Ennisnow

AUGUST 2018

MAGAZINE

Soulful Style

Marlena Fernandez relieves stress and expresses herself through painting

A Perfect Space by Design

At Home With Corey and Brittni Navarro

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ON THE COVER

Marlena Fernandez paints in a style that evokes feeling and emotion.

Photo by Hannah Chartrand.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Count your blessings!

As I've gotten older, I've learned that it's OK to enjoy what I call down time. I used to think doing nothing for any length of time meant I had a lazy streak, but I know now that is not the case. Our bodies were designed to work, but to also find rest. What do I do in these times of rest? Well, that all depends on the time of day I decide to pull the throttle back and put myself in park.

My favorite times to "chill out" are in the early morning or later in the evening. I'll usually find myself on the front porch. As I sit, I hear the wasps flying around, see butterflies fluttering and, many times, see a pair of bunny rabbits hopping around the front yard. It's during these relaxing times that I count my blessings — my home, my family, my friends, my church, my job and so much more. I didn't always feel this way. It's taken years for me to understand what "stopping to smell the roses" really means. I wasn't able to "smell the roses," or count my blessings, until I understood that it's OK to park it, and it's more than OK to spend some time each day resting.

Take some time to rest and smell the roses!









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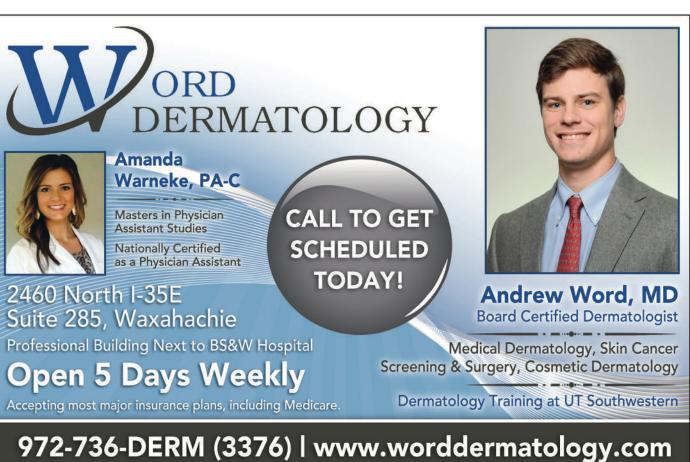




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OUFUL STYLE By Sandra Strong

Art, when defined in dictionary terms, is the application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. Art for Marlena Fernandez comes with the use of paints, brushes and canvases. Art is her way to soulfully express herself. "Art is also a way for me to entertain myself," Marlena admitted. "When I'm able to put my feelings down, it helps to smooth out the stress I may be feeling."









Marlena moved to Ennis from California with her family when she was 6 years old. They relocated to have a chance at a better life. Remembering the encouragement she received as a first-grader still brings a smile to her face. "My teacher told me I had talent," she recalled. "From that time on, I practiced art whenever and wherever I could. At first, it was just drawing, then markers and map colors."

Today, she finds her solace in acrylic painting on canvas. Generally, before she begins drawing, the vision of what she wants to see on the canvas is vivid in her mind. "I have already chosen the colors in my mind that correspond with my mood at the time," she explained. "I want my paintings to cause some kind of emotion in those who are looking at them." On rare occasions, she may change her mind to make the color scheme correspond and/or match the other. "But, that happens only rarely," she added.

As a senior, Marlena looks forward to her final year of high school art classes under the tutelage of Leah Smith. Leah has always allowed Marlena to work, think and create

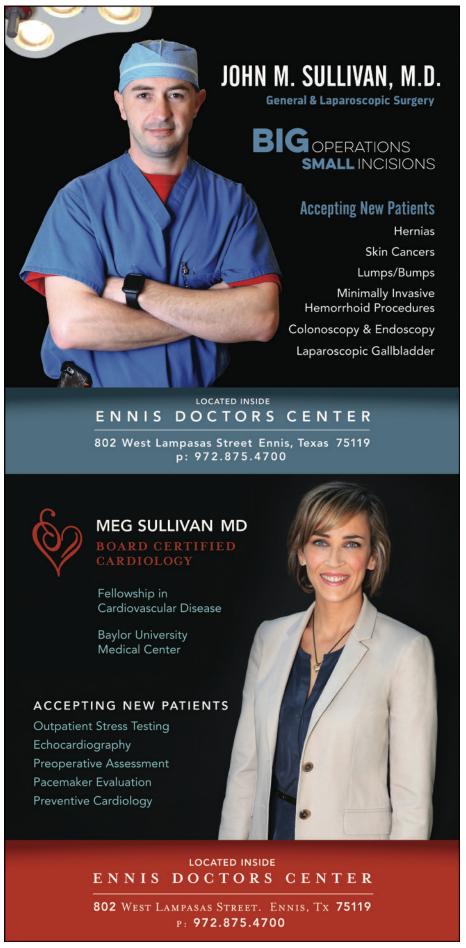


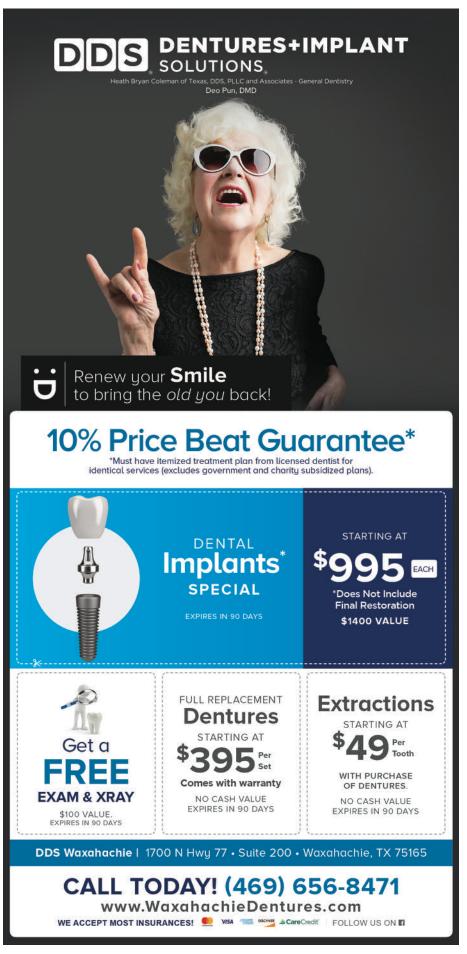
outside the proverbial box. "Art gives all students an opportunity to view the world differently. Art allows people to use their imaginations," Leah said. "Most people do not flex their imagination muscle often enough. Art is about problem solving and having freedom to be creative."

Looking back, Marlena remembers all she's been taught, and sees how much she's grown in self-expression. "I learned how not to use so much white in my paintings. I learned that colors are better," she stated. "As I moved into my third year of art classes, I was taught so much about shading and the proportions of the human body." She also learned how not to be afraid of larger canvases.

As she was introduced to other well-known artists, she quickly knew she wanted to keep her own artistic style intact. "Some people think I need to change my style — tone it down to meet their idea of art," Marlena said. "I don't mind critiques, but I've never liked being compared to anyone else. I'd like to remain an individual."

Once Marlena was introduced to symbolism, her art began to take on more purpose. The meaning of each new painting addressed life in the way







Marlena saw it. "People see us one way on the outside, when our inside tells a much different story most of the time," she shared.

The piece she is most proud of is one she named Oriental Night. Her love of Asian culture came through as she used bold acrylic colors on postersize paper. For Marlena, the colors in this painting are symbols of life. They are colorful and well-mastered. Her vision was first put down on paper as a pencil drawing. The depth in detail came when she dipped her paintbrush into the vivid colors.

Another of her creations that means a great deal to her is named Become What You Are. She based this piece on a fictional series she watches on Netflix. "This painting represents the thoughts in one woman's mind," she explained. "The black areas are her bad choices that are many times true to our natures. The green was the color of the mood I felt at the time." This deep, soulful piece challenges the viewers to ask themselves who they are and what

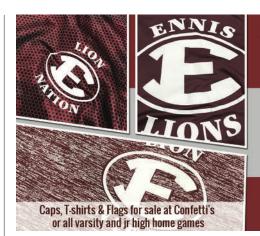
they do to survive this journey called life with its good and bad choices.

"I admit, my art is based on the world, and the world is not always a happy place," she confessed. "I base my art on how I see the world. I am inspired by so many things in life advice from elders, one-liners, famous quotes and society in general." Her goal as an artist is to please herself, not others. Words cannot describe what she wants to say, so she conveys her thoughts and perceptions through her artwork.



Once her final year of high school is complete, Marlena plans on a future career in criminal justice. "I just love what they do. It's so interesting," she explained. "Every day will always have a different outcome. Therefore, I will never be bored." Her mother first introduced her to law enforcement, and Marlena feels it will be a good career choice. She hopes to begin as a police officer and work her way to the top as a detective.

And since art is her stress-reliever, she may still be creating meaningful pieces of art with her own soulful style well into adulthood. "Who knows?" she said with a laugh. "Maybe someday it will be more than a hobby." **NOW**



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A Perfect oy **Desigr**

— By Virginia Riddle



An entertaining oasis, Corey and Brittni
Navarro's home is exactly what they had always
planned to have one day. "I wanted to do some very
different things but incorporate the floor plans from
my grandparents' house that I've always loved,"
Brittni explained.

First on their street, Corey and Brittni, along with daughters, Alli (14) and Bayli (8), have lived in their gated community and English Manor-styled home since last year, but they both hail from Ennis. "This is still a small town. I can drive around easily, and I feel like I know everybody," Brittni said. "We're close to family, and Corey works in my family's business with my dad, Mike

Space

At Home With Corey & Brittni Navarro



French. He and my grandmother, who does interior design, helped us with the house."

Corey and Brittni are graduates of Ennis High School. "We've known each other since kindergarten," Corey recalled.





"I can't remember not knowing Corey," Brittni agreed. "We 'dated' for a week in fifth grade, and then I broke up with him even though I was writing Navarro after my name in my diary. We got back together in high school, since I was best friends with Corey's sister and was always hanging out at his house. I kept thinking he was cute but didn't talk much."

History did repeat itself, and eventually the couple married in May 2009 on the field of Globe Life Park in Arlington. "Ours was the first wedding to be held on that field," Brittni remembered.

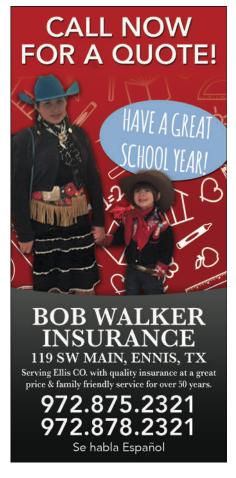




The location mirrored Corey's long love of baseball. After high school, Corey played baseball at Navarro College, and then majored in kinesiology at The University of Texas at Arlington. He works in construction and roofing for FBM Construction.

Brittni graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in geography and history. She received a master's degree in public policy, with a focus in Middle Eastern studies from Liberty University and has taught high school math in Palmer and Waxahachie ISDs. Most recently, she taught math at St. Joseph Catholic School where both daughters attended. "I loved being with my daughters at school, and I love the kids. I'm a second mom to those kids. They're my babies, too."

The family is active in its church, The Avenue Church-Ennis Campus. Corey and Brittni are Sunday school







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teachers with fourth and fifth grade youth and enjoy going on mission trips. Alli enjoys the church youth group and spending time with friends. She is a freshman at Ennis High School, while Bayli is in third grade at St. Joseph this year. "Bayli's very athletic and artistic. She makes us laugh," Brittni shared.

The Navarros love beach vacations. and between them have traveled to Europe, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Israel. Corey and Brittni are looking forward to a return trip next year to Israel when they'll share the experience with Alli and Bayli.

"Our lives are busy enough. When we got ready to move here, we gave away or sold most of our things. I wanted to come home and have it uncluttered," Brittni explained. The couple also wanted a place to entertain. The open floor plan and outdoor covered patio, carport and kitchen/ grill/bar work perfectly. "We wanted to have people over, cook out and just have space," Brittni said. "This is where the guys hang out while Corey grills."

Another unique outdoor feature includes the bronze gutters. "We get tons of compliments on these dark gutters," Corey said.

The living room seating is surrounded by one wall of windows overlooking the pool and green space beyond and a rock wall fireplace. Pullapart sofa tables configure differently for every need. A formal dining room dressed in golds and champagnes provides space for homework and gatherings. A butler's pantry is handy for those entertaining times.

Black, white and stainless steel is the color scheme for this chef's kitchen. A work island provides extra space and an extra ice maker, while the informal dining and a breakfast bar are used for family meals and after-school snacks. The bar faces outward toward the living room and has USB ports and electrical plugs, so the area can become a work area. "I can see all of our



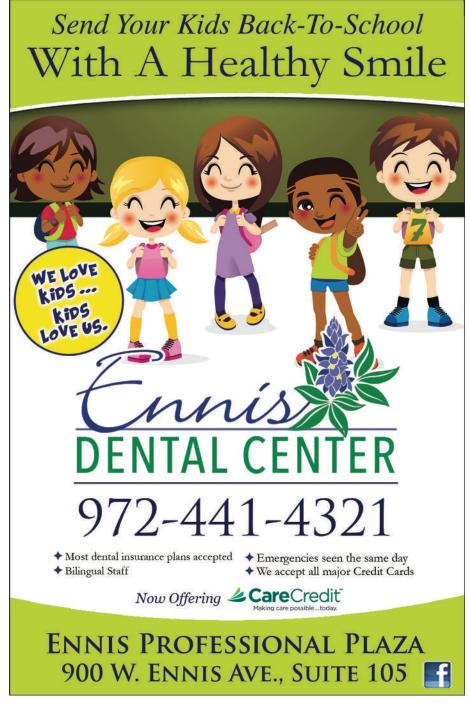


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living space from the kitchen," Brittni observed. A mud room, utility and pool bath open onto the outdoor area.

The master bedroom and bath offer a walk-in shower, separate dressing areas and built-in cabinets for all plug-in devices. The girls' wing is fuchsia-themed with artistic accents in silver and gold. Their shared bath also has completely separated areas with storage. A pink and plum theme reigns.



Alli's bedroom is done in silver and gold and hosts an art wall created from her selfies. Bayli's bedroom features a turquoise loft bed over a sitting area with steps that are useful drawer storage.

The second story is still a workin-progress. "We live downstairs, and we're doing some of this work ourselves. It's a lot of details," Brittni said. The upstairs houses the couple's shared office space with a balcony that overlooks the extended green space. "We can see for miles from here. It's especially pretty when storms are forming," Brittni added.

Extra attic space is being used for a theater room. "We hadn't originally planned this," Corey said. The rest of the second floor contains floored attic storage and a guest bedroom and bath.

A path winds from the street to the green space that will remain a wildscape. Rain Masters helped with the home's landscaping. "We are home here," Brittni said. "We're proud to be from Ennis and love being able to share this home with so many friends and family." NOW

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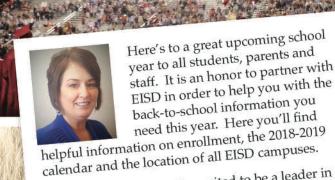
We hope that you have had a wonderful summer and have started to look forward to an outstanding year ahead. We have been hard at work over the summer preparing for the new school year, which begins on Thursday, August 16th. Our principals, teachers and staff are honored to serve your children, and they take great pride in the jobs that they do and the responsibilities that they have. We have a multitude of "back to school" activities happening here at Ennis ISD, so be sure to check the district and campus websites, download our new mobile app, and follow us on social media to stay connected.

Throughout the Ennis ISD community, there is an incredible level of excitement as everyone makes final preparations for the arrival of students. Your partnership and support are key elements to ensuring that we are able to maximize each student's educational and personal development. The staff of Ennis ISD eagerly awaits another wonderful school year and we look forward to seeing our students and their families very soon.

Go Lions!

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Please call the campus office for enrollment times.

- Parent's ID
- Proof of residency (mortgage or lease statement, tax appraisal statement, gas, water or electric bill with parent/ quardian name)
- Original Birth Certificate
- **Original Social Security Card**
- Withdrawal form from previous school, if applicable.
- Set up breakfast/lunch account or submit free/reduced lunch forms
- Review Student Code of Conduct, Handbook, and Dress Code (located on the EISD website)
- Submit Athletic Physical Form, if applicable
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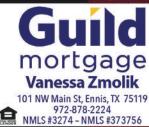
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Checklist for RETURNING EISD Students

- Set up breakfast/lunch account or submit free/reduced lunch forms
- Review Student Code of Conduct, Handbook, and Dress Code (located on the EISD website)
- Submit Athletic Physical Form, if applicable
- School Supplies















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District Holiday

- Professional Development/ Workday/Student Holiday
- New Employee Orientation
- Early Release
- State Testing
- Bad Weather Day
- Grading Period Ends or Begins

Instructional Days by Grading Period

Dates		34		5 75.0	
8/16-10/19	1st 9 Wks	45	84	1st Semester	
10/23-12/21	2nd 9 Wks	39	04	ist semester	
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3/19-5/30	4th 9 wks	49	91	2nd Semester	





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Spirit Shirts:

Uniform polos are still acceptable, but spirit t-shirts are another option. Students are allowed to wear maroon, gray, black, or white spirit shirts any day of the week, with standardized approved pants/shorts.

Spirit shirt logo designs must feature maroon, gray, black, or white colors and include either a campus or district approved organization, the campus or district name, the campus or district logo, or feature the Lion mascot.

Backpacks:

(All Grade Levels)

All student backpacks will need to be clear plastic or PVC (recommended). Transparent designs on the backpacks, along with colored seams and straps are permitted. Mesh backpacks will not be permitted.



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Stepping Up to the Plate

- By Virginia Riddle

Forgetful moments happen. Where are my keys? Did I turn off the coffee pot? Yes, everyone's been there, but what happens when those forgetful moments include a dad or mom not recognizing his or her child? A diagnosis of memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer's often follows. "The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline provides reliable information and support to people who have been diagnosed and their caregivers, health care providers and the public," Haley Hanson, The Walk to End Alzheimer's event manager, stated.

On September 22, downtown Ennis will be the place to be. "For the second year, we are hosting the Southern Region Walk," Chairperson Gary Freeman said. "We want to raise awareness and funds for research, education and the support of families of loved ones affected by memory loss at any

level." Gary and his wife, Angela, are co-owners of Red Oak's Home Instead Senior Care franchise. In both business and his family, Gary has experienced people with memory loss. "Someone had to step up to the plate, and I needed to be that someone," he stated.

Last year's walk inspired others to volunteer and help sponsor the walk. "Our volunteers are the heart of the walk," Gary revealed. "We had around 75 day-of-theevent volunteers to help set up, work and wrap up the walk, ensuring that all who participated had a wonderful experience." A planning committee of 12-25 people works year-round. "The volunteers are phenomenal, and sponsors come from all walks of business in Ellis, Navarro, Kaufman and Dallas counties."

Teams, with a goal of at least 10 walkers led by a team captain, are formed for the walk, but individuals can participate as a team of one. "Each team can raise funds in various ways or take pledges," Gary stated. "Each person who raises at least \$100 wears a specially designed T-shirt, but all people are welcome to walk." Sixty-three teams of 600 walkers raised \$53,000 during last year's initial walk. "We were very pleased, but we're aiming even higher this year," Gary

said. The walk consists of two miles with downtown streets along the route blocked off for walkers' safety.

A serious purpose brings these folks together, but fun abounds. "Some walk teams dress in matching outfits, including one team in which both men and women wore purple tutus," Gary recalled. "It's also fun to see friendly dogs, some dressed in purple scarves, making the walk with their owners."

Emotional moments are created through the walk's Promise Garden. "Before the walk's opening, participants are asked to choose a Promise Flower with a color representing their reason for walking," Gary explained. "They then write a personal message on the flower. Some personal testimonies elicit tears of pain, empathy and hope. At the ceremony's conclusion, all Promise Flowers are raised high in the air to represent a commitment to leading the way to a world without Alzheimer's."

Gary often introduces himself as "Gary Freeman from Hillsboro ... Mississippi, that is!" He grew up on his grandfather's farm and moved to Dallas in 1975. "Having experienced life in the country and city, I feel very much at home in Ellis County."

As a church worship leader/soloist for 50 years, Gary performs hits from the 1920s-1960s in senior adult venues. "One of my best memories was of my mother in her 90s with severe dementia, singing 90 percent of the lyrics with me in perfect alto, when the night before, she didn't even recognize me."

Interacting with the teams, team captains and volunteers "energizes" Gary's efforts. "I must admit, it's quite a joy to observe the competition that arises within the teams and among the captains," he shared. "Come join us as a sponsor, volunteer, walker or team captain this year!" NOW

Editor's Note: For more information, call the (800) 272-3900 Helpline or email Gary at gary.freeman@homeinstead.com.







Lois Robinette has lived all over the world and picked up recipes from each place, but her mother is the one she credits for her love of cooking. "My mother made three home-cooked meals every day right up until her passing at 95," she said. "When I cook, I follow the recipe exactly the first time, even if I think I have a better modification, and the second time around is when I add and change the recipe."

Having cooked for her family and church events mostly, Lois had the opportunity to cook for large groups for several years when she and her husband, Bill, operated a retreat ministry. She still chuckles at the time she substituted baking powder for baking soda, and the sadness she felt when the cake didn't rise. **NOW**

Irish Brown Bread

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- I cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups buttermilk
- **1.** Mix the flours, salt and soda thoroughly.
- **2.** Make a well in the center and gradually mix in the buttermilk. Stir with a wooden spoon. You may need more or less liquid, depending on the absorbent quality of the flour. The dough should be soft, but manageable.
- **3.** Knead the dough into a ball in the mixing bowl with your floured hands.
- **4.** Put it on a lightly floured baking sheet; with the palm of your hand, flatten dough out into a circle that is 1 1/2 inches thick.
- **5.** With a knife dipped in flour, make a cross through the center of the bread so that it will easily break into quarters when baked.
- 6. Bake in a preheated oven at 425 F for

- 35 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 F; bake another 15 minutes.
- **7.** If the crust seems too hard, wrap the baked bread in a damp tea towel and leave on a rack to cool.
- **8.** The bread should not be cut until it has set about six hours after it comes out of the oven.

Corn Cheese Chowder

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 qt. milk
- 2 16-oz. cans cream-style corn
- 2 cups American or Velveeta cheese, shredded
- 1 tsp. salt (less if you use Velveeta) 1/4 tsp. pepper
- **1.** Melt butter in a saucepan over low heat. Sauté onion in butter until transparent, but not brown (approximately 5 minutes.)

- **2.** Add flour; blend thoroughly, but do not brown.
- **3.** Add milk slowly while stirring constantly.
- **4.** Add corn and cheese; cook mixture on low heat until cheese melts. Do not boil. Add seasonings. Simmer about 10 minutes, stirring constantly.

Scottish Girdle Scones

- 3 cups flour
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar Buttermilk
- **1.** Mix all ingredients thoroughly, using enough buttermilk to make a soft dough.
- **2.** Turn out onto a floured board; halve and lightly knead each half into a ball.
- **3.** Roll out to about 1/4-inch thick; cut into triangles.
- **4.** Cook on a medium-hot griddle until pale brown on both sides.
- **5.** Cool in a towel to keep soft. You can also make these the day before, and bake a day later. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container.

Marinated Tomato Cucumber Salad

Salad:

1 pkg. grape tomatoes, halved 3-4 cucumbers, sliced

1/2 to 1 pkg. mushrooms, sliced

1 green pepper, diced3-5 green onions, chopped

Marinade:

1/2 cup balsamic vinegar 1/4 cup white vinegar 1/4 cup vegetable oil 1 tsp. garlic powder 1 tsp. salt 1/2 tsp. black pepper 1 tsp. dried basil

- **1.** For salad: Put all vegetables in an airtight container.
- 2. For marinade: Whisk marinade ingredients together; pour over vegetables. Stir until coated.3. Put lid on container; flip container every few minutes. Salad needs to be made at least 1 hour before serving at room temperature.

Meat Patties Parmesan Makes 4-6.

1/3 cup tomato juice or sauce
2 slices bread
1 lb. ground beef
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. dried oregano
Noodles of choice
2 garlic cloves, crushed
Butter or sour cream, to taste
Grated Parmesan, to taste

- **1.** Preheat oven to 400 F. Pour tomato juice over bread in a medium bowl.
- **2.** Let set until bread has absorbed the juice. With a fork, break soaked bread into small pieces.
- **3.** Add beef, egg, garlic powder, salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce and oregano.
- **4.** Mix together with fork or hands. Don't mix too much, or the patties will be tough.
- **5.** Make into large balls; place on a large, shallow greased pan. The balls should not touch. Bake for 20 minutes.
- **6.** Boil noodles according to package directions. Add two crushed garlic cloves to the water.
- **7.** After noodles are drained, add butter or sour cream; lightly toss.
- **8.** Place noodles on a serving dish; arrange meat patties on top. Parmesan cheese can be sprinkled over the meatballs.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 10 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.







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Camp FurBaby

- By Sandra Strong

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If your four-legged family members could talk, what would they say? As they playfully wag their tails, they may simply ask for a treat or nudge your knee for a pat on the head. They might also say they want a play date for a day, a weekend or longer. "Camp FurBaby is a dog hotel and a dog ranch resort or retreat," Owner Liz Davis said. "The stay is customized to each dog and their individual needs. Some are social butterflies, while others prefer blissful solitude."

Liz has had a love for dogs since she was a little girl. Her first words were not mommy or daddy. "My first word was Lazy," she admitted. "Lazy was my dad's bird dog. When I was old enough to walk, I started letting Lazy in the house." This early love grew into an adult passion for dogs.

One day as she looked around the ranch she calls home, it occurred to her that she could repurpose an old building on the property to give her the dog retreat she had been looking for with her own four-legged companion, Zeb. The lower floor of her art studio was vacant. The space it offered was being underutilized, so Liz decided it would be the perfect place for the kennel she always imagined. "I wanted a space where the dogs in my care could run," she stated.

The dogs left in her care are treated to 24-hour, aroundthe-clock service. "Dogs get to play several times daily, and they definitely get more potty breaks throughout the day because I'm here at the ranch with them," Liz explained.

Dog boarding at Camp FurBaby includes 10 spacious kennels, two oversized play yards, three doggie wading pools, TVs in the kennels and soothing music from CDs recorded especially for the dogs.

If you want to share in the play date, the Kick Ass Ranch Bed & Breakfast, also owned and operated by Liz, offers two bed-and-breakfast rooms for adults who are looking to get away. One room, the Francesca Magnolia Room, boasts of antiques, while the other is cowboy cool with a Jacuzzi tub, aptly referred to as the Bonnie and Clyde Room. During their stay, customers will enjoy a private, keyless entry; a swimming pool; two large, covered patios; and more than one cozy fire pit.

"The stay is
customized to
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individual needs.
Some are social
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blissful solitude."

Booking stays for you and your furbabies are made quite simple. You can go online, view the calendar provided to check vacancy availability and book your reservation. "It's much like a hotel registry," she said. "When you hit the 'book now' button, the page will give you pricing."

The business, although seasonal, has grown over the years. Several of her regular four-legged customers know her when they see her around town, and that puts a smile on her face. Peak times include summer months and holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. "People should plan ahead for these special times," Liz said. Regardless of the time of year, no two days at Camp FurBaby are ever the same, and Liz wouldn't have it any other way. NOW













TravelNOW

Peach Perfect

- By Sean Doerre

It's impossible to visit Gillespie County, Texas, without getting directly to the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Its focal point is Fredericksburg, a place founded in 1846 by German settlers. This small-town Texas community continues to provide a unique blend of Texan hospitality and German tradition.

Fredericksburg is well-known for award-winning wine. In fact, the Texas Hill Country was designated one of the 10 Best Wine Travel Destinations in 2014 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. With more than 40 wineries and tasting rooms in the Fredericksburg area, numerous wine tour companies and special wine events like the Fredericksburg Food & Wine Festival, Fredericksburg is at the center of Texas Wine Country.

With more than 150 shops, boutiques and art galleries lining historic Main Street, Fredericksburg is also a premier shopping

destination, offering the best of home decor, Western wear, fine art, kitchen wares, linens, antiques and more. On the weekend of the third Saturday of every month, Fredericksburg Trade Days features more than 400 vendors in seven barns and acres of shopping opportunities, along with great eats and live music in the Biergarten. Great food and wonderful dining is a fixture in Fredericksburg with more than 80 restaurants that feature everything from regional Texas Hill Country cuisine to German and Bavarian, to Tex-Mex and Italian, as well as numerous fine dining restaurants.

Gillespie County is one of the top peach-producing counties in Texas, and from mid-May through early August the town is filled with roadside stands selling peaches and other seasonal produce. Fredericksburg is also home to Wildseed Farms, the largest working wildflower farm in the United States and a destination for any nature enthusiast.

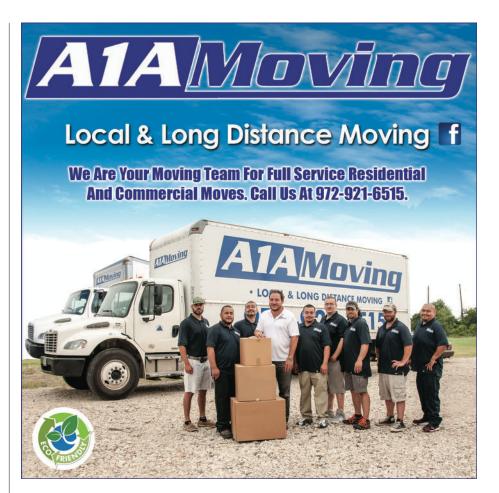
Enchanted Rock, the second largest granite dome in the United States and a designated International Dark Sky Park, is located just outside of Fredericksburg and offers miles of hiking trails, rock climbing and a 360-degree view of the Texas Hill Country from the top of the Summit Trail.

With more than 700 historically significant structures preserved in the Fredericksburg historic district, history surrounds the city. The Pioneer Museum Complex provides a glimpse of early life in Fredericksburg through historic homes, a log cabin, an authentic Sunday House, a one-room schoolhouse and more.

The National Museum of the Pacific War, dedicated to all who served in the Pacific during World War II, also honors hometown favorite Navy Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. The 6-acre museum complex includes the George H.W. Bush Gallery, the Japanese Garden of Peace, the Memorial Courtyard and the Plaza of Presidents. Just down the street, is the Pacific Combat Zone, which recently underwent an \$8 million renovation and hosts living history demonstrations eight times each year.

In addition to historic attractions, Fredericksburg is always brimming with activity from more than 400 special events, concerts and festivals held annually. Typical Fredericksburg events and activities include Oktoberfest, live music at Luckenbach Texas, Fredericksburg's Fourth of July Parade, summer horse racing, the Hill Country Food Truck Festival, the Stonewall Peach JAMboree, First Friday Art Walk, the Gillespie County Fair and more. Fredericksburg has more than 1,100 hotel and motel rooms, more than 1,200 bed-andbreakfasts/guesthouses, and several RV parks and campsites ready to welcome travelers with plenty of warm, Texan hospitality. NOW

To plan a trip to Fredericksburg and the Texas Hill Country, or request a free visitor information packet, visit www.VisitFredericksburgTX.com. Photo Credit: Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau.







Where Comes the Bride?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

In a time gone by, most weddings tended to be at one of a few locations: churches, the courthouse or the family's backyard. Today, though, almost anywhere could be a wedding venue. If you are getting ready to plan a wedding, there are some new and unique locales to consider.

Something Old

• Barns are back in style. Trending with the popularity of house remodeling shows over the last decade or so, weddings in rustic farmhouses and barns are becoming more and more common. You can look for places online or reach out to friends who live in rural areas. You might be surprised how easy it is to find a barn you can use. With some old-world style lighting, a simple large shed can become an idyllic wedding sight.

• *Church is in session.* A unique spin on the tradition of a religious setting is to have your ceremony in an old church building. There are churches that are no longer functioning for local congregations, but that are available for special events. And if you are willing to host a destination wedding, you can find such buildings across the country.



Something New

- Trendy restaurants make great wedding sites. If you live close enough to a big town with cool restaurants that are only busy in the evening, you might be able to reserve the place for an early wedding time. What is even better, you will have a place for a ceremony and reception all-in-one.
- Find a venue near you. People are sometimes surprised to learn how many beautiful venues are hidden just around the corner. With anything from simple buildings that have the necessary amenities to locations providing outdoor wedding scenes, there are often myriad options within a short drive. Many wedding venues offer an all-inclusive package, with much of the planning provided with this option.

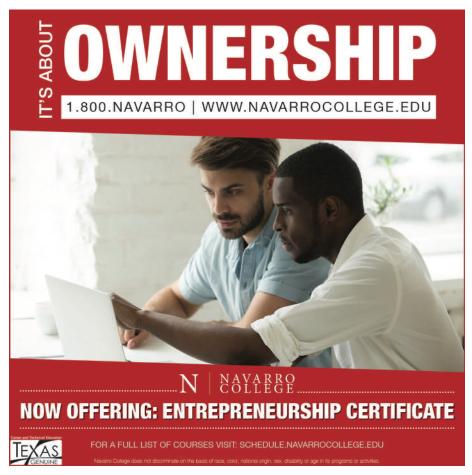
Something Borrowed

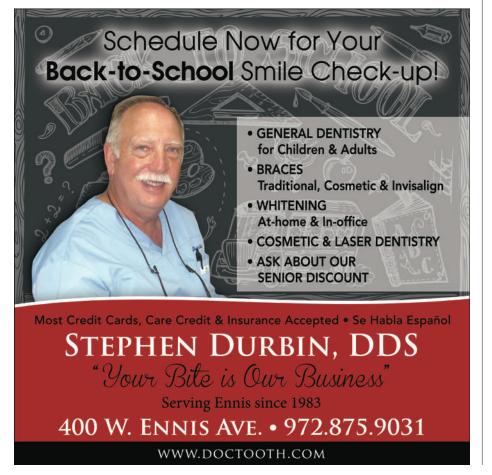
• Public spaces can be great for private events. Local parks have gazebos or pavilions available to rent for private events. If you are expecting a smaller wedding party, this can be a cute, quaint way to have an inexpensive wedding. Some more recently built parks even have spaces built with events in mind, so a wedding at a park does not have to feel like a wedding at a park.













• If you book it, they will come. If you want the beauty of an outdoor setting, but need a bigger venue, you can sometimes reserve the sports fields in your area during their off-season. With a little decorating work, a large field can turn into the perfect wedding site.

Something You

• Somewhere that defines the couple.

Anything from a golf course to the outdoor chapel at a church camp from your childhood is perfect if you both think it is perfect. If you and your spouse-to-be are the adventurous types, maybe a bridge spanning the gap between two mountain peaks is the location for you. People may question your choice, but it is just that, your choice, so have fun deciding where to host the big day.

Whatever you decide, remember that the day of your nuptials should be one of the happiest days of your life. As long as you are marrying the person you love, surrounded by the friends and family you want supporting you, no place is the wrong choice to ring your wedding bells.









Around Town



Lupee Beauchamp has her first booth at Polka Festival.

Zoomed In: Lauren Hinson

By Sandra Strong

This is Lauren Hinson's third year to be lifeguarding at the Sokol pool, and it's a job she takes very seriously. "Even when the sun is beating me down," she admitted, "I have to stay focused on what may happen and think through plans if that something actually does happen." And it's also hard for her to draw the line between fun and safe.

She feels the most rewarded when she pulls someone out of the pool or to the side of the pool after an incident. "When their parents see they're OK, it's a good thing," she explained. "After all the training, you never know if you'll save a life until you do. Safety for those in the water always comes first."



Eleanor Mae Howell is mesmerized by the fun found in her first Fourth of July.



Children of all ages enjoy the final day of VBS at Tabernacle Baptist Church performing one of many songs they learned.



New business and EnnisNOW advertiser O'Baby Fitness holds a ribbon cutting with David and Carol Clemons, Madeline Clemons-Looper, Lee Looper and Willow.



Katy Newberry was decked out in her red, white and blue on the Fourth of July.



Jeff Johnson, maintenance supervisor at St. John's Catholic Church, repairs a broken light.



The Freedom Festival brings out bicycling parade-goers decked out in the red, white and blue that represents freedom.





Calendar

August:

8, 22

Survivor Trail, Surviving Cancer Together: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County. There are new topics presented at each of the meetings. Call (972) 935-9801 for topic titles, more information and directions to the church.



9 — 19

Little Shop of Horrors: Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas St. For curtain times, pricing and reservations, visit www.Ennis PublicTheatre.com.

10

Summer Moonlight Movies: *The Avengers*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

11, 25

In the Music Room Studio & Listening Room Radio Show Tapings: 7:00 p.m., **Aug. 11**, George Ensle & Butch Morgan; **Aug. 25**, Greg Whitfield & David Starr, 3103 Sanger Creek Way, Waxahachie. For more information or to make reservations, call (972) 938-9990 or email rsvp@inthemusicroom.com.

September:

4

Ennis Garden Club meeting: 10:00 a.m., First Presbyterian Church in Ennis. The event will include a guest speaker and refreshments. Prospective new members are welcome to attend. For more information, call or text (214) 557-9691 or message them on the Ennis Garden Club Facebook page.

12

Survivor Trail, Surviving Cancer Together: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County. There are new topics presented at each of the meetings. Call (972) 935-9801 for topic titles, more information and directions to the church.

14 — 16

20th Annual Cancer Memorial Golf Tournament: **Friday**, practice round; **Saturday**, tournament play, silent auction from 3:00-7:00 p.m., dinner for golfers, sponsors and spouses at 6:00 p.m., Calcutta and live auction following dinner; **Sunday**, tournament play continues, tournament will be played at the Old Brickyard Golf Course, 605 N. I-45, Ferris; all other activities will be held at the Sokol, E. Hwy. 34, Ennis. Cash donations, hole sponsorship and live and silent auction items are welcomed. For more details, call Marilyn Boon Linsteadt at (972) 365-1206.



Ongoing:

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.elliscountyaggiemoms.org.

Fourth Mondays

Texas Master Naturalists Indian Trails Chapter: 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Waxahachie. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information about the group, visit www.txmn.org/indiantrail.



Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

Tuesdays

Lariat Bridge Club: 6:30 p.m., Boy Scout Cabin, 1139 Brown St., Waxahachie. For more information or to confirm the meeting, email Shari at weatherscf@yahoo.com or call (505) 270-4017.

Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class: 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave. This is an interdenominational Bible study class. For more information, call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at ccurry_98@yahoo.com.

First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at

August 2018

(972) 921-8800 or Diana Buckley at SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com for more information.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Barb at (214) 463-5064 or email barb. jacobs19@yahoo.com. Reservations are due **Sunday** before the meeting.

Thursdays

Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. This is a nondenominational Bible study class. For more information, call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

Second Thursdays Mom's Connected meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861 for more information.



Fourth Thursdays MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message. First and Third Fridays
MOPS meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
during regular school semester,
Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200
County Club Rd. A ministry
for mothers of preschoolers
in the Ennis community. Visit
www.tabernaclefamily.org/mops/.

Sundays

GriefShare meeting: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary Youth Inc. room. For more information, call (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com.





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Talk to Your Spouse About Your Retirement Vision

If you're single, your retirement goals are your own — you don't really have to consult with anybody, and you can change your plans whenever you like. However, if you're married, you and your spouse should develop a joint "vision" encompassing all the key areas of your retirement lifestyle. These are a few questions you may want to address first:

Where should we live?

Once you retire, you may need to consider two key aspects of your living situation: the size and location of your home. Regarding size, you may look around one day and realize you have more living space than you actually need. This is especially true, of course, if you have children who have set out on their own. So, if you have a large single-family house, you may want to consider whether you should move into a condominium or even an apartment, either of which might be more cost-effective for you.

As for location, you may decide that retirement is the perfect time to move, either to seek a more favorable climate or to be near grown children and grandchildren. In any case, moving to a different area is a major financial decision, so you and your spouse will certainly want to discuss all the aspects of relocation.

Will either of us work?

Retirement no longer means the cessation of all work. You

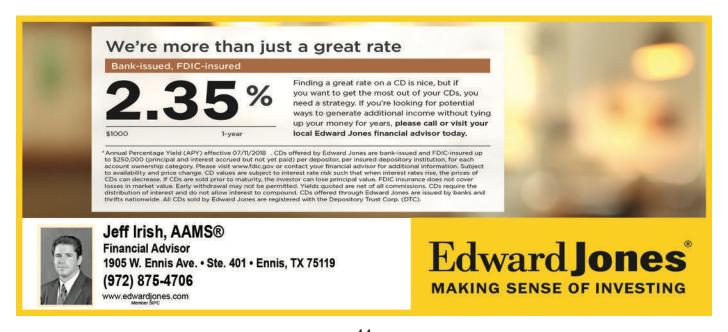
or your spouse — or perhaps you and your spouse — may want to use your skills and experience to do some consulting or even open your own business. Adding a source of earned income will almost certainly help your financial picture during retirement, but if either you or your spouse is planning to do some work, you will want to be sure this activity doesn't disrupt other plans that may be important to you, such as traveling. Also, any source of earned income during your retirement years may well affect important financial decisions, such as when to take Social Security and how much to withdraw each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). Again, it's essential that you and your spouse be on the same page about any type of employment during retirement.

How will we spend our time?

Aside from possibly doing some type of work during your retirement years, how else might you spend your time? Would you like to travel extensively? Or would you rather stick close to home and pursue your hobbies or volunteer? These don't have to be either-or decisions. Hopefully, you'll be able to explore many pursuits during your retirement. Keep in mind, though, that there will be different costs for these various activities, so you and your spouse may need to prioritize your choices to ensure they fit into your overall financial strategies.

As you can see, you and your spouse will have some key decisions about the financial aspects of your retirement. However, with some careful planning, you can make the moves that can help you work toward your common retirement vision.

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





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