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Ennis NOW

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October 2007

**The Answer
Came ...
in Poetry**

**Friends
for Life
Times Two**

**The Little Church
That Could**

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Ennis NOW

Editor's Note

Hello, Ennis!

A bevy of spooky treats is lined up for this month. The Ennis Public Theatre presents *Little Shop of Horrors*, by H. Ashman and A. Menken. Get your tickets for this by calling (972) 878-PLAY. Also, on Halloween night, October 31, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. there will be trick-or-treating at local merchants as well as a children's games and activities area downtown.

Autumn Days in Ennis Fall Festival will be here on October 20. There will be something for everyone to enjoy that day. Come out and hope for a crisp, clear day to welcome the fall season.

Do not forget to get your tickets for next month's Austin Chili Supper. When the weather cools off and the Lions are here for their October 12th home game, Ennisites will be gathering ahead of time for fun and food.

Kelly Kovar
Ennis Editor
kkovar@nowmagazines.com



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- Tuna Salad Plate** \$8.95
Fancy Albacore Tuna with assorted crackers, fruit salad, mini muffin
- Cobb Salad** \$8.95
Mixed Greens, chicken, tomato, bacon, egg, gruyere cheese, mini muffin
- Chicken Salad Plate** \$8.95
White chicken salad, greens, fruit salad, mini muffin
- Spinach Salad** \$7.95
Fresh baby spinach, chopped egg, crumbled bacon, mini muffin
- Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad** \$12.50
Honey smoked salmon, romaine, fresh grated parmesan, fresh garlic toasties.
- Fruit Plate** \$8.95
Fresh seasonal fruit, crème fraiche, mini muffin.
- Toasted Green Salad** \$4.50
Mixed greens, fresh garlic toasties

Fresh Soups:

- Wild rice and chicken vegetable \$4.50
- French onion soup \$5.50
- Asparagus Soup \$4.50
- Potatoes and Bacon \$4.50

Sandwiches:

- Sun dried Tomatoes and Chicken** \$8.95
Chicken breast sautéed with sun dried tomatoes, parmesan cheese open faced on French bread, with fruit cup
- Chicken Cordon Bleu** \$8.95
Grilled chicken, ham, gruyere cheese, open faced on French bread, with fruit cup
- French Ham and Gruyere** \$8.95
Grilled ham, gruyere and béchamel sauce between grilled toast
- Egg Salad** \$5.50
Fresh egg salad on whole wheat, lettuce, tomatoes, with fruit cup
- Tuna** \$5.50
Fresh albacore tuna salad on whole wheat, lettuce, tomatoes, with fruit cup
- Veggie** \$7.50
Grilled asparagus, sun dried tomatoes, roasted peppers, gruyere cheese served open faced on French bread
- Club** \$7.50
Turkey, bacon, ham, swiss on whole wheat toast, with fruit cup
- Club Burger** \$7.50
Prime Angus Burger, served with gruyere and bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, and chips on whole wheat bun
- Chicken Salad Sandwich** \$7.50
Fresh chicken breast salad with lettuce, tomatoes, on whole wheat, with fruit cup

Dinner Menu • Friday and Saturday Nights

Specialties:

- Grilled chicken and roasted vegetables** \$12.50
White chicken breast grilled and served with roasted vegetables and garlic toasties, with fruit cup
- Rib eye steak and roasted potatoes** \$12.50
Tender rib eye grilled and served with roasted potatoes and gravy, with fruit cup
- Ranch chicken casserole** \$10.50
Made with white chicken breast, layered with whole wheat tortilla, special sauce and fresh cheddar, with fruit
- Spinach quiche** \$6.50
Light spinach quiche served with fruit cup
- Grilled Salmon and asparagus** \$12.50
Fresh Salmon, asparagus, wild rice
- Peppercorn Filet Mignon** \$20.00
Aged prime angus filet, grilled and served with our triple crème mashed potatoes and side vegetable
- Chateaubriand** \$25.00
Filet mignon in puff pastry casing with mushrooms and béchamel sauce, side vegetable
- King's Rib eye** \$23.00
Prime Rib eye grilled and served with blue cheese, triple crème mashed potatoes and side vegetable
- Beef Bourguignon** \$15.00
Chunks of tender filet simmered with red wine, carrots, mushrooms, potatoes, topped with puff pastry
- Coq au vin** \$18.00
White chicken breast chunks simmered in red wine, with sun dried tomatoes and onions, served over wild rice
- Almond Chicken Gallette** \$15.00
Tender chunks of white chicken breast, served with mushrooms, sherry béchamel sauce, almonds on puff pastry
- Crab Cakes** \$25.00
Made from lump crab to order served with wild rice and side vegetables
- Ranch Chicken** \$12.00
Gourmet style made with whole wheat tortilla, fresh grated cheddar, special tequila sauce and fresh chilies and sun dried tomatoes, served with side vegetable
- Pot Roast** \$15.00
Tender roast with carrots, potatoes, mushrooms, gravy, with grilled French bread
- Monte Cristo Chicken Breast** \$15.00
Fresh chicken breast stuffed with gruyere and bacon, coated in bread crumbs and sautéed to golden perfection
- Trout Almondine** \$15.00
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The Little Church That Could

— By Kelly Kovar

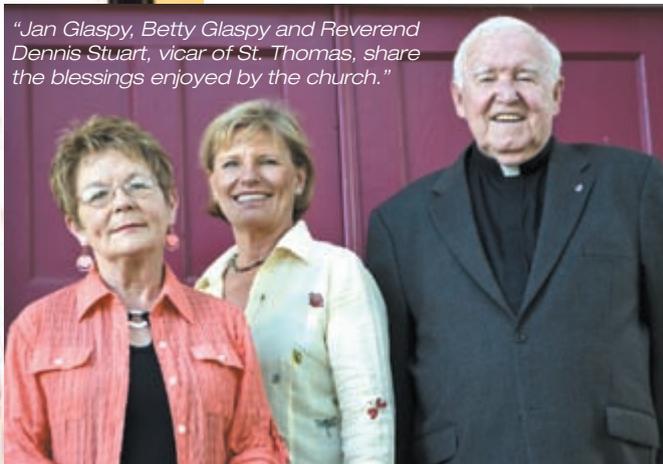
St. Thomas Episcopal Church is an Ennis landmark, beloved and admired by many. The little, yellow sanctuary nestles in a park-like setting surrounded by pink crepe myrtle trees, lush green lawns, and a towering ancient tree. Member Betty Glaspy loves the rich history of the building, the church itself, and also values the fellowship of the congregation. “There is a lot of history here,” Betty said. “When you are a long-time member, you remember all of those people with special places in your heart.”

The little church has not always set in its current location. It has had quite a journey. It was built in the 1930s, but its history reaches back even further than that. In the early days of Ennis’ life as a railroad community of approximately 1,000 people, Bishop Alexander Garrett



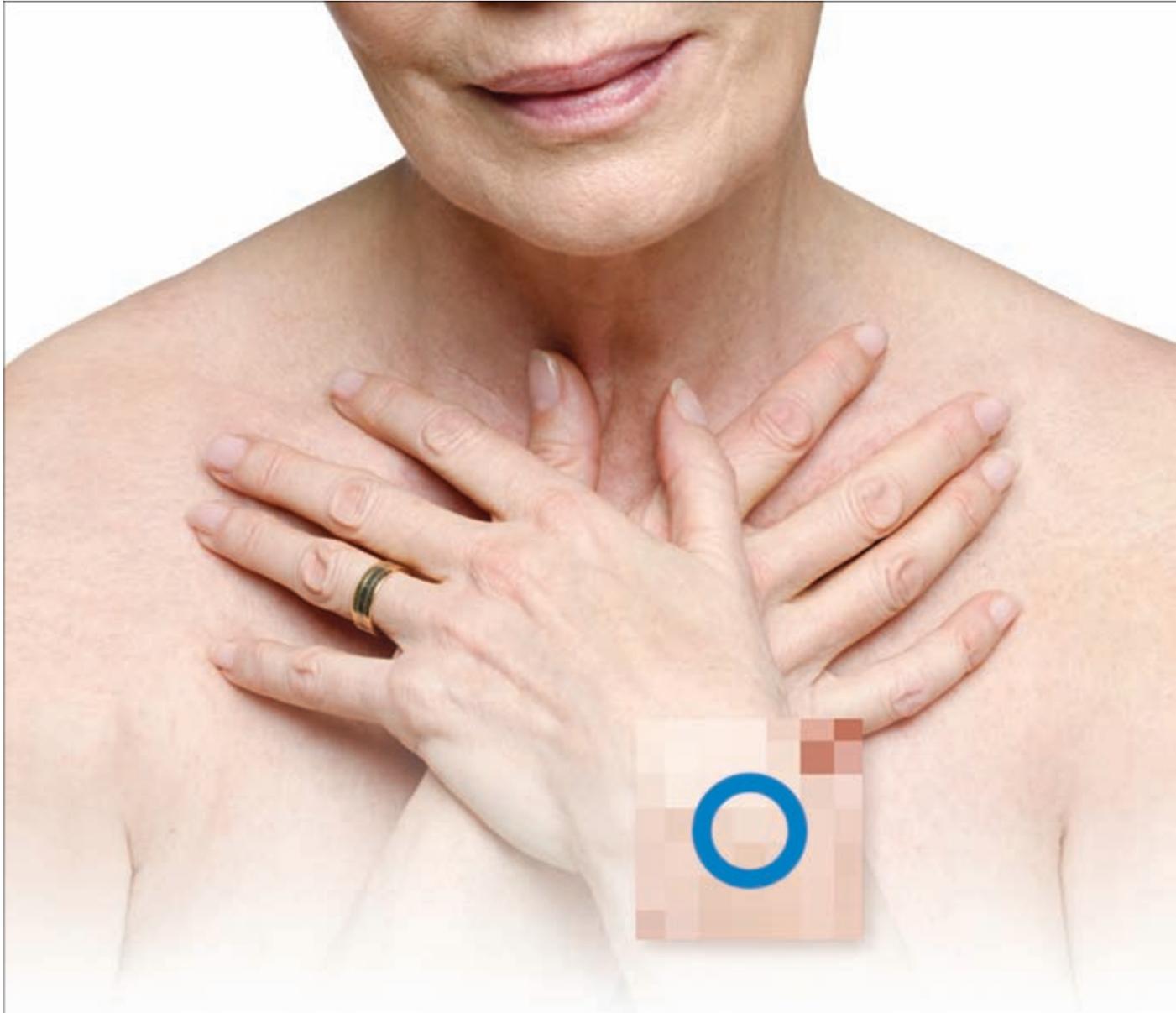
made a visit to Ennis in 1875. The current priest at St. Thomas, Father Dennis Smart, has done research indicating Bishop Garrett recorded the visit in his diary. “Garrett formed a commission to look into securing property for a church building to be built,” Father Smart said. “At that

time, there was only one church building in Ennis which was used by the circuit riders and traveling missionaries when the resident church wasn’t having services.” Finally, in 1888, a cornerstone was laid at the corner of Knox and McKinney Streets, across the street from where the present post office stands. It was facing Knox on the northwest corner. “As the railroad expanded its



“Jan Glaspy, Betty Glaspy and Reverend Dennis Stuart, vicar of St. Thomas, share the blessings enjoyed by the church.”

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reach into other sectors of our nation, people came to the young settlement from various locations, including the eastern towns and cities where the Episcopal church was more prominent than in the West. This brought a significant number of Episcopalians into Ennis."



For seven years, the church that was built on that site was a prominent downtown landmark. "The building burned in 1895," Father Smart said, leaving the Episcopalians without a building for worship. The cornerstone from the burned building was saved, in hopes that it could one day be set in place in a new facility. Apparently, for many years after that, church members met in homes for prayer services. However, the building was not replaced, and the displaced congregation went on to worship with other local churches.

Fire insurance (or funds from the sale of the Knox Street property) was held in trust for St. Thomas by the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas for 35 years. "In the early 1930s, property was purchased on the corner of Sherman and Tyler Streets to build a new building," Father Smart explained. At last, St. Thomas was to have a new home. "Bishop Moore released the money for the construction." Ennis Episcopalians built the building themselves. "It was built from scrap lumber probably donated by the local lumber yard. It is obvious that the floor was made from scrap lumber by

the various lengths of the boards in the hardwood flooring." The old cornerstone was given a resting spot outside of the new building.

In the late 1970s, Bill Rider, president of Ennis State Bank and member of St. Thomas, arranged for the church to purchase a piece of land



consisting of several acres across from the old railroad lake on Park Street. The intention was to someday build a new church and parish hall, according to Father Smart. For a decade, the land stood empty, until, in 1987 when a new parish hall was completed on the property. Plans were made to build a new and larger church building on the west end of the Park Street property.

The little church building, which had stood on Sherman Street and housed an active Episcopalian congregation for 58 years, was to be left behind. "When St. Thomas Episcopal Church decided to leave the location on Sherman Street and move to Park Street, there were several of us that just couldn't leave the church building," Betty indicated. "So, we moved it, at a cost of \$10,000."

In June 1987, the congregation began holding services in the new parish hall. The move of the little sanctuary was complete in December of that year. "It is still being used today for all of the regular worship and sacramental services," Dennis said. The original church's cornerstone came also and can be seen in the churchyard.

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worship services here," Betty mentioned. "On the first Sunday of every month, we have two services, one at 8 o'clock and then one at 10 o'clock." The nearby parish hall, provides space for Sunday school and for the church luncheon held the second Sunday of every month.

The sanctuary seats about 80 people, and has been the scene of weddings and baptisms for generations. On May 11, 1988, the first service held in the newly located church was the Jennifer Peeler wedding, according to church records. "We have had our second generation of baptisms here," Betty said with pleasure. "I got to see my son and my grandchildren baptized here. We just recently baptized a grandchild, and it was really nice."

St. Thomas has planned a special day this fall when they will welcome church members, friends and neighbors to a fall family festival and picnic.

"The main reason that we started it is because it is a nice thing to involve the community and to bring groups together," Betty said. "We set up here [in the parking area] and we have bounce houses out here and we sell food in the Parish Hall." Hamburgers and hot dogs are served. "James Robinson, my son, and Malcolm Glaspy have been cooking the food, and all the ladies bring cookies to sell. It is just fun to come together, have a hamburger, and listen to Christian music."

"The Lone Star Glory Band from Waxahachie, a well-known band from Waxahachie, has provided the music for the last two years and will be on hand again this year," said Jan Glaspy, St. Thomas member. "The event is planned this year for a Saturday, October 13, and we will gather in the late afternoon."

"In the mornings," Betty said, "with the light shining through the stained glass windows, and flowers on the altar, St. Thomas is very pretty." The real spectacle though, is the sun as it sets behind the spreading branches of the huge tree, casting a pink glow over the cherished, yellow church that embodies the history of St. Thomas. **WWW**



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Simply Together

— By Sandra McIntosh

Lem and Cora Whitlock love spending time with each other. Whether stirring a pot of greens on the stove, surfing the Internet on their his-and-her personal computers or outside planting their fall garden, they just enjoy each other's company.

"Everything we do," Cora said, "we do together. We really are the best of friends!"

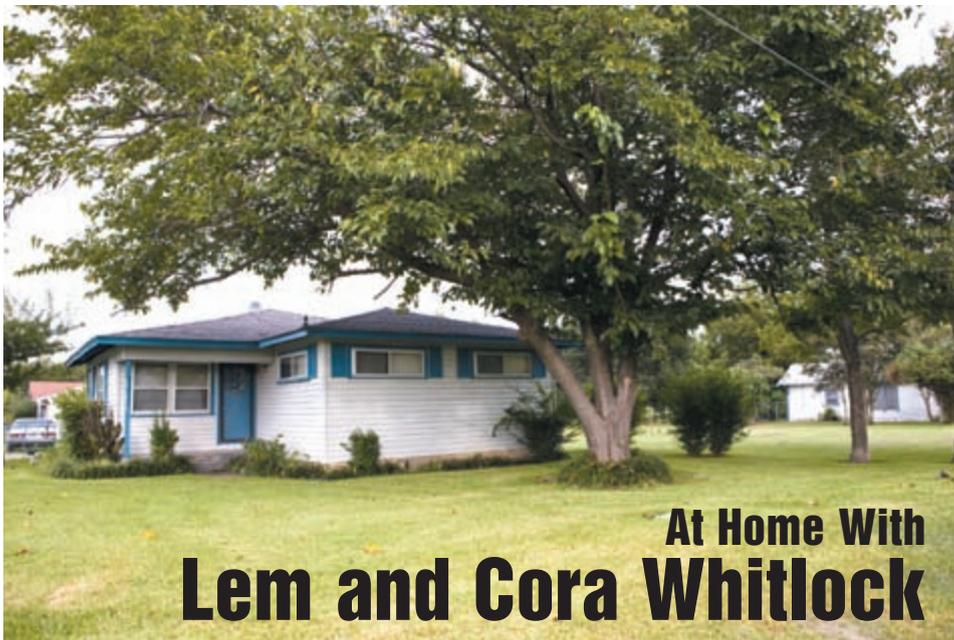
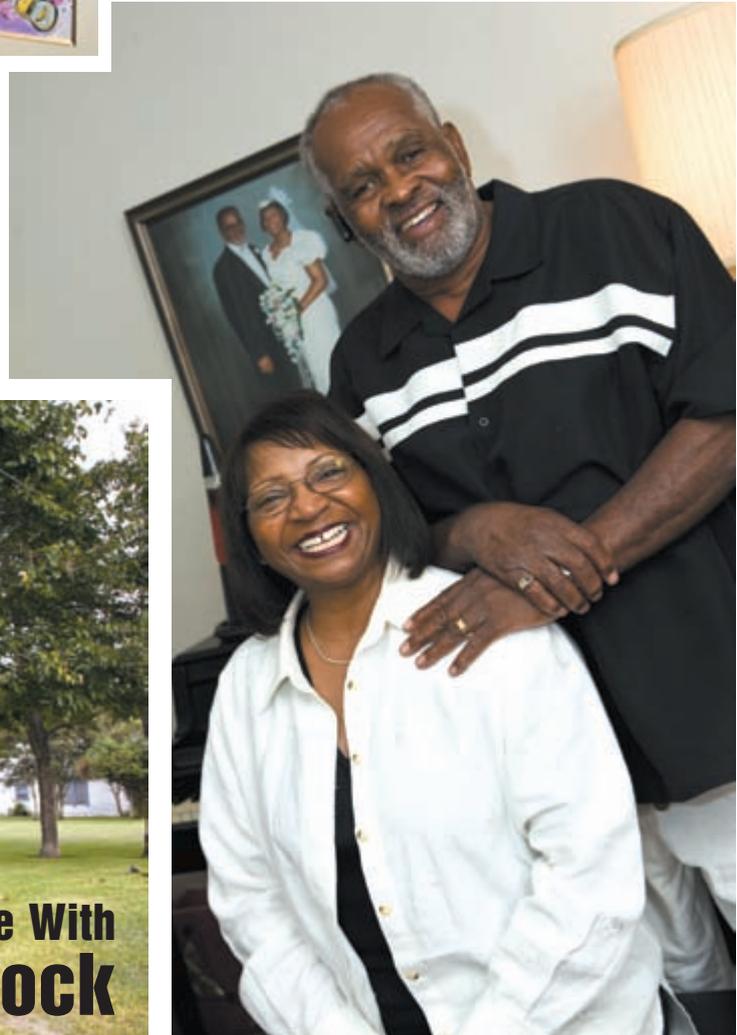
Love stories begin in many different locations, some with romantic candlelight and exotic surroundings, yet others have down-to-earth beginnings. "Lem's sister-in-law, Kathy Whitlock, owned a beauty shop in town. I was in the shop getting my hair done as a new customer," Cora reminisced, smiling across the table at Lem. "Kathy introduced us."

Thinking Lem was married, Cora never gave the meeting a second thought until several months later during another regular visit to the beauty shop. "Kathy said Lem wanted my phone number," Cora recalled, adding that she only hesitated for a moment before

giving the number to Kathy to pass on.

It was not long before Cora changed her local number to a metro number. "That way, Lem's phone calls wouldn't be long distance," she explained, laughing at the memory. "We talked back and forth on the phone for six months before I agreed to go on a date with him."

On March 11, 1995, just three months after their first date, Lem and Cora exchanged wedding vows in an intimate ceremony, much to the surprise of their families. "I didn't want a long engagement," Lem said. "Life is short and I knew what I wanted." Prolonging



**At Home With
Lem and Cora Whitlock**



the inevitable was never an option for Lem, so quickly blending two adult families was the most natural thing to do. Twelve years later, Lem and Cora could not be happier. In fact, one might take them for a pair of newlyweds.

The three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath home has undergone several transformations, both inside and out, since Lem moved in. A third slot was added to the carport, leaving more than ample space for Cora to tend the outdoor potted plants she loves. "There's also plenty of room left to sit back and relax," she said.

Central heat and air was added, and several more ceiling fans were installed. "We had new carpet laid and even bought some new furniture for the living room," Cora pointed out. "The kitchen was the one room we totally remodeled, and we are both so happy with the way it turned out." The whitewashed cabinetry and gray, slate countertops are adorned with greenery and wicker baskets, keepsakes and collectibles. The light, natural colors lend the room, where the Whitlocks spend a lot of their

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“together time,” an open, airy ambiance.

During the summer months, the kitchen is transformed into a cannery of sorts. The endless jars on countertops and in boxes on the floor offer proof that the couple loves to share what they harvest from the garden. “I may only drop the onions in place,” Cora confessed, “but I help plant the garden.” In turn, Lem does not mind helping her with the canning process.

Items canned from the garden include salsa, tomatoes, Lem’s pepper sauce made from his homegrown jalapeños and, of course, Lem’s jalapeño pepper jelly. “We do this to share with our family, friends and neighbors,” Cora said, while Lem nodded his head in agreement. “The peach tree in the back just started yielding a large crop of peaches, so we have plenty of homemade peach jam, too.”

Lem also maintains a fall garden, where only mustard, turnip and collard

greens are planted, guaranteeing an abundant supply of greens for the Thanksgiving holiday. Both Lem’s and Cora’s children like to come home for holidays. “We’ve offered to go to their houses, which are much bigger,” Cora said proudly. “They would all rather come home and pile into the house they were raised in. The kids say it wouldn’t taste like the holidays if they



celebrated anywhere else but at home.”

Lem happily recalled last year, with no fewer than 33 people coming to share the holidays in their humble abode. The couple spares no expense when it comes to feeding their ever-growing family. “We cook three complete meals,” Cora said. “We have turkey, ham and neck bone, with all the trimmings to go with each meat. There’s always lots

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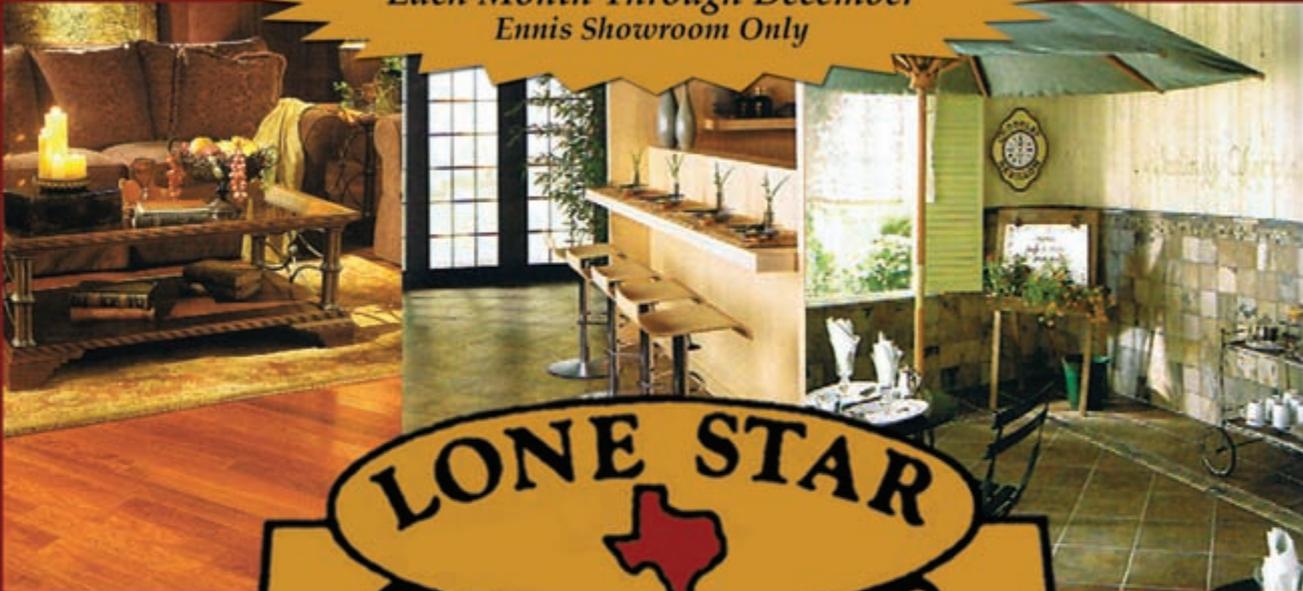
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of corn bread, rolls and casseroles to choose from.”

The living room displays Cora’s black artwork, as well as her Life and Times of Liberty Falls Collection. “Dillard’s has always been my favorite place to shop. The Liberty Falls Collection gave me an excuse to shop once a week,” she explained. “Dillard’s carried them and I wanted them.” Year-round Cora displays the collection, which replicates the real-life town of Liberty Falls, Colorado, in the 1800s.

Cora’s children have given them the majority of their black art collectibles as gifts over the years. Shane and Tanyel Bennett, Cora’s son and daughter-in-law, gave her a colorful sketch by artist Bill Sorrells that looks a lot like four church ladies. “It was sketched back in 1994, and its name is *Quiet Like Thunder*,” she stated. “Tanyel gives pictures that have a deeper

meaning; they represent something. This one reminds me of me and my three sisters.”

Cora’s son, Darrell Bennett, and his wife, Stephanie, gave them artwork with an Egyptian feel, painted on what appears to be parchment paper from many years ago. Lem’s son, Jerry Whitlock, while stationed in Korea with the Air Force, had a very special picture painted for his father and stepmother. “He had that picture



painted from a snapshot,” Lem said, pointing to the painting that hangs over the piano of he and Cora on their wedding day. “It was a wedding gift and Christmas present all rolled into one.”

Lem still finds enjoyment in tinkering on anything with a motor, especially his collection of antique cars, and Cora has taken up a new hobby, leaving shopping trips

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to Dillard's behind. "I love my Common Threads," she enthused of the Waxahachie quilt shop. "Now, I spend my extra money on quilt retreats, classes and seminars."

Regardless of what they are doing, Lem and Cora simply love spending time together. They believe in the importance of being happy and living life with a positive, zestful attitude. "We have what we have," Cora said, "and it is what it is." Lem agreed wholeheartedly that they have been blessed beyond measure, and added, "It's called keeping it real, and keeping it simple." **ENOW**

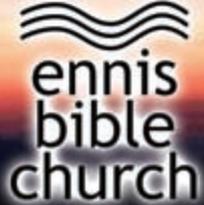


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The Answer Came ... *in Poetry*

— By Mary Pritchard

Mary Helen Collins is a poet and a quilter – two artistic accomplishments that are closely related. Both require curiosity, creativity and a determination to get it right, all of which Mary possesses. She primarily writes rhymed verse, inspired by the Bible and her family life. “When my kids were little and we lived on a farm, I started writing,” she said. This excerpt from Mary’s poem, “My Two Boys,” speaks of a mother’s dilemma:

They hurriedly ate their breakfast
To run out in the yard to play,
To tell the kids across the street
About the plans they’d made for the day.

As I looked out from my kitchen window
At my two boys at play,
I wondered what I’d ever do with them,
Those boys so full of life, and gay.

But pretty soon the answer came
When they shouted, fix me something to eat,
So into the kitchen I marched
To the tune of four little feet.

This poem marks the time when Mary started keeping her writing, though she had also done some writing as a schoolgirl. “I’ve always loved poetry,” she remembered. “One time the teacher made us write a poem. I wrote a poem for a

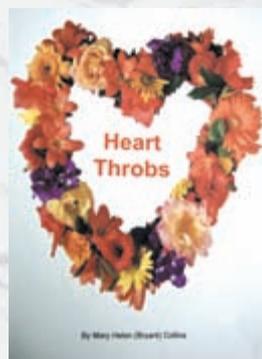


friend who turned it in as her own. The teacher read it and said it was really nice. Of course, I wrote it, not my friend, but the teacher’s comments made me feel good.”

Mary’s early life began in a time that seems far removed from the current computer age. “I was born and raised on a farm near Mertens, Texas, which is halfway between Hillsboro and Corsicana,” she said. Her father raised cotton, corn and maize. “I’ve done a little bit of everything on the farm,” Mary said. “One year, my father planted several acres of sorghum for making syrup. That was the hardest work I’ve ever done. I was 10 or 12, and we had to strip the fodder off the cane so my father could cut the cane. Then he took it to the mill to crush out the juice and get the juice cooked.”

“That was the last time he did that,” she laughed, “but the syrup sure was good.” Mary remembers the family using it to make popcorn balls, gingersnaps, syrup pies and at the table on hot biscuits.

“I walked four miles to school until I was in 10th grade and they got a school bus,” she added, still reminiscing. “I



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graduated from Mertens High School in 1939 and married Willie Joe Collins in 1940. I was already married with a child when World War II broke out," she continued.

Her husband served during the war in the Philippines, then with the occupation forces in Korea. "We farmed around Avalon after he got out of the service, then about 1951, we moved to Ennis and I've been here ever since. My two boys and their



families live here, too," she added. "They're a big help to me." Mary's husband passed away in 1989. Jimmy, Mary's youngest son, urged her to collect her poems; she did so, and he typed them up into a booklet lovingly entitled *Heart Throbs*.

But before this beautiful collection could happen, it was necessary for Mary to take a break from writing verse in 1981 when her husband had a heart attack. Needing to supplement their income, she began the art of quilt making. "Those old farmhouses were so cold, and my momma made quilts. I learned from her," Mary explained. She began making quilts and selling them. "Between 1982 and 2004, I quilted over 500 quilts," she said. The tiny stitches attest to the perfection she put into each one. Her quilts cover the beds in her home; they are displayed on chests and quilt racks, and stand in a tidy stack in the corner of one bedroom. "I've just finished a bowtie quilt that I started when my

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boys were small," she said. "Some of the pieces are from feed sacks. You know, I just have to keep busy."

Recently, Mary has again returned to writing poetry, inspired by the TV show in May about the dedication of Billy Graham's library. The library is a



reconstruction of a dairy barn four miles away from where Graham was reared. A 40-foot cross adorns the front of the building. "That cross," Mary said, "visible during the entire two-hour dedication ceremony, was so impressive."

Mary's poem, "Earth and All Its Blessings," reflects how she has used her artistic ability to color her world, through poetry and quilting, as she experienced a life filled with the blessings of family and the beauty of creation.

Did you ever stand at your window
At the close of a long winter day
And watch the sun sink in the west
Behind a sea of gray
And see the wonders of God's creation
As they reflect upon the sky,
And feel contented with His work,
And glad to be alive?
'Tis a beautiful world we live in
And God gives it all to us.
Just think of all the blessings
That are ours through trust.
'Tis the close of a beautiful day,
And our blessings are waiting in store.
For no matter how much we love
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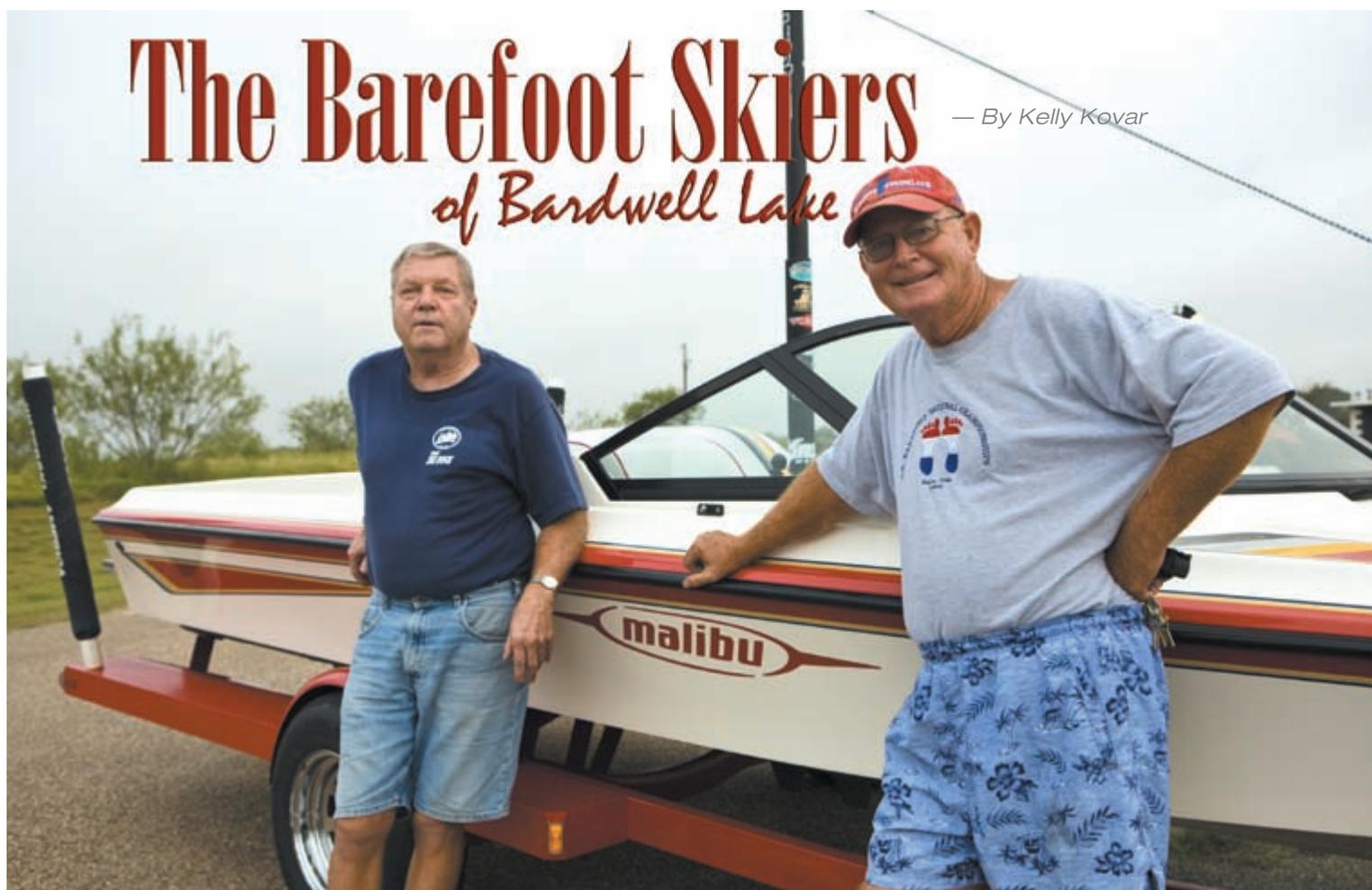


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The Barefoot Skiers of Bardwell Lake

— By Kelly Kovar



Roy Blair (on the left) joined his friend Rusty Hilliard for a morning of barefoot skiing.

Rusty Hilliard learned to water ski when he was a 10-year-old boy, growing up in Grapevine, but when he tried barefoot skiing, he never looked back. “Barefooting is a totally different deal,” Rusty explained. “It is just you and the rope and nothing else. I put one foot on the rope, the other foot on top, and lie back in the water. The boat takes off and you do a sit-up, pushing your feet down on top of the rope. When you are going fast enough, you let go of the rope with your feet and you ski. It has always been exciting.”

In high school, Rusty worked at a boat rental place on Grapevine Lake. “I looked forward to my day off, when I got to take out one of the boats and go water skiing.” After being drafted in 1969, Rusty spent some time in Germany during the Vietnam War. “I got on with the Corp of Engineers after the Army.” He soon bought his own boat. “It wasn’t big enough to go very fast with a 65 hp motor,”

he said, but it allowed him to continue skiing.

In 1976, Rusty was transferred to Lake Bardwell. “I came down here, and I bought a bass boat. And it has a 150 hp motor on it, and it would go.” One day, when he was 29, he was at Lake Bardwell skiing and saw an unusual sight. I saw a guy that was skiing; massive amounts of water were spraying off his feet.” Rusty approached him and asked about the source of the huge spray. “I said, ‘What are you doin’ man?’ and he said, ‘Oh, I’m just waterskiing barefoot.’”



After a demonstration, Rusty was thrilled. “I never heard of such. This was before the days of barefoot suits — padded, protected, flotation suits like I have now.”

Rusty learned the sport the hard way — in cut-off wranglers and a life-jacket — stepping off of a slalom. “You have one foot on your ski, you stick one foot out in the water, you get

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off the ski and get on two feet. Your ski stays in the water and you have to go back for it later.” Rusty said these days they train people with a boom that sticks off the side of a boat. “The boat takes off; you kick your hip up and the water will spin you around. You bring your heels back under you and start coming up in the water. You have to be tough. You have to pay your dues. Your dues are falls, just like learning to ride a bicycle.”

In time, Rusty started his own ski club, Bardwell Barefoot & Water Ski Club. “I also met Roy Blair on the lake,” a friend who Rusty regularly barefoots with. “We are just a bunch of guys having fun. We belong to the

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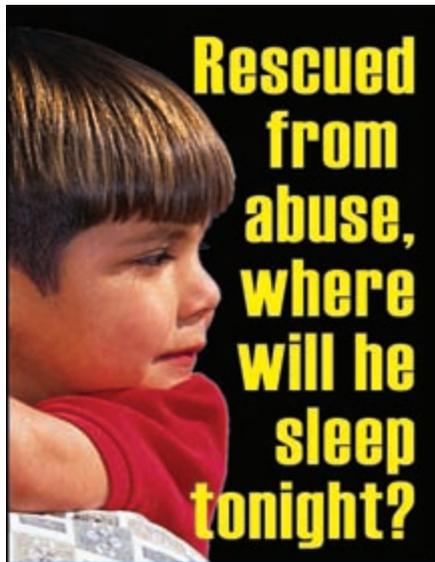
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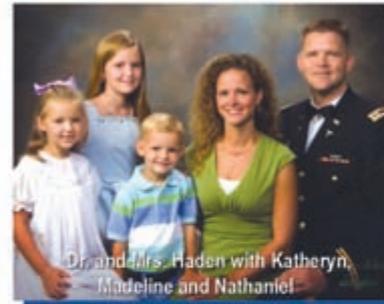


American Water Ski Association (AWSA), which has a spin-off called American Barefoot Club that we are associated with.”

Rusty and his team of barefooters go to compete in barefoot skiing events. “We went to the Colorado River in Austin. The race is 22 miles long, and your team takes turns skiing until they get too tired.” They have even skied with world champions. At one competition on the Colorado River, they were lined up with five other boats. “One by one, the other skiers got tired and let go,” Rusty reminisced. “It was awesome. Roy was the oldest guy in the whole race. He skied 8 minutes.”

At a Colorado barefoot tournament in 2005, Rusty took first place in ‘wake slalom’ and third place in ‘tricks.’ “Slalom is where you cross the wake, barefooted, as many times as you can in 20 seconds. I wasn’t expecting to win; I was just up there having fun.” He skied as hard and as well as he could, and was happily surprised when they called out his name. “I went to regionals with the AWSA three years

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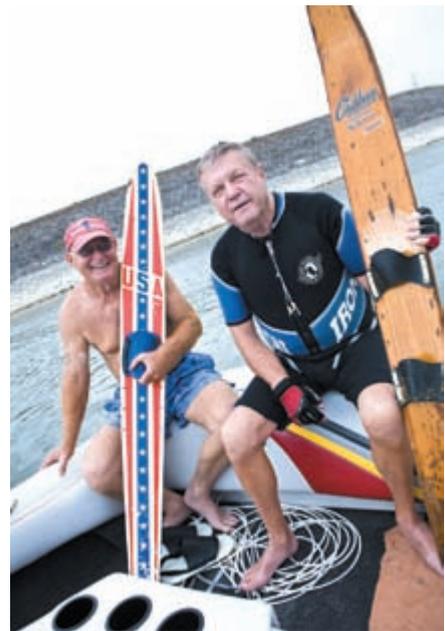


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in a row, once in Mississippi, once it was in Louisiana, and once we had the regionals here in Ennis.” He also has trophies for jumping and slalomming.

“At the beginning of a season, your feet get burned because they aren’t tough,” Rusty explained. “I have to condition my feet, then I can go about two miles. Roy can go and go. He is 66, but he really stands out. He can ski backwards. We can ski anytime because we have dry suits to put on over our barefoot suits. The barefoot suit is short and comes right above your knees and has padding in it that floats you.”

Rusty owns a house near Lake Bardwell, and he likes to get to the lake early. “My wife, Tammie, who is the best thing that ever happened to me, pulls me in the boat when I can’t get with Roy.” Roy’s wife, Mary, does the same for him. “We are out here at 6:30, 7 a.m. just about every weekend. You look around and there is nobody here. That is the way we like it. I like to water ski, but I prefer barefoot skiing. There is nobody my age that does it. People asked, ‘Why do y’all still do it?’ and the answer to that is, “Because we can, and because it is fun.” **NOW**

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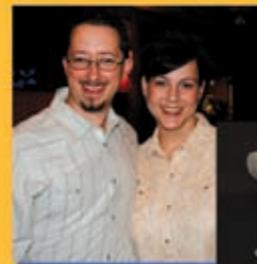
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Business NOW



In the People Business

— By Sandra McIntosh

Several questions come to mind when looking for just the right nursing facility for that special loved one. Does the facility offer a family atmosphere filled with activities that will bring comfort? Is the staff attentive to the concerns and needs of the residents? If comfort, care and customer service are key, then look no further than the Oddfellow and Rebekah Nursing Home, conveniently located at 2300 S. Oakgrove Road. "It's stressful to come to a nursing facility, and people nowadays have so many choices when looking for just the right place," said Kelly Wolfe, the facility administrator. "They will go where they are treated the best. We pride ourselves on great customer service!"

Kelly will be the first to say that customer service begins at his office and works its way down to include everyone on staff. In fact, training is essential and comes first. "We have personnel set aside for training," Kelly explained. "Customer service is a big part of the training, and department heads set the example. They do this by being committed to the job at hand, as well as listening, anticipating needs and taking a proactive stand when it comes to handling problems that may arise."

Over the years, Kelly has experienced firsthand the importance of listening. "I've learned so much by letting them talk," he said, referring to the residents, as well as their families. "By really listening, we're able to meet the unique needs of each resident." Kelly also feels another key to the nursing home's continued success is the board of directors' willingness to move ahead. "The board has great vision," Kelly stated. "They are supportive of all we do around here, and they've been open to allowing the home to grow with the needs of the community."



Making the quality of life the best it can be is the mission of these dedicated staff members.

In moving forward, Kelly is excited about the short-term rehabilitation wing which is currently in the planning stages. The new wing will include private rehab suites, an expanded therapy gym and outpatient services. Many individuals may break a hip when taking a tumble or have knee replacement surgery. "They don't need long-term care," Kelly said. "They really aren't comfortable going to a nursing home or hospital

Business NOW

setting. All they're concerned about is getting better and going back home." The new wing will offer them the opportunity to return home as quickly as medically possible with knowledgeable staff and extensive rehabilitation services. "A lot of what we do here is rehab," Kelly commented. "We offer full-time coverage, seven days a week, if the therapy treatment plan indicates it. Our very best marketing tool is the end result, and everyone's success is measured differently."

One such satisfied customer is Eleanor Brewster, who came to the facility following surgery on her left elbow. "They took the best care of me," Eleanor recalled. "After rehabilitation, I was able to return home, good as new." There is also on-site restorative care for people who have completed a full rehabilitation course. "It's mainly for those who are unable to go back home, but can function at their highest level here," Kelly said.

The mission of the Oddfellow and Rebekah Nursing Home is to make the quality of life the best it can be, regardless of a resident's length of stay at the home. The ones who come and go quickly are, of course, not known quite as well as those who come to stay. "We get to know the personalities, character idiosyncracies and temperaments of those who stay with us," Kelly said. "It's a privilege to be a part of their lives, especially at this point in their lives. There's always something new, and there's never a dull moment."

One misconception Kelly would like to dispel is the preconceived idea that one has to be an Oddfellow or Rebekah member in order to meet the criteria of becoming a resident. "That is definitely not the case," he explained. "The home was built to care for the aged and disabled. We are here to meet the needs of everyone, regardless of their affiliation with the fraternal group."

For more information, call Kelly Wolfe at (972) 875-8643, or visit www.ioof-ennis.blogspot.com. **NOW**

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Friends for Life *Times Two*

— By Kelly Kovar

Dionne Sauers with daughter Laney (on the left) joined her friend Shannon Lefler and daughter Gwen (on the right) for a visit before a PTO meeting.

Shannon Lefler and Dionne Sauers have found themselves on similar life paths since before they were schoolgirls together. “Shannon and I started kindergarten here, and then went all our years through Sam Houston Elementary together,” Dionne said. “Houston means a lot to us. It is real special to us that our kids are now here. I have a daughter, named Laney, in second grade.” Shannon’s daughter, Gwen, is in third grade, and is fast friends with Laney. “Gwen is one year older than Laney, so everything Gwen does, Laney thinks she has to do, too. So, Laney couldn’t wait to get over here at Houston with Gwen. It was really exciting for her.”

“I’m gonna be here for a while, because I have two more coming in: Bailey, in kindergarten, and Anna Becky, who is 2,” Dionne mentioned. Shannon also has preschool-aged Grady. In addition to working part time at the Methodist church’s mother’s day out program, it is only natural, considering their love for Sam Houston Elementary, that they find time to serve as Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) officers. “I’ve been on PTO since my oldest daughter, Katie,

came in first grade. Katie is a freshman, now,” Dionne added.

The PTO’s fundraiser is the annual fish fry. “We served 1,200 last year; it was packed,” Shannon said. Take-out is also available. “With the money we get at the fish fry, we have bought new playground equipment; this year we are getting a defibulator. We gave the teachers gift cards to spend on things for their classroom and we finance advanced reader (AR) reward trips to Wal-Mart. We gave money to the PE department, the music department, and we provided money to buy projectors that were needed.”

The fish fry is on a Friday football game night. It is 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., ending before the game. “This year, the fish fry is on homecoming night. There are no pre-game activities,” Dionne said, “and people still have to eat.”

Preparations for the fish fry are already underway. “The first thing is getting our raffle items and donations from area merchants lined up,” Dionne explained. Raffle tickets are \$1 and fish fry tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. “We will have a big kick-off to start selling fish fry and raffle tickets on October 9.”

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“We have volunteers that come and bread the fish that night,” Shannon said. “Mike Riley and Willie Salik have corn meal, flour and seasoning recipes. Glenn Skrivanek and a bunch of dads and community members help. A lot of times the moms bread the fish and the men are back there frying it.



PTO officers gathered to work on plans for the fish fry, but took time out for a photo.

You get fish, potato salad, beans, hush puppies, and for dessert, usually a brownie.”

“It is very hectic that night; we have two bounce houses. People eat and play games,” Dionne said. “But it is worth it,” continued Shannon, “because of the amount of money we have raised. Every year we have made more. We made approximately \$24,000 last year.” A lot of the kids who have moved on come back for the fish fry, and people from all over the community come out to help and support the event.

Community ties are what have made their work on the PTO so special to them. Shannon and Dionne played together when they were little. Not only did they love their years together at Sam Houston Elementary School, they also graduated from Ennis High School in the same year. “We each got married just a year apart,” Dionne remarked. “We both moved back to Bardwell, where we had grown up, and found ourselves raising our kids together. Shannon told me about the job at the Methodist church and now we work together.”

Dionne’s husband, Monty, works for

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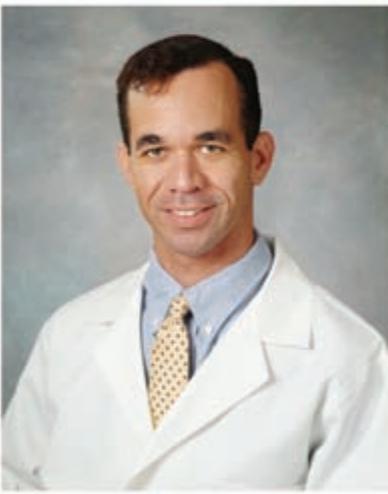
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the city of Arlington as a computer programmer, formulating programs for their mapping system. Shannon met her husband, Donnie, in Ennis. “He manages the local Gebo’s store on Kaufman,” Shannon mentioned. “Every farmer around here knows him. He doesn’t meet a stranger.”

It is a lot of fun for Shannon and Dionne to be back in the halls of Sam Houston. “To me, it is exactly the same,” Dionne said. “I had a very good experience here. Everybody is so sweet to the kids.”

“It takes all of those people to pull off a fish fry.”

“I was excited when Gwen was at the ECC [Early Childhood Center] and I found out she would be coming over here the next year,” Shannon said. “Houston is wonderful. Gwen loves it; all the kids love it here. Everybody gets along. The teachers are close friends. The teachers help with the fish fry also.”

“The teachers are so sweet to pitch in. They all say, ‘If you need anything, let me know,’” Dionne added.

“I think that is a part of why we have such a successful fish fry,” declared Shannon. “It is not just the parents that put it on; everybody is willing to get in there and just work and help and get it all done.”

“Shannon is very organized, and she is very good at this,” Dionne, the PTO treasurer, offered in praise of her friend. “She was a natural choice for president. She is a great leader.”

“I don’t do this by myself,” Shannon quickly added. “It takes all the officers, all the parents, all the teachers and staff, and the volunteers from the community. It takes all of those people to pull off a fish fry.” NOW

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Around Town

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A Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting, top left, was held at Air Evac. Beverly Grant, Angie Wingo-Juenemann, Jan McLelland and Harriet Jeffries, top right, gathered for lunch at Brown Street Cafe. Suzanne and Bill Rhoten, left center, celebrate Ennis Public Theatre's sixth anniversary by eating cake. Kirk Devrow of Devrow Small Engine Repair, middle center, got some equipment ready for fall. Kim Devrow, Wendy Merritt and Tammie Grandon, middle right, enjoyed the sunshine in Wendy's garden. The silent auction held during the E.K. Boon Memorial Golf Tournament was a big success. Melinda Boon Linsteadt, bottom left, is shown helping Frankie Vrana collect all his silent auction items, of which there were many. Deanna Davis and Whitney Brumley, bottom right, are quite colorful in matching shirts as they take a lunch break from the work at Dr. William Davis' office.

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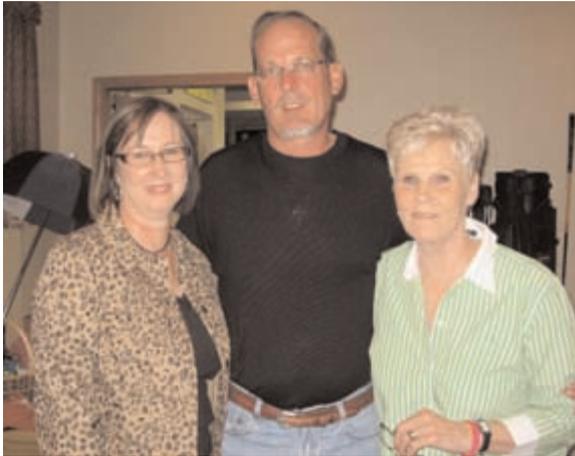
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Belinda and Kirby Crow Jr. and Marilyn Linsteadt, top left, pose for a picture following the silent auction held recently with proceeds going to the American Cancer Foundation. Gaye Mitschke, top middle, shows her grandson, Zachary, just a few antique car replicas that were donated to the Ennis Chamber of Commerce annual auction. Linda Waters and Sheryl Sullivan, top right, enjoyed a party at the home of Billy and Nancy Dodson. Wood shop class students, bottom left from left to right, Christian Hefner, David Lara and Jeremy Maldonado crafted awards for the winning cooks at the Bluebonnet Barbecue Cook-off. Jess Haupt, Alan Linson, Brenda Haupt, Kevin Six, Cathie Morales and Larry Barto, directly above, attended the annual cook-off.

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Melinda Hines

IN THE KITCHEN WITH SHARON WOLFE

When Sharon was 6 years old, she began cooking with her mother. “Her thing was cakes and pies,” Sharon said. “We would roll out the crusts together, and while she was making her pies, I had a 4-inch pie plate for my own pie.” Now, Sharon enjoys cooking for her husband, Larry, and has passed the family tradition on to her two daughters. “Cooking has always been an important part of our family and we love comfort food,” she said.

As director of nurses at Ennis Care Center, Sharon enjoys spending individual time with the residents cooking their treasured recipes. “I make whatever they want, and they tell me about their memories,” Sharon added. “We make homemade biscuits and other favorites from their generation.” **BYOW**

SWEETHEART SALAD

- 1 small (4 serving size) pkg. lemon Jell-O
- 1 small (4 serving size) pkg. strawberry Jell-O
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1 16-oz. tub Cool Whip

Dissolve Jell-O with water. Add and beat cream cheese until smooth. Let chill, add pineapple and Cool Whip. Chill until firm.

AUNT CLEO'S EGG CUSTARD PIE (Makes 2 pies)

- 10 eggs
- 2 cups sugar

- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 3 11-oz. cans evaporated milk
- nutmeg to taste

Separate egg yolks and whites (use six whites for meringue). Beat together the remaining whites and the egg yolks. Add all other ingredients. Cook on low heat until thick. Make sure to stir so it will not stick. Pour into two baked pie shells. Beat egg whites with mixer until stiff peaks form and add 1/4 cup sugar. Beat until fluffy. Top each pie and put into 350 F oven just long enough to brown meringue.

MAMA WILSON'S ITALIAN CREAM CAKE

- 1 stick margarine

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 5 egg yolks
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup pecans
- 5 egg whites, stiffly beaten

FROSTING:

- 1 8-oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1 16-oz. box powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup pecans

CAKE: Cream butter and shortening. Add



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Who's Cooking **NOW**

sugar and beat well. Add egg yolks. Combine flour and soda. Add to other mixture and buttermilk. Add vanilla, coconut and pecans. Fold in egg whites. Cook in 3 8-inch cake pans at 350 F for 25 - 30 minutes. **FROSTING:** Combine the cream cheese, margarine and powdered sugar until smooth. Add vanilla. Spread on cake. Sprinkle with pecans.

BEST BEEF CASSEROLE

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 onion chopped
- 2 10-oz. cans mushroom soup
- 1 15-oz. can green beans, drained
- 1 15-oz. can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 12-oz. pkg. macaroni (cooked per directions on package)
- salt and pepper to taste
- 6 slices American cheese

Brown ground beef and onion in skillet. Add all other ingredients except cheese. Mix thoroughly and put in casserole dish. Put cheese on top and put in 350 F oven for 20 - 30 minutes. Serve hot.

AUNT SISTER'S YEAST ROLLS

- 1 cake compressed yeast
- 1/4 cup lukewarm water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup fat
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup scalded milk
- 1 egg beaten
- 4 cups sifted flour

Soften yeast in water. In separate bowl, combine 1/2 teaspoon sugar, fat, the rest of sugar and salt with hot milk. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Cool and then add egg. Stir in softened yeast. Stir flour into liquid ingredients until well mixed. Turn dough out onto lightly floured board. Knead quickly until smooth and elastic. Form into a smooth ball. Place ball of dough in greased bowl and turn over once or twice to grease the surface. Cover and let rise in warm place (about 85 F) about 1 hour until double in size. Turn out onto board, knead well or shape as desired. Place in a greased pan or on a baking sheet. Let rise again. Cook at 350 F until golden brown. Brush with melted butter after removing from oven.

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Finance **NOW**

Long-term Financial Moves in a Short-term World

— By Angie Wingo-Juenemann

As a society, we have grown accustomed to instant gratification. You can lose 20 pounds in two months, learn a language in six weeks and download your favorite songs in seconds. The idea of waiting for what we want, it seems, has become a quaint relic of bygone days. Of course, in many walks of life, there is probably nothing wrong with having your desires fulfilled quickly – but the “get it now” attitude can actually have some negative consequences when it comes to spending, saving and investing.

Want proof? Consider the following:

- In the fourth quarter of 2006, families spent 14.5 percent of their disposable income to service their debt – the largest share since 1980, according to the Center for American Progress.
- The first quarter of 2007 marked the eighth quarter in a row with a negative personal savings rate, according

to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

- Almost half of workers who are saving for retirement say that their total savings and investments (excluding the value of their primary residence and any pension plan) is less than \$25,000, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute’s 2007 Retirement Confidence Survey.

What can you do to avoid some of the financial problems that may arise from short-term behavior? Here are a few suggestions:

• Delay purchases.

Try to think about all purchases overnight and calculate how long you would have to work to pay for them. You might be surprised at how many items you can actually do without.

• Limit your borrowing.

It is easier said than done, of course,

but the fewer debts you have, the more you will have available to save and invest. While it may not be possible for you to pay “cash” for everything you buy, it is nonetheless a worthy goal, and the closer you can come to achieving it, the better off you will be.

• Pay yourself first.

If you wait until you have paid all your bills and other expenses each month before you save and invest for the future, you are probably going to make very slow progress toward your goals. If you can “pay yourself first” by putting money in a savings or investment account every time you get paid – even if it is just a nominal amount at first – you will help yourself greatly over time.

• Be patient and buy quality.

From 1926 through 2006, large company stocks provided an average annual return of more than 10 percent, while small-company stocks returned, on average, more than 12 percent, according to Ibbotson Associates, an investment research firm. Of course, past performance is not an indication of future results and you cannot assume that, for a given year, your stocks or

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other growth-oriented investments will return 10 percent, 12 percent, or anything at all. In the short term, all growth vehicles fluctuate in price so you should not be shocked at losing principal over a single year, or perhaps a couple of years in a row. But if you buy an array of quality investments and hold them for the long term – at least five to 10 years – you can help increase your chances to achieve some growth.

In all likelihood, our tendency to want things quicker is only going to accelerate. But when it comes to making smart financial moves, you will want to take a “slow and steady” approach. **NOW**

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

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Health
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How Safe is Your Child?

Facts About Child Safety Seats

— By Lindsey Barak, RN, Women's Services Unit Educator and Tracy McGuire, RN, Director of Women's Services

As nurses, we are always looking for ways to ensure the safety of our patients. Recently, we attended the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program. Until attending this course, we thought our children were safe since they had always been “safely” secured in their car seats. However, there is much more to car seat safety than just buckling them up. We are writing this article to help the children of our community ride as safely as possible. Hopefully, it will inspire more parents to get better educated on car seat safety.

- Let's start with Texas law. All children up to 17 years old are required by law to wear a safety belt or sit in a child safety seat whether they are sitting in the front or back seat. All children 5 years old and less than 36 inches tall are required to ride in a child safety seat.

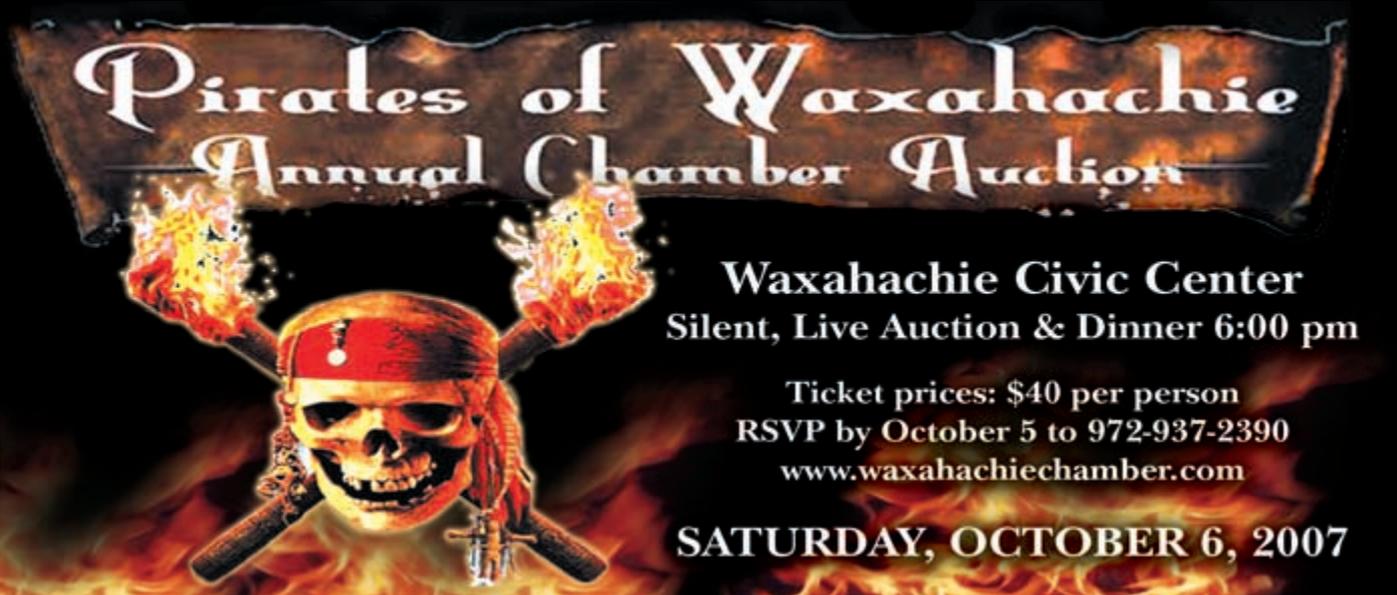
- Many people do not know that car seats expire! Most car seats are good for 6 years; however, with the heat that comes with our wonderful, Texas summers, it is best to replace them every 5 years here!

- You should never use a car seat if you do not know the

complete history of the seat. Car seats should be disposed of if they are involved in a car accident. Accidents can cause the seats and straps to weaken so they should not be used again.

- One thing that causes a lot of confusion is which seat to use, and in which direction they should face! The best thing to remember is to always read the manual that comes with the seat and with your car. These will tell you the safest way for you to position your baby. The following chart gives the general guidelines:

			
Age:	Birth to 1 year	1 year to 4 years	4 years to 8 years
Weight:	Up to 20 lbs. (some seats are up to 35 lbs.)	20 lbs. to 40 lbs.	Over 40 lbs.
Safety Belt Type:	Lap or Shoulder Belt	Lap or Shoulder Belt	Shoulder Belt Only
Position in Car:	Always in the Back Seat if Active Air Bag	Preferred Back Seat	Preferred Back Seat



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These are just a few of the many safety tips for a truly safe ride! For more information, car seat safety classes and car seat distribution please contact Safe Riders at (800) 252-8255 or www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders. **NOW**

Sources:

Texas Department of Transportation "Growing Up Safe" and "Safety Seat Smarts." Ivan Webb is the Director of the Lab at Navarro Regional Hospital.

Contributed by Lindsey Barak, RN, Women's Services Unit Educator and Tracy McGuire, RN, Director of Women's Services



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October 2007 Community Calendar

October 4

Mom's Time, 9:30 a.m. Tabernacle Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Create a fall craft. All area moms are invited. Child care provided. Bring a snack. E-mail ennismoms@sbcglobal.net.

Circle of Friends of Ellis County, 7 p.m., Brown Street Cafe Ellis County women wanting fellowship and networking invited. Bring a dish. Call (972) 878-0740 for information.

October 4 - 7

Texas Motorplex Summit ET Finals Test and Tune and Brackets Finals. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 5 - 28

Little Shop of Horrors (musical) at the Ennis Public Theater. Visit www.ennispublictheatre.com for details.

October 10

Ellis County Early Childhood PTA "Get Acquainted Mixer," 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Child care featuring Kindermusik with Ms. Amy available during meeting. Contact Courtney Atwood for information (972) 875-2668 or eeceptamembersip@hotmail.com.

October 12

Austin Elementary School Chili Supper. Annual PTO fundraiser. Chili and all the fixings, frito pie, desserts. Carnival area. Teddy Bear walk. Raffle items. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Raffle tickets \$1. For information call (972) 875-5571.

October 12 - 14

Texas Motorplex ADRL Pro Mod World Finals and Autobahn VW Bug Out. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 13

Fall Family Picnic, late afternoon, St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Everyone invited. For times and information, call (972) 875-2423. Entertainment by Lone Star Glory Band. Entertainment area for children.

October 17

Mom's Time, 9:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Topic: Planning a great birthday party. All area moms invited. Child care provided. Bring a snack. E-mail ennismoms@sbcglobal.net.

October 20

Autumn Days in Ennis Fall Festival, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in downtown. Enjoy arts, crafts, children's area, food, live entertainment and more. Classic Car "Cruisin" Day.

October 20 - 21

Texas Motorplex Muscle Car Club Challenge #2. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 26 - 28

The Music Man presented by the Waxahachie Community Theatre at Chautauqua Auditorium. October 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m. October 28, 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students.

October 26

WRC Pregnancy Center's Roundup 2007, 7 p.m. at WRC Pregnancy Center of Ellis County. The annual dinner supports the services provided to women of all ages confronted with unplanned pregnancies and those parenting children up to age 2, in need of information, education and assistance. For

sponsorship or tickets, contact Donna Young, wrc@ectisp.net.

October 27

12th Annual Texas Country Reporter Festival, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. in historic downtown Waxahachie. Join Bob Phillips and his many friends that have been featured on his popular television series *Texas Country Reporter*, and enjoy a free concert by the Bellamy Brothers.

October 27 - 28

"Age of Elegance" Elegant and Depression Glass Show and Sale, presented by Fostoria Glass Society of North Texas at the Waxahachie Civic Center. For information, contact (817) 545-5856.

October 28

Texas Motorplex Import Face-off. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 31

Ghosts and Goblins Downtown, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Area children are invited to downtown Ennis for fun and treats. Location: North Dallas Street from Ennis Avenue to Knox Street. Trick-or-treating with downtown merchants and a children's games area. For information call Nancy Swindell at (972) 878-6616.

November 2

Houston Elementary Fish Fry, 4:30 - 7p.m., before the Ennis Lions Varsity homecoming football game. Raffle tickets \$1, fish fry tickets for adults \$6, for children \$4. Fish, potato salad, beans, hush puppies and dessert. Bounce houses for children.

<p style="text-align: center;">Chanda Willis at <i>Tangles</i> [A Loreal Elite Professional Salon]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chasidy Ybarra Makes House call massages and will come to businesses.</p>
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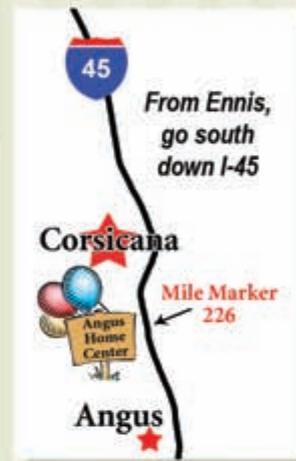
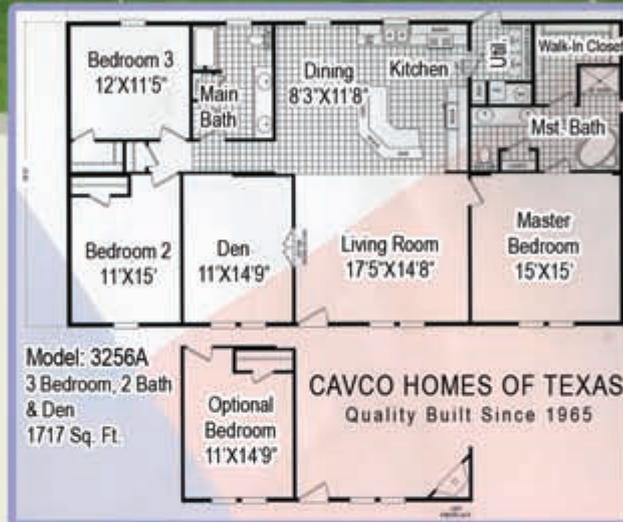
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