

# Ennis NOW

MAGAZINE

JUNE 2012

## Doing It Their Way

Ed Stegemoller is pretty good at helter-skelter when it comes to landscaping

## One Couple, Many Hats

At Home With Phillip & Mary Dowell

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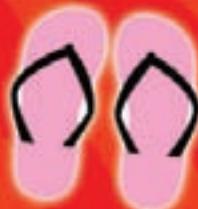


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## On The Cover



Eight ponds grace the property of Ed and Suzanne Stegemoller.

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

# Contents

June 2012 • Volume 9, Issue 6



22

## 8 Doing It Their Way

Sharing what they love comes naturally for the Stegemollers.

## 14 One Couple, Many Hats

At Home With Phillip and Mary Dowell.



14

## 22 Acting Up

A local actress sees her work as a journey of self-discovery.



36

## 28 BusinessNOW

## 30 Around TownNOW

## 32 HealthNOW

## 34 FinanceNOW

## 36 CookingNOW

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## Editor's Note

*Happy Father's Day!*

Even though I won't be signing a Father's Day card this year, I still find some peace in reminiscing about the past. I remember the photo of Dad painting the porch red, as I sat in my wagon watching. I recall the way he held his great-grandson's foot during their first meeting. Tears come as I remember his 80th birthday party where family and friends gathered to celebrate a life well-lived.

As heartbreaking as it was to see my dad's passing, it's just as heartwarming to see the father my youngest son is becoming. This will be the first Father's Day that Nick not only gives a card, but he also receives a card. My dad, my son and my grandson have painted the picture of what it means to "come full circle." As I wish my son a Happy Father's Day, I will look up and see my dad — healthy, whole and strong.

*Sandra*

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EnnisNOW Editor  
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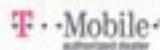
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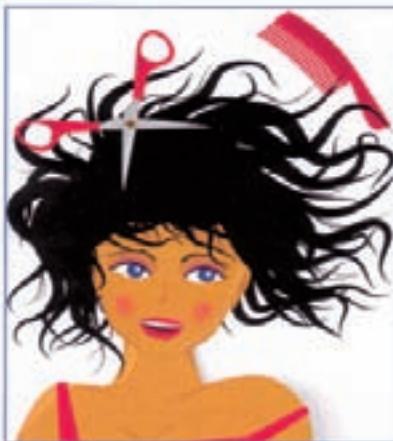


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# Doing It Their Way

— By Sandra Strong

*Ed Stegemoller grew up in a time when hard work and an honest day's living were expected. If he isn't adding to an already beautiful landscape, meandering alongside the winding brooks he has created or propagating flowers in his greenhouse, you can bet he's probably visualizing new ideas!*

Growing up in Hamilton County, Ed remembers the natural rock streams. Those memories prompted him to begin a project at his home

outside the city limits three years ago. "I laid my first bit of rock as a teenager," he stated. "If I have a project in mind, I can usually knock

it out in a weekend. My crew is a backhoe and a forklift."

"He can do so much in one weekend," added Suzanne, his wife of 25 years. "He can do whatever he puts his mind to."

The idea of several water ponds connected by winding brooks began with one pond that was natural to the land where their

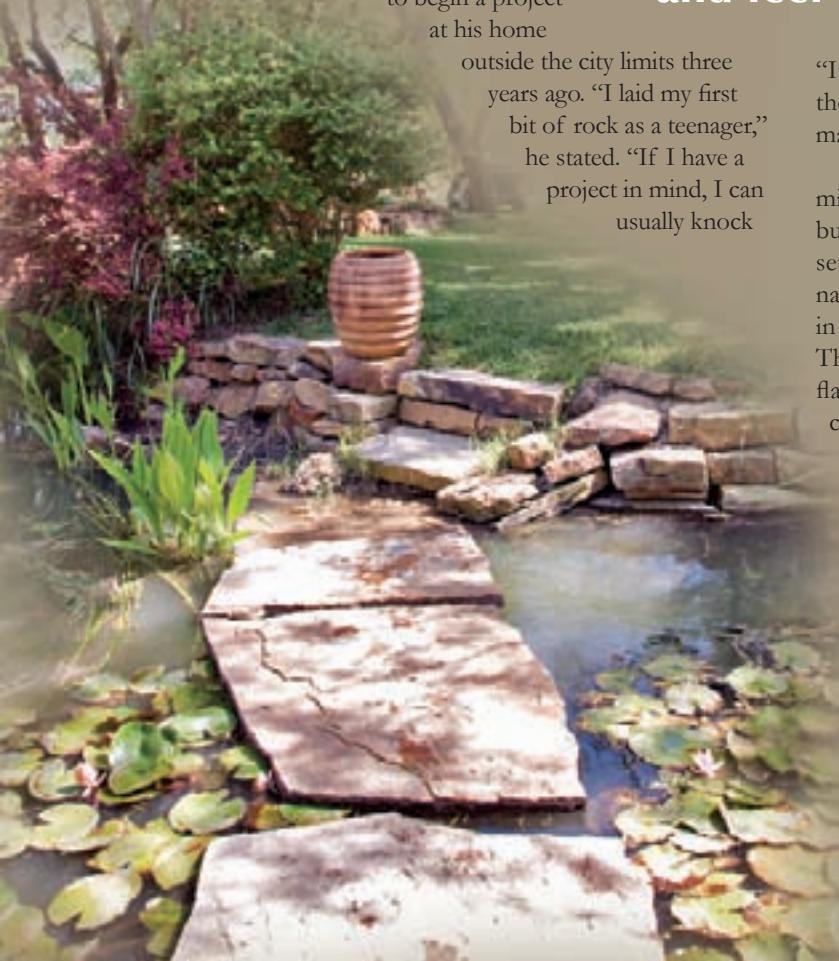
home is located. "I added stones and planted flowers and greenery," he explained. "It just grew from there." His vast experience as a builder, farmer and rancher was quite useful during this time of self-expression. As a builder, he can visualize the outcome of a weekend addition before the actual work gets underway. As a farmer and rancher, he loves watching what he's planted grow.

"It is a lot of hard work," he said, referring to the water ponds, the greenhouse, the weekend additions and just the overall maintenance of 88 acres, "but I love it."

As one idea comes to fruition, another one quickly pops into mind. The first pond, which is still home to an original pair of bullfrogs, has grown to include eight other ponds in a park-like setting. Every water pond needs a name. The Winding Brooks name Ed and Suzanne chose together is derived from the way in which the water constantly flows from one pond to another. The ponds and winding brooks are landscaped with boulders, flagstone rock, large trees, plants and flowers with rainwater collected over time. "I wanted the water gardens, the ponds and the waterfalls to have a natural look and feel to them," he admitted. "I'm pretty good at helter-skelter landscaping, so I think I'll just keep going the way I'm going."

His attitude has created something which is not only pleasing to the eye, but peaceful to the soul. "The ponds attract frogs, bugs, butterflies and many types of birds," Suzanne shared. "But, they also provide a very relaxing atmosphere." The sounds of nature and the water as it gently runs over the rocks provide a place of tranquility. Shaded areas and pathways that allow visitors to walk over the water are perfect for clearing their minds following a stressful day.

Ed has never minded going against the grain, especially



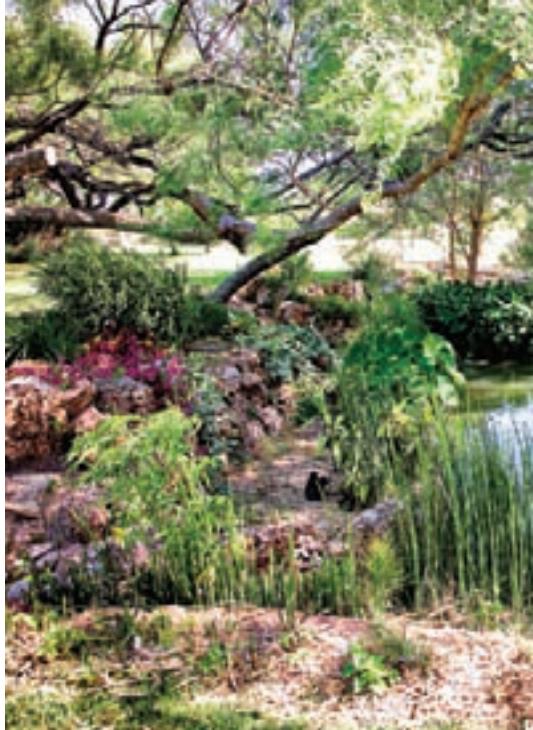


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when it comes to the water gardens. He enjoys seeing new landscaping, so trying new things is commonplace. He began by frequenting the local plant stores and landscaping businesses to find the plants he was looking for. Now he also grows, or propagates, some of his own plants. "I've learned a lot by doing it myself," he confessed. After a few mistakes and some moments of trial and error, Ed now realizes how easy it is to grow his own plants and flowers, thus making it more cost-efficient to make the constant visual changes he so desires in the water gardens. And it doesn't hurt that Ed has his own greenhouse on the property.

As Ed continues to "grow his garden," he does so with the help of some valuable friends. He gets many of his landscaping rocks and boulders locally. He also gets crystal boulders from outside the Ellis County area. "The crystal boulders you see are from Mount Ida, Arkansas," he explained, as he pointed to the large waterfall he just recently completed. "But I buy them from a guy in Canton, Texas."

Over the years, Ed has learned by listening. "You hear things all your life," he added, "but until it actually pertains to you and what you're doing, it doesn't dawn on you." Ed's listening paid off. Almost everything he and Suzanne have planted has survived. "Drainage is so important," Ed stressed. "Even plants that are drought-tolerant need proper drainage. I build my flowerbeds up with good dirt and mulch to allow for drainage."



Ed and Suzanne had been on several tours to see the water garden ideas of other like-minded individuals. When the North Texas Water Garden Society invited them to share their creation during their annual pond tour, it only seemed natural to say, "Yes." Needless to say, the Stegemollers are looking forward to the second weekend of this month with anticipation and excitement. "It will be the third year Winding Brooks is included in their tour," Ed enthused. "We thoroughly enjoy sharing it with others."

To be back on the annual pond tour three years in a row is rewarding to say the least. It gives Ed's hard work credibility, while giving him all the encouragement he needs to change things around from year-to-year. "Plants and flowers are never the same each year," he explained. "I enjoy making it different, so



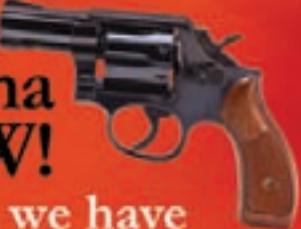
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They found out they enjoy working together, although Ed jokingly added, "For about three minutes." They already knew that hard work doesn't hurt you, but this just reinforced their personal philosophy. "The key to a healthy, happy life is to stay busy doing something. Don't get stagnant," Ed explained. "Keep on working. It keeps you young."

Ed deals with other's dreams when he is building for other people, but he's dealing with his own dreams when it comes to his water gardens. Pride for Ed and Suzanne comes from knowing "they did it their way." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: To find out more about water gardens, visit [www.windingbrooks.com](http://www.windingbrooks.com).*

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# ONE COUPLE

## Many Hats

— By Janice C. Johnson



*For sheer numbers and variety, you would have a hard time finding a collection of hats to match those in Phillip and Mary Dowell's four-bedroom, two-bath home. Be aware, though: not all of them are visible.*

Phillip graduated from Kemp High School and then joined the U.S. Navy, replacing his mortarboard with a sailor's hat. Six years of duty later, he returned to Ennis to find work. But in 1977, Phillip heard the call of the sea again and decided to join the Naval Reserve. He was preparing to go out of state for training when he met Mary, a pastor's daughter. "I saw her pumping gas into her little red car," he reminisced. "Right then, I got attached." He boldly introduced himself, they began dating, and he later joined her church, Mount Olive Baptist.

**AT HOME WITH**  
*Phillip & Mary  
Dowell*

When Phillip and Mary exchanged wedding vows in 1979, Phillip took on the role of father to Mary's two children, Jack and Andrea Nikki. Mary recalled that Phillip's love for travel had not been satisfied with naval duty. Although he had spent time in Hawaii, California, Japan and the Philippines, "When we married, he was dying to go to Galveston," Mary said with a smile. Phillip's "parent hat," as often as not, was a baseball cap from sports or schools.



Meanwhile, Phillip had established a career with the Postal Service, as testified by a row of U.S. Postal Service caps now hanging in the sunroom, each a bit more faded than the next. "I spent many years driving up and down Highway 34," he smiled.

The Dowells reared their children in the church, where Mary and Phillip sang in the choir, and Phillip served as a deacon. In 1988, he took on yet another "hat." He sensed a calling to vocational ministry. Without giving up his Postal Service work, he commuted to Buffalo every other Sunday for three years, to preach at a church there.

Mary's father had passed away, and Mt. Olive had a different pastor in the pulpit. During this early part of Phillip's pastoral career, the new minister left, answering a call to serve another church. Mt. Olive and Phillip, sharing the same vision, agreed that he would return as its pastor. Since then, Mary has been wearing both literal and figurative "pastor's wife" hats.

Then, one day in 1996, Phillip stopped to pick up some produce at a roadside stand and ended up buying their current house. "The owners had been relocated, and the house was vacant for



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several months before we moved in. It was really overgrown. I had to roll up my sleeves and clear out some vines and high weeds."

The home, built in 1947, provided the perfect location for the Dowell family. Its rural setting is peaceful, but still convenient to town and to the church. Jack and Nikki thrived there before marrying and moving on. Jack and his wife, Angela, now have two sons, Daniel and AJ. Nikki and her husband, Darryl, have three boys, Xavier, Xander and Darryl Jr.

Mary has redecorated bit by bit,

painting the rooms in different, yet harmonious, pastel colors. Classic white beadboard ceilings and hardwood floors tie the varied rooms together into a united whole. Alongside Phillip's Navy portrait, the couple proudly displays pictures of their children, their five grandsons and other extended family. Several diplomas hang above the fireplace, with Mary's name on one of the newest. "For years I meant to go back to college and kept putting it off," Mary admitted. "Then, I finally went through Navarro College's program with Texas A&M Commerce, and graduated

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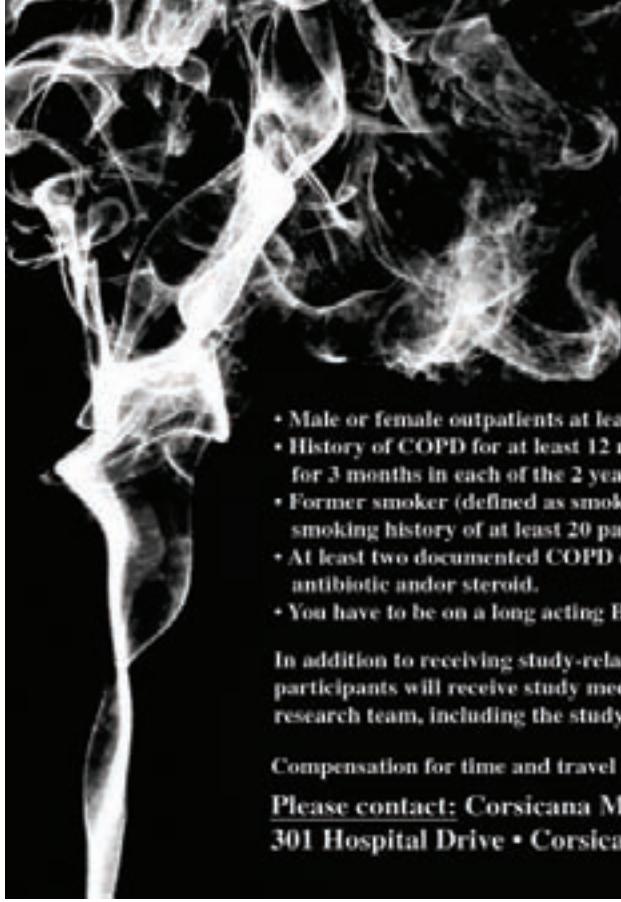
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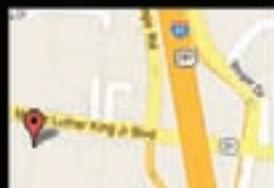


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in 2004." She now teaches life skills and community-based instruction at Ennis Junior High School.

The 65-year-old house surprises visitors with some of its design features. The kitchen is large enough for a full-size dining set. The light green walls nicely set off a white corner cabinet displaying a variety of pastel-colored milk-glass dishes. The sink has a conventional window above it, but with an unconventional view — it opens into the front entry hall.

If the eat-in kitchen does not offer enough seating, the formal dining room stands ready to help. A dining table, fully set for 10, fills less than half of the wide room. The dishes coordinate beautifully, yet represent several different patterns. "I picked these up here and there over the years," Mary explained. Display cabinets fill the corners at either end of the long table, and a sitting area graces the opposite wall. Mary's piano presides over one end of the room, with a faux fireplace at the other.

The largest cabinet is filled with women's dressy hats. Most were special-occasion gifts from the congregation, but it appears that Mary is also a talented seamstress. The three hats atop the cabinet are her own creations. In a glass cabinet beside the fireplace, a few miniature "Rosebud" hats add a chic touch to the glassware displayed there. "My kids started to collect these for me," Mary said, "but they can't find them anymore."





In the sunroom, lemon-yellow walls always look bright and cheerful, even when the weather is anything but sunny. Just outside its large windows, a wide, covered patio frames a serene view of the backyard and the pasture beyond.

You may also catch a glimpse of Phillip wearing a gardening hat there, as he likes to grow his own vegetables.

The children's former rooms are ready for guests, one of them set up with bunk beds and toys for visiting grandsons. "They love to come out here," Phillip said. A basketball goal, a trampoline and a bicycle add to the appeal.



The Dowells have adapted the fourth bedroom as a convenient study for Phillip. There he prepares sermons and dreams of the future, planning for more ways in which his church might assist the community. He does not mind that his double vocation keeps life so full. "It keeps you going," he said.

Mary agreed, adding that their church has always been supportive and willing to volunteer. "We're a close congregation," she beamed.

Eventually Phillip will retire from the Postal Service. Never idle, he is looking ahead to yet another venture. Perhaps he will be seen in a chef's hat next. "I'm thinking of going to culinary school," he said.

The slogan, Dream until your dreams come true, stenciled above the living room door, seems to echo the Dowells' way of living. Phillip looked around the comfortable living room and said, interlocking his fingers to illustrate, "All the parts of our life seem to fit together here." **NOW**

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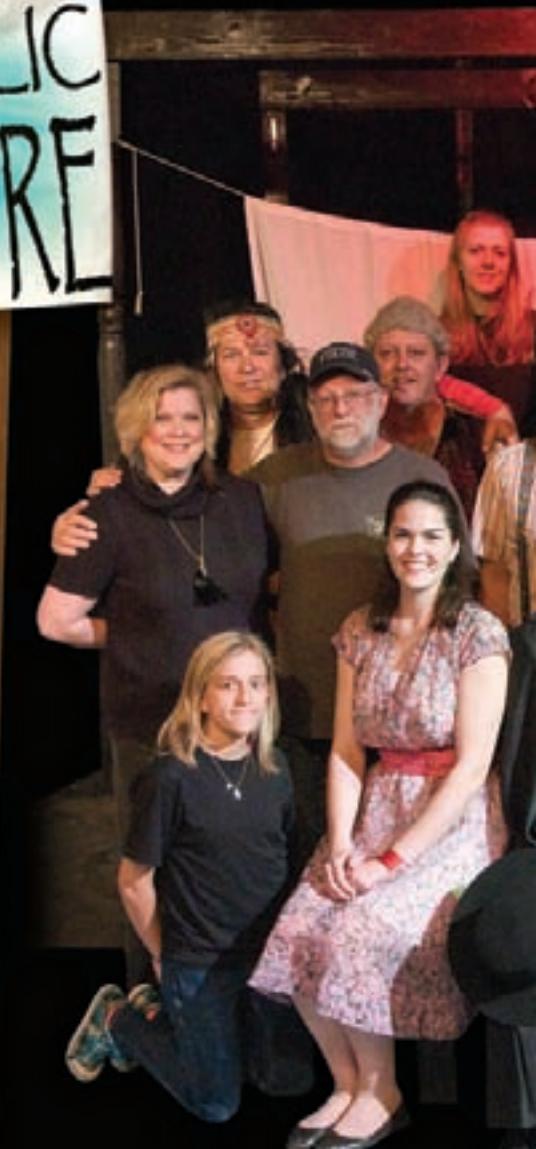
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# Acting Up

— By Randy Bigham

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For Caryn Spaniel, performing is as essential as breathing. "My acting comes from the heart," she said. "It's just something I have to do." Although the award-winning Ennis Public Theatre star has taken a sabbatical from the local stage, she assures fans she will soon be back. "I'm on a break, but I can't be gone from it for long," she laughed. "I love it too much. It's a part of my life now."

And she's become a part of the lives of Ennis Public Theatre regulars who have enjoyed her in plays there since 2004. Beginning with *Lost in Yonkers*, Caryn has since appeared in 13 productions — comedies, dramas and musicals that include *Deathtrap*, *The Odd Couple* and *Always, Patsy Cline*. More than



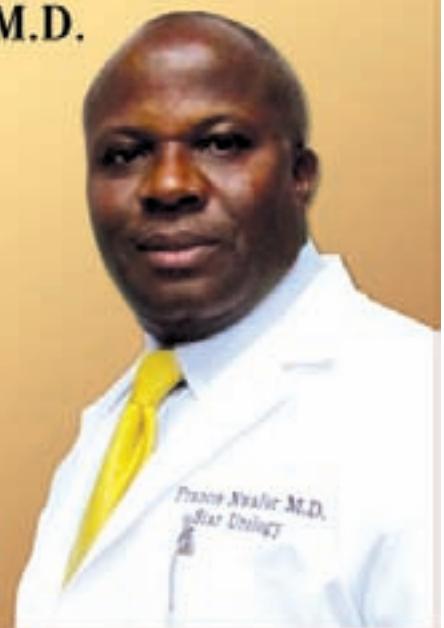
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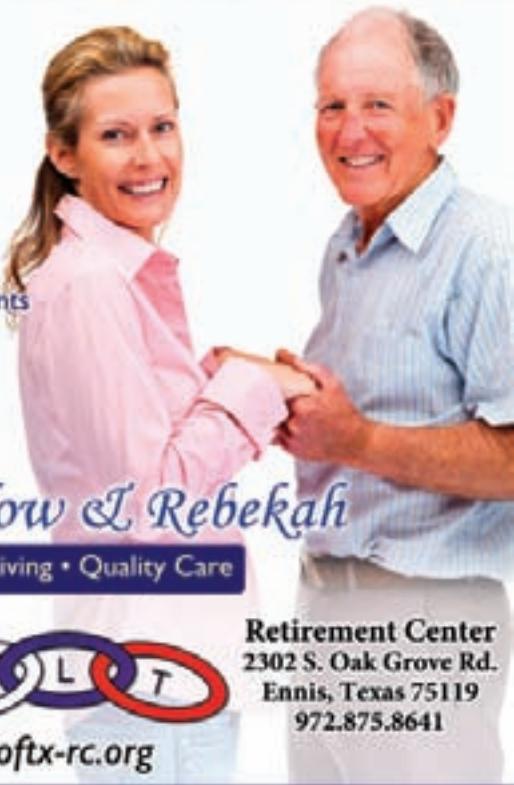
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a familiar face, the high-spirited leading lady has inspired a devoted following among playgoers who twice voted her Best Actress. Receiving that distinction consecutively in 2009 and 2010 was an honor for Caryn, but she insists it's the craft of acting and the support from audiences that make her most proud. "It was humbling to be recognized by the Ennie Awards," she said. "But my reward really comes from loving to act and knowing the audience is entertained. When people come up after a show and say, 'I loved you in that part,' or 'You did a great job,' that is the biggest award I could get."

Caryn also credits support closer to home for sustaining her. "My daughter, Cathryn, and my mother, Dorothy, are always there to cheer me on, and they mean everything to me."

The confident thespian wasn't always so self-assured. "I have loved performing since I was a kid, but I was too shy to do anything about it at first," she admitted. The extent of her training was putting on her own shows in the backyard. "The storm cellar door was my stage," she explained. "And with a broom for a microphone stand and my dog as my audience, I had a ball!" Caryn dreamed of having her own TV show and went through skits and songs to rival her favorite stars at the time, Donny and Marie Osmond. She finally gathered the courage to take drama and speech classes in the eighth grade, and ended up with a part in the senior play. But music was

her first love, and it was after high school that she started singing in a popular local band, the Country Noblemen. "That was a lot of fun," Caryn recalled. "The band was a hit everywhere we played, and it was a great experience."

About eight years ago, when she returned to the Bluebonnet City after a stint in Arkansas, she renewed her love for the stage. Friends encouraged her to try out for a play being cast by director Bill Rhoten at the Ennis Public Theatre, then in its third season. "I got the part, and I was hooked from then on," Caryn said. "Bill knows his craft so well, and I have learned so much from him." Of this local oracle of drama, Caryn indicated he has a genius for extracting the best performances from actors. "Bill knows what he's after in the character you're playing," she said, "and he just pulls it out of you."

She also has high praise for the example of teamwork set by Bill and his wife, Suzanne, Ennis Public Theatre's managing director. "He and Suzanne are the perfect match," Caryn said. "He is the artistic type, full of energy and a million ideas, and she's poised



and organized." She lauds the pair's dedication to bringing arts and culture to Ennis. "They have done so much for theater in this area," Caryn added. "They know how to shape a good play and make it work and mean something."

Through the Rhotens' plays, Caryn has found her voice as an actress and as a woman. "Acting is more than acting to me," she confessed. "It's satisfying on a personal level I wouldn't have imagined. You learn so much about people and about yourself." The craft of acting has given her an inner peace that has improved her life. Caryn has grown more forgiving of herself, on stage and off, and the release from self-criticism

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has been liberating. "Acting puts you in touch with life," she said. "It's become a personal journey for me, not just a role to play on stage. I would say it's therapeutic. And I know one thing: I'm meant to be doing this."

Of the productions in which she's appeared, she counts the most fulfilling as *The Foreigner*, in which she portrayed an old woman whose dialogue took on a life of its own. "I think that character brought a lot of joy to people. I know it did for me." She points to *Godspell* as the local vehicle that resonated most with audiences. "It was a huge hit," Caryn remembered. "Originally we were all concerned how such an involved show could be put on at the Ennis Public Theatre." But the cast's worries proved unfounded, and the musical went off without a hitch.

In addition to Caryn's work in Ennis, she has appeared in a number of well-received plays across North Texas. In Corsicana, she starred in the Warehouse Living Arts Theater's productions of *Oklahoma!*, *Circus Shambles* and *Bus Stop*. At the Duncanville Community Theatre she played in *Coming Apart*, and she essayed one of her most challenging roles in Addison in the Stone Cottage Theatre's world premiere of *A Moment in the Life of Willa Dee Arris*. "That was a play by Mark-Brian Sonna," Caryn said. "And it was something else. My character was such a tormented person, a real tortured soul in denial about her life, so it was tough to do."

Caryn welcomed the test and passed it, and she looks forward to more exacting roles in the future. "Performing is so gratifying, whatever the role might be," she said. "It takes you into a whole different zone. Your words are yours, and yet they're not, so you're exposed and hidden at the same time. I love losing myself in a character, but I'm still me." Caryn also relishes the camaraderie of the stage, especially at the Ennis Public Theatre. "It's a team effort," she said. "It's about good storytelling, not about being a star. And the reception we get from audiences is super. We have the best crowds!"

Caryn doesn't know when she will hit the Ennis stage again, but promises it won't be too far in the future. "I couldn't quit if I tried. It's such fun. I get to make believe. What's better than that?" **NOW**



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Shannon and Doug Hartzel offer a variety of gift ideas. Design specialist, Margie Vrana, has been creating beautiful arrangements at Ennis Flower Shop for the past 22 years.

## Giving Back

*Doug and Shannon Hartzel are keeping the Ennis Flower Shop tradition alive.*

— By Sandra Strong

The journey to owning a business began for Doug and Shannon Hartzel during the 2011 Bluebonnet Trails event. That Saturday a fast-growing seed was planted. “I had asked James Trojacek, the owner of the shop at the time, if I could set up my Scentsy booth on the sidewalk outside the Ennis Flower Shop,” Shannon remembered. “Later in the day, James came up to me and asked if I wanted to buy his shop.”

Shannon laughed it off; that was until she told Doug about it later that same evening. “I told her not to write it off,” Doug said. “Maybe we need to put some serious thought into this.”

Doug and Shannon sat down with James and his wife, Connie, in late March, early April, to get a better feel for the flower

shop that has been a mainstay in the Ennis community for over 50 years. “After lots of prayer, Doug and I decided this was something we could do,” Shannon explained. “We became the new owners of Ennis Flower Shop on June 30.”

On July 1, the new business owners opened the doors for business, and they didn’t change a thing. “Why change or fix something that’s not broken?” Shannon shared. “We wanted the Ennis Flower Shop tradition to stay intact, to remain the same.”

One constant that has not changed at Ennis Flower Shop over the years is design specialist Margie Vrana. Over the past 22 years, Margie has shared her floral expertise with four owners, including Doug and Shannon. “I knew nothing about the

## Business NOW

business," Shannon admitted. "Margie taught me everything I know about floral design."

"It wasn't difficult," Margie stated. "Shannon has a natural artistic ability, which helped her catch on quickly." Margie also makes sure the flowers needed to fill the orders are readily available. "Processing flowers is lots of work," Margie enthused. "They are removed from the box. Then you clip the stems and trim the unwanted leaves. After the holding buckets are bleached, the flowers are dropped into water that's been mixed with flower food. The flowers 'drink' for about an hour before going into the cooler."

Orders for flowers are placed on Monday of each week. Special orders for additional flowers are placed on an "as needed" basis. Ennis Flower Shop also

*"Shannon has a natural artistic ability, which helped her catch on quickly."*

offers live potted plants, specialty items, keepsakes, cards and jewelry. The candy, fruit and snack baskets have become quite popular, too.

After 22 years in the floral design business, some may wonder how Margie is still able to design one-of-a-kind works of art for Ennis Flower Shop customers. "I look at photos and replicate what I see," Margie confessed. "Nine times out of 10, I can make them look exactly like the photo. Other times, I begin and the design just happens. This is where I need to be."

Doug and Shannon knew coming into this venture they had some mighty big shoes to fill. "We understood we had to gain the respect of those, like Margie, who had worked here for years with the previous owner," Shannon said, "as well as with the community who had put their trust in the Ennis Flower Shop."

They admit their first year has been a lot of hard work, but they have no regrets. "We're givers," Doug said. "We're in a position now to give back to the community that has given so much to Ennis Flower Shop over the years." **NOW**

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# Around TownNOW



Olivia Rudd celebrates her 7th birthday at a tea party at First United Methodist Church.



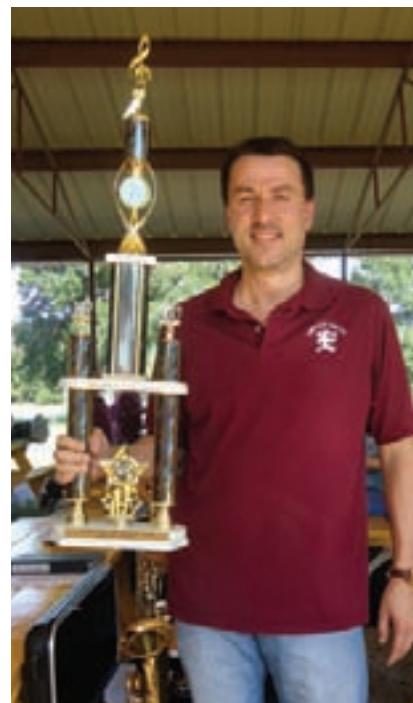
Linda Roberson, EnnisNOW advertising rep, and Jessica Cromwell smile during the *Salon de' Allure* open house.



Tayler Lichty gets ready for the prom with a new hairdo.



Bowie students send supportive messages, written on yellow ribbons, to the troops.



David Ingram, EISD Junior High band director, shows off the trophy the sixth grade band earned after winning First Division at Sandy Lake Band Competition.

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## Farmers' Market Shopping — Healthier and Tastier Alternative

— By Alison Wright, RD

Farmers' markets are becoming more commonplace. With the increase in popularity, so comes the increase in vendors and consumer choices. Spring and summer are the perfect time to be creative with your shopping.

When it comes to buying vegetables, start small. Buy salad ingredients to have at dinner each night. Purchase vegetables you know how to prepare. Once you gain confidence, add new items.

Since items at a farmers' market change often, bring a general shopping list rather than a specific one for the whole week: ingredients for salads and produce for side dishes that go well with planned dinners of fish, chicken or meat entrées. To prevent rotting fruit in the fridge, estimate how many pieces of fruit you'll need for your lunches or suppers all week.

Here are more ideas on how to maximize your trip to the farmers' markets:

- **Don't be shy.** The people selling products want to answer your questions, so go ahead and ask them what they use these items for.

- **Learn the lingo.** Not all farmers can afford the organic certification, so ask them the difference between "greenhouse grown" and "grown or raised without hormones." You'll become a savvier shopper at any store after learning from the experts.

- **Do your homework.** Find a market that's in a convenient location and with hours that fit your schedule so you can easily add a shopping trip into your weekly routine. Visit [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org) for markets in your area.

- Time your outing. If you can only go on weekends, get there early. Ellis

County markets are open on Saturday and one other week day. The less traffic in the market, the more opportunities you'll have to get the best products and chat with vendors. If you're shopping on a budget, going at the end of the market day will usually enable you to get some great deals and negotiate prices with the vendors.

- **Bring cash and reusable bags.** Small bills will make transactions easy and you'll need a sturdy, eco-friendly bag to carry your purchases home.

- **Become a gourmet.** Ask the vendors for cooking suggestions; sometimes they provide recipes. Or enter your new vegetable in the search box at [www.epicurious.com](http://www.epicurious.com) to discover recipe ideas.

- **Be flexible.** Accept that produce will not look perfect. But it has been grown naturally and picked recently, which means it's packed with flavor and nutrients.

### It's Fun!

We stated it in the beginning, but farmers' markets are just plain fun for the whole family. Meeting your local community is an excellent way to feel connected to the world around you, increasing health for body, mind and spirit. **NOW**

*Adapted from Global Healing Center and Information provided by Julie Negrin, MS, CN, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Hunger and Environmental Nutrition dietetic practice group.*

*Alison Wright, RD • Director of Nutritional Services • Ennis Regional Medical Center*

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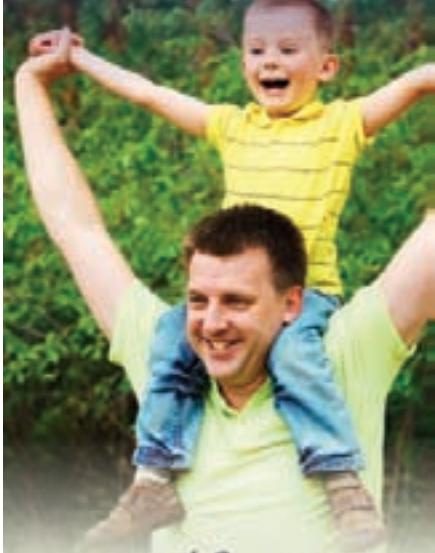
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# What Should You Do With a 401(k) When Leaving a Job?

In the past, many people stayed at one job, or at least one company, for almost their entire working lives. When they retired, they could typically count on a pension, the value of which was based on their years of service and earnings. But today, workers can expect to hold several different jobs in their lifetime, and to a great extent, pensions have been replaced by 401(k) plans, which place much of the funding responsibility on employees. So, assuming you will change jobs at some point, and you do have a 401(k), what should you do with it?

## Here are your basic choices:

- *Cash out your plan.* If you cash out your plan, your company will likely pay you 80 percent of your account value, withholding the rest for federal taxes. And if you're younger than age 59 1/2, you may well be slapped with a 10-percent IRS tax penalty. Even worse, you'll have lost a key source of your retirement income. Still, if you are leaving your employer involuntarily, and you need the money, cashing out your 401(k) is an option you may need to consider.
- *Keep the money in your company's plan.* When you leave a company, your employer may allow you to keep your money in your existing 401(k). You may want to choose this route if you like the investment choices available in your plan. However, you might be caught by surprise if the company decides to change investment options. Furthermore, some employers may charge former employees fees to maintain their 401(k) plans.
- *Move the money into your new employer's plan.* If your new employer has a 401(k) and allows transfers, you could roll the

money from your old plan into the new one. This might be an attractive option if you like the investment options in your new employer's plan.

• *Roll the money over to an IRA.* You may find several advantages to rolling your 401(k) over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). First, your money will still have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis. Second, you can invest your funds in virtually any investment you choose — stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs), etc. Third, if you own more than one 401(k) account, you could find it advantageous to consolidate them into a single IRA, thereby making it easier to allocate and monitor your retirement assets. And fourth, IRAs may give you greater flexibility if you plan to pass money to your children. In fact, if your child inherits your IRA, he or she has the option of stretching withdrawals over the child's entire lifetime, rather than taking the money as a lump sum. (If you do transfer funds from your old 401(k) to an IRA, be sure to use a "direct rollover" to avoid the possibility of triggering unwanted taxes.)

Before making any moves with your 401(k), consult with your tax and financial advisors. By looking closely at your options, and by getting professional guidance, you can make the choice that's right for you. **NOW**

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

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# Calendar

## All Month

*God's Favorite* is playing at Ennis Public Theatre, North Business Park, 2705-C N. Kaufman Street. Call (972) 878-7529 for information on specific dates and show times.

## June 8-August 11

*Night Lights and Bad Astronomy*: Mondays through Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectfully, Cook Center Planetarium, Corsicana. Admission is \$2 per person per program. For more information, call (903) 875-7596.

## June 9

Concert in the Park benefiting Daniel's Den: noon-9:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie. Features activities and entertainment for the whole family. Call Joy Ranton at (972) 938-0103 for details.

## June 12

Ennis Public Library's 2012 Summer Reading Program: Programs will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays designed for children who have completed kindergarten up through the sixth grade. Each program day will have two time options to choose from. Preschoolers (any child not finishing regular kindergarten) may attend, but must sit with a parent during the program.

A certificate will be awarded to all children in grades K-6 who read 720 minutes and/or attend six of the 12 programs. Children in grades K-6 who read at least 720 minutes will be invited to attend the Pool Party on **Tuesday, July 31**. Children in grades K-6 who both read the 720 minutes and attend at least six out of the 12 programs will receive an invitation to the Special Event on **Monday, July 30**. For more information, visit [www.ennispublclibrary.com](http://www.ennispublclibrary.com).

## June 15

3rd Annual Black Music Festival, Music Under the Son: Bluebonnet Park. Sponsored by Unity in the Community.

## June 17

Happy Father's Day!

## June 20-23

Air and Space Camp: 9:00-10:30 a.m., Cook Center and Lake Halbert, Corsicana. Kids ages 9-13 can build a glider or plane and fly it. Refreshments. For information, call (903) 654-4874.

## June 27-29

Golf Camp: 8:30-11:30 a.m., The Oaks Trail Golf Course, Corsicana. Golf pros will teach boys and girls ages 6-12 the basics of playing

golf. Bring clubs if you have them. If not, clubs will be provided. For information, call (903) 654-4874.

## July 21

Red Oak Reunion: 6:00-10:30 p.m., Sleep Inn & Suites, 1701 N. Hwy. 77. For information, contact Renee Bryan Wood: [reneewood1963@yahoo.com](mailto:reneewood1963@yahoo.com) or Nancy Holloway Drake: [njhdrake@yahoo.com](mailto:njhdrake@yahoo.com).

## Ongoing:

## Fourth Saturdays

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

## Sundays

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

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



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## In The Kitchen With Shirley Martinez

— By Sandra Strong

Shirley Martinez loves to bake. "When I was growing up, my daddy did all the baking," she shared. "I must have inherited this trait from him. I use a lot of his recipes, but there are no measurements. They are made just by feel." Chocolate Steam Cake is the family's favorite. "It's an oldie, but a goodie," Shirley said. "I always bake it for my two grandsons on their birthdays."

As a local real estate agent, Shirley stays very busy. When she finds extra time, she enjoys sharing her baked goods with family and friends. "I use my Sunday school class as guinea pigs whenever I try a new recipe," she laughed. "I'll keep working in real estate until I'm too old, then I'll just bake." **NOW**

### Chocolate Steam Cake

#### **Cake:**

**1 stick butter**  
**4 Tbsp. cocoa powder**  
**1/2 cup shortening**  
**1 cup water**  
**2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**2 cups granulated sugar**  
**1/4 tsp. salt**  
**1 tsp. soda**  
**1 tsp. cinnamon**  
**2 eggs**  
**1/2 cup buttermilk**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**

#### **Icing:**

**4 Tbsp. cocoa powder**  
**1 stick butter**  
**6 Tbsp. milk**  
**1 cup nuts, chopped**  
**1 box confectioner's sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**

- 1.** For cake: Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix first 4 ingredients in a pan; bring to a boil.
- 2.** In a separate bowl, mix flour, sugar, salt, soda and cinnamon. Make a well in the center. Pour melted mixture over dry ingredients. Add eggs and mix well. Add buttermilk and vanilla extract.

**3.** Pour into a sheet cake pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

**4.** For icing: Using the same pan, melt the first 3 ingredients; bring to a boil. Add nuts, confectioner's sugar and vanilla extract; beat until smooth. Frost the cake while it is hot.

### Easy Yeast Rolls

**3 Tbsp. sugar**  
**2 Tbsp. vegetable oil**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**3/4 cup warm water**  
**1 pkg. yeast (2 1/4 tsp. dry yeast)**  
**2 cups all-purpose flour**

- 1.** Mix sugar, oil, salt, water and yeast. Let sit until mixture starts moving.
- 2.** Add flour. Beat well. Let rise 1 hour. Roll out.
- 3.** Place portions in 12 muffin tins; let rise 1 hour.
- 4.** Bake in preheated oven at 350 F for 15 minutes or until brown.

### Favorite Pie Filling

#### **Filling:**

**1 cup white sugar**  
**3 heaping Tbsp. flour**  
**Dash of salt**  
**2 cups milk**  
**3 egg yolks**  
**1/3 stick butter**  
**1/2 tsp. vanilla**

#### **Meringue:**

**1/4 tsp. cream of tartar**  
**3 Tbsp. white sugar**  
**3 egg whites**

**1.** For filling: Mix sugar, flour and salt in saucepan. Stir in milk, egg yolks and butter. Cook the mixture until thick; add vanilla. Pour into prebaked pie shell.

**2.** For meringue: Whip egg whites, cream of tartar and sugar until peak forms. Spread on top of pie. Bake at 350 F until brown.

*Variations: Chocolate: mix 1/2 cup cocoa powder with dry ingredients. Coconut: add 1 box or can of coconut to thickened custard making sure to put some back to sprinkle on the meringue prior to baking. Lemon: use 1/3 to 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice and add difference in water instead of milk. Banana: add sliced bananas to custard.*

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



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