlic, minced
16 medium, whole, fresh mushrooms

Mix cheese, bacon, onion tops and garlic; stuff mushroom buttons; broil until cheese mixture bubbles.

MOM'S FRIED CHICKEN

1 cup flour
1 tsp. sea salt
1 tsp. poultry seasoning
1/2 tsp. fresh ground pepper
2 Tbsp. canola oil
1 whole fresh cut up chicken, skinned
1 cup water

GRAVY:
2 Tbsp. flour
1 to 2 cups milk
salt and pepper, to taste

Combine dry ingredients in a pan or plastic

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

bag. Pour enough oil in the bottom of a heavy deep pan with a lid, to cover bottom and keep chicken from sticking. Rinse chicken; shake off excess water. Dredge or shake in flour mixture. Heat oil; carefully place chicken in hot oil. Brown chicken on both sides; drain chicken on paper towels. Drain any oil left in pan. Place chicken back in pan, add water, cover; simmer for 30-45 minutes. Make gravy from drippings by adding a few tablespoons of flour, stir; slowly add milk, stirring constantly until desired thickness. Add salt and pepper to taste.

WHITE SAUCE

This is such a versatile sauce. My mother used this as a base for macaroni and cheese. She also used it when she made "Chipped Beef on Toast." I use it as the base for the gravy on biscuits and gravy.

2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. flour
2 cups milk
salt and pepper, to taste

Melt butter on low heat. Stir in flour; brown. Slowly add milk, stirring continually to keep out lumps. Add salt and pepper to taste.

RABBIT SAUSAGE

2 lbs. ground rabbit
2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. sage
2 tsp. thyme
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. cayenne

Grind together twice. Refrigerate for at least an hour, then bag or cook to eat. Can be kept in freezer for six months.

SPICED BEETS

6 beets
1 cup chicken stock
1/4 cup cider vinegar
3 whole cloves
8 whole coriander seeds
8 whole peppercorns
1/4 tsp. allspice
1 clove garlic
1 tsp. sugar

Peel and quarter beets. Combine all ingredients in saucepan; simmer until tender.

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.



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Get Educated About Investing

— By Angie Wingo-Juenemann

If you have children at home, you're no doubt aware that it's the traditional back-to-school time. But even if your days of parent-teacher conferences are in the past, or even in the future, you can still find a place in your life for education — and you might want to start by educating yourself about investing.

To get the most out of your investment education, ask yourself these questions:

- **What are my goals?** Your financial goals should drive your investment decisions. You probably have short-term goals, such as making a down payment on a home or paying for a vacation, and long-term goals, such as saving for your children's college education or building resources for your retirement. Once you've identified your goals, you can create an investment strategy to help achieve them.

- **What is my risk tolerance?** Self-awareness is important in every aspect of life — including your approach to investing. As you create your investment portfolio, you need to understand your own views on risk. Would you consider yourself an aggressive investor — that is, someone who can accept a relatively higher degree of investment risk in exchange for potentially higher returns? Or are you a more conservative investor — someone who is willing to take lower returns in exchange for lower potential risk? Or perhaps you're a moderate investor, less risk-averse than some but less aggressive than others. However you'd characterize yourself, it's essential that you factor in your risk tolerance when choosing investments.

Otherwise, you'll likely end up causing yourself needless worry over your investment portfolio's performance.

- **When should I make changes to my investments?**

Once you've built an investment portfolio, you shouldn't leave it on "autopilot." Over time, you most likely will need to add new investments or sell others. However, try to avoid selling quality investments just because their share price has dropped — they may still have good long-term prospects. In general, you should sell an investment under certain circumstances. For example, if your goals have changed, you may find the need to sell some investments and purchase others. You may decide to sell an investment if it's no longer what it was when you purchased it. For example, maybe you've invested in a company whose products are less competitive than they once were, or perhaps the company belongs to an industry now in decline. And finally, if your portfolio has become "overweighted" with certain types of investments, you may decide to sell some of them to bring your holdings back into balance, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- **Whom should I consult for help?** You can do a lot to educate yourself about investing — but when it comes to making the right choices for your future, you may need help. A professional financial advisor who is familiar with your family situation, short- and long-term goals and investment preferences can help you build and maintain a portfolio that can help meet your needs.

The investment world can be complex, so the more knowledge you have on your side, the better off you'll be. Take the time to learn as much as you can about investing. It's an education that can pay off in the long run. **NOW**

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

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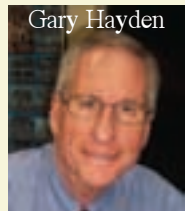
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Pediatric ER Trips Tied to Cold Drugs

CDC: Nearly 7,100 Kids per Year Seek Emergency Care Linked to Cough, Cold Drugs; Most Cases Are Accidents

— By Katherine Witte, M.D.

The CDC estimates that every year, nearly 7,100 U.S. children younger than 12 are treated in hospital ERs due to ingesting cough or cold medications. Most of those pediatric ER visits happened when toddlers or young children took over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription cough or cold drugs without supervision. Parents need to be vigilant about keeping these medicines out of their children's reach.

Here is some advice for all parents of young children: Children love to explore their world. They can and will open any drawer or cupboard and will put anything into their mouth, even if it doesn't taste good. Keep all medications and household cleaners out of sight and out of reach, preferably in the highest possible places in the home. Use safety latches or locks on drawers and cupboards. Keep all products in their original containers and keep the safety caps on.

If your child does eat something that could be poisonous, call the Poison Control Hotline (1-800-222-1222) immediately. Someone will answer the phone at all times. Do not make your child vomit after they have eaten something that could be

poisonous. Put the Poison Control Hotline's number on or near every phone in the home. Also, never tell your children that medicine is candy and avoid taking your own medications in front of younger children.

The FDA now recommends that over-the-counter cough and cold medicines not be given to infants and children less than 2 years of age. These medications can cause serious and potentially life-threatening side effects in the age group, including seizures (convulsions), rapid heart rates, decreased levels of consciousness and death. Visit your child's doctor to learn about other ways to take care of your young child with cough and cold symptoms.

Pediatric ER Visits

The CDC's report stems from adverse drug event data from 2004-2005 from 63 U.S. hospitals. Based on that data, the CDC estimates that 7,091 children per year get emergency medical care after taking OTC cough and cold drugs.

Two-thirds of the kids took the drugs without supervision, and most of these ingestions involved children aged 2 to 5 years.

Most children (93 percent) were treated and released from hospital emergency rooms, and 23 percent got special treatment to get the drugs out of their system. Also, most children (63 percent) had no signs of drug side effects when they arrived at the hospital. Among children with symptoms of drug side effects, 19 percent had allergic reactions such as a rash or hives. An additional 13 percent had neurological symptoms, such as sleepiness or an unsteady gait. **NOW**

Katherine Witte, M.D.

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August 2009

Community Calendar

All Month

Tickets on sale now for the Ellis County SPCA charity event at Hawaiian Falls Waterpark, Mansfield. Come out on Sept. 27 and play in the water with your dog! See www.elliscountyspc.org for ticket prices and details.

First and Third Tuesday

Ennis Cancer Support Group: 7:00 p.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center classroom. For information, call Kathy at (972) 878-6927. www.enniscancersupport.com.

Third Monday

Ellis County Aggie Moms: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin. For more information, contact Cheryl Bell at (972) 723-0341 or rb4ej@sbcglobal.net.

Through August 7

Summer Theatre Camp for second- through eighth-grade students. For more information, contact tonya.harper@Ennis.K12.TX.US.

August 1

Texas Motorplex presents O'Reilly Bracket Series #9 (VW Points Class). For more information, call Texas Motorplex at (972) 878-2641.

August 15

Ellis County Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, 7:00 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center starring the Pit Pops, a nine-piece band with local member, Gary French, performing "Rock and Rock with Soul." Tickets may be purchased online at www.ellishabitat.org for \$15. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20 or a table for eight is \$100. Contact Cynthia Montgomery at (972) 268-5856 or (972) 938-9510.

August 1-23

Ennis Public Theatre presents *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley. For times and reservations, call (972) 878-PLAY.

August 8

Chamber of Commerce "Hollywood — a Night at the Oscars" auction: 5:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall. Come dressed as a Hollywood star. Black tie or casual dress also acceptable. Silent auction, dinner and live auction. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at the Chamber. For more information, contact the Chamber at (972) 878-2625.

Texas Motorplex's "Pinks All Out Outtakes" broadcast repeats on August 8 at 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on SPEED TV channel. For more information, call Texas Motorplex at (972) 878-2641.

August 15

Texas Motorplex presents O'Reilly Bracket Series #10. For more information, call Texas Motorplex at (972) 878-2641.

August 19

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B, Waxahachie. \$13. Nursery available. Walk-ins welcome. To make reservations, please contact either Kay at (972) 937-2807 or windehime423@yahoo.com or Mary at (972) 937-9984.

August 22

Bristol Grry Country Music Show: 7:00 p.m., Old Bristol Schoolhouse, 100 Church Street, Bristol. Free admission. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

August 24

EISD first day of school.

August 29

Texas Motorplex presents O'Reilly Bracket Series #11. For more information, call Texas Motorplex at (972) 878-2641.

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