

# EnnisNOW

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2018

## Heart of the City

Minnie McDowal Park is the first of many improvements to come to the downtown area

## Living a Good Story

At Home With Rachel Smith

2018 Bluebonnet Festival Shopping Guide

Featured Business:  
City Real Estate

In the Kitchen With Frances Pool



PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DALLAS TX  
PERMIT #3450

Postal Customer

\*\*\*\*\*ECRMSS EDDM\*\*\*\*\*



Bristol Hospice, LLC, is graciously committed to our mission that all patients and families entrusted to our care will be treated with the highest level of compassion, respect and quality of care.



*Bristol Hospice*  
**PATHWAYS LLC**  
EMBRACING A REVERENCE FOR LIFE®

### WE PROVIDE:

- Pain and Symptom Management • Counseling and Support Services
- Spiritual Counseling • Therapy Service • Skilled Nursing Care • Home Health Aide Services
- Volunteer Services • Supplies, Medication and Durable Medical Equipment related to the Life-Limiting Illness • Continuous Care • Outpatient Services
- General Inpatient Services • Respite Care Services

**972-923-2436 • 877-214-3565**

**115 Park Place Blvd., Suite 100, Waxahachie, Texas 75165**

[www.bristolhospice.com](http://www.bristolhospice.com)

 Follow us [Facebook.com/Bristol-Hospice-Pathways](https://www.facebook.com/Bristol-Hospice-Pathways)



Amelia Valdez  
469-658-5506

# City Real Estate

[www.cityxrealestate.com](http://www.cityxrealestate.com)



Janie Hendrix  
817-271-0720



Kim Lu  
817-913-2693

**City Real Estate Ennis:** 101 NW Main St. | 972-878-2222

**City Real Estate Waxahachie:** 311 Ferris Ave. | 972-938-1090

**City Real Estate Red Oak:** 100 Plaza Dr. #500 | 972-935-0048

**City Real Estate Corsicana:** 108 S. Beaton St., #K | 903-875-2265



Liz Taylor  
214-564-8738



Stacey Goodman  
972-333-6951



Marylyn Wylie  
972-268-1651



Chris Ludwig  
214-949-3475



Shellie Smiley  
469-245-5274



Destinee Rudd  
972-849-8642



Linda Blake  
972-351-4521

## Home loans just became even more affordable.

- 100% financing available
- FHA financing with 580 FICO minimum credit score and a max LTV/CLTV of 96.5%
- Guild 1% Down Loan program
- First-time homebuyer programs
- Cancellable, reduced mortgage insurance
- Refinance to rehabilitate your home

Contact me today for your free consultation!



**Vanessa Zmolik**  
Branch Manager | NMLS #373756  
101 NW Main St. | Ennis, TX 75119  
M: 469.337.4578 | [vzmolik@guildmortgage.net](mailto:vzmolik@guildmortgage.net)

**Apply Online**  
[vanessazmolik.com](http://vanessazmolik.com)

Guild Mortgage Company is not affiliated with City Real Estate.  
Guild Mortgage Company is an Equal Housing Lender; NMLS #3274.  
All loans subject to underwriter approval; terms and conditions may apply.  
Subject to change without notice. (17-96535)

# Guild mortgage

# CONTENTS

- 8 HEART OF THE CITY**  
Minnie McDowal Park offers a wonderful place for people to gather.
- 14 LIVING A GOOD STORY**  
At Home With Rachel Smith.
- 26 PLAYING THEIR OWN GAME**  
Chess Master Larry Candy shares his knowledge with others.
- 32 HIDDEN GEMS**  
Three National Park Service sites make Seattle a great place to visit.
- 34 BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY**  
Be ready so severe weather does not rain on your day.



- 28** CookingNOW
- 30** BusinessNOW
- 38** AroundTownNOW
- 44** FinanceNOW

*Publisher, Connie Poirier | General Manager, Rick Hensley*

**EDITORIAL**

*Managing Editor, Becky Walker | Ennis Editor, Sandra Strong  
Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith | Writers, Allison Burdick . Jeff Irish  
Virginia Riddle . Zachary R. Urquhart  
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony . Shannon Randall*

**GRAPHICS AND DESIGN**

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen  
Martha Macias . Brande Morgan . Anthony Sarmienta*

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Photography Directors, Chris McCalla . Brande Morgan  
Photographer, Hannah Chartrand*

**ADVERTISING**

*Advertising Representatives, Linda Roberson . Cherise Burnett  
Dustin Dauenhauer . Bryan Frye . Jennifer Henderson . Ashlyn LeVesque  
Kelsea Locke . Lori O'Connell . Melissa Perkins . Steve Randle . Keri Roberson  
Joyce Sebesta*

*Billing Manager, Angela Mixon*



**ON THE COVER**

*Marty Nelson relaxes on a bench at Minnie McDowal Park.*

**Photo by**  
Hannah Chartrand.

*EnnisNOW is a NOW Magazines, L.L.C. publication. Copyright © 2018. All rights reserved. EnnisNOW is published monthly and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Ennis ZIP codes.*

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



Kubota

A CLEAN CUT FOR EVERY BUDGET.

**\$0** DOWN, **0** % A.P.R. FINANCING FOR **48** MONTHS\*



Z400 Series

*Check out our complete line of quality Kubota products.*



**CENTRAL KUBOTA**  
WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS  
[www.centralkubota.com](http://www.centralkubota.com)

**501 NORTH I-35E**  
WAXAHACHIE  
**972-938-1770**  
Open Monday–Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-2

\*\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of select new Kubota Z400 Kommander-Pro Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Example: 48 monthly payments of \$20.83 per \$1,000 financed. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.

KubotaUSA.com  
  
© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2018

# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Sandra*

Sandra Strong  
EnnisNOW Editor  
sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com  
(972) 765-3530

*Peekaboo, I see you!*

Conversations with my youngest son are enlightening, to say the least. One of the most recent talks we shared was centered on our five senses — seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling. Hypothetically, I wondered which sense — seeing or hearing — he could live without, while thinking which one I'd be willing to give up if there ever came a “have to give it up” moment. He chose the loss of hearing, as he said, “I'd rather see Easton score a goal in soccer, than to hear it. The memory of hearing all the cheers from past games would be enough.”

My thoughts on the matter are a little bit different. I too, would rather see his accomplishments, but I would *so* miss hearing his voice as he sings a song he just made up, tells a story off the top of his head or says, “Hey Granny, I love you!” The sound of his voice is sweet music to my ears, but I would, like my son, hate not “seeing” him grow into a caring young man, just like his dad.

Our conversations are deep, but I'm happy to report that my son and I both see and hear just fine. But, there are times I wish my hearing had its very own volume control.

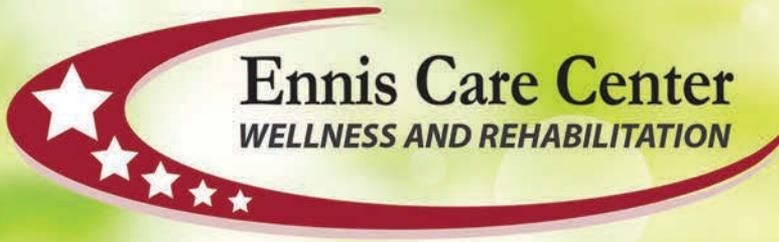
What matters most to you — seeing or hearing?

**Every Kid Needs  
A Special Dentist!**

**just for kids.**

From Wii video games to DVDs playing above their chairs during their treatment, we make a trip to the dentist FUN!

**Jon S. Ousley, DDS, MSD & Associates**  
Dentistry for Infants, Children and Teenagers • Board Certified Specialists in Pediatric Dentistry • Most Insurance & Medicaid Accepted  
711 S. Clay St. • Ennis • 972.875.5437 • [www.justforkidsdental.com](http://www.justforkidsdental.com)



**Rated #1 in Ellis County by CMS\***  
**Rated Best Nursing Homes in Texas**  
**by U.S. News & World Report**  
\*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**A person-centered approach to quality health care.**

Whether you are looking for a short-term “rehab-to-home” solution to quickly recover post-surgery/hospital stay, or you have long-term care needs to improve your quality of life, our person-centered care approach will be tailored to your individual needs. We invite you to visit us to see our recently updated home-like environment, private rooms with guest accommodations, state-of-the-art therapy gyms and one of the longest tenured staff in Texas.

- Average rehab-to-home length of stay of only 7 to 14 days
- 24-hour nursing and post-operative care
- Nursing staff-to-patient ratios 20% above state average
- Re-hospitalization rates 30% below state average
- Secure Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Center with innovative Snoezelen room
- Physical, Speech, Occupational and Respiratory Therapy



**Come by for a tour anytime | 1200 S. Hall Street, Ennis, TX 75119**  
**972-875-9051 | www.enniscarecenter.com**



**Amanda Warneke, PA-C**

Masters in Physician Assistant Studies  
 Nationally Certified as a Physician Assistant



**Andrew Word, MD**  
 Board Certified Dermatologist

Medical Dermatology, Skin Cancer Screening & Surgery, Cosmetic Dermatology

Dermatology Training at UT Southwestern

2460 North I-35E  
 Suite 285, Waxahachie

Professional Building Next to BS&W Hospital

**Open 5 Days Weekly**

Accepting most major insurance plans, including Medicare.

**972-736-DERM (3376) | www.worddermatology.com**

# SEND YOUR DOG ON VACATION AT Camp FurBaby

YOUR PET HOTEL IN ENNIS

**CAMP FURBABY  
WILL WATCH YOUR  
PRECIOUS POOCH  
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY.**

Accepting Spayed/Neutered Dogs  
PLAY Groups • TV • Climate Controlled  
Music for Dogs • Treats • Hugs and Love

BOOK ONLINE AT  
**CAMPFURBABY.COM**  
OR CALL LIZ AT  
**214-228-9639**



*Dog boarding  
that's not boring.*



**CHICKENS  
HAVE NO TEETH.  
DON'T BE A  
CHICKEN!**



**Ferris Family  
Dentistry**  
Dr. Virginia Williams

**\$79 New Patient Special**

Some restrictions may apply. Call for details. Cannot be combined with other offers. New patients only.

**CEREC**  
One-visit dentistry

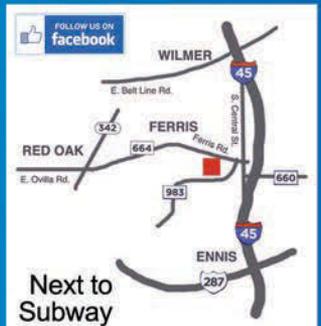
**Crown in a Day!**



**Full Sedation  
Now Available**

**No Insurance?**  
New Financing Options Available

**CareCredit**  
Making care possible...today.



454 FM 664 • Suite B • Ferris, TX 75125 • FerrisDentist.com • 972-544-2123



**Oral &  
Maxillofacial  
Surgery**



Dr. Pedro Franco

*Specializing In:*

- Wisdom Teeth Removal
- Dental Implants
- Bitelock™ Teeth in a Day
- Same-Day Emergency Treatment
- Corrective Jaw Surgery
- Botox™ • Juvederm™ • Kybella™
- IV Sedation/General Anesthesia



Dr. Howard Price

**972-875-7616**

**2200 W. Ennis Ave., Suite B • Ennis, TX 75119**



Accept Most PPO Insurance Plans and Now Accepting Medicaid  
Se Habla Español



Proud to Be a Narcotic & Opioid Free Practice



*Come Celebrate With Us*

100 Years of Being Family Owned and Operated  
Partnering with the Ennis Chamber of Commerce  
May 15, 2018 • 5:15 - 6:15  
Refreshments • Raffles • Come and Go



1964



2018

MATTHEW K. KEEVER • DAVID E. KEEVER

**972-875-3891**

408 North Dallas Street  
Ennis, Texas  
Palmer Chapel  
200 West Jefferson



**J.E. Keever  
MORTUARY INC.**

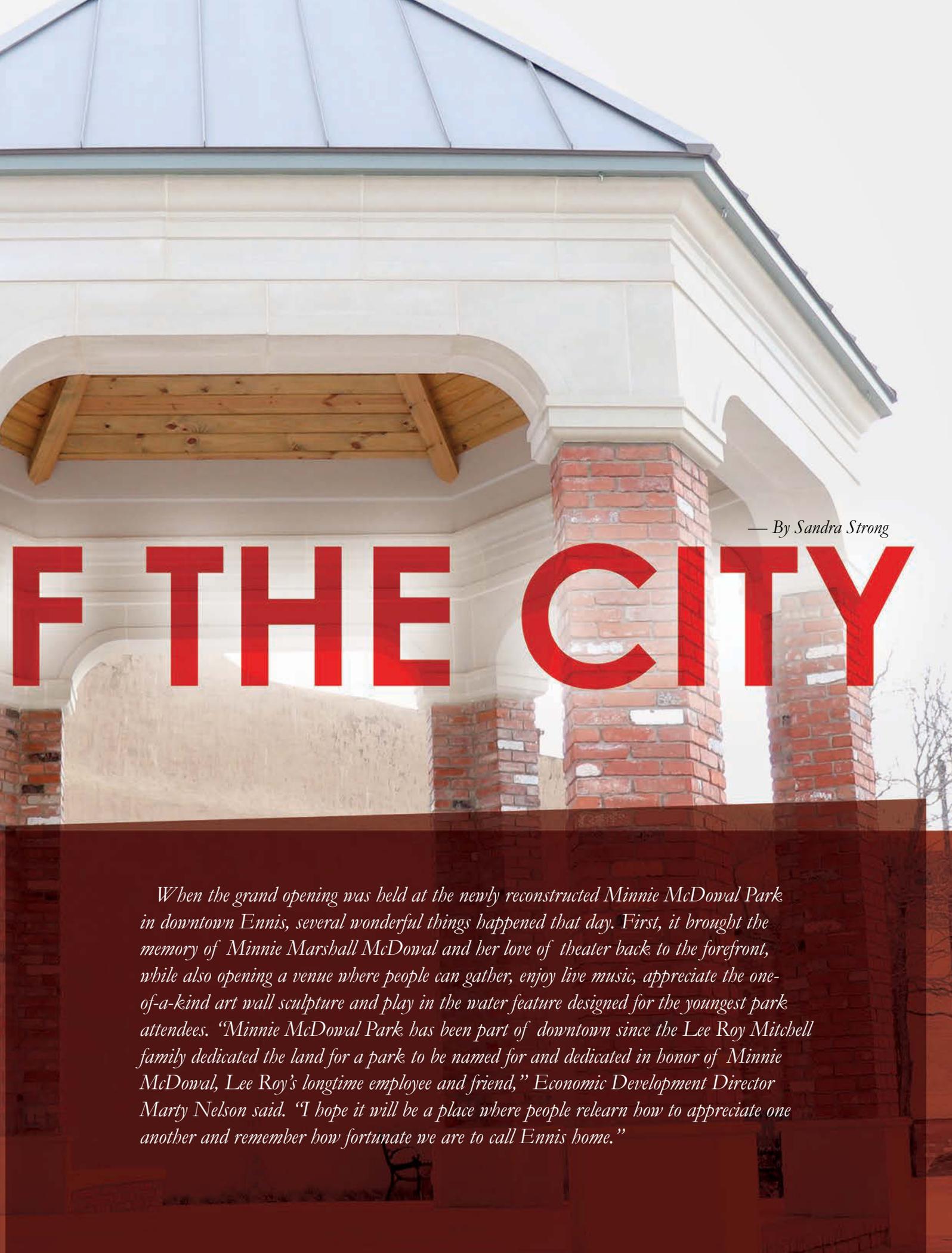
Serving the Community for Four Generations Since 1918.

**INSURANCE FUNDED FUNERAL PLANS  
TWIN OAKS CREMATORY**



A middle-aged man with short, graying hair is smiling and standing in front of a brick building. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue and white plaid button-down shirt, and blue jeans. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background shows a brick pillar and a building with a blue roof. The word "HEARTO" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters across the center of the image. The "O" is a solid red circle.

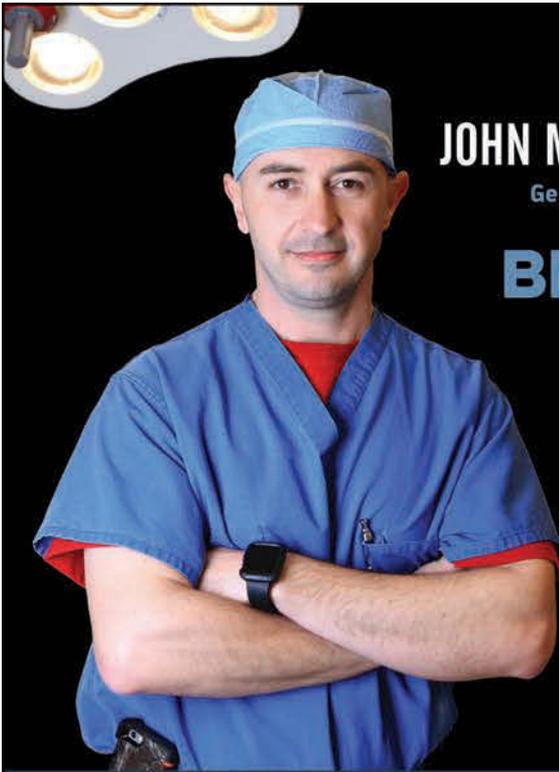
**HEARTO**



— By Sandra Strong

# F THE CITY

*When the grand opening was held at the newly reconstructed Minnie McDowal Park in downtown Ennis, several wonderful things happened that day. First, it brought the memory of Minnie Marshall McDowal and her love of theater back to the forefront, while also opening a venue where people can gather, enjoy live music, appreciate the one-of-a-kind art wall sculpture and play in the water feature designed for the youngest park attendees. “Minnie McDowal Park has been part of downtown since the Lee Roy Mitchell family dedicated the land for a park to be named for and dedicated in honor of Minnie McDowal, Lee Roy’s longtime employee and friend,” Economic Development Director Marty Nelson said. “I hope it will be a place where people relearn how to appreciate one another and remember how fortunate we are to call Ennis home.”*



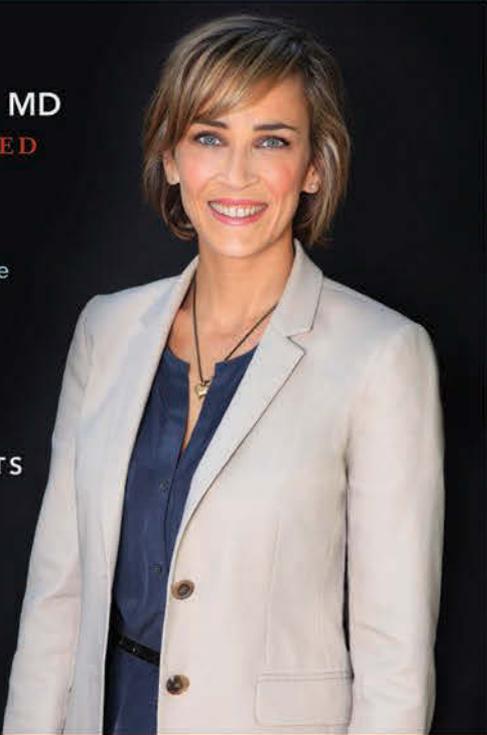
**JOHN M. SULLIVAN, M.D.**  
General & Laparoscopic Surgery

**BIG** OPERATIONS  
**SMALL** INCISIONS

**Accepting New Patients**

- Hernias
- Skin Cancers
- Lumps/Bumps
- Minimally Invasive Hemorrhoid Procedures
- Colonoscopy & Endoscopy
- Laparoscopic Gallbladder

LOCATED INSIDE  
**ENNIS DOCTORS CENTER**  
802 West Lampasas Street Ennis, Texas 75119  
p: 972.875.4700




**MEG SULLIVAN MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
**CARDIOLOGY**

Fellowship in  
Cardiovascular Disease

Baylor University  
Medical Center

**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

- Outpatient Stress Testing
- Echocardiography
- Preoperative Assessment
- Pacemaker Evaluation
- Preventive Cardiology

LOCATED INSIDE  
**ENNIS DOCTORS CENTER**  
802 WEST LAMPASAS STREET, ENNIS, TX 75119  
P: 972.875.4700



Minnie called Ennis home her entire life. She was an Ennis High graduate who married her high school sweetheart, Robert T. McDowal. Their union brought them two children, Elizabeth Ann and Robert T., III. In the late 1940s, Minnie went to work outside the home at the Plaza Theatre that once stood at the park's current location. She worked as a cashier, collecting 10 cents per ticket, as her children played and enjoyed watching a movie. While employed, Minnie saw the theater change hands several times. It was eventually renamed Tara Theatre. Tara Theatre was purchased by the Mitchell family in 1960 and became the first indoor theater owned by Lee Roy Mitchell, who later founded Cinemark USA, Inc.





To say Minnie loved working at the theater would be an understatement. She loved working for Lee Roy, and Lee Roy greatly admired her dedication and strong work ethic. As her tenure with the company grew, she moved into the position of bookkeeper, but she never was above helping with concessions or picking up movie reels. She loved seeing her friends and neighbors at the ticket booth, knowing they were about to enjoy another good movie.

When Cinemark formed in 1984 and moved to Dallas, Minnie stayed with the company, commuting from Ennis to South Dallas, until she retired at the age of 78. In 1992, Tara Theatre was severely damaged in a wind storm. The damage was so extensive that the theater had to be torn down. Nearly a year later, the Mitchell family donated the property to the city of Ennis, in honor of Minnie.

The Downtown Revitalization Plan was adopted by the city of Ennis in March 2016. The plan outlines a four-step strategy to fully revitalize downtown and breathe new life back into the heart of the city. The four strategies are to connect, provide, attract and overcome. The goal is to connect Interstate 45 to downtown Ennis in a way that allows traffic to move more freely. As the project continues, it will provide the desired destination that will attract locals

# DDS<sup>®</sup>

## DENTURES+IMPLANT SOLUTIONS<sup>®</sup>

Thomas John Kennedy of Texas, DDS, PLLC and Associates  
General Dentistry

GUARANTEED  
**at Least 10% Less**  
Than Any Other Licensed Dentist's Treatment Plan



Call Today to Schedule Your Free Consultation!

**(469) 656-8471**

**1700 N Hwy 77, Ste. 200,  
Waxahachie, TX 75165**

**Deo Pun, DMD**

**www.waxahachiedentures.com**



### Snap on Denture

Lower Denture  
with 2 Implants

**\$3,995**

**\$194**

per month for 24 months

\*with approved credit

Upper or Lower  
with 4 Implants

**\$5,995**

**\$291**

per month for 24 months

\*with approved credit



# K&B AG SERVICES

"COUNTRY FOLK OWNED AND OPERATED"

## Tractor Mowing

Competitive Pricing • Insured



Custom Hay Baling • Welding Services

903-875-9093 • www.kbagservices.com • Located in Ennis

VOTED #1 POOL COMPANY IN ELLIS COUNTY 2017



# METHOD

## POOLS & SPAS

**972-765-3294**

**NEW POOLS | WEEKLY CLEANING SERVICE | REPAIRS**  
**CABANAS/PERGOLAS • FIREPLACES/FIREPITS • OUTDOOR KITCHENS**



**GET 50% OFF FIRST MONTH OF WEEKLY SERVICE**  
**120 N HWY 77 SUITE A (WAXAHACHIE) METHODPOOLS.COM**

and guests. The final strategy is to overcome physical barriers, such as the old water and sewer infrastructure and the lack of parking spaces.

Marty explained the process in simple terms. "The park functions in a way that creates economic vitality in a sustainable way. It's an economic vitality project disguised as a park. The basic principle — bring more people downtown, provide top-quality amenities, and they will stay longer. By staying longer, they will spend more in the shops and stores."

People devote most of their time either at home or at their workplace. The goal of revitalizing downtown is to make it everyone's "third place." "With home and work being first and second, people need a 'real' third place, not a digital fake place where nothing is authentic," Marty shared. "We all need a safe harbor. Spiritually, that safe harbor is the Heavenly Father. In a physical sense, that safe harbor will be our revitalized downtown — a place where we feel connected to our city, as well as to our friends and neighbors."

Every amenity in the park was designed to bring people together and molded in a form that helps





achieve the desired vitality. The performance gazebo provides a new entertainment venue. The amazing, one-of-a-kind art wall sculpture was inspired by a painting by local artist LaJuan Schlegel. LaJuan completed the painting in 2010 and named it *The Old Homeplace*. Janice Hart Melito, a master sculptor, used the painting as her guide to create the three-dimensional, cast stone piece that is a focal point in the park. The water feature gives children a place to play, while the benches under the grove of trees offer a place for parents to relax as they watch their little ones at play. Public facilities were also part of the master plan for the park. "You can't underestimate the value of public restrooms," Marty said with a smile.

Minnie's love for her community is evident in the park that bears her name. She had a heart for the city she called home. Having the park located in the heart of the city makes perfect sense. "Being just a small part of this project was an enriching and rewarding experience. It is hard to describe in words how special this project is," Marty said. "To say I'm excited to be part of this wonderful team and city is an understatement. The next few years are going to be transformational for Ennis. Now that we know what awesome looks like, feels like and smells like, we want more of it!" **NOW**

Cleanings & Prevention | Cosmetic Dentistry | Restorations





# Ennis

## DENTAL CENTER

MICHAEL E. EEDS, D.D.S

Spring

into the  
season with a  
whiter smile

Complimentary  
Teeth Whitening

WITH THE COMPLETION OF  
A NEW PATIENT EXAM,  
CLEANING AND X-RAYS  
(\$300 Value)

\*New Patients only. Does not apply to  
patients with periodontal gum disease.  
Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Offers expire 4/30/18.

# 972-441-4321

- ◆ Most dental insurance plans accepted
- ◆ Bilingual Staff

- ◆ Emergencies seen the same day
- ◆ We accept all major Credit Cards

Now Offering  **CareCredit**  
Making care possible...today.

## ENNIS PROFESSIONAL PLAZA

### 900 W. ENNIS AVE., SUITE 105



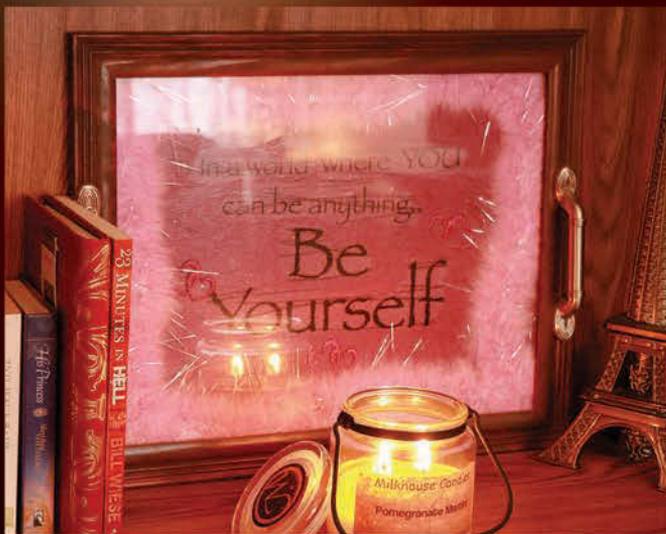


# Living a

# Good Story

— By Sandra Strong

## AT HOME WITH RACHEL SMITH



*After graduating from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in the spring of 2016, Rachel Smith had some very adult decisions to make. First, she had to decide where she was going to live, since graduation meant she could no longer reside on campus. “I went home to Kemp to live with my parents for several months,” Rachel said, remembering the long commute from Kemp to the NOW Magazines office in Waxahachie where she serves as the editorial assistant. “That time spent back at home allowed me to save the money I needed to get my own place.”*

Rachel landed in a quaint one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment in Ennis. She has taken a very clean, yet once empty, apartment and turned it into a home where she can go after a long, busy day to find comfort and relaxation. "I moved into my new home in August 2016," she said. "I quickly learned how expensive living on your own can be."

The move is also still teaching her about the fundamentals of making a budget and sticking to it. And Rachel finds enjoyment in working her budget out to its fullest. "A budget is like a puzzle," she noted. "It always seems to work out in the end. I enjoy seeing it all come to fruition each month."



The living room is the first thing visitors experience as they enter Rachel's home. Most of the furniture that sits facing the entertainment center was either gifted to her by family and friends or it was found during trips to local flea markets and thrift stores. The room is an eclectic mix of the things that bring order and a sense of peace to Rachel's home. "It's always nice to find a treasure in the trove," she said.

The colors — yellow, blue, green and gold — give the living room a sunburst feeling. Her vast movie collection is found on the shelves of the entertainment center. "I am a big movie buff, and I love video games," she said with a smile. "They are a big part of my life!" Her movie collection includes all the newer *Star Trek* releases, as well as many musical, adventure, action, romance and

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



### FREE SHRED DAY

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**ESB Main Lobby Parking Lot**

<p><b>WHAT TO SHRED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old Bank Statements</li> <li>Old Pay Stubs</li> <li>Credit Card Applications</li> <li>Old Papers with Personal Identifying Information</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHAT NOT TO SHRED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binders, Metal Brackets or Binder Clips</li> <li>Cardboard, Plastics, Protector Sheets or Metal</li> <li>Common Trash</li> <li>Hazardous Materials</li> <li>CDs or DVDs</li> <li>No Batteries, Ink Cartridges or Toners</li> </ul>
---	--

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ON SHRED DAY:**

\* If you have more than one trunk load of items to shred, please call 972-875-9676 to make an appointment for shred drop off.



815 W. Ennis Avenue • Ennis, TX 75119 • [www.ennisstatebank.com](http://www.ennisstatebank.com) • 972-875-9676

## Spring Into Your Dream Home!

Purchase Loans • Home Equity Loans • Home Improvement Loans • Land Loans





**ESB Mortgage Company**



972-878-5866 • 815 W. Ennis Avenue • Ennis, TX 75119



holiday titles. “I don’t have a favorite movie. I love so many.”

The classical books she recently started collecting line the bookcase along the main wall. “I love stories, all kinds of stories,” Rachel admitted. “I like fiction, but I think I enjoy reading poetry the most.” Books on self-help and literature are also intermingled with the classics. “I kept most all my books from my literature and poetry

classes at SAGU,” she stated. “I found the stories in those books to be so rich, and there’s always something to learn from a good story.”

A reminder of the encouragement from a dear family friend is also found on the bookcase. It’s a serving tray that Rachel displays as a picture because of its sentimental value. The words on the tray are simple — *In a world where you can be anything, Be*

*Yourself.* “It’s just too pretty to use,” Rachel said.

The dining room table between the living room and kitchen is inviting, but Rachel saves it for special occasions. She cooks most




**Invest that tax return  
in a NEW SMILE!**

- GENERAL DENTISTRY for Children & Adults
- BRACES Traditional, Cosmetic & Invisalign
- WHITENING At-home & In-office
- COSMETIC & LASER DENTISTRY
- ASK ABOUT OUR SENIOR DISCOUNT

Serving the citizens of Ennis and the surrounding area since 1983!  
Most Credit Cards, Care Credit & Insurance Accepted • Se Habla Español

**STEPHEN DURBIN, DDS**  
“Your Bite is Our Business”  
400 W. ENNIS AVE. • 972.875.9031

WWW.DOCTOOTH.COM



*The ZigZag Stripe*

Shop with Us & Bring a Friend!

*The ZigZag Stripe*  
**BOGO 1/2 Price**  
Restrictions Apply  
See stores for details  
EXP 4/30/18 NOWENN2

*The ZigZag Stripe*  
**BOGO 1/2 Price**  
Restrictions Apply  
See stores for details  
EXP 4/30/18 NOWENN2

 Find us on Facebook!

113 N. College St.  
Waxahachie  
(469) 716-3002

ZigZagStripe.com

"CREATING MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME"

# Eternal Rest FUNERAL HOME

DESOTO DALLAS ENNIS PLANO

MOST REASONABLY PRICED FUNERAL HOME IN THE AREA

AT-NEED AND PRE-NEED SERVICES AVAILABLE

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHAPELS

PERSONALIZED SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

GRIEF SUPPORT



REV. GERALD & MRS. BEVERLY WEATHERALL

**FUNERAL SERVICES**  
\$1495 & UP

**CREMATION SERVICES**  
\$595 & UP

**ENNIS**

215 N. Dallas St.

**972-875-2393**



eternalrestfuneralhome



erhinfo



eternalrestfuneral.com



- Cleanings & Exams
- Extractions
- Whitening
- Digital X-rays
- Crowns & Bridges
- 3-D X-rays
- Dental Implants
- Veneers
- Root Canals
- Fillings
- Oral Sedation & Nitrous Oxide
- Night Guards



Ask About Our Dental Savings Plan  
Extended hours to Better Serve YOU!

## General Dentistry

*Accepting New Patients*

Mark Morgan, DDS  
Mackey Morgan, DDS



1618 W Hwy 287 Business  
Waxahachie • 469-773-4076



**morgandentistry.co**



★ **LONE STAR** ★  
POWER WASH &  
CONCRETE FLOORS, INC.  
**972-268-5060**  
Call for an appointment

**Don't know what to do  
with your tax refund?  
Invest in a new garage floor!**



Garage Floors



All Resinous Coatings



Stained Concrete



Polished Concrete  
(This floor has been dyed red during the polishing process.)

Insured • Celebrating 14 years in Business • Family owned and operated

**LSPWC.com**

Commercial • Industrial • Residential

**Tax deadline is almost here!**  
 But we have  
**APRIL 17th!!! FREE E-FILE**  
 with Tax Preparation  
**Tonja Barnebee**  
 CPA, PC

Tax Preparation • Forensic Accounting • Payroll  
 • Bookkeeping • QuickBooks and more  
*For your Past, Present and Future Accounting Needs*

**900 WEST ENNIS AVENUE #103 • ENNIS, TX • 972-875-9900**



of her meals at home, and as she sits down to eat, she does so on the couch with a TV tray in front of her. “I grew up eating in front of the TV,” she confessed.

The kitchen may appear small, but it’s plenty big enough for Rachel. Her style in the kitchen is reminiscent of a coffee bar. The closed-in pantry is the perfect size, too.

The Oriental/Asian style in her bedroom is perfect for her small collection of knives. A most special one that once belonged to her uncle hangs on the wall, while a three-set collection is considered one of the treasures found in the trove referenced earlier. The framed mirrored pictures over the bed add to the Asian ambience found throughout the room. The walk-in closet gives her the extra space she needs for the vanity and the jewelry she so loves to amass. “Jewelry is my weakness,” she admitted. “I can’t easily say no to it.”

Rachel used to share her space with her beloved cat, who now lives back in the country with her parents. “I prayed for a cat for so long,” Rachel recalled. “Since I was living in the dorm and going home on the weekends, my dad agreed to a cat if it met his specifications,” she explained. “It had to be a female kitten, black with some white, and it had to be fixed.”

Soon thereafter, Rachel was looking through the local newspaper. Lo and behold, there was an ad for free kittens. The lady had three left. Two were orange tiger striped, but one was black with two white spots

**AT ODD FELLOW  
 AND REBEKAH NURSING REHABILITATION**

We Have Your **“BACK”**

**Odd Fellow & Rebekah**  
 Nursing & Rehabilitation

 **I.O.O.F.  
 of Texas**

**972.875.8643**  
**In Ennis**

Bloom  
into a  
New  
Smile!



**\$300 OFF!**

**Braces and  
Invisalign  
For ALL Ages!**

Must start by April 30, 2018  
Promo Code: GO MO



**FREE EXAM**  
(\$349 VALUE)

Will meet competitor pricing!  
Call us today

**972-268-6065**



**Dr. Laura Morgan, Orthodontist**  
**Dr. Becky Trieu, Orthodontist**  
*Your Smile Specialists*  
Children and Adults

104 Professional Place • Waxahachie  
[www.morganortho.com](http://www.morganortho.com)



**I am very  
Sensitive to  
Lights and Sounds**

Jacob Sanchez  
Diagnosed with autism

**Ad Council**

Sensory sensitivity is a sign of autism. Learn the others at [autismspeaks.org/signs](http://autismspeaks.org/signs).

**AUTISM SPEAKS**

# ENNIS MAIN STREET MIDWAY

**NEW REUSABLE WRISTBANDS**  
Re-Load with Magic Money Mobile App

**RIDES ★ FOOD ★ GAMES**  
THRILL RIDES AND KID FRIENDLY RIDES  
**UNLIMITED RIDE PASS FOR \$30**  
★ GET YOURS BETWEEN 5PM-10PM ★

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 5PM** ★ **THURSDAY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 5PM**  
**FRIDAY APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 5PM** ★ **SATURDAY APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 12PM**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 1PM**

NO REFUNDS RAIN OR SHINE | MUST MEET POSTED HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS  
FOR MORE INFO: VISITENNIS.ORG OR CALL 972-878-4748



— one on her chest and another on her belly. “She met all my dad’s specifications,” Rachel said, stating she took her to be spayed the week after bringing her home. “I named her Liana. In Hebrew, that stands for ‘my God has answered.’ Liana is enjoying her freedom to explore at my parents’ house now, rather than being cooped up all day in the apartment.”

Rachel is doing more than just reading and watching good stories. She’s living a good story while continuing to learn more about herself, as she journeys into the next chapter of adulthood. She refers to this time in her first apartment as a rough draft, or blueprint, for all the good living she has ahead of her. “I’m still learning my style. This apartment is helping me figure out who I am, when it comes to a specific style,” she said. “I’m sure I’ll expand my decorating horizons one day when I get a house.” But for now, Rachel is content knowing she has created a comfortably unique home away from home that reflects who she is — a bright and shining individual who lives each day to the fullest. **NOW**

WHERE YOUR  
**JOURNEY BEGINS...**

SUMMER & FALL  
REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN.  
**REGISTER TODAY!**

**N | NAVARRO COLLEGE**

<b>SUMMER 12-WEEK</b> June 4 - Aug 15 Register by June 1	<b>SUMMER I</b> June 4 - July 10 Register by June 1	<b>SUMMER II</b> July 11 - Aug 15 Register by July 6	<b>FALL 2018</b> Begins August 28 Register by August 23
--	---	--	---

**1.800.NAVARRO | WWW.NAVARROCOLLEGE.EDU**

Navarro College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities

# Bluebonnet Trails

## SHOPPING GUIDE

ENNIS GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

# ENNIS

## Bluebonnet Trails Festival

### APRIL 20-22

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH

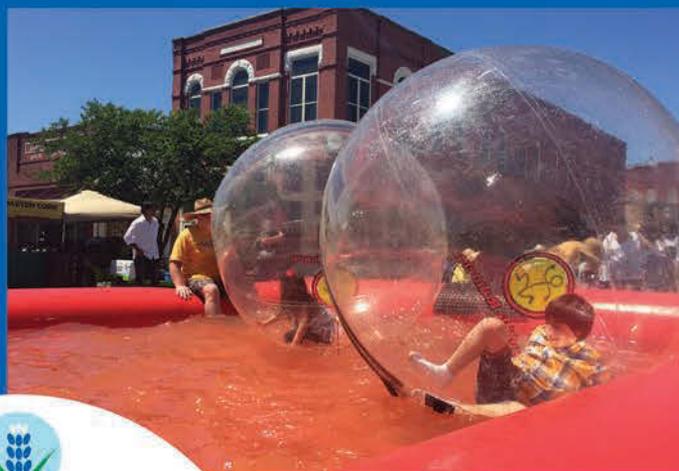
12:00pm - 9:00pm: Arts & Crafts, Wine Wander, Kids' Fun Area  
 3:00pm: Jesse Jennings (Minnie McDowal Park)  
 5:00pm: Acoustic Sound Hounds  
 7:00pm: The Western Flyers

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

8:00am - 1:00pm: Ennis Farmers Market  
 9:00am - 6:00pm: Arts & Crafts, Wine Wander, Kids' Fun Area  
 10:00am - 2:00pm: Antique Motorcycle Club of America Exhibition  
 12:00pm: Wacky Chad  
 12:30pm: Jesse Jennings  
 2:00pm: Wacky Chad (Minnie McDowal Park)  
 2:30pm: Acoustic Sound Hounds  
 4:00pm: Wacky Chad  
 4:30pm: Band of Ruhks

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND

9:00am - 5:00pm: Arts & Crafts and Kids' Fun Area  
 12:00pm - 5:00pm: Wine Wander  
 12:30pm: Hot Pickins 57s  
 4:30pm: Chaz Marie Band



*The bluebonnet spirit of Texas*



#EnnisBluebonnets18  
 972-878-4748  
 bluebonnettrail.org

Special advertising section

# Bluebonnet Trails

## SHOPPING GUIDE

**FAMOUS FOR**  
**Steak 'n Shake**  
**STEAKBURGERS**

**NEW MANAGEMENT**

*Experience Fresh!*



**NOW RATED ONE OF THE TOP BURGERS IN THE US!**

Buy Any ORIGINAL STEAKBURGER with Fries & Get One **50% OFF**  
 Expires 4/30/18

Express Menu • Drive-thru • Open Daily 10am-10pm  
 2200 W. LAKE BARDWELL • ENNIS • 469-478-3101

**SUGAR RIDGE**  
**WINERY**

**Bristol Texas**



**Tasting Room**

Located on the Beautiful Bluebonnet Trail

**214-557-1405**

**Est. 1993**  
**KOZLOVSKY'S**  
 COLLISION REPAIR

**COME IN FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**  
 We work with all insurance companies!



972-875-3900 • 902 S. Kaufman St., Ennis, TX



**FIREHOUSE GRILL**

*Come in and Savor the Flavor*  
 Enjoy Our Fabulous Daily Specials

**WE CATER!**

219 S.W. Main St., Ennis, TX  
 (Corner of Main & Crockett)



**BLUEBONNET**  
**Specials**



**972-875-8353**  
[www.firehousegrillennis.com](http://www.firehousegrillennis.com)

**Want More Customers?**  
 Advertise your business here.

For information, call:  
**972-875-3299**

**NOW**  
 MAGAZINES

Bringing the best of the community home.

# Bluebonnet Trails

## SHOPPING GUIDE



**NEW**  
Curb Side Pickup



- Texas Size Baby Back Ribs
- 1/2 lb. Big Mouth Burgers
- Full-on Fajitas

**And so much more!**

1006 E. Ennis Ave. • Ennis • (972) 875-3421

**FINN MACCOOL'S PUB**



**\$3.75 Bluebonnet Margaritas**

• • • • •

**Bluebonnet Paint and Sip**  
Sunday, April 25  
4:00 PM  
\$35 for painting & snacks

12 pm-12 am Daily • Happy Hour 12-7 pm Daily

207 W. Ennis Ave. • [FinnMacCoolsPub.com](http://FinnMacCoolsPub.com)  
[facebook.com/FinnMacCoolsPub](https://facebook.com/FinnMacCoolsPub)



NURSERY • LANDSCAPE • IRRIGATION

## TEX-SCAPES

LI12927  
*Rooted with Integrity*



**COME SEE US!**

**972-875-1716**

MON.-FRI. 8 AM-6 PM • SAT. 8 AM-5 PM • CLOSED SUNDAYS

**2705 S. KAUFMAN ST. • ENNIS**



211 W. Knox St.  
Ennis, TX

## Interior Ideas

# Wildflower Cafe

*Shop While Dining*

- Gifts
- Accessories
- Interior Design
- Art Studio



**April Hours**

Interior Ideas  
Mon.-Fri. 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM  
Sun. 11 AM - 2 PM

Wildflower Cafe  
Daily 11 AM - 2 PM  
Sun. Brunch 11 AM - 2 PM



**972-878-6868 • [iibg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iibg@sbcglobal.net)**

# Bluebonnet Trails

## SHOPPING GUIDE



**Construction, LLC**  
 ROOFING SPECIALIST  
 SERVING ENNIS, TX

- RESIDENTIAL & LIGHT COMMERCIAL
- NEW & REPLACEMENTS
- WINDOWS
- FLOORING

**CALL TODAY!**

Tony Garcia: 214-949-9857  
 Ricky Walker: 214-876-8322



## BUBBA'S BAR-B-Q AND STEAKHOUSE

### CATERING

Custom Cooking  
 Dine-in & Drive-thru

Now Serving: Grilled Tuna Steak,  
 Mahi Mahi, Salmon & Red Snapper,  
 Chicken & Chicken Sandwiches

**972-875-0036**

210 South I-45 in Ennis, Exit 251B



Open 7 Days A Week:  
 Mon.-Sat. 11-9  
 Sun 11-8:30

Try our "SERIOUS" selection of your choice of 8 meats, delicious sides & desserts

Happy Hour 3pm - 8pm EVERY DAY

★ COME AND WATCH YOUR FAVORITE GAMES ON OUR BIG SCREENS ★

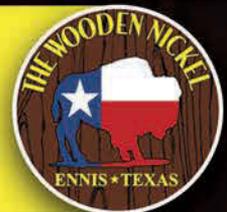
★ LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC ON OUR JUKEBOX ★

★ HAVE A GREAT TIME PLAYING POOL ON OUR POOL TABLES ★

**KARAOKE FRIDAY** (Every Friday night - 7pm-midnight)

**972.875.1600**  
**111 W. Ennis Ave.**  
**Ennis, TX**

Sunday - Friday 3pm-12am  
 Saturday 3pm-1am



Ennis FARMERS MARKET

DOWNTOWN
ENNIS, TEXAS

# MEET UP AT THE MARKET



**EVERY SATURDAY 8AM TO 1PM FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER**

VEGETABLES ★ FRUIT ★ HONEY ★ MEATS ★ COTTAGE AND PREPARED FOODS  
 GIANT JENGA AND CONNECT FOUR ★ FREE KIDS CRAFTS

104 N. MCKINNEY STREET ★ GO TO [ENNISTX.COM/FARMERS-MARKET](http://ENNISTX.COM/FARMERS-MARKET) ★ 972-878-4748

## G & H

Glass & Carpet



- Residential
- Commercial
- Sales
- Installation
- Repair

**COMMERCIAL STORE FRONTS**  
**Manufactured Home Repair Work**

- SHOWER REMODELING
- ALL TYPES OF FLOORING • ROOFING
- GLASS & WINDOW REPLACEMENT
- INSULATED GLASS PANES
- SCREENS • SOLAR SCREENS • SCREEN REPAIRS
- STORM DOORS • PATIO DOORS

**111 S. Main • Ferris**  
 M.-F., 8-5 • Sat., by Appt.  
**972.842.3075**  
[www.ghglassandcarpet.com](http://www.ghglassandcarpet.com)  
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1993



# Perfect Drive Giveaway

One lucky Ennis ISD Student with Perfect Attendance for the 2017-2018 School Year will

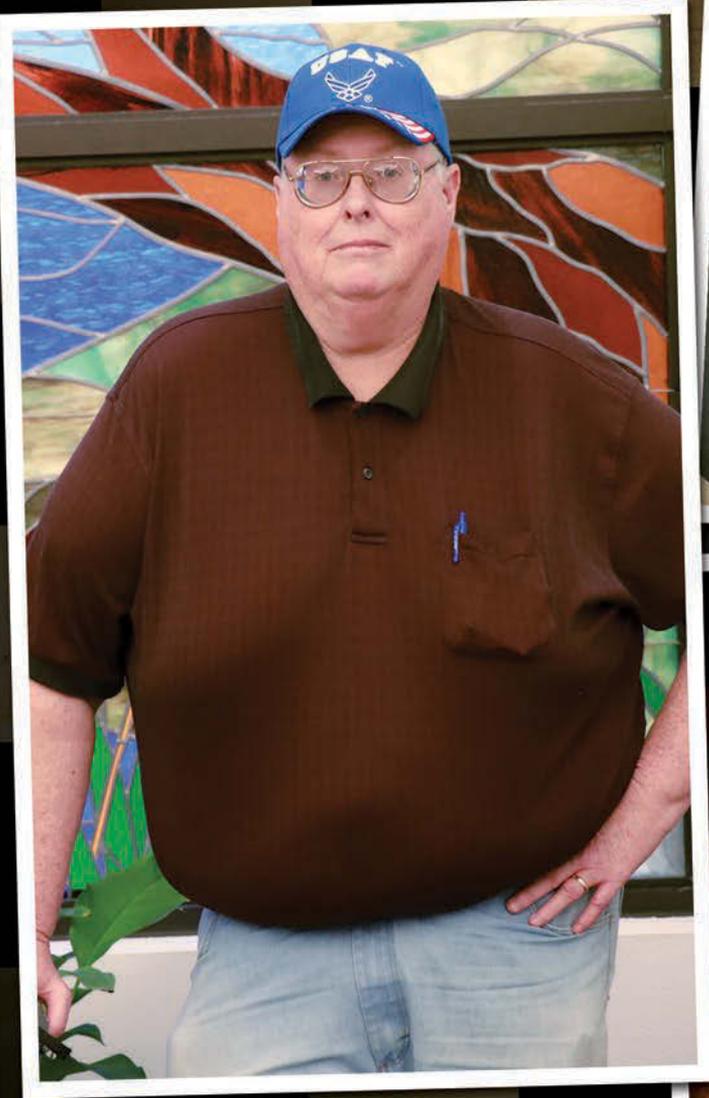
## WIN A NEW 2018 FORD FIESTA



\*Students must be 16 years old or older & have a valid Texas driver's license. Previous winners not eligible. See Ennis ISD Administration for details.

Courtesy of  
**ENNIS FORD**

900 N. I-45 in Ennis  [www.ennisford.com](http://www.ennisford.com)



## Playing Their Own Game

— By Sandra Strong

Larry Candy has loved chess, considered the oldest skill game in the world, since he was a young boy. He first learned the rules of the strategic game in the sixth grade. “I skipped lunch to play with my teachers,” he admitted. “Once I started beating them at the game, they no longer wanted to play me.”

Those early days of learning progressed into a lifetime of memories for Larry. His journey with chess continued through adulthood. “I’ve never stopped playing,” he stated. “I excelled in chess while I was in high school, thanks to all my civics teacher, Mr. Zumwalt, taught me about the game. I learned how to use the horses (knights) in a more aggressive manner.” Larry even played as a member of the military chess league while he was serving his country.

In his lifetime thus far, he’s competed in matches and tournaments around the country, winning much more than losing. He’s won several matches with a four-move checkmate. But, losses to Larry are learning methods. “You can go back, map out moves and re-see what you missed,” Larry explained. “Sometimes, I’ve even allowed people to win, so I can learn more about the game. The most important thing to remember when playing chess is to pay close attention to the board at all times.”

Chess represents the way people in medieval times lived. The way the chessboard is arranged tells a lot about its origins. The six different pieces — king, queen, bishop, knight, castle and pawn — offer a cross section of medieval times. The names of each piece are examples of the era’s grandeur, ceremony and war.

The king is the tallest piece on the board. The goal, much like in medieval times, is to protect the king at all costs. The king is the most important piece in the game because without it, the game will be lost. But, he’s not the most powerful piece.

The queen is the only female representative piece on

the board, but she is by far the most significant. The queen, in medieval times, held a powerful, yet precarious position. The king was oftentimes influenced by her advice.

Bishops, knights and castles come in twos, while there are eight pawns per player, both in white and black. The bishop represents the church, while the knight represents the professional soldier, whose job it was to protect persons of rank, much like the playing pieces do. Many times, knights will be sacrificed in a move to protect the more important pieces. The castle is compared to home, just as castles were home in medieval times. The pawns represent the laborers, and they are most always sacrificed in the game to save the pieces that hold more value.

If you've never played chess before and would like to know more about it, you can learn from Larry, a chess master, as he teaches a class at the library. His students range in age from 8 to their early 20s. Once the basics are mastered, Larry teaches strategies, and he's learned, over time, that every player has their own unique strategy. "Some players are very quiet, taking their time with each move," he shared. "Others are talkative and attack quickly." A game can take mere minutes or several hours.

Larry teaches opening moves, control of the board and how to slow the game down, when needed. "And, I let them know early on that the white pieces have the power because white always moves first in chess," Larry explained.

Regardless of the type of player you are or may turn out to be under Larry's tutelage, his advice remains the same. "Play the game at your own pace," he stated, "and don't ever be afraid to ask me questions." Once the fundamentals of chess are mastered, Larry encourages people to just "play their own game." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Chess classes are held every Wednesday at the Ennis Public Library, beginning at 4:00 p.m.*

ELLIS COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

**EC MA MED Spa**

ecmamedspa.com 800 W Lampasas Ennis  
972-875-4700

**New Skin Pen!**  
Advanced Technology!

**APRIL SPECIALS**

- \* **\$50.00 OFF** Package (3 or more) of Skin Pen Microneedling, Stem Cell Facials, Hydrafacials or Laser
- \* **Spray Tan 10% OFF**
- \* **Teeth Whitening \$99.00**
- \* **All Medical Skin Care Products 15% OFF**



**SkinPen**  
by Bellus Medical

**Anti-Aging**  
Improves Texture & Tone  
Reduces Stretch Marks, Fine Lines, Wrinkles, Pore Size



**K CPA**

**McDONNELL RICHARDSON CPA, PC**  
**Certified Public Accountants**



NATALIE MASH BUILDING  
107 South Gaines

**K CPA**  
McDonnell Richardson, CPA, PC  
Certified Public Accountants  
McDonnell Coates, LLP  
Attorneys at Law  
(972) 923-2881

**107 S. Gaines St.**  
**Suite 105**  
**Ennis, TX 75119**

**It's TAX Season.**  
**Call us today!**

Principal Office:  
215 W. Second St.  
Waxahachie, TX  
(972) 923-2881  
www.kj-cpa.com

**TAX FILINGS | BOOKKEEPING | PROPERTY TAX CONSULTING | TAX DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

FRANCES POOL

— By Rachel Smith



When family gathers, with six children and 23 grandchildren, Frances Pool has many plates to fill. “I’ve baked many birthday cakes over the years,” she admitted. But, like everyone, she had to start from the beginning. At about 9 or 10 years old, her first recipe required 1/2 cup Crisco, but she was unaware of fractions. “I added 3 cups because I thought, *One plus two is three!* The dogs wouldn’t even eat it,” she laughed.

Frances’ cooking has improved since then! She created a cookbook containing four decades’ worth of delicious recipes for her daughters. “Now, my granddaughters are wanting to know where their copies are,” she grinned. But, there is one ingredient that makes her recipes more special. “Every time,” she said, “I add a dash of love!” **NOW**

## Wash Day Cobbler

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large can fruit (peaches, apples, cherries, blueberries or blackberries, or fresh berries)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon (for peaches and apples only)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

1. In a 9x13-inch pan, melt margarine.
2. In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar and milk.

Pour batter into pan; do not stir.

3. Add fruit, with a little bit of the fruit juice. Sprinkle cinnamon, if using, and brown sugar on top. Bake at 350 F for 30-40 minutes, until golden brown.

4. Note: If you like a lot of crust, double the flour, sugar and milk.

## Matador

- 12 flour tortillas (divided use)
- 2 cans refried beans (divided use)
- 2 lbs. lean ground beef, cooked and drained (divided use)
- 12 oz. taco sauce (divided use)

- 16 oz. sour cream
- 2 pkgs. taco seasoning
- 16 oz. cheese, grated (divided use)
- 2 small cans sliced black olives
- Green onions, chopped, to taste

1. Spray a 9x13-inch casserole dish with PAM cooking spray. Place 6 tortillas in the bottom of the dish; cover with 1 can refried beans, half the ground beef and half the taco sauce.
2. Mix the sour cream with the taco seasoning. Spread half the sour cream mixture over the meat; cover with half the cheese. Repeat the process, ending with the cheese.
3. Sprinkle olives and green onions over the top. Bake at 350 F until the cheese bubbles.

## “The Best” Oatmeal Cookies

- 2 sticks butter or margarine
- 1 pkg. Jell-O instant pudding mix
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 3 1/2 cups oatmeal
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

1. In a large bowl, cream together the first 5 ingredients. Sift in the next 3 ingredients. Add pecans.
2. Mix together well. Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet.
3. Bake at 375 F for 10-12 minutes. Do not overcook.

## Broccoli Salad

- 5 cups fresh cauliflower, cut into bite-size pieces
- 5 cups fresh broccoli, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 cups cheese, grated
- 1 cup green onion, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 cup ranch dressing
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Mix all ingredients together well; serve chilled.

## Salsa

- 4 large tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- 2 jalapeños
- 2 cloves fresh garlic
- 1/2 cup cilantro
- 1/2 cup green onion
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- Pepper, to taste

1. Finely chop all vegetables. Mix together with salt and pepper.
2. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours before serving.

## Quiche

- 8 large eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup cheese, grated
- 1 unbaked pie crust

### Fillings:

- Diced ham, to taste
- Crisp bacon, crumbled, to taste
- Cooked sausage, crumbled, to taste
- Onion, chopped, to taste
- Green onion, chopped, to taste
- Mushrooms, sliced, to taste

1. Beat eggs, milk and salt and pepper until fluffy; add cheese.
2. For fillings: Add any or all listed filling ingredients. Pour into crust. Note: Be careful to only fill crust 3/4 of the way, as quiche will rise when baked. Bake at 325 F for 45 minutes.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

## Does your child have any of these symptoms?

- Unable to stay on task
- Stays up late most nights doing homework
- Excessive talking in class
- Gets in trouble in class often
- Has to be told to do the same thing over and over
- Cannot remember what he/she reads
- Has a lot of frustrations and feels overwhelmed



Make this year a turning point in your child's life. Come see what a difference we can make for your family at home and at school! Make an appointment for a consult today.

## FAMILY CARE CLINIC

for ADD/ADHD

Approaching Disorders Differently



972-875-6700

717 W. Lampasas • Ennis

We treat children and adults!

Se habla Español

D. BLAYNE LAWS, M.D.

[www.FamilyCareClinicForADHD.com](http://www.FamilyCareClinicForADHD.com)

## HAMIL, HARRISON & Co., LLC

- Quality heating, cooling, HVAC equipment installations and more
- Authorized Trane® dealer
- Full service HVAC company

**972-875-5747**  
805 W. Hwy 34, Ennis

TRANE COMFORT SPECIALIST

Since 1955 Hamil, Harrison & Co. LLC has been serving customers in Ennis, Texas and the surrounding areas. TACLA33040C

# City Real Estate



## BusinessNOW City Real Estate

— By Virginia Riddle

### City Real Estate

101 N.W. Main St., Ennis, TX 75119

(972) 878-2222

Fax: (972) 878-2225

citytxrealestate.com

Facebook: City Real Estate

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Weekends by appointment.

Listening to clients and buyers to determine what their needs are is paramount to the 42 real estate agents associated with City Real Estate in its Ennis, Red Oak, Waxahachie and Corsicana offices. “We want to match their needs to our services, so buyers find what they want, and clients sell their property,” Wayne Norcross, principal broker and owner, stated.

City Real Estate and in-house Guild Mortgage offer full service including residential and commercial real

estate, manufactured homes and new construction. “We now offer land and are developing a focus on a new farm and ranch division,” Amelia Valdez, designated broker, said.

These professional agents meet challenges in the real estate market. “Buyers and sellers can search the Internet for properties,” Amelia said. “Those tools are great, but technology is a double-edged sword. It must be kept up-to-date to be useful. We work with all kinds of demographics and have the most recent data on our site. It’s a group effort. We keep up with the many changes that occur in the market, state promulgated contracts and financing.”

“Our offices are set up with agents who keep up with all aspects of real estate,” Wayne added. “Their education and experience enable us to do a great job.”

Buyers can choose to work through Guild Mortgage or any other lender, such as community banks. VA,

FHA, USDA, Texas Land Bank and Ag Texas loans can be obtained through Guild Mortgage. "Increased demand in our real estate market has opened niches in the market," Wayne explained.

A real estate agent since 1998, Amelia said, "I love seeing a client reach a goal. It's rewarding and exciting to see buyers realize their dreams. An Ennis native, Amelia is a member of the Texas Association of Realtors and holds the following National Association of Realtors designations: Accredited Buyer's Representative, Seller Representative Specialist and Graduate REALTOR® Institute. Amelia is bilingual in English and Spanish. Chinese is spoken by another agent.

Janie Hendrix, self-described as a country girl with City Real Estate, has been an agent since 2005. "Our clients come first," she stated. She holds memberships in TAR and NAR and has earned the ABR, SRS and is a Pricing Strategy Advisor.

In addition to memberships in TAR, NAR and the Texas Land Institute, agents and the agency are members of the local boards of Realtors and the Chambers of Commerce in the cities in which offices are located. "We're a member of the multiple listing service wherever we have an agent working, which includes Houston, Austin and Odessa," Wayne explained.

The agency actively volunteers in each community it serves. "Wayne's the best broker. He's always on board, so the Ennis community knows we're here for them," Amelia said. The agency participates with Lights of Ennis, Main Street, Home for the Brave, CASA and the SPCA; has a partnership with the American Legion; and offers scholarships to area high school seniors.

"We're a small-town real estate company focused on local involvement," Wayne said. "We're growing because we've developed trust." **NOW**



YELDELL, WILSON, WOOD & REEVE, P.C.  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



*Offering the Highest Level of Professional Services*

Accounting Services ■ Auditing ■ Bookkeeping ■ Tax Planning ■ Tax Preparation  
611 S. Clay St., Ennis, TX 75119 ■ 405 Sycamore St., Waxahachie, TX 75165

**972-878-2611 YWCOPA.COM**

FOLLOW US  



# Training Academy 4 U

"Training Health Care Professionals"

## NOW ENROLLING!

 **NEW Phlebotomy Training and Pharmacy Tech**

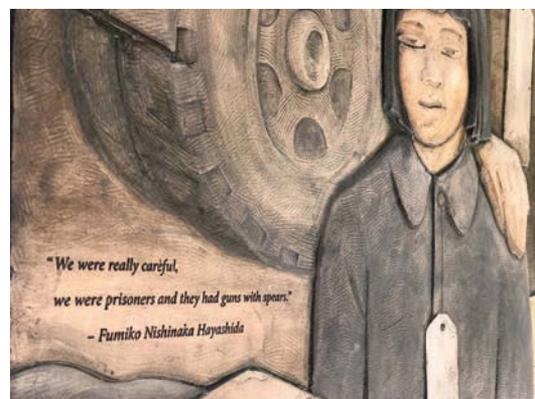
Massage Therapist • Medical Secretary  
Dental & Medical Assistant

**Financing & Scholarships Available!**

### 13 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

972-842-2999 • info@ta4u.org  
213 A West 6th St. • Ferris, TX

Approved and accredited by the Texas Workforce Commission for Career Schools and Colleges Department, Austin, TX., and the Texas Department of State Health Services License #MS1007



# TravelNOW Hidden Gems

— By Allison Burdick

What do gold, Bruce Lee, and strawberries have in common? They're all part of Seattle's heritage shared through not one, not two, but three National Park Service sites that explore the area's history, culture and community.

## History: Pioneer Square

*All hail to the Klondike!*

Situated within historic Pioneer Square (Seattle's original neighborhood) is a restored building known as the Cadillac Hotel. Constructed in 1889, it is now the home of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which shares stories from the 1897-98 gold rush in the Yukon Territory of Canada that swept gold-seekers through Seattle and up toward the Klondike gold fields. History buffs are exposed to Seattle and the Pacific Northwest's past through the eyes of stampedeurs looking to strike it rich, including John Nordstrom and how

he managed to start a shoe empire. Kids can earn Junior Ranger badges by completing activities, while they explore the park. Short films and rotating exhibits are also part of the experience and help visitors delve deeper into the impact of the gold rush on Seattle.

## Culture: Chinatown-International District

*Enter the Dragon!*

A short walk from Pioneer Square is the Chinatown-International District, a neighborhood rich in restaurants, shops and public art. The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, an affiliated area of the National Park System, celebrates the art, history and culture of Asian-Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. Learn how the neighborhood shaped Seattle's most famous martial artist and world icon, Bruce Lee. Take a historic building tour and catch preserved scenes of the everyday lives of the

hundreds of Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants who once made this building their home. A menu of other guided tours takes you through the neighborhood — including one led by your stomach — with different seasonal dishes that may include dumplings, noodles, rice and barbecue.

## Community: Bainbridge Island

*Nidoto Nai Yoni — “Let it Not Happen Again.”*

A short, and extremely scenic, ferry ride from Pioneer Square takes visitors to Bainbridge Island, a community that encourages us all to learn from a dark chapter in our nation’s history. Japanese immigrants first began arriving on the island in the 1880s, and strawberry farming was introduced in 1908. Many Japanese Americans went on to own and operate farms on the island and became integral to the community. However, immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government began arresting and facilitating the mass removal of all individuals of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Bainbridge Island community was the first to have its members of Japanese ancestry forcibly removed from their homes. The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site, is an old-growth red cedar, granite and basalt memorial that honors all 276 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were exiled from the Bainbridge Island community. These were the first of what would become 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry — two-thirds of whom were United States citizens — forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can check regularly for tour schedules.

Whether you are looking for stories, activities or new cuisine, the Seattle area is your destination with three National Park Service sites to visit, all easily accessible through public transit. For maps and other planning tools, visit [www.nps.gov/state/wa/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/state/wa/index.htm). **NOW**

*Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.*

# Swati Pullamaraju, MD

BOARD CERTIFIED IN FAMILY PRACTICE



All services performed in one location  
for your convenience at a lower cost.

In-house Lab Results Within the Hour  
Digital X-ray

Accepting New Patients of ALL Ages!

- Wellness Check-ups/Physicals
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Allergies/Asthma
- Chronic Conditions

- Medicare • Medicaid
- Parkland Medicaid
- Texas Health Steps
- Vaccines for Children
- Humana Medicare Advantage

## Ennis Doctors Center

[www.ennisdocs.com](http://www.ennisdocs.com)

802 W. LAMPASAS, ENNIS | 972.875.4700

SERVING ELLIS COUNTY WITH  
QUALITY INSURANCE  
AT A GREAT PRICE!



BOB WALKER  
INSURANCE

119 SW MAIN, ENNIS, TX  
Family-friendly service for over 50 years.

972.875.2321  
972.878.2321

Se habla Español

Take It To  
THE BOX

Prescription Drug Return



Scan or  
go to our  
website for  
locations.



972-937-1531

[therxdropbox.com](http://therxdropbox.com)



## Better Safe Than Sorry

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*If it has not happened yet, you can expect to get the first tornado scare of the year any day now. Late spring to early summer is the height of storm season in North Texas, and you will want to be sure you are prepared for an emergency situation. Here are some ideas for what to stock up on and how to be as ready as possible if severe weather comes your way.*

### Have a Plan

- *Know your home's safest spot.* Depending on your house, this could be a simple one. You want to stay away from windows, ideally staying close to interior walls without much that could fall on you. Most importantly, make sure everyone in your home knows where to go in case of danger, so you do not have children panicking and missing if storms are happening.



- *Know how to leave.* One of the saddest sights when major storms hit are the thousands of cars along the freeways trying to find refuge. Be sure you know the major evacuation routes, so if you have to evacuate, you can get somewhere to stay for a while.

- *Know if you can bunk with a friend.* If your house does not offer a good safe spot, plan ahead to have a place you can go when severe weather is expected. You might

have friends who have a bunker, or at least a better safe spot than you do. Storm shelters are not the norm in this part of the country, but more and more contractors are offering to build or install them.



### Have Supplies

- *Get food and water now.* If you want to avoid the price gouging that sometimes happens in a storm's aftermath, go ahead and stock up on bottled water and canned foods. One easy plan is to always have a surplus of those items, and every few months, consume what you have and buy replenishment. Be sure to include food for your pets when you are making your grocery list. And remember that your pets will increase the amount of water you need.

- *There are other useful items.* If you lose power, you may not be able to do much about your refrigerator and cold food, but you can be ready to stay warm with plenty of blankets. And just like you should have a stock of sustenance, be sure you have a supply of the

**NEW** >>>>>

**NTW Drivers Education Center**  
C#3205

Nicole Wooley, Instructor  
305 E. Knox St., Ennis  
Visit our website, call or text for information  
469-264-5644  
www.NTWDriverEducationCenter.com

**MONTHLY CLASSES**

**BEST BUY** WALK-IN BATH TUBS

**HAPPY EASTER!**  
Mention "NOW" for  
**\$500 OFF Discount!**  
Call For Pricing. Expires 4/30/18

**THE ONYX COLLECTION** NOW INSTALLING ONYX Walk-in Showers.

Family owned, Texas built Visit our Showroom  
3411 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76049  
817-326-3003 • [www.bestbuywalkintubs.com](http://www.bestbuywalkintubs.com)

**JPH MECHANICAL SERVICES**  
Jon Paul Honza, Owner

AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING • ELECTRICAL

TACLA017700C  
TECL00031353

**972-878-COOL (2665)**

**COMPARE AND SAVE**

Carpet • Vinyl • Tile  
Area Rugs • Laminate Floors

**Glenn's Warehouse Carpets**  
*Decorator Store with Warehouse Prices!*  
301 North College • Waxahachie, TX 75165  
(972) 937-8848 • Metro (972) 935-0584  
[www.GlennsWarehouseCarpets.com](http://www.GlennsWarehouseCarpets.com)

ARMSTRONG CERTIFIED INSTALLER

GLENN SMITH  
DAVID SMITH  
GEORGE BIRKINBINE  
KIM BELL

**NEW VINYL PLANK FLOORING ON SALE THROUGH 4/15 PALLET PRICING**

# A1A Moving

Local & Long Distance Moving 

We Are Your Moving Team For Full Service Residential And Commercial Moves. Call Us At 972-921-6515.




batteries you will need for flashlights and any items that are essential for your family.



### Have Information

- *Use the radio in the mornings.* Each morning, before you press play on your favorite CD or turn to your satellite music station of choice, tune into a station that includes regular news and regular updates. Forecasters never know exactly when storms might sprout up, but they usually have an idea at least a few hours in advance. In the same vein, keep a television turned on and tuned to a major network. You don't have to do anything more than watch for a break from regularly scheduled programming to bring a breaking weather update.

- *Download a Weather App.* There are many options, so many in fact that the only bad choice is not having one at all. Apps like WeatherBug or AccuWeather will not only warn you of tornadoes and extreme conditions, they also track lightning, so you know whether it is smart to be outside in less severe conditions.

Hopefully, you will never need any of these tips. But, if the worst does happen, your best plan is to be prepared. **NOW**

## CALL US WITH THE SIZE AND WE'LL BUILD IT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

Carports • Patio Covers • Metal Roof Repair • Heavy Haul  
Gutters and Downspout Installation • Specialty Trim





# EZ-UP

Carports & More

469-765-5743  
JOHN WILKERSON, OWNER 

# WAXAHACHIE NISSAN



## NOW OPEN!

**BRAND NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY!**

- Located in the Waxahachie Autoplex -



1900 W Hwy 287 Bypass, Waxahachie, TX, 75167 | Serving Ellis County and Surrounding Areas

**SALES:** Mon-Sat 9-8 | **SERVICE:** Mon-Fri 7-6 \* Sat 7-5

**855.888.5502 | [www.WaxNissan.com](http://www.WaxNissan.com)**



## Zoomed In: Reagan Perez

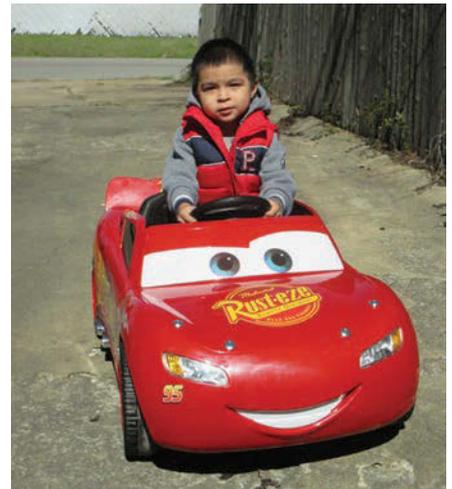
By Sandra Strong

Reagan Perez is just like any other 11-year-old boy — always inquisitive, constantly hungry and ready for the next adventure that comes his way. His most recent adventure included pictures on the Internet, a comb and some haircutting scissors. “I had grown my hair for a year before getting it cut,” he said with a smile. “I didn’t like the new hair at first, but I really like it now.”

His mom, Amber, was the force behind the unwanted haircut. She had a desire to see his cute face, and now she can because he’s taking pride in fixing it each morning. As Reagan gets ready to take another bite of his glazed donut, he can’t help but smile because he now understands how good change can be.



*Trish Zabojnik encourages those passing by to cast their vote in the city election.*



*Rey Carrillo, 3 years old, enjoys driving around the carwash parking lot in his Lightning McQueen car.*



*Mildred Patak celebrates her 88th birthday.*



*Pampered Pets holds a ribbon cutting and open house.*



Screen Doctors holds a recent Chamber ribbon cutting.



Marty Martell and Penny, a 1-year-old Rottweiler, take a morning walk at the park.



Freedom Storage holds an open house.



Several workers with FJS Masonry stop working on the masonry job at Sno-Biz Lions to pose for a photograph.



I will find your dream home anywhere in the world.  
Let's talk.

**JILLIAN ROSE**  
Global Real Estate Advisor, ABR

c 512.574.5073

[jillian.rose@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:jillian.rose@sothebysrealty.com)

 Kuper | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

# Calendar

April:

7

O'Reilly TOPMA Outlaw Pro Mod Series: Texas Motorplex. For more information, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

Fundraiser for Heritage Jaguar Band: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St., Midlothian. A \$20 donation will be made to the Heritage Jaguar Band for every test drive taken at Waxahachie Ford during the car show. Registration for the car show is free when you participate in the Ford Drive. For more information, contact Randy Griffith at (817) 308-7412 or at [vpoperations@heritagejaguarband.com](mailto:vpoperations@heritagejaguarband.com).

7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22,  
28, 29

Scarborough Renaissance Festival: 2511 FM 66, Exit 399A and I-35E, Waxahachie. Festival is set back in the time of King Henry VIII with arts, crafts, vendors, food and entertainment. For more information, call (972) 938-3247 or visit [www.srfestival.com](http://www.srfestival.com).



8

Race Wars: Texas Motorplex. For more information, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

11 — 15

Lucas Oil Divisional Southern Nitro Night: Texas Motorplex.

For more information, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

13

8th Annual Share the Love Gala: 6:00 p.m. The event benefits CASA of Ellis County. For more details, visit [www.casaofelliscounty.org](http://www.casaofelliscounty.org).

14

Waxahachie Symphony Association – When Swing Was King: SAGU Jazz Band with WHS Jazz Band: 7:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Communication Center Performance Hall, 1200 Sycamore St. For more information, visit [www.waxahachiesymphony.org](http://www.waxahachiesymphony.org).



19 — 22

Crossroads of Texas Film & Music Festival: The festival is a tribute festival that not only celebrates Waxahachie-made films, but also salutes films made in Texas or by Texans. The event will include fun, films, food, music and so much more. For tickets and more detailed information, visit [www.crossroadsoftx.com](http://www.crossroadsoftx.com).

W3 – Wonderful Women in Waxahachie Girl Camper & Sisters on the Fly Texas Rally: Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.waxahachiecvb.com](http://www.waxahachiecvb.com) or [www.girlcamper.com](http://www.girlcamper.com).

20

Ultimate Street Night: Texas Motorplex. Visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com) for more information.

21

Street Car Takeover: Texas Motorplex. For more information, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

27, 28

NHRDA Texas Diesel Nationals: Texas Motorplex. For more information, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

29

Wildflower Walk at Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm, Inc.: 130 Cunningham Meadows. Tour of natural areas of the farm to learn about Texas Blackland Prairie flora and fauna. Co-hosted with the Indian Trail Chapter of the Master Naturalists. For more information, call (972) 937-0681 or visit [www.ruralheritagefarm.org](http://www.ruralheritagefarm.org).

30

Festival of the Arts: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Worship Center at ORBC, 3251 Ovilla Rd. Free admission. For more information or for details on submitting artwork, email Jami Navarro at [jnavarro@ovillachristianschool.org](mailto:jnavarro@ovillachristianschool.org).



May:

4,5

Waxahachie Cinco de Mayo Festival: downtown Waxahachie. Hosted by Ellis County Hispanic Organization

(ECHO). For more information, visit [www.elliscountyhispanicorg.com](http://www.elliscountyhispanicorg.com).



Ongoing:

**Mondays**

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

**Third Mondays**

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Buffet, Waxahachie. Come join the group for

dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information and to RSVP, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or visit [vetsnetgrp@att.net](mailto:vetsnetgrp@att.net).

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

**Fourth Mondays**

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

**Tuesdays**

Lariat Bridge Club: 6:30 p.m., Boy Scout Cabin, 1139 Brown St., Waxahachie. For more information or

to confirm the meeting, email Shari at [weatherscf@yahoo.com](mailto:weatherscf@yahoo.com) or call (505) 270-4017.

**Fourth Saturdays**

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.



*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com).*

**INDEPENDENT SENIOR HOUSING WITH MEALS**

CALL 972-875-8641 TODAY TO SCHEDULE A TOUR.

Odd Fellow & Rebekah Retirement Center

2302 S. Oak Grove Rd., Ennis, Texas 75119

**BOARDING & IN-HOME PET SERVICE**

30-Minute stay, Overnight stay from scales, feathers, to fur (even livestock)

**Pet Lovers**

Contact Samantha at Pet Lovers in Ennis. (469) 766-8954 Call/Text [brock.petlovers@gmail.com](mailto:brock.petlovers@gmail.com) FACEBOOK.COM/BROCK.PETLOVERS

**Big savings for safe drivers.**

Get a discount up to 50%. I can help lower your premium through Drive Safe & Save™. Get to a better State®. Get State Farm. CALL ME TODAY.



**Cara Castellow, Agent**  
1905 W Ennis Avenue Suite 203  
Ennis, TX 75119  
Bus: 972-875-1462  
[cara.castellow.prfw@statefarm.com](mailto:cara.castellow.prfw@statefarm.com)

**State Farm**

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
1301900 State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

THE ORIGINAL **TACO CABANA** MEXICAN PATIO CAFE

**NEW Products!** Happy Hour everyday 4-7pm

Friendly Environment

203 S. I-45 • Ennis, TX 75119  
972-875-6850

**BIOLOGY**

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE MEANS TAKING THE TOUGH CLASSES NOW!

FIGURE OUT WHICH CLASSES YOUR STUDENT NEEDS TO TAKE AT [knowhow200.org](http://knowhow200.org)



## Did You Know ... Texas Wildflowers Are Always Blooming?

— By Derek Jones

Driving through Texas in spring, it is not uncommon to find vehicles parked along the roadside and families taking pictures among the waving seas of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes. Snapping photos among the wildflowers, particularly bluebonnets, is a favorite Texas tradition.

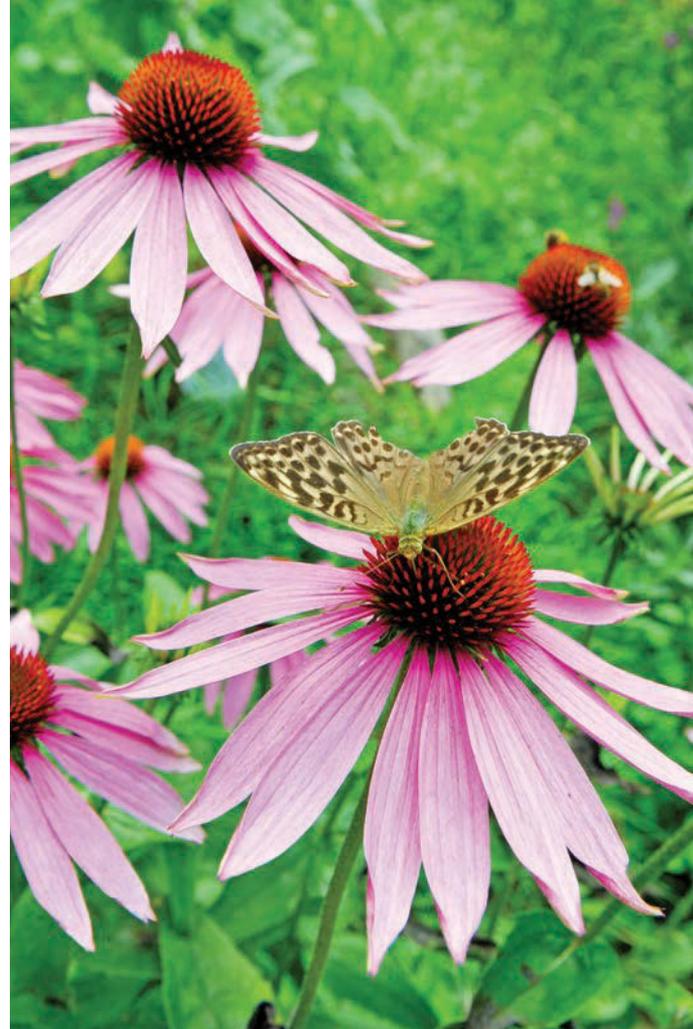
The city of Ennis, south of Dallas, was designated as the home of the Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail in 1997. The trail itself is a mapped series of country roads, which takes the driver through 40 miles of fields covered in bluebonnets. Whether viewing bluebonnets along the official trail, or just traveling between cities and towns, there is no shortage of opportunities to view these amazing wildflowers during springtime. As the bluebonnets emerge from their winter slumber, families will once again flock to these roadside destinations in hopes of the perfect spring photo.

The bluebonnet has been the official state flower of Texas ever since it was adopted by the state legislature in 1901. It was not until the creation of the Texas Highway Department in 1917, now known

as Texas Department of Transportation, that there was a systematic program to ensure the sustainability of bluebonnets and other Texas wildflowers near roadways. According to TxDOT, part of the conservation program involves prohibiting mowing alongside the highways until wildflower season is over.

TxDOT has expanded its wildflower program even further, now buying and sowing 30,000 pounds of wildflower seed each year. Thanks to these initiatives, Texas wildflower enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the spring bluebonnets and wildflowers alongside the highways for generations to come.

TxDOT has been instrumental in preserving Texas wildflowers, but perhaps no other name is as synonymous with wildflowers as that of former First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson. As First Lady, she was able to apply her passion for beautifying the nation's highways and cities and political influence to help pass the Highway Beautification Act in 1965. Because of her influence and involvement, the bill is informally referred to as, "Lady Bird's Bill."



Thankfully, she had the foresight to know making the nation a place of beauty also makes it a better place to live.

Part of making the nation a place of beauty requires focusing on native wildflowers and creating environments in which they can flourish. After her term as First Lady ended, Mrs. Johnson returned to Texas. Living in Austin, she partnered with actress Helen Hayes in 1982 to create the National Wildflower Research Center. Later, in 1997, the center was renamed The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Through the efforts of the research center, native plants and flowers of Texas are being restored in areas where they had been wiped out due to development. Today, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center stands as a legacy to a woman who devoted her life to adding a bit of color and beauty to the Texas landscape.

Although Texas may be famous for its fields of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes, the state is also home to many other unique wildflowers. For example, another favorite is the sunflower. The contrast of the bright yellow against a clear, blue Texas sky creates a breathtaking image and, like the bluebonnets, is worthy of family photographs. As with bluebonnets, these Texas favorites reach their peak in the spring before the heat from the harsh Texas sun withers them. Whether a favorite color is blue, red, yellow or a combination of these, the wildflowers of Texas do not disappoint.

For Texans who truly love wildflowers and have a discerning eye, spring is not the only time worthy of viewing. During any season or month, there are a variety of wildflowers blooming and flourishing.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website is a valuable tool for finding information about these lesser known wildflowers. For example, the website lists 20 wildflowers growing during the freezing temperatures of January and 24 examples growing during the heat of July.

The extremes of Texas weather only serve to create great diversity among the wildflowers. Institutions such as The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and Fort Worth Botanic Garden offer exceptional spots for year-round viewing of wildflowers and plants found in Texas and serve as hubs for information about native plant life.

The extremes of weather contribute to the wide range of wildflowers in Texas, as does the state's landscape. Woodlands, prairies, coastal regions and desert can all be found in this great state, and each region serves as a perfect environment for acclimated wildflowers. For example, The Lady Bird Wildflower Center has a state-by-state listing of wildflowers. Most of them are listed within a single state. Texas, however, is listed by six distinct geographic divisions. The environment of the region determines which wildflowers grow. From lush environments to harsh landscapes, Texas wildflowers demonstrate their ability to thrive and adapt.

Wildflowers are a true Texas treasure. The variety found in the Lone Star State will satisfy even the most die-hard enthusiast. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information, visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org).*

# Questions to Ask Before Taking Social Security

Social Security can be an important part of your retirement income. So, before you start making decisions about your payments, you'll want to know what questions to ask. Here are a few to consider:

## How soon can I start collecting Social Security?

You can begin receiving Social Security as early as age 62. However, your payments, as well as the survivor benefits payable to your spouse, will be significantly lower than if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely to be between 66 and 67.

## Can I wait until I'm past full retirement age to begin collecting payments?

Yes. Your monthly benefits will continue to rise until you reach 70, at which point they will max out.

## Which is better: taking smaller payments for more years, or larger payments for fewer years?

There's no simple answer to this question. If you are in good health and have a family history of longevity, you may decide it's worth your while to wait as long as possible before collecting benefits. Also, if you enjoy working and don't immediately need the Social Security payments, you may choose to wait. On the other hand, if your health is questionable, or if you would rather retire than continue working, you might want to start taking payments earlier. And, of course, if you simply need the money to help support yourself, you may not be able to wait. Additionally,

don't forget potential implications for your spouse. Since the survivor benefit is based on the size of your retirement benefit, it may make sense to delay and maximize your retirement benefit, which could help provide the maximum benefit for your surviving spouse.

## If I'm still employed when I begin taking Social Security, will my monthly checks be reduced?

If you're working, and you start collecting benefits before you reach full retirement age, your payments could be reduced if you earn more than the Social Security earnings limits, which are adjusted each year. Once you pass your full retirement age, though, you can earn as much as you like without having your payments reduced (although they could still be taxed).

## Will I be taxed on my Social Security benefits?

Social Security benefits can be taxable at any age, whether you're employed or not. To understand your tax liability, consult with your tax advisor.

## Can I claim Social Security benefits based on my spouse's earnings?

Yes, you may be eligible for Social Security benefits based on your spouse's earnings and Social Security record. This benefit is available if your full retirement benefit is less than half of your spouse's full retirement benefit. The spousal benefit is only available if your spouse has already filed for benefits.

These aren't all the questions you may need to ask about Social Security, but they can give you a good idea of what you should know before taking action. So, take your time, get the professional advice you need and make the right choices. You've contributed to Social Security your entire working life, so you've earned the right to maximize your benefits. **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.*

## Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

Contact your financial advisor today to learn about investing strategies that could benefit you.



**Jeff Irish, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
1905 W. Ennis Ave. • Ste. 401 • Ennis, TX 75119  
**(972) 875-4706**  
www.edwardjones.com  
Member SIPC

**Edward Jones®**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# M Metal Mart

THE RIGHT MATERIALS FOR THE RIGHT PRICE!

## HARDWARE & ACCESSORIES

### STEEL ROOFING



**Residential & Commercial**

### METAL BUILDINGS



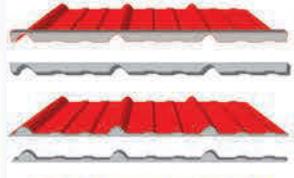
**Pre-fabricated & Weld-up Buildings**

### ROLL-UP DOORS



**& Walk Doors**

### PANEL CLOSURES



**Universal & Vent Closures**

### PANELS



MAX-RIB

R-PANEL

### CARPORTS



### CUSTOM TRIM



**Fabricated on-site**

### TOOLS



**Blades & Hex Drivers**

### SKY LIGHTS



**Polycarbonate Skylight Panels**

### RIDGE VENTS



### RECEIVER CHANNEL



**Square Tubing**

### INSULATION



**Vinyl Back & Reflective**

**THE SOUTHWEST LEADER**

CHECK OUT OUR ALL-NEW WEBSITE AT:

**METALMARTS.COM**

7200 NORTH IH-35 E. • WAXAHACHIE

972-576-0606 • 800-677-2503 • [metalmart03@McElroymetal.com](mailto:metalmart03@McElroymetal.com)

# STEM CELL



An Alternative to  
Hip and Knee Surgery!



HOMETOWN PHYSICAL MEDICINE

2200 W. Ennis Ave. • Suite A • Ennis • 972-875-8600

Se Habla Español

607 Ferris Ave. • Waxahachie • 972-923-1003

[www.hometownchirotx.com](http://www.hometownchirotx.com)