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ON THE COVER



Nate Northcutt strums his fate with the band Page 9.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

It's back to school they go ...

Yes, it's that time again. Although the kids, including my niece and nephew, probably would rather I didn't remind them! I can relate. When I was in school, I used to love the freedom of the summer months, spending a lot of time swimming at Bardwell Lake. My sisters and I also enjoyed visits with my grandparents in East Texas. We used to take turns sitting on the ice cream churn as my grandmother cranked the handle. I don't think I tasted colder or more buttery ice cream than my grandmother's homemade recipe.

Another memory of summers with MaMa and PaPa was shelling peas in their back yard in the evening after a day spent picking those peas and other vegetables.

One of my sisters, Melinda Bigham, shares recipes for the cooking column in this issue — her own, as well as some family favorites!

Randy

Randy Bigham
EnnisNOW Editor
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TAKING

— By Jon Peeler

CENTER STAGE

A lot of people dream of one day leaving normal life behind to become a rock star. Hearing yourself on the radio or standing in front of a screaming crowd is that intoxicating. For most, the dream remains a dream, but not for Nate Northcutt. And he didn't even have to leave home to accomplish his goal.

As the son of Charles and Charlene Northcutt, Nate grew up in an Ennis family that reveres music. "I can't remember when there wasn't music playing or someone playing something," he reminisced. "It was all around me as far back as I can remember. Everyone in the family was really into music. My uncle used to play guitar, and I was just drawn to it."

At Ennis High School, the 2007 graduate split his time between playing in the school band and a band he created with his friends, named Waiting for Tim. "We use to listen to a lot of Creed and Shinedown and that sort of thing," he explained. "We really just tried to figure out what being in a band was all about."





Practicing and playing locally proved good education for Nate. "I guess the best thing about Waiting for Tim is we all learned what we wanted to sound like individually," Nate admitted. "There was a lot of talent in the group. The guys are now having success in different groups in the Dallas music scene."

But for the time being, Nate had other plans. "My uncle was always a huge influence on me," he said. "He had been a doctor here in town for as long as I can remember, and I just always thought I'd be the next doctor in the family." So, after graduation, Nate packed his bags and set out for Waco to study medicine at Baylor University. "I liked Baylor and was doing well," he shared, "but my heart just wasn't in it. When Page 9 called, I never looked back."

Page 9 is a Dallas-based rock band with a growing fan base. Having released a few albums, the five-member group is also enjoying success on the road, touring locally and nationally. As luck would have it, the band needed a guitarist for some tour dates and recording sessions. "We had the same ideas about music and sound. It all just fit really well," Nate said. After his first gigs with the band, it wasn't long before he assumed the role of full-time guitarist, while picking up on backup vocals and contributing to writing duties.

"It really is a full-time job," Nate said. "We don't have a recording label. All of our music is independently released, so all the work that goes into putting out an album falls on us."

And it's work the members of Page 9 take very seriously. Nate's band mates include Josh Roa-Martinez (singer), Lindan Scott (bass), Anthony Goodman (drums) and Phil Ward (touring guitar player).



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“We had the same ideas about music and sound.”

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The band divides the responsibilities that would normally fall on a manager or agent among themselves. “My job is booking,” Nate explained. “I book all our dates across the country. I’ve gotten pretty good at it. Now I do booking for a few other bands. It’s a lot of work, but it’s fun.” Once a week the band gets together to meet and talk about their direction, while comparing notes on everyone’s individual assignments on the business side.

Page 9 also takes a unique approach to the albums they release. They prefer to put out one song at a time on iTunes and similar sites before collecting them together for an album release. “That has worked well for us,” Nate shared. “Usually when a band puts out an album, two or three songs out of a 10-song album get a lot of radio time, and the rest are just forgotten about. This way people get to hear more of our music, and that’s what it’s really about — the music and the sound.”

Currently “Chronicle 2: Heart of Gold,” the second installment of the album *The Serenity Chronicles* was released in June. “I think ‘Waiting to Exhale’ is the best single we’ve done so far,” Nate confessed. “I can’t wait to see what people think of it. It’s just a really strong song.”

In the midst of writing, recording and managing, the members of Page 9 are finding their place as a touring stage band, playing dates in Dallas, as well as venues stretching across the country.



"Hearing your music on the radio is cool, but getting up to play for people is still my favorite part," Nate said with a zeal that defines his approach to the work he loves. "When I started with the band, we were usually playing venues that held about 200 to 300 people. We still do, but now we also play in front of 700-plus people all the time. It's really exciting."

Page 9 band members: Nate Northcutt, Anthony Goodman, Josh Roa-Martinez and Lindan Scott (not pictured: Phil Ward).



Although the band now performs nationwide and enjoys radio play coast to coast, the members maintain strong ties to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "We recently played at the Taste of Addison festival along with other popular local bands. I love that kind of setting," Nate said. "It's cool to hear good music all day. And even though a lot of the time none of it is similar, everyone has a good time."



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A person might come out to hear one particular band and discover something else they never heard of but really like. I love music festivals. I play them every chance I get."

Back home in Ennis, Nate's career path has won the support of his family. "They have been really good about it," he observed. "I think at first they thought, *Well, it's just something Nate is trying out.* But it's been three years now, and I've taken it way farther than they thought I would."



If his family ever did have any reservations, they've long since been dispelled by Nate's continued success. "It's just what I love," Nate posited. "And when you love something and have a passion for it, how do you *not* go after it? I just can't imagine doing anything else."

Nate is grateful for the encouragement from fans, friends and family, and his advice to locals who haven't heard of Page 9 yet is to keep their radio tuned and their eyes and ears open. Not only might residents hear Nate over the air waves, they may even run into him in the checkout line right here in Ennis. **NOW**

Meg Sullivan, M.D.

Cardiology

Dr. Sullivan graduated from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and completed her residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Sullivan practices general cardiology including outpatient stress testing, echocardiography, preoperative assessment, pacemaker evaluation and preventive cardiology. She is accepting new patients.



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ENNIS MEETS WEST

— By Randy Bigham



At Home with Matt and Amy Hutyra

In the countryside near Ennis sits a house with a metal roof bluer than the sky and every bit as blue as the state flower that blooms along this winding section of the Bluebonnet Trail. The three-bedroom, ranch-style house made of Austin stone is home to a busy family with roots that run deep — here and in West, often called Ennis' sister city because of its similar Czechoslovakian history. The two places converge in the hearts of Matt Hutyra, his wife, Amy, and their sports-loving son and daughter: Justin, 13, and Matty, 17. Also answering the family roll call is Lucky, the Hutyra's beloved pooch, whose anxious pant and wagging tail belie his 11 years.

"We love Ennis, but we also love West, where I was born and raised," observed Matt, a regional quality manager for Anixter in Lewisville. "West is as much a part of our lives as Ennis is. We go there for Christmas, Easter and for family reunions each year." Pride in Czech heritage is central to both cities, and for Matt and Amy it's crucial to their lives in many ways. "Czechs are hard workers with strong family ties," Matt added. "Food, fellowship and polka music is our bond."

"Ennis is where I'm from," explained Amy, a laboratory technician for Texas Oncology-Medical City Dallas. "My family, the Zabojsniks, have been here since the 1890s. But I have many friends in West, and it was at West Fest that I met Matt."

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In fact, the Hutyras' story is almost a Czech take on *A Tale of Two Cities*. Not only did the Ennis couple first meet in West, but they were married there at St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption. In 1991, Matt had been on leave from the Navy when he attended a street dance during West Fest, and mutual friends introduced him to Amy. "Our eyes met, we kissed and the rest is history," Matt confessed. After two tours in Iraq, Matt came home, and he and Amy wed in 1994.


In 2001, the pair moved into their current rustic home with its distinctive



monochrome blue tin roof and sand-colored trim. Although situated on a picturesque dale in the Creechville area of Ennis, much of the labor and supplies came from West, the couple's home away from home. Matt and Amy's love of Ennis continues to be balanced by the soft spot in their hearts for West, especially since the catastrophic fertilizer plant explosion that all but leveled the town in April. Three of Matt's brothers, a sister, an aunt and uncle and several cousins are residents

of West, and were directly affected by the blast, losing homes and suffering injuries. Moreover, he was friends with some who lost their lives.

"Of the nine West firefighters who died in the explosion, I grew up with four of them," Matt recalled. "They were childhood friends, so it's sad that they're gone." Amy and Matt keep in touch with family and friends in West through social media, and even subscribe to *The West News*, the city's weekly newspaper.



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Meanwhile, life in Ennis goes on apace. Matt enjoys keeping fit on daily jogs, and Amy spends time canning. "I'm a farm girl, so I love all things country," she laughed. "I canned 36 quarts of pickles last year! I also can beets and hot sauce."

The interior of the home where this busy family unwinds after a long day of school and work is homey indeed. "We wanted it comfy, not fancy," Amy admitted. "We are just plain, laid-back people, so it has to be practical."

That's not to say the Hutyras' unpretentious abode isn't without style. Being Ennis Lions fans, maroon is a favorite color, and this proof of local team spirit is seen throughout the house. The living room curtains are maroon, as are the bar stools in the kitchen. The master bath is also devoted to the color. Elsewhere, black and chrome accents, wrought iron, deep brown leather and light and dark wood jell to form a modern, yet traditional, whole. Photographically, a familial note is struck almost everywhere, whether it's the couple's wedding portraits in the master bedroom or collages of their children and other family members in the hallway.

Amy's feminine eye is reflected in crafty pieces like floral swags and wreaths as wall decor, while benches, shelves and other furnishings are examples of Matt's and Justin's carpentry skills. "I'm hoping to hand off to him the know-how and pride of working with your hands," Matt explained.

Amy's upbeat personality is seen in her Lucille Ball collectibles, which range from framed photos to fridge magnets. She also collects miniature houses of all sorts — bird houses, doll houses, seasonal ornaments — some of which are displayed on the mantel in the living room. "And I love my guineas," the lady of the house laughed, referring to the ground-nesting fowl she raises in preference to chickens. Although the pastime may seem unusual, Amy is actually carrying on a family tradition.

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As a family, the Hutyra's enjoy each other's interests, and Matt and Amy's teenage kids are the center of their lives. Justin, who's in the eighth grade, is active in football. Last year his team won district. He has attended football summer camp and remains a big fan of Ennis' own Graham Harrell. Justin also likes crappie fishing, as numerous snapshots



on his parents' iPhones attest. Matty has excelled at sports, too, playing softball and volleyball, and she was named breed champion for the hogs she showed at the Ellis County Expo. Currently, she works part time while preparing herself for graduation and college, where she intends to study nursing. "The family is always together," Amy enthused. "We go to football games together, we go fishing together, and we are active in St. John Catholic Church, KJT (Catholic Union of Texas) and KJZT (Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas)."

West also remains in their hearts, as the city they consider a second home recovers from the tragedy that made it front page news. "There was such an outpouring of love and support when it happened," Matt said, "and I hope that continues, because there was a lot of loss, not just of lives but of property and livelihoods. The people there still need us, so I hope they won't be forgotten. The way we see it, Ennis is West, and West is Ennis. They're both home to us." **NOW**

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AHEAD of the REST

— By Hope Teel

Last March, Christian Mach, a 15 year-old Ennis High School student and captain of her cheerleading squad, made a bold decision when she decided to shave her head in her sister's honor at a fundraising event benefiting childhood cancer research. In a brave endeavor as the only girl to participate, Christian joined an all-male team. Together, they not only met, but exceeded their fundraising goal of \$10,000.

Four years prior to Christian shaving off her pretty tresses, life changed for the Mach family. Christian's older sister, Chandler, then 13, was diagnosed with a rare form of children's leukemia. "She was the last person you would expect to have cancer, and then it just happened," her mother, Regina, observed.

Since then, the Machs have grown closer and stronger than ever, with the relationship between Chandler and Christian forging into an unyielding sisterly bond. "We've come to terms with the fact that, in a way, it is a blessing," Chandler shared. "We wouldn't be the people we are today had this not happened to me. Our faith would not be as strong as it is, and we wouldn't try as hard as we do. We wouldn't know what it feels like to fight for every single day."

Upon Chandler's diagnosis, Christian, only 11 at the time, didn't fully understand what was going on, but as she experienced her family's struggles firsthand, her life changed completely. Her goals have evolved with a purpose, and she's gained a deeper perspective and understanding of people, feeling their pain on many levels. "Cancer affects the entire family, and Christian has been affected just as much," Regina said. "It's harder in some ways because you're watching helplessly, but Christian always had the best attitude and never complained!"

Chandler remembered her younger sister's love and dedication in difficult times. Every time Chandler was rushed to the hospital, Christian was ready with a packed bag for her. "She was always prepared and knew exactly what to bring to help us make it through the night," Chandler recalled.

The bond between the girls has strengthened exponentially over the years, and because of their experiences they share a deep compassion for others and a passion for helping them. Christian's extraordinary decision to shave her head has only furthered her desire to make the world a better place. "It makes me want to become an oncologist or a pediatric nurse," Christian explained. "Because now, I know how patients feel with people staring at them all of the time because they don't have hair. I've felt the same insecurities, and it makes me want to show them I can relate. I'm also very



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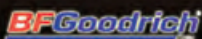
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interested in the scientific part of cancer now, too. I want to know how it works and how it can be stopped."

Chandler agreed. "I wanted to be a teacher like my mom," she confessed. "But now I want to be a nurse. If we achieve the goal of the campaign, we will save literally hundreds of lives because of my illness."

Annually, the sisters attend Camp iHope in Dallas together. The summer camp provides support for both cancer patients and their siblings. "Camp is awesome," Christian enthused. "It really takes your mind off of cancer, and we just do stuff like kids do at a normal camp!" In addition, the girls are both members of a club at their school called Stand Up To Cancer. "That is actually what prompted Christian to shave her head for the fundraising event in the first place," Chandler explained. "It's what started it!"

The event, put on by the St. Baldrick's Foundation, was held at Trinity Hall Irish Pub and Restaurant in Dallas on March 30. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven charity that raises more money for childhood cancer research grants than any other organization except the U.S. government. The head-shaving events are held all over the nation and internationally in 28 countries, and through them the group has raised over \$100 million for childhood cancer research since 2005.

Several boys who had participated in



St. Baldrick's head-shaving drive in 2012 were discussing it at school, mentioning they desperately wanted a girl to join the team. They approached Christian, asking if she would be interested. "I said, 'I'm sorry, but I just like my hair way too much,'" she remembered. "But then, I just couldn't stop thinking about it! I had always said that if Chandler lost her hair, I would shave my head, too, but luckily, she never lost her hair."

The idea kept churning in Christian's thoughts. She downloaded an app on her phone that allowed her to upload her picture in order to digitally view herself bald. "I wanted to see what I would look like if I were to do it, just in case," she said. When she opened the app, an advertisement came up. It was for St. Baldrick's Foundation. "I remember thinking, *This is a sign! I have to do this!* So, I just went for it."

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Initially, Christian and her mom didn't tell Chandler about the plan. "I had to find out the day before the event by seeing it on the news," Chandler admitted. Once Christian made the decision to shave her head, she hit the ground running to raise as much money as she could for childhood cancer research. She sent a number of emails to individuals and businesses, and in addition to landing on the front page of newspapers, Christian was the focus of a story by Max Morgan on *Fox 4 News*. "They put a link up on the news website to go and donate for Christian, and donations started pouring in from random people," Chandler recounted.

Christian received overwhelming support from her family, friends and the community before, during and after the event. The McDonald's restaurant in Ennis chose an evening to donate a percentage of the restaurant's profits to the cause, and Don Jose's owner, Gustavo Jimenez, donated \$2,000 to Christian's team at the rally. Christian alone raised \$4,700 at the actual event, and the team accumulated a total of \$13,621, with Christian leading the charge. She also donated her hair to Children with Hair Loss. The organization was able to make wigs for two little girls.

"By going through with this, Christian showed us how selfless and strong she really is," Chandler shared. "Normally, she is not very emotional, so when she shaved her head I knew it was her way of telling me, 'I love you, and I support you. I will give anything for you.' We are so proud of her!" **NOW**

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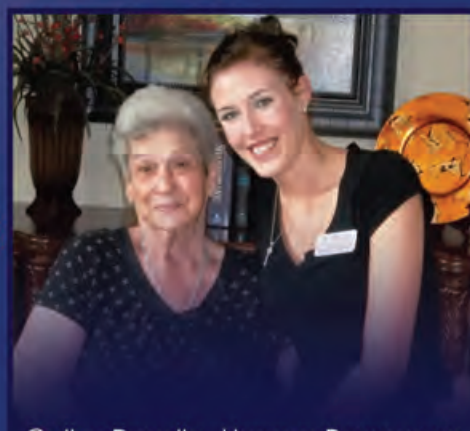


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Swinging a CLUB

— By Rick Herron

Anyone who can hit a golf ball should seriously consider participating in Ellis County's fifth annual 100th G.R.E.E.N. Marathon on September 20. "The event, held at the Old Brick Yard Golf Club in Ferris is the year's major fundraising event for three nonprofit organizations that do a world of good for the county," mentioned Sylvia Smith, who is enjoying her fifth year working with this event. Funds raised will benefit Ellis County Child Welfare, Court Appointed Special Advocate of Ellis County and Rainbow Room.

Sylvia, who retired several years ago from the United States Postal Service after 20 years of service as a rural mail carrier, somehow manages to fit this epic responsibility neatly into her already busy schedule, an accomplishment that boggles the mind. She is spokesperson and a board member of the Ellis County Historical Commission, and greets visitors to the Ellis County Museum in downtown Waxahachie several days a week. She is also involved with the Ellis County Women's Building Board and is on the board of Ellis County Child Welfare. "I've always tried to be involved with local community and historical things," she said. After resigning from KBEC radio as their business manager in 2011, she has more time than ever to devote to volunteer work.

Through her work with Ellis County Child Welfare, something she's been doing for nearly nine years, she has become acutely





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aware of how vital and important agencies that focus on children really are to the community. "Our focus at Ellis County Child Welfare is on foster children under the care of Child Protective Services," she explained. "We try to fill in the gaps monetarily that the state of Texas does not currently cover, such as buying medications and paying for drug testing. We also help pay for CPS workers to attend work-related conferences."

Sylvia is one of 14 members on the board of Ellis County Child Welfare, and is particularly proud of the fact they were able to provide funds for foster parents to buy clothes for their kids in preparation for the 2013 spring semester. However, funds to cover all the needs don't just magically appear for these nonprofit organizations, so events like the 100th G.R.E.E.N. (Golfers Rallying to Erase the Effects of Neglect) Marathon go a long way in bolstering funding. "The goal for participants in the marathon is to hit 100 balls in one day," Sylvia said, adding that many golfers who have historically participated in the event have already brought in over \$3,000 in pledges and entrance fees. "A person can play in the marathon for an entrance fee



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of \$250," she said. "We encourage each participant to get \$1,000 in pledges when possible, too."

The marathon began in 2008, when Dr. Leroy Fenton came up with the idea as a way to raise money for organizations in Ellis County devoted to benefiting the county's abused and neglected children. He has spearheaded the event each year along with a tireless steering committee. "He's decided it is time to pass it on to someone else, and is looking for the lucky recipient," she laughed.

Historically, the marathon has received the necessary funding from hundreds of sponsors that include individuals and local businesses, and Sylvia is quick to express gratitude for their past, present and future involvement. "We encourage anyone who wants to be a sponsor to contact us, and we will send them the sponsorship form to complete," Sylvia said. There are six sponsorship categories: Capital (\$5,000 to \$10,000), Diamond (\$3,000 to \$4,999), Gold (\$2,000 to \$2,999), Silver (\$1,000 to \$1,999), Bronze (\$500 to \$999) and Hole (\$150 to \$499).

This mother of five and grandmother of 10 obviously understands the importance of early and careful planning in order to support Dr. Fenton's very successful history with the marathon. "We will start setting up around 6:00 a.m. on Friday, September 20," she said. "The golfers start arriving between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. We furnish breakfast for them, courtesy of Ellis County Child Welfare. The objective is for each player to hit 100 balls in one day. We serve lunch, courtesy of the Rainbow Room, and supper will be provided by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). We have some really

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“We will supply anyone who wants to participate with all the necessary paperwork. The main goal will be for each participant to get as many pledges as possible,” Sylvia continued.

In 2012, the 100th G.R.E.E.N. Marathon had around 42 golfers participate, and the goal for the 2013 marathon is to enlist at least 75 golfers. Funds raised from the event will be evenly divided between CASA, headed by David Setzer, president of the organization that helps fund training of volunteers who spend hours with an abused child and family and represents them within the judicial system; Rainbow Room, headed by Cassi McCauley, serving as president of the group, started by First Lady Laura Bush several years ago when her husband was governor of Texas, to provide necessities to small children removed from their homes and their caregiver(s); and Ellis County Child Welfare.

On the flyers created for the fifth annual marathon, there is a striking depiction of a golfer with a golf bag holding his hand out to a child, with the words, “How many holes of golf would you play to protect a child from abuse?” At the bottom, the marathon’s objective clearly states, “Safe children is our passion. Good citizenship is our commitment. Community education is our objective and the ultimate golf event is our goal.” Sylvia and all of the volunteers working diligently to make the fifth annual 100th G.R.E.E.N. Marathon another big success are certain to make sure those words continue to ring true, now and in the future. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Forms are available for those wanting to sponsor or participate in the marathon by calling (214) 676-4486.



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Eureka Springs has a mysterious effect on people. No one seems to be able to explain their love affair with the place. Secluded and peaceful with winding mountainside streets, the city has flair like no other. Chosen as one of America's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this Victorian village boasts the country's only entire downtown on the National Register of Historic Places. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas are painstakingly preserved Victorian homes that hug the sides of cliffs and hillsides. The city has block after block of one-of-a-kind shops, boutiques, fine art galleries, craft emporiums, spas and restaurants.





Eureka Springs is a small town and proud of it! The absence of traffic lights, malls and giant discount stores is a big part of the lure. Fewer than 2,500 folks live in this magical, friendly village, and yet there's as little or as much to do as you like. While many come to Eureka Springs to enjoy the slow-paced peace and quiet, those who are looking for an adventure can find plenty to do as well.



More than 20 million have seen the *Great Passion Play*, America's largest-attended outdoor drama, a depiction of Jesus Christ's last days on earth. One of the country's largest sanctuaries for big cats, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, rescues large felines and places them in natural habitats. Visitors to Eureka Springs can enjoy nightly music shows, annual jazz, blues and bluegrass festivals, opera and the country's oldest folk festival.

The opera season stretches through June and July. The Eureka Springs Blues Festival is in June, the Eureka Springs Bluegrass Festival happens in August and Jazz Eureka Festival is in September. Eureka Springs has hosted the Ozark Folk Festival each October since 1947, which makes it the country's longest continuously running folk festival. Events include a songwriter competition, a parade, the Barefoot Ball and, of course,

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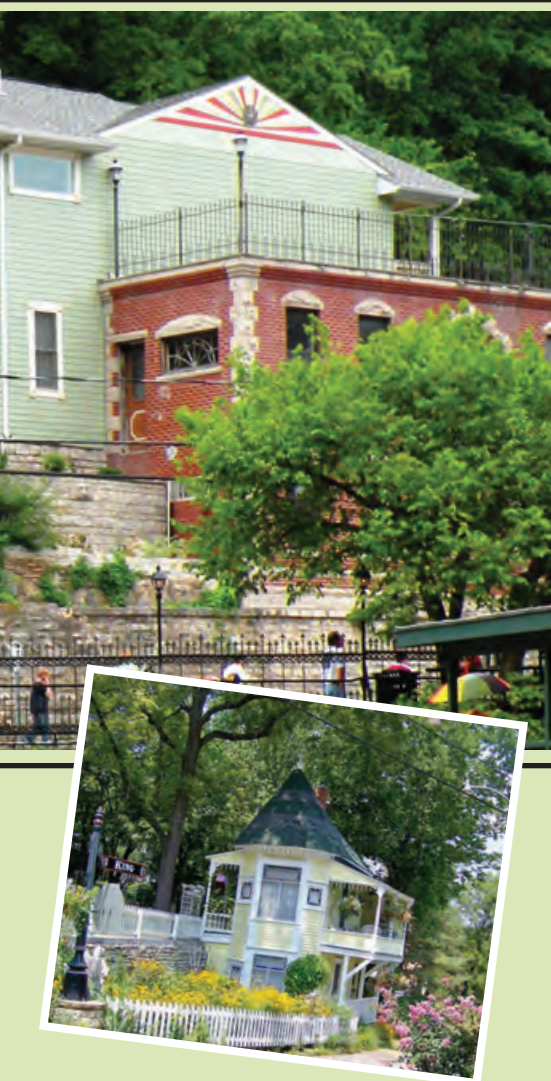
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lots of good folk music. The traditional kickoff to the festival is a queen's contest featuring a square dance performance by the Hedgehoppers — students from Eureka Springs' third-grade classes. Free musical acts perform in the park all week with headline acts in The Auditorium as the grand finale of the week. A staple of nearly every Ozark Folk Festival is a craft show, celebrating the diverse skills of our many area craftspeople.

Every second Saturday, there are free outdoor concerts, shows at the city auditorium and colorful parades for every occasion! Other attractions include zip lines, a steam train, ghost tours, carriage rides and a show with an illusionist and medium. Trolleys are a preferred way to get around the winding, crisscrossed streets — run year-round, though for fewer days and hours during the winter months. With over 115 stops around town, the trolley provides convenient transportation for all ages.

Lodging options include something for everyone. Numerous family-owned motels, historic hotels and Victorian homes turned into bed-and-breakfasts and nightly rentals, as well as unique tree houses, rustic cabins and quaint cottages are tucked into the hillsides and woods. You can even sleep with tigers outside your window at Turpentine Creek!





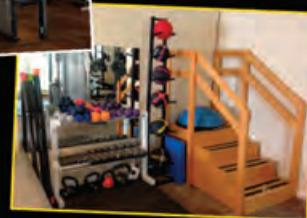
Eureka Springs can satisfy anyone's appetite — from down-home Southern food to romantic, candlelit dinners. Award-winning restaurants serve savory Czech-German dishes, authentic Italian cuisine and spicy East Indian fare. You'll find Mediterranean, Chinese, Irish, Mexican, Cajun and Thai, as well. You can also dine on a dining car at Eureka Springs & North Arkansas Railway.

Despite Eureka Springs's small population, more than 300 residents are working artists, helping the town make the list of "Top 25 Arts Destinations" by *AmericanStyle* magazine for the past several years. The entire month of May is proclaimed May Festival of the Arts — dedicated to all the arts, including: theater, performing arts and music. Other events like a monthly gallery stroll and artists' studio tours celebrate these artists' works on a regular basis. For those who wish to expand their own personal creative art expression, the Eureka Springs School of the Arts offers

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a variety of art workshops for adults and children throughout the year.

Outdoor adventures abound. The city is surrounded by two rivers, White River and Kings River, and three lakes, Lake Leatherwood, Table Rock Lake and Beaver Lake. On the latter two, there is great fishing and smooth water for canoe/kayak float trips. Take a guided cruise, rent a boat or Jet Ski or even paddle board! The 1,600-acre Lake Leatherwood City Park is crisscrossed with hiking and biking trails, and the 85-acre, spring-fed lake is perfect for a day of swimming, boating or fishing. Nearby caves and caverns are perfect for exploring on a hot summer day.

The town's history is colorful and lengthy. Artifacts of Eureka Springs' rich past are displayed in the Historical Museum. Eureka Springs first drew visitors in the late 1800s because of the healing powers believed to be present in over 60 natural springs there. The healing tradition spawned by the springs in the early days lives on today in the abundance of day spas, massage therapists, herbalists and alternative healers. While the springs today are not potable, they are wonderfully landscaped and lushly gardened. They provide excellent picnic and rest areas and give a beautiful arboretum-like feel.

This is decidedly not an ordinary town, and most definitely a destination of distinction. For more information or to plan your extraordinary escape, visit www.eurekasprings.org. **NOW**

By Gina Drennon. Photos courtesy of Eureka Springs CAPC.



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Marcie Schanfish and Ross Massengill are Ennis' new legal eagles.

WITHIN THE LAW

Marcie Schanfish and Ross Massengill are the legal team to watch.

— By Randy Bigham

Their big city education and experiences haven't lessened the small town touch in two attorneys who have joined forces to establish Ennis' newest legal firm, Massengill Schanfish, PLLC. Founded in May, the partnership brings together Marcie Schanfish, a Texas Tech University alumna who practiced civil litigation for 15 years in Dallas, and Ross Massengill, who graduated from South Texas College of Law and has over 22 years as an attorney and 16 years as a financial officer behind him. The pair has been a true team, pooling their knowledge and values to create a strong, capable and caring agency dedicated to navigating clients through a variety of hurdles, from real estate and corporate concerns to wills and family law.

The firm has also acquired Lawyers Title Company, presided over by Terilynn Miller.

"Our partnership is a good fit," Ross said. "We work together well."

"Our skills complement each other," Marcie agreed. "I'm proud to be in Ennis, working with Ross."

With energy and an open-heartedness that define their approach to work and life, Ross and Marcie have embraced Ennis, and the Bluebonnet City has returned the welcome. For Ross, loving the people of Ennis isn't hard. He's lived here most of his life. Graduating from Ennis High in 1970, he attended Navarro College and The University of Texas at

Business **NOW**

Austin, where he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration. Returning to his hometown, Ross worked for Ennis State Bank and afterward, for other financial institutions in Dallas. "I came to the legal profession late," Ross said. "I passed the bar in 1991 and then worked here in Ennis for McCarty, Wilson and Mash."

Marcie, even though a newcomer to Ennis, finds the city and its people a reminder of her own hometown, Lockhart, Texas. "It's a funny sense of déjà vu," she admitted with a laugh. "Lockhart is a similar size and demographic — you just trade Czechs for Germans! Both football teams are the Lions, and the colors are maroon and white! It's like I'm home again."

That familial feeling underscores the work Ross and Marcie accomplish. "Family drives my being in this practice," Marcie explained. "I was once a single mom in Dallas so I know that struggle." Now remarried to Gregg Schanfish, a prison chaplain in Seagoville, Marcie is active in the Tabernacle Baptist Church. The couple has five children — Megan, Matt, Logan, Triston and Kendall.

Marcie has found that her exposure to the community has been made easier thanks to Ross. "When I tell people I'm in business with Ross," Marcie shared, "the uniform response is sincere congratulations. He has such a breadth of experience, yet such humility."

Ross is indeed a fixture of Ennis, known to many through his career but also because of his involvement in civic and charitable organizations, from the Chamber of Commerce to Helping Hands of Ennis. Married to Denise, Ross is the father of three — Brooke, Merideth and Joe III — and he's a proud grandfather.

Both Marcie and Ross look forward to serving Ennis. "The most gratifying aspect of the job is when people walk away happy," Ross observed.


"Helping someone by being a steadying factor through a really hard time is gratifying," Marcie concurred. "That's what we're here for — to make the road a little smoother." **NOW**



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EHS senior Jazmine De La Cruz with her family on graduation night.



Kadence Bruton poses in a field of sunflowers between Ennis and Waxahachie.



Sweet Heat finished first in WYBA 8u softball.



Brandon Hixon of Racing Gravity performs at the New Life Music Festival.



Victor and Tiffany Garcia enjoy an outing with family and friends.



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Kathryn Phillips graduates from the Texas Auction Academy.



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What Do New Investors Really Need to Know?

If you're starting out as an investor, you might be feeling overwhelmed. After all, it seems like there's just so much to know. How can you get enough of a handle on basic investment concepts so you're comfortable in making well-informed choices?

Actually, you can get a good grip on the investment process by becoming familiar with a few basic concepts, such as these:

- **Stocks Versus Bonds** — When you buy stocks, or stock-based investments, you are buying ownership shares in companies. Generally speaking, it's a good idea to buy shares of quality companies and to hold these shares for the long term. This strategy may help you eventually overcome short-term price declines, which may affect all stocks. Keep in mind, though, that when buying stocks, there are no guarantees you won't lose some or all of your investment.

By contrast, when you purchase bonds, you aren't becoming an "owner" — rather, you are lending money to a company or a governmental unit. Barring default, you can expect to receive regular interest payments for as long as you own your bond, and when it matures, you can expect to get your principal back. However, bond prices do rise and fall, typically moving in the opposite direction of interest rates. So if you wanted to sell a bond before it matures, and interest rates have recently risen, you may have to offer your bond at a price lower than its face value.

For the most part, stocks are purchased for their growth potential (although many stocks do offer income, in the form of dividends), while bonds are bought for the income stream provided by interest payments. Ideally, though, it is important to build a diversified portfolio containing stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs), government securities and other investments

designed to meet your goals and risk tolerances. Diversification is a strategy designed to help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. Keep in mind, however, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

- **Risk Versus Reward** — All investments carry some type of risk: Stocks and bonds can decline in value, while investments such as CDs can lose purchasing power over time. One important thing to keep in mind is that, generally, the greater the potential reward, the higher the risk.

- **Setting Goals** — As an investor, you need to set goals for your investment portfolio, such as providing resources for retirement or helping pay for your children's college educations.

- **Knowing Your Own Investment Personality** — Everyone has different investment personalities — some people can accept more risk in the hopes of greater rewards, while others are not comfortable with risk at all. It's essential that you know your investment personality when you begin investing, and throughout your years as an investor.

- **Investing Is a Long-term Process** — It generally takes decades of patience, perseverance and good decisions for investors to accumulate the substantial financial resources they'll need for their long-term goals.

By keeping these concepts in mind as you begin your journey through the investment world, you'll be better prepared for the twists and turns you'll encounter along the way as you pursue your financial goals. **NOW**

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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Pap Smear Testing: What Every Woman Should Know

Nearly every woman I encounter in my practice has at least heard of a Pap smear, and the majority know it is a screening test for cervical cancer. However, few are aware of the most recent recommendations. Cervical cancer was once the leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. It remains the sixth most common cause of cancer death worldwide. Since the introduction of the Papanicolaou test, or Pap smear, cervical cancer rates have decreased dramatically. It doesn't even make the top ten list in the United States.

Over the last several decades, our knowledge of cervical cancer has advanced, as have our screening strategies. We now understand that the overwhelming majority of cervical cancers are a result of the human papilloma virus (HPV) infection. There are over 40 types of the HPV virus that affect the genital areas, mouth and throat. Some types have the potential to cause cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancer, while other types cause benign genital warts. The HPV types that have the potential to cause cancer are termed high-risk HPV. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HPV is a rampant sexually transmitted infection. It is estimated that almost every sexually active adult will become infected with at least one of the HPV types throughout their lives. Most affected individuals are unaware they have been infected. Fortunately, for the majority, the virus is cleared by our immune system within two years.

Because of the frequency of these transient infections and the extremely low incidence of cervical cancer in women under the age of 25, it is now recommended that Pap smear testing not begin until the age of 21, regardless of age of onset of sexual activity. If negative, the recommendation is to repeat the Pap smear every three years between the ages 21-29. Beginning at age 30, co-testing, a Pap smear in addition to high-risk HPV

testing, is recommended every five years, assuming the results of both are negative. The wide variety of management options for abnormal results is beyond the scope of this article. An abnormal Pap smear does not indicate that you have cervical cancer, only that additional testing needs to be done. You will likely be referred to a gynecologist for a more extensive evaluation and continued surveillance. Additionally, the lab reading the pap may comment on infections, such as yeast. This does not imply that the pap was abnormal.

There is an ingrained misconception that a pelvic exam is the same as a Pap smear. A pelvic exam, done as part of an annual or well-woman examination, evaluates all of the female genital organs, including the uterus, ovaries, vagina, etc. The Pap smear is simply a lab test collected during the examination. Even if your Pap smear is negative, you will still need to have your annual examination.

Two vaccines are available that deserve mentioning, Gardasil and Cervarix. These vaccines have been developed against the two most common HPV types responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancers. Over 46 million doses have been distributed in the U.S. since June 2012. There have been no serious safety concerns. Vaccination ideally is given at the age 11-12, or prior to the onset of sexual activity. However, it is indicated until the age of 26, even if previously sexually active. Both vaccines are administered as a three-dose series. For maximum benefit, it is important to complete the series. The vaccines are preventive, and will not treat any existing HPV infections. Importantly, vaccination does not reduce the need for Pap smear screening. **NOW**

Nicole Davis, MD, FACOG, is an obstetrician/gynecologist located in Ennis and is on the medical staff at Ennis Regional Medical Center.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2013

Through September 28

Corsicana Farmers Market: **Tuesday** and **Saturday**, 7:00 a.m.-noon, I-45 and Sixth Street, Corsicana. In its 29th season, the market offers local produce and crafts.

September 6

5th Annual 100th G.R.E.E.N. (Golfers Rallying to Erase the Effects of Neglect) Marathon: 6:30-7:30 a.m., breakfast and registration; 7:30 a.m., shotgun start, Old Brickyard Golf Course, Ferris. For more information, call Sylvia Smith at (214) 538-9576.

September 6 — 7

Dale Hansen Football Classic: 4:00 p.m., Stuart B. Lumpkins Stadium, 1000 Hwy 77 North, Waxahachie. Games will feature Italy Gladiators vs. Malakoff Tigers, Florence Buffaloes vs. Thrall Tigers and Alvarado Indians vs. Mexia Blackcats.

September 14

Ennis Opry & Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Ennis VFW Post 7106, 2301 N. I-45. The event features the Gatlin Band, playing classic country, bluegrass, polka and gospel. Admission \$5 for ages 16 and up. Proceeds

benefit the VFW. Doors open at 6:30. Concessions available. For more information call (972) 846-2014 or (972) 846-2211.

Sip N Stroll: 4:00-7:00 p.m., historic downtown Waxahachie. Taste sample wines while enjoying the sites of Ellis County's historic capital. Tickets are \$10 and available at participating downtown merchants.

September 17

EHS Student Council-sponsored blood drive: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 2301 Ensign Rd., Bardwell, north side of gym.

September 19

21st Annual Taste of Ennis: 6:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 S. I-45. Contact Judi Hejny for sponsor levels and more information at (972) 875-0218 or donate online at www.helpinghandsofennis.org.

September 28

Telico Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Barn Dance: 4:00 p.m., SPJST Hall, E. Hwy. 34 in Ennis. For additional information, contact Marvin Trojacek at (972) 875-6655.

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers

and musicians. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

Wish Upon A Paw Goes Western: 6:00-11:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. This is a dinner and silent auction event with proceeds going to the Ellis County SPCA. Email your questions to director@elliscountyspca.org.

October 19

Autumn Days in Ennis Fall Festival: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., downtown Ennis.

November 1 — 2

Heaven's Front Porch: Friday, 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 3:00 p.m., historic Chautauqua Auditorium. Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing presents a staged musical featuring quality arrangements of several well-known hymns and gospel songs, as well as some less-familiar tunes from the first half of the 20th Century. For more information, contact artistic director R. G. Huff at (972) 923-2709 or visit www.WaxaOFS.com.

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In The Kitchen With Melinda Bigham

— *By Randy Bigham*

Like many single moms, Melinda Bigham finds keeping it simple in the kitchen the only way to cook. Melinda works long hours out of town as a private health care provider, but coming home and whipping up a meal for her daughter, Adrianna, 15, doesn't mean skimping on delicious fare. She chooses easy but tasty recipes that have long been favorites with Adrianna and her older brother, Michael, now 21. "I get my inspiration for cooking from my mom, Retha Bigham, and especially from my grandmother, Evie Nunn," Melinda shared. "My MaMa Nunn could cook anything from scratch. Watching her was just awesome."

Melinda, who spends her free time drawing and painting, enjoys baking most of all — from cookies to maple bacon: "I bake everything, I think!" **NOW**

Bleu Cheese Burgers

(4 large patties; 6 regular)

2 1/2 lbs. hamburger meat (or turkey)
1 onion, chopped or minced
12 oz. bleu cheese crumbles
Garlic salt, to taste
Worcestershire sauce, to taste
4-6 wheat hamburger buns

1. Combine all ingredients, except buns, forming into patties of desired shape and size.
2. Bake at 350 F for 20-30 minutes each side.
3. Serve on buns.

Homemade Pizza

(Makes 10-12 square slices)

1 Chef Boyardee Pizza Kit
Garlic salt, to taste

2 cups Ragu Garlic and Herb Spaghetti Sauce

1 lb. hamburger meat (or turkey)
1 8-oz. pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese
1 8-oz. pkg. shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1. Follow pizza kit directions for laying out dough on baking sheet or in cake pan, sprinkle with garlic salt. Cover dough with spaghetti sauce.
2. Brown meat; drain. Place meat and cheese on pizza.
3. Bake at 425 F for 30 minutes (45 minutes for crunchier crust).

Beef Quesadillas

1-2 lbs. beef (or turkey)
1 onion, minced or chopped
1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
Chili powder, to taste

10 flour tortillas

2 8-oz. pkg. shredded cheddar cheese

1. Brown meat; drain. Season with onion, sauce and chili powder.
2. Fill 5 tortillas with desired amount of meat and cheese. Top with remaining tortillas.
3. Spread tortillas out on baking sheet. Bake at 350 F for 10 minutes each side.

Dad's Marine Corps Special

2 28-oz. cans tamales

1/2 cup onion, diced

1/2 cup bell pepper (green or red), diced

1 14.25-oz. bag Fritos chips, crumbled

2 15-oz. cans chili

2 cups cheddar cheese, grated

1. After removing wrappers from tamales, place them on bottom of large casserole dish; top with onion and bell pepper; crush with a potato masher.
2. Layer with Fritos. Spread chili over Fritos.
3. Add another layer of Fritos. Top with cheese.
4. Bake at 350 F until cheese is melted and slightly toasted.

Mom's Crumb Crust (for pies)

2 cups flour

2/3 cups vegetable oil

1/4 cup water

1 tsp. salt

1 cup pecans, chopped

1. Mix all ingredients, except pecans, in a bowl until dough forms.
2. Press dough into pie plate.
3. Add pecans, pressing into dough.
4. Use with a favorite pie recipe.

Randy's Pimento Cheese

2 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, freshly grated

3 Tbsp. mayonnaise

1/2 cup red bell pepper, diced

1 tsp. lemon juice

2 tsp. pickle juice

1/2 tsp. sugar

1. Combine ingredients in a bowl until firm or desired consistency. Add more mayo or lemon or pickle juice to make creamier.
2. Serve between 2 slices of a favorite bread or layer onto chips, crackers or celery sticks.

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