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September 2007

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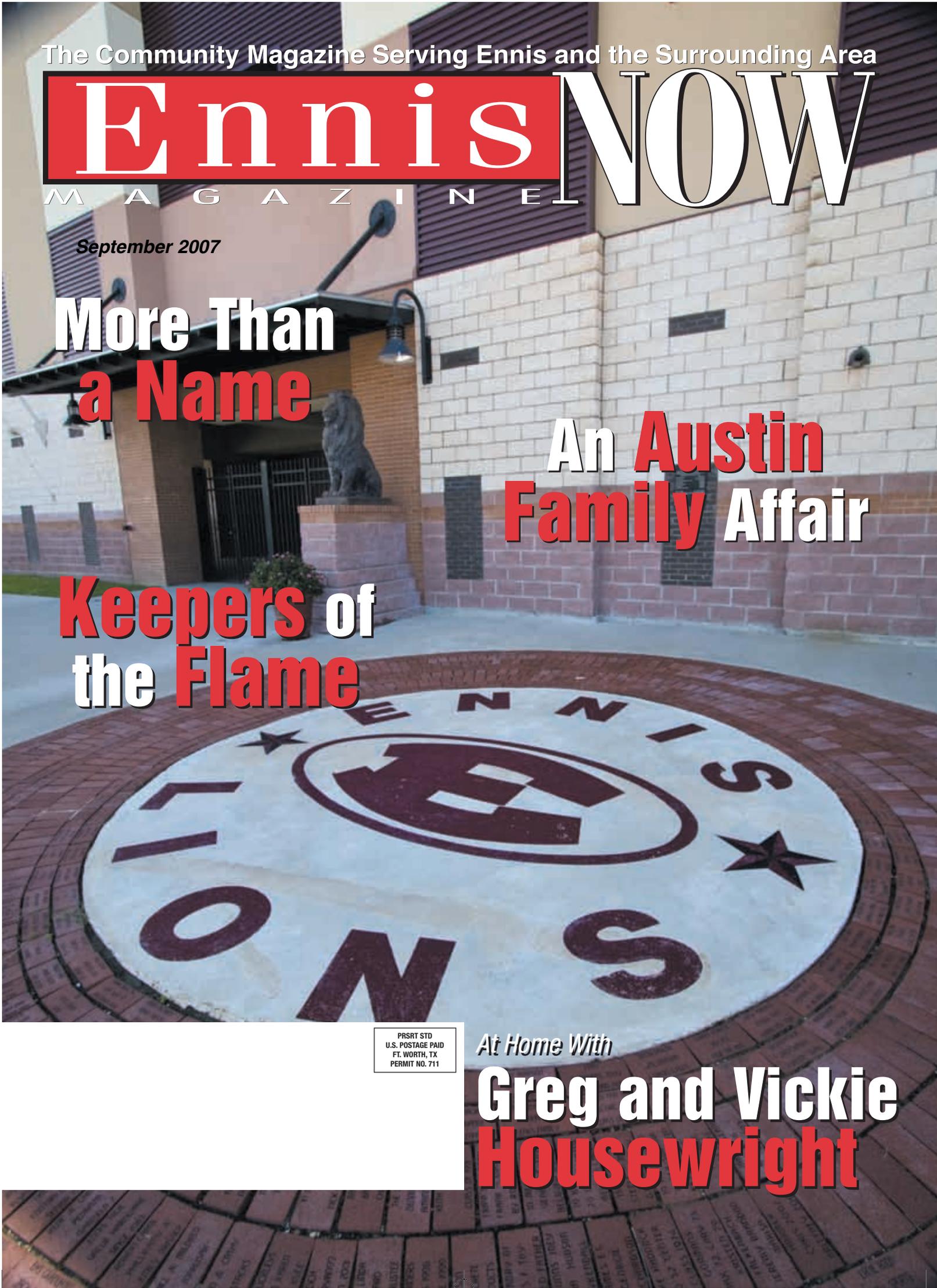
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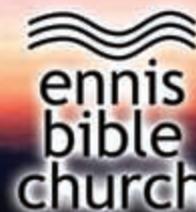
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Ennis NOW

Editor's Note

Hello, Ennis!

September means back-to-school for students and heralds a new beginning for so many activities and groups. A new season of worthy entertainment is beginning at the Ennis Public Theatre. Civic clubs have a new slate of officers who are learning the ropes. This month also signals the annual Boon family golf tournament. Our main feature commends their endeavors in the search for a cure for cancer.

How cool to hear Gary Kudrna reflect on his adventures as a sound engineer for some of the world's greatest rock musicians. He is truly the man behind the music. Turn to *ArtsNOW* to read his story.

Of course, we are all glad to see our Ennis Lions getting in shape for a victorious year. Former Ennis Lion Vincent Marshall reflects with us about his Lion career as well as his stellar days at the University of Houston and at the Atlanta Falcons training camp.

Kelly Kovar
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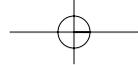
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E.K.'s sisters, Hazel Boon Tidwell and Marilyn Boon Lindsteadt, work with the rest of their family to turn their grief into hope for others.

“We believe in a cure for cancer.”

Keepers of the Flame

— By Ashley Carlino

The Boon family of Ennis has dedicated over a decade to an unyielding search for a cure for cancer. Almost everyone is impacted in some way by this dreadful disease. According to the National Cancer Institute, there is a 40 percent chance of developing some form of cancer within our lifetimes, and 21 percent of those will die from the disease. This year, estimated new cases are expected to reach nearly 1.5 million, with the death rate among them at roughly one-third. With such alarming statistics, what is being done to help? Of course, there is the Cancer Research Institute, which funds research aimed at the detection, treatment and prevention of cancer. But, on a more personal scale, the Boons, like many people who have been affected by cancer, have begun their own crusade to find a cure.

It all began with E.K. Boon, who was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma in

1992. E.K. was the brother to nine siblings who have all now risen to the challenge of fighting cancer. During his battle with carcinoma, E.K. began



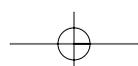
E.K. Boon's nephew, Kirby Crow, is joined by fellow believers in the cause. Pictured left to right are: Chip Atkiesson of the Ennis Country Club, Kirby Crow and family friends Jerry Wester and Glen Wilson.

participating in the genetics research program. Although physicians advised him that his research was too late to save his life, he remained confident that he could still somehow help save

others. “We believe in a cure for cancer,” said Marilyn Boon Lindsteadt, E.K.’s sister. “E.K. believed in it, too.”

After his death in 1996, the Boon family wanted to continue their brother’s legacy of hope for a cure. “He loved golf,” Marilyn said, so the family created a cancer memorial golf tournament held annually at the Ennis Country Club. The first tournament took place in September 1997.

“His birthday was in September, so we decided to do it then,” said Hazel Boon Tidwell, E.K.’s eldest sister. This first tournament brought in over \$14,000, all of which was donated to the Mary Crowley





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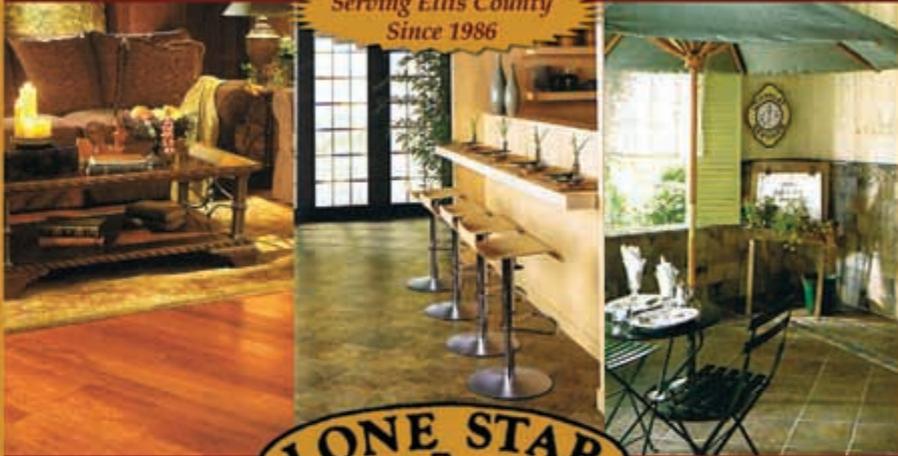
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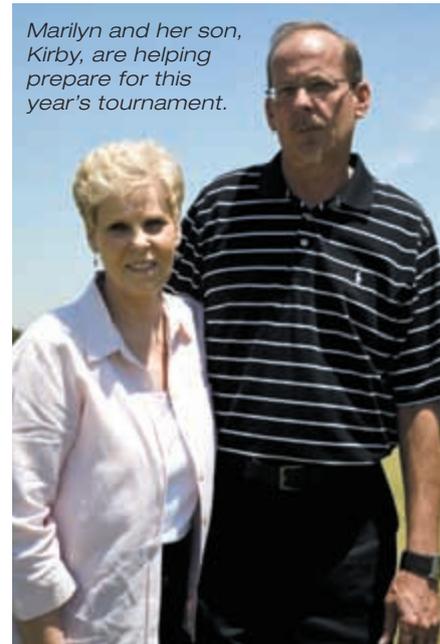
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Research Center (MCMRC), a national leader in cancer research. Located in Dallas, the center began in 1992, and has treated over 2,000 patients, explored more than 100 new agents and has accomplished more than 140 FDA approved clinical trials.

“We started at Baylor in Dallas because E.K. was under their care,” Marilyn noted. “We know our money is going to a good place. We feel



Marilyn and her son, Kirby, are helping prepare for this year's tournament.

good about it, we really do. We just want to give as much as we can to cancer research.”

“Baylor says it’s the little people who keep them going,” Hazel explained. This is evidenced by a large plaque at Baylor which reads, “KEEPERS OF THE FLAME – the family of E.K. Boon.”

According to Kirby Crow Jr., Marilyn’s son, Marilyn and Hazel begin preparing for the tournament only a few months after the previous year’s tournament has passed. “They usually start around January, sending out all the mailings and sponsor cards. Each family member tries to have about four sponsors. She and Hazel do almost all the calling of sponsors and lining up of family members,” Kirby said. The Boon family, which is spread out across the country, has raised support in over 20 states. Each family member

has a job to do, with even nieces, nephews and grandchildren involved, as the family runs the entire tournament. "We have a very large family," Marilyn stated, "and they all work hard for the tournament's continued success."

Getting ready for the tournament takes time, hard work and the aid of many volunteers, in addition to the family. "You would be amazed at the amount of people who volunteer. At least 100 people come out," Kirby noted. People come from all over the United States to lend their support.

"A lot of people step up to help because they know we need help," Marilyn said. "We do all the work. We pay for everything. We want people to realize that we don't take any money," she added. All administrative, communicative and travel expenses are paid for by the family. "We don't use one penny we collect," Marilyn explained. "We give it all away."

Over an eight-year period, the total amount raised per tournament has increased from the original sum of \$14,000 to over \$45,000. Overall, the tournament has given over \$268,000



to the cause. "Some people just give \$25. We'll take anything, even \$5," Hazel said. "It all adds up."

"It's actually very humbling because we have raised quite a bit of money for the cause," Kirby explained. The tournament consists of two-player teams, with an entry fee of \$125 per player. Each player must have a valid handicap, which shows his level of play in the game. A low-ball format game is played on Saturday. In this format, you keep track of the number of putts throughout the round. At the end of the round, the putts are totaled, and the individual with the lowest

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number of putts is the winner. Sunday's play is a scramble.

Five flights are guaranteed, with four spots paid in each flight. First, second, third and fourth place will be given \$1,000, \$600, \$400 and \$250 respectively. Charlie Yowell donates trophies for each flight. A \$10,000 cash prize will be awarded for a hole-in-one on a designated hole.

Saturday evening's events include raffle drawings, a silent auction and a meal. Every year, different items are donated, thanks to the participation of local stores. "We auction many different things – jewelry, tools, dishes, golf clothes, even football games with paid hotel expenses," Marilyn explained. Exhausted and famished golfers will enjoy a delicious fish fry prepared by Charles Gentry.

The majority of the fundraising comes from hole sponsors, private donations and the silent and live auctions. "It takes a lot of work, and it is well run," Hazel said. Most of their sponsors, donors and golfers have been with them since the tournament's inception. "What is great is that it has turned into the golfers' tournament. They love it," Hazel added.

The Boon family is eternally grateful for all the continued support their efforts have received over the years. It is truly amazing how the grief of one family has been transformed into a quest of hope for so many. Their unending aspiration is that through the fight, one day a victor will finally rise – a cure for cancer. They continue to search for the light on the horizon that will someday give way to a respite for suffering. Until then, these "keepers of the flame" will keep their torch ablaze.

The 9th Annual Boon Family Cancer Benefit Golf Tournament will be held the weekend of September 15 and 16. If you would like to get involved, please contact Hazel Boon Tidwell at (972) 875-5995 or Marilyn Boon Lindsteadt at (972) 875-3762. Interested golfers may contact Chip Atkiesson at the Ennis Country Club (972) 875-3641 for registration information. **NOW**

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— By Kelly Kovar

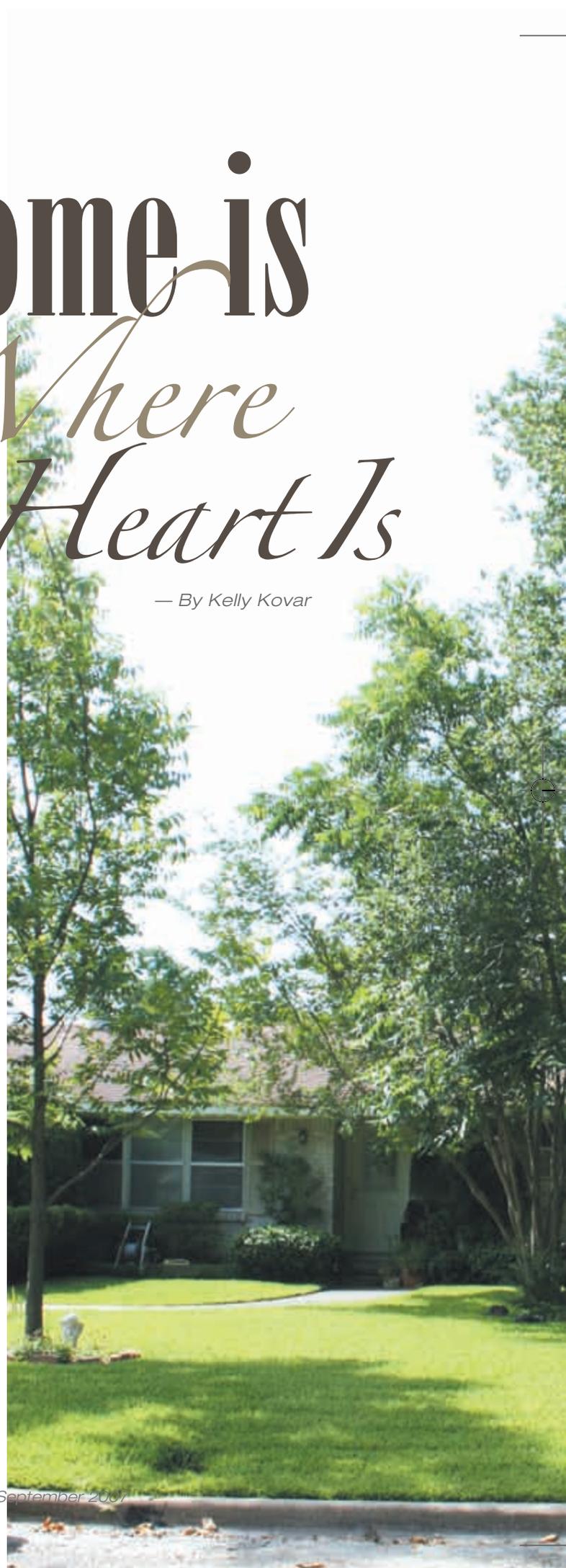
At Home With
*Greg and Vickie
Housewright*

Greg and Vickie Housewright married in 1999 and have made Vickie's Ennis childhood house their home. "There are a lot of memories here," Vickie said. There are over 30 years of memories here, in fact; she moved into the house with her family in 1977 and has never left. Greg and his family lived just up the street. "We have been together since we were 16," Greg said. "We love the community." While the house retains some special pieces which belonged to Vickie's late mother, such as her hutch and china, it is otherwise almost completely redecorated and updated with new furniture and appliances.

Vickie's great-grandmother's secretary has a place of honor in the dining room next to a new dining room set, showcased by the gleaming hardwood floors Vickie and Greg installed. "My grandfather, Albert Haskovec, rebuilt the piano for my mother," Vickie remembered. "He stripped it and stained it and did the keys and got it tuned."



The living room, dominated by black leather sofas, strikes a comfortable, modern note that sets the tone for the house. The handsome paneling was installed by Vickie's late father. "He was really talented as far as his carpentry," Greg remarked.





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Greg, a Waxahachie patrol and field training officer, has his own display area in the living room for his continuing education training certificates, his police academy class graduation picture and other police memorabilia.



The master bedroom continues the neutral, modern theme. "We totally redid it with paint, curtains and furniture," Vickie demonstrated. A natural-colored cotton, linen-look bed covering on the cherry wood sleigh bed is piled high with inviting caramel and taupe print pillows. Vickie has added her own personal touch with a unique arrangement over the bed combining a picture and an L-shaped floral arrangement. The master bathroom sports new Pergo flooring and cabinetry, marble countertops and a plaid wallpaper in shades of blue, green and taupe.



Vickie's decorating and homemaking efforts do not go without notice by Greg. "Going in so many houses with my work, makes me really appreciate Vickie," he boasted. "This house always looks like this. It is always clean and decorated."

While he can appreciate his wife's decorating endeavors in every room of their home, Greg's special spot is his media/game room. "This is the best room in the house," he asserted. Set up in surround sound, it is an ideal place for watching movies or video-gaming. *Star Wars* memorabilia and *Lord of the Rings* collectibles demonstrate Greg's special interests in science fiction. "My Uncle Hank was a huge *Star Wars* fan and he got me and my brother into it," he related. Greg also loves sports. In 1985, Michael Jordan's rookie year, Greg

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fell in love with the Chicago Bulls. Bulls caps and other sports treasures fill the room. "Basketball was my passion, and I am still a fan," he said.

"Greg and I are both sports fans," Vickie added. "We have played every sport." In fact, not only did she play volleyball at Navarro College, Vickie also coached basketball and volleyball at St. John where she now teaches

computer classes to grades pre-K - 12, and she still teaches aerobics at Navarro and at Lone Star Fitness.

When not working or playing sports, the Housewrights enjoy traveling.

"We have been to the Bahamas, Key West, the Cayman Islands and on two cruises," Vickie mentioned. "We've been skiing in Colorado and on a trip to Napa Valley, California. Last year,



we took a road trip to Padre Island. With no kids, we love to just get up and go." The Mayan Riviera was this year's summer destination for these enthusiastic world travelers.

"Traveling and science fiction films really are good for relaxing and unwinding," Greg explained. When at home, however, they do their unwinding by their pool. The pool area, once



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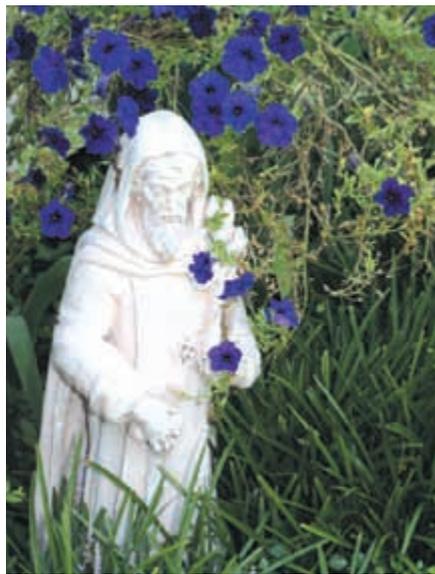
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predominately blue, has been updated and accented with the natural, earth tones that Greg loves. "We've always been pool fanatics. I lifeguarded during college, and, since I graduated, at Colonial, Sokol and the country club."

"If I am not working, I am outside," Vickie said. "The yard and pool are my space. I am out here for hours every day. It is relaxing to me. I swim every day; we do laps. We don't have any kids, but we have six nieces and nephews. I have them almost every other day." Vickie and Greg enthusiastically agree

that they love to have the kids over and always have fun playing the piano together and swimming in the pool. "Those are our kids basically; they are here two or three days a week," she smiled. Their twin nieces, age 8, along with two more nieces and two nephews, all attend St. John School, where Vickie and Greg both graduated from high school.

The Housewrights enjoy entertaining, and the lushly landscaped pool and deck area offer a barbecue grill and hot tub as well as an eating area. A firepit

and lantern provide atmosphere for parties, and hibiscus and Texas sage make a colorful backdrop, but the main highlight of the pool area is its impressive fountain. "We gave it to my mother for Mother's Day around 1995," Vickie recalled. Formerly blue, the couple has personalized this as well, repainting it in a matching neutral shade. To further showcase their beautiful fountain and pool, Greg and Vickie's brother, Bryan Vitovsky, recently designed and built a three-level deck in the backyard. "I have always

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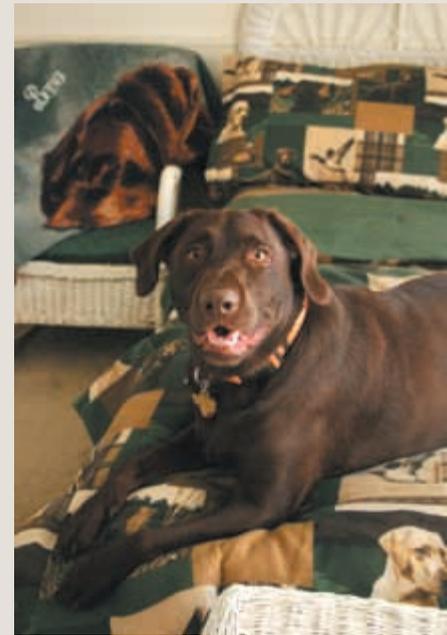


liked architecture,” Greg mentioned. He made special efforts to design a cutout for a crepe myrtle that has been on the property since it belonged to Vickie’s mother. “In the fall and spring we eat out there all the time. We love to entertain and have people over for cookouts. We love football. In football season, we have a bunch of parties where people come over and watch the Texas Longhorns. This is the kind of place where everybody gathers,” he said.

The redecorated kitchen is perfectly situated right off the pool, as the

overflow of guests often wander inside. “We bought all new appliances, restrained the cabinets and added new wallpaper,” Vickie said. They have incorporated a grapes and wine bottle theme in the kitchen area. Grape vines wind along the tops of the kitchen cabinets and Pergo floors, which match the cabinets, complete the stylish look.

Beyond the kitchen is a bedroom and bath suite which is the special domain of Bevo, the resident chocolate lab. These are no ordinary animal quarters! This fully furnished and



decorated bedroom is occupied center stage by a full-size bed, made up with lab-motif bedding.

Greg and Vickie have made Ennis their home, with a house that echoes both past and present, revealing home is truly where the heart is. Remembering where they came from helps them get to where they’re going. As Greg said, “This city is all that we have ever had. We love to travel, but this is always home and it will always be home.” **ENNOW**

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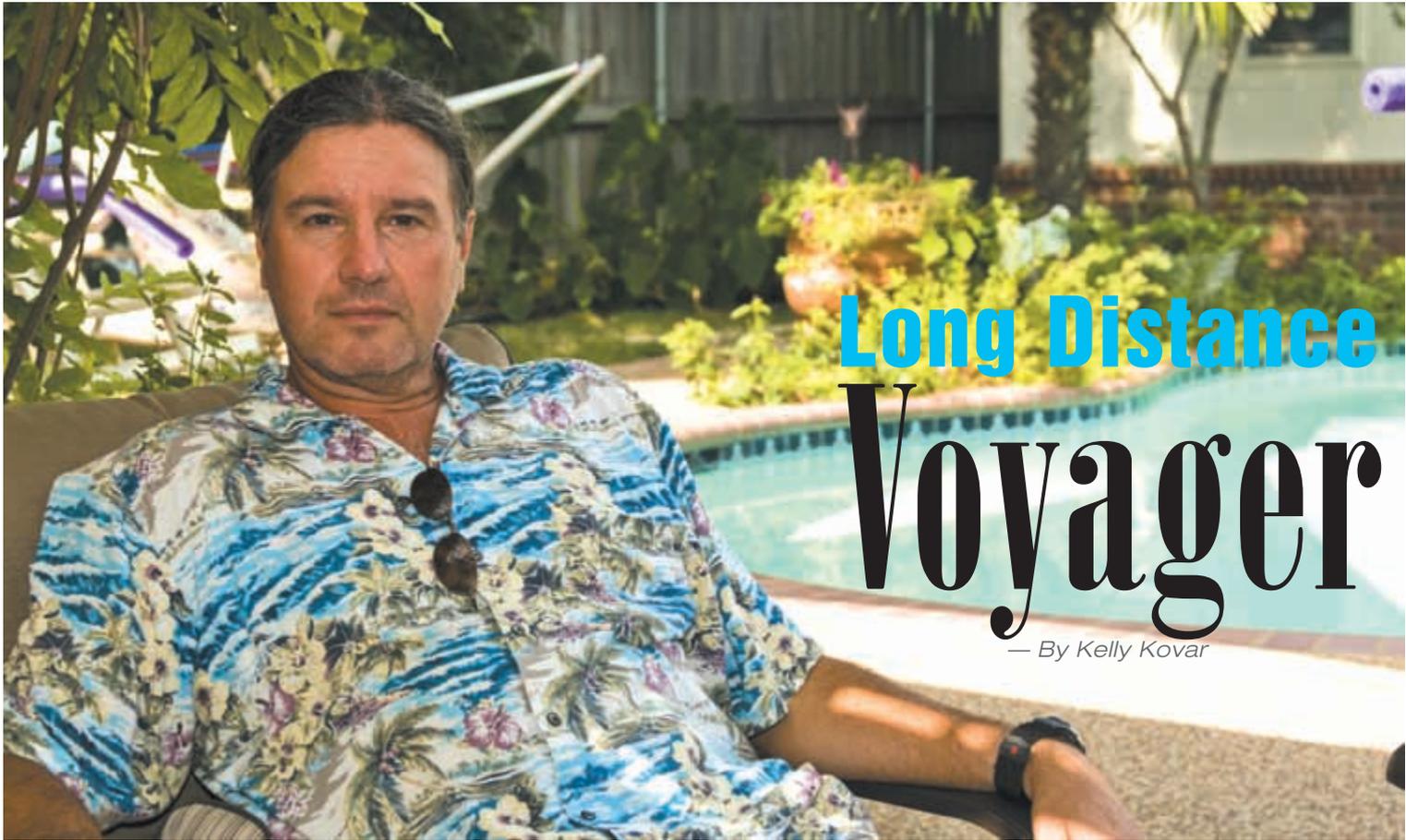


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Having spent most of his life in Ennis, Gary Kudrna has always had one foot planted solidly in the town that he calls home. The other foot, however, is always on the go, as he creates sound for musical events including rock, country and blues groups, as well as corporate events.

Gary went to film school at the University of Texas. After making his first film, he became entranced with the technical aspects of creating superior sound. "I got a C on my first film because of poor sound quality. I wanted to figure out what I did wrong, so I got really interested in that," Gary recalled. After earning a degree in communications, he worked for Showco, which he said was, at the time, "the biggest touring sound company." He toured with rock 'n' roll shows producing the sound.

Although people think touring is glamorous, Gary is quick to point out the downside of such a life, saying it is easy to lose track of what city you are in. "You get up, get off the bus; you have to find your clothes in the bay. You have to walk in the building. Find the production office. Find your towel. Find the soap. Find breakfast. Find coffee. Find the shower room, and find your crew," he remembered. "And, all this time, you are meeting the riggers; you are starting your day; you are working, and you still haven't even brushed your teeth. It is hard, but it is okay when you are

young, because you are having fun."

Despite this confusing and constant whirlwind, engineering sound was extremely fulfilling for Gary. "I liked working with the music; it was a

blast," Gary enthused. For a few years he mixed the speakers on stage that the band members hear. "That was fun because you

get to work with the musicians, eye to eye, and that is really rewarding. You are one of them. Then I moved out front and mixed what the audience hears. For that, you are crafting what you want to present to the audience, and that is rewarding, too."



ARTS NOW

Gary became acquainted with many renowned musicians. "Jimmy Page was very nice; I got to be buddies with him when we toured. I traveled with Led Zeppelin, with The Beach Boys for five years, Barbara Mandrell and Robert Palmer. I traveled with The Moody Blues for 12 years. I traveled with Mick Jagger, Andrea Bocelli, the opera singer, and The Stray Cats." Many of his friendships with musicians have been long-lasting. "If the musicians are in town, and I have time, there are several that I go see. Justin Hayward of The Moody Blues and I got to be really good friends. I try to go see him whenever they come through. A couple of Beach Boys were very good friends, Carl Wilson and Dennis Wilson, but they both passed away. Five or six years after my last Beach Boys show, I went to see a show and Carl kept looking over. I was sitting next to his wife, who is Dean Martin's daughter, and Carl saw me, and through the microphone, he yelled out, 'Hey Gary! How ya' been?'" Gary recalled fondly.

Gary has a number of platinum albums — gifts from the bands he worked with on platinum tours — including: Robert Palmer's *Addicted to Love*, The Moody Blues' *At Red Rocks* and Led Zeppelin's *In Through the Out Door*.

After marrying his wife, Paula, Gary spent two or three more years touring, then chose to focus on doing corporate events. "With rock 'n' roll you are on a bus, and you are gone for the whole tour, six or eight months at a time. The travel now is maybe a week at a time, at the most. For a while, I missed the adrenaline rush of mixing a live band (it was like keeping marbles on a beach ball), building it and having it all the sudden open up and blossom. I miss that part of it. But, there is also an adrenaline rush of having a CEO on stage. ... It is corporate theater," he explained. "They will do a full stage

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with actors and band.” Sometimes bands that Gary worked with before, like KC & the Sunshine Band, appear as guests.

However, Gary manages to keep his hand in the concert business. “I still do



a little blues band, once or twice a year, whose members have like 30 - 50 Grammys between them,” he said. The band, known as The Forever Fabulous Chickenhawks, consists of a group of friends from the University of North Texas. “They all went out and became famous, and now they like to get back together and just ‘slum it’ in the local blues clubs,” Gary commented.

But Gary is not “slumming it.” He has had an opportunity to do some orchestra work, as well as some interesting political meetings, including: an event at the Bush/Fox Summit in Monterey, Mexico; a Ross Perot forum at the Dallas Convention Center; an entertainment event at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia; and the Dallas Cowboys Kick-off Luncheons for Happy Hill Farm. Gary works corporate events which take him from Dallas to New York to Los Angeles, as he travels the country as a long-distance voyager. **NOW**

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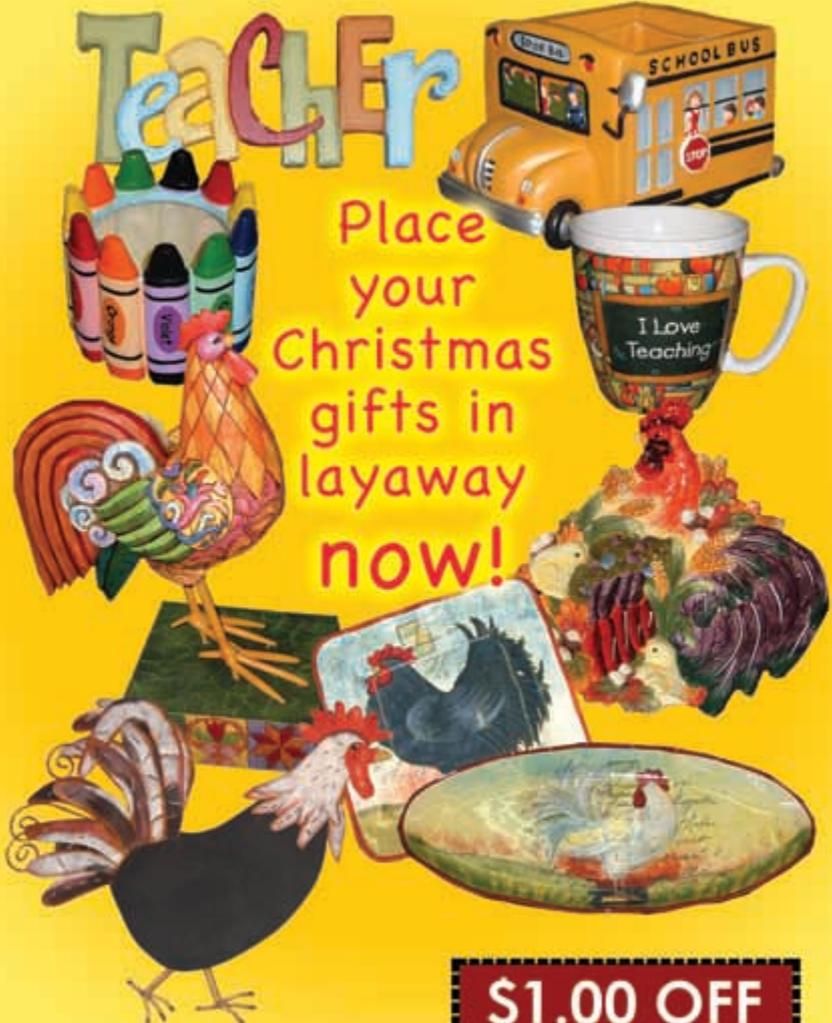
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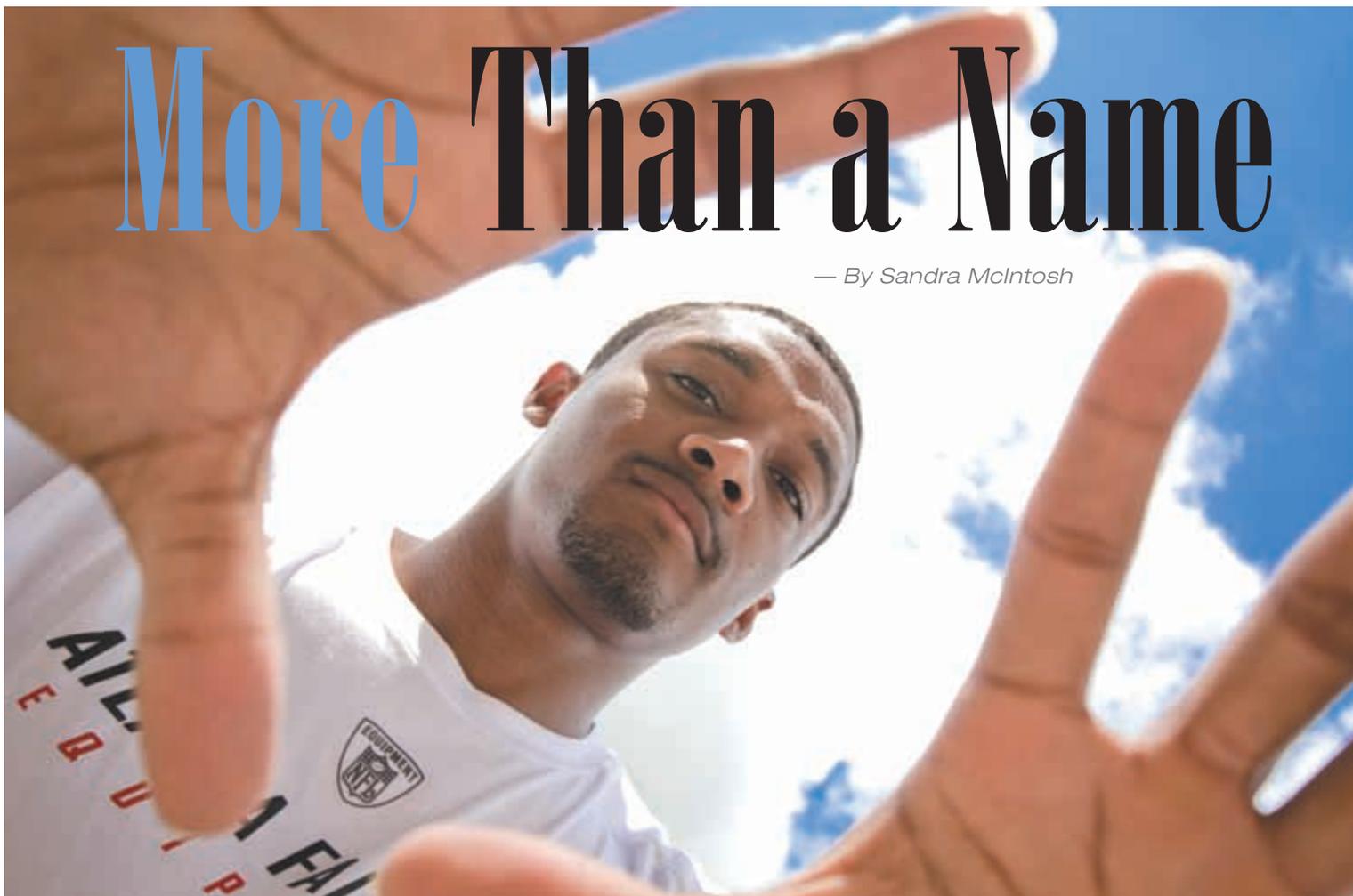
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More Than a Name

— By Sandra McIntosh



Vincent Marshall. When you hear that name what comes to mind? Do you remember the two State Championships he helped secure? Maybe you recall his poise during post-game interviews? Or like his mother, stepfather and five siblings, do you see there is much more behind that winning smile and lightening speed than just a successful athlete?

Just the mention of his name evokes a lifetime of memories for his family, while avid Ennis Lions football fans replay exciting game footage of high school days gone by. For Vincent, looking back on his past means knowing full well it laid the paving stones for his future. “Yes, you heard correctly, I signed with the Atlanta Falcons,” Vincent said. “I hope to play

for several years, and then move into a coaching career. Who knows,” he added with a laugh, “maybe one day Coach [Sam] Harrell will be ready to retire and Coach Marshall can come back home.”

This may be wishful thinking to some, but Vincent envisions it as the next season in his adult life. His agent represents coaches all over the country, so the reality of seeing Vincent go from the professional playing field to the sidelines as a coach is a possibility. Vincent’s mother, Verlen Hughes, definitely believes he will be coaching someday. “I’m very proud of him,”

Verlen said. “Vincent would show you he wasn’t too small to do what others his size never accomplished. He always finished what he started, so I have no

doubts he will reach his goal of becoming a coach.”

To fully comprehend the passion Vincent has for the game, one must go back to when his journey

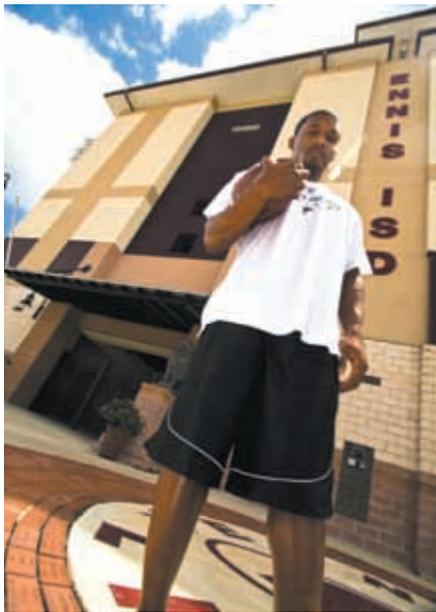
“I’d put him in his walker and he’d run around. One day, he was jumping up and down when the threads on the walker broke. He took off running on his ‘tippy toes’ and hasn’t stopped.”

first started. His mom recalls baby Vincent running for the first time at 9 months old. “As a baby, he never walked, he ran,” Verlen reminisced. “I’d put him in his walker and he’d run around. One day, he was jumping up and down when the threads on the

Sports NOW

walker broke. He took off running on his 'tippy toes' and hasn't stopped."

His first time on the field in a football uniform was at the tender age of 6. "I remember when he asked me if he could play on the city's peewee football league," Verlen said, pointing him out in one of many scrapbooks. "I really



didn't want him playing football. What mother wants to see their child tackled and thrown to the ground? Vincent was smaller than the other boys, and all I could see was broken bones and a lot of pain."

Verlen did what most mothers do when they have a persistent child like Vincent pulling at their apron strings; she signed him up and supported him wholeheartedly by attending every game. Verlen may be Vincent's number one fan while he is on the field, but she has also been his number one "drill sergeant" when it comes to the academic playing field. "Mom taught us all about the importance of education and having respect for others," Vincent said. "Growing up, I wanted to be a little rebellious, so getting in trouble at home was pretty normal. I just wanted to figure things out on my own." One of Vincent's younger brothers quickly

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Above: Scrapbook in hand, Verlen shares memories of her son's childhood. Below: Vincent poses with his youngest two siblings, Victor and Valeria.



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added, "He was a rebel without a cause!"

One of the goals Verlen wanted her children to obtain in life was their high school diplomas. The youngest, at 16, still has a couple more years to go, but the oldest five have gone on to further their educations past the high school level. Vincent, soon to be 24 in November, recently graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Vincent has made his mom proud with his degree, and he takes pride in knowing he was able to obtain and surpass the personal goals he set for himself. "I never really cared about stats while I was in high school," Vincent said, referring to the championships, "but I wanted to leave a mark in college."

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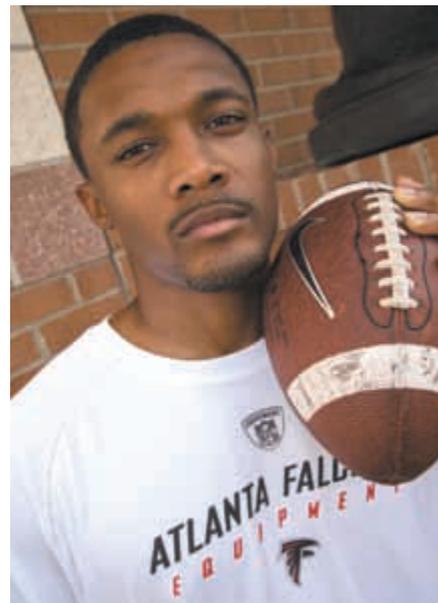
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"I want to know when to say enough is enough. I want to be able to run with my own kids one day."

leave his mark as a wide receiver. Vincent secured his name in the University of Houston history books for many years to come by setting the overall record this past year in receptions and yards. He had at least one catch every game, and broke records that had been in place for at least 20 years.

Vincent admitted that while he has not grown much in stature since high school, the competition has grown bigger, wider and tougher. Yet nothing can keep him from the game he loves; not a broken thumb while in high school, and certainly not guys three times his size in the professional arena. In fact, he is looking forward to what he will accomplish if given the opportunity in Atlanta. "Your body takes a real beating," Vincent said. "I want to know when to say enough is enough. I want to be able to run with my own kids one day."

Vincent has spent a lifetime playing football, and has made quite a name for himself. "To love what you do and feel it matters," Verlen said, referring to her son's passion, "what could be more fun?" **NOW**



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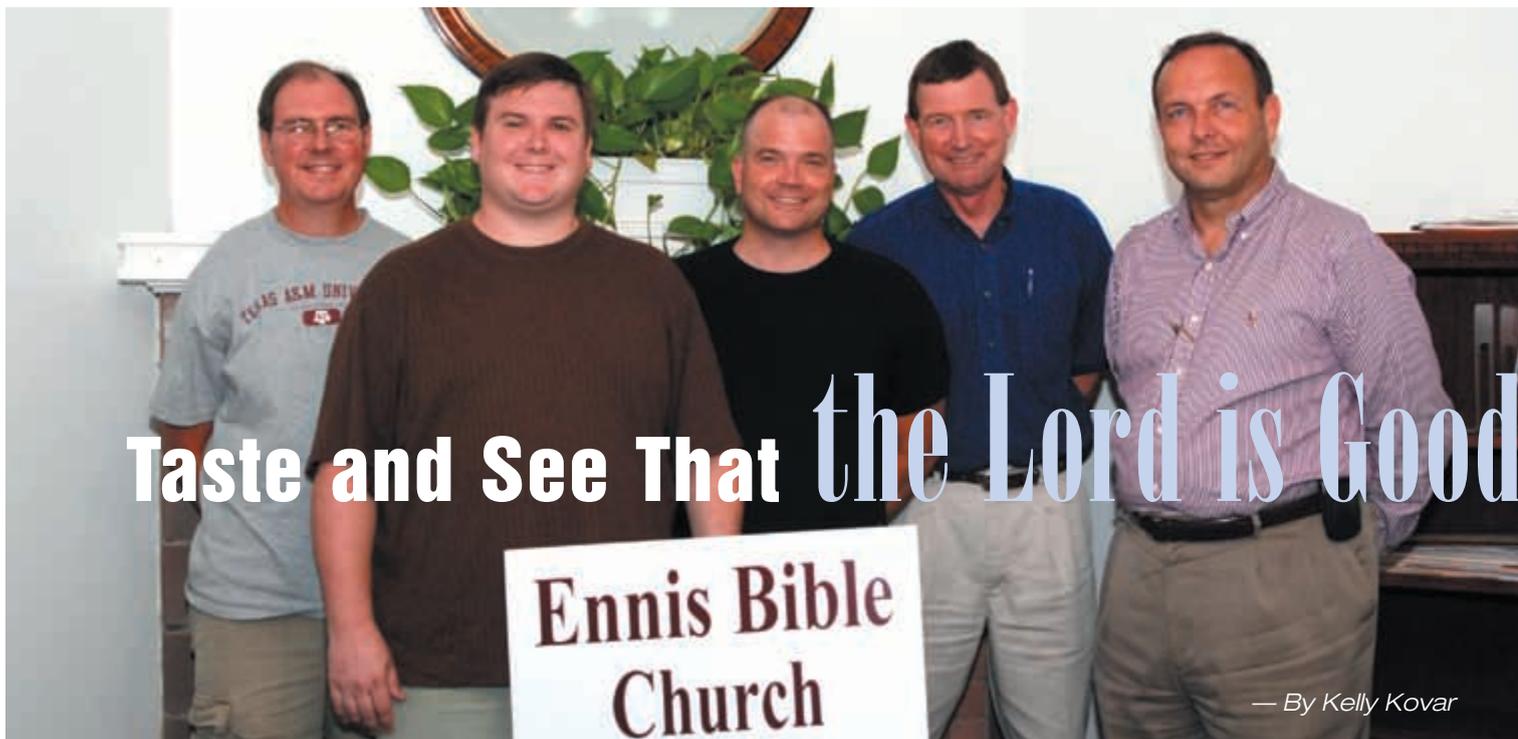
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Taste and See That the Lord is Good

— By Kelly Kovar

With strong leadership, Ennis Bible Church is reaching out to the community. Pictured left to right are: Michael Gilbreath, Pastor Gabe Smith, Jeff Trojeck, Mike Grant and Tom Prohaska.

At Ennis Bible Church, a newly established nondenominational church, you not only hear the message, you also experience it. “We are working on different kinds of multisensory learning techniques, so people have something in their hands they can smell or touch,” Pastor Gabe Smith said.

Gabe, who is presently working on a master’s in theology with a focus in pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary, has a lofty goal: to give people several ways to understand and remember his sermons, and thus God’s

message. In one such sermon relating to I Corinthians 15, Gabe passed around a tray that had carrots and Hershey’s Kisses on it. He instructed people to take one. “People tend to choose the chocolate,” he said. “I told them, ‘If somebody asked you which of these is more beneficial for you, you would say the carrot is better for you. Even though you know the truth, you decided to take something that you knew was probably not the best.’ I used that to show that the Corinthians knew the right doctrine, but their behavior did not match up with what they believed.”

Gabe believes that applications emphasized by his multisensory demonstrations are not only better understood by his congregation, but also have more staying power. “People

remembered it and talked about it. Some of the younger people in our congregation really took to this style of learning.” Ennis Bible Church is interested in using different kinds of methods in order to reach out to unchurched people; Gabe is quick to point out that he is not, however, attempting to draw people away from their current church homes. “We are not looking to take people from other churches. If people are comfortable where they are and they have developed strong relationships with people there, I would prefer they stay where they are connected,” Gabe emphasized.

Gabe and his wife, Amy, a junior high Spanish teacher in Richardson, are focused on growing their young church here in Ennis. “We started on April 8, Easter Sunday, and we are now averaging 60 – 70 [people],” Gabe remarked. Their emphasis is on contemporary worship in a casual atmosphere. “Whatever people want to wear is fine. We are looking for ways we can make visitors feel comfortable when they come in.



Business NOW

There are people who need a [traditional] worship type, but with our style of worship, we particularly will reach corporate, middle-aged families with young kids, and also teenagers. We have contemporary music, but we do hymns sometimes. Our lead musician now is Caleb Gilbreath. He will be attending Berkeley School of Music in the fall. He can play drums, piano and guitar."

"We have lots of volunteers," Gabe continued. Some of the folks involved are Tom Prohaska, Jeff Trojacek, Mike Grant and Michael Gilbreath. "It has been cool because we have been able to get a lot of people involved with different worship elements like youth drama, video and Scripture reading. Chris Hightower organizes the worship elements."

The church workers hope to start an Awana children's program in the fall on Wednesday nights, and a "small group" ministry currently meets in people's homes for a meal. "With the way that we live now, we are so isolated," Gabe said. "People don't know their neighbors. Small groups offer a way for people to get to know each other more intimately with confidentiality. Our small group leaders are aware of biblical issues and are really good [at] pointing people back to the Scriptures."

"We are a small church, with a small budget, but we have a lot of desire to help people with needs in their neighborhoods. It has been an interesting journey – a lot of fun," Gabe asserted. "People are real excited."

While they look for a church or storefront to move into, Ennis Bible Church currently meets in the Ennis Boys and Girls Club at 1211 South Clay Street. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:45 a.m., with a nursery available for ages birth through 3 years. For information about the teachings of Ennis Bible Church see their Web site: www.ennisbiblechurch.org. **NOW**

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Education **NOW**

An Austin Family Affair

— By Kelly Kovar

Wendy and Jerry Northcutt's roots are in the Ennis public education system. "We met in high school and graduated together from Ennis High School," Wendy said. They then moved to Houston where Jerry attended optometry school. "I taught for several years in Houston. We moved back here after he graduated, and we have been back here 12 years," Wendy said. Now the couple has two sons currently enrolled in Ennis schools.

The Northcutts' 10-year-old son, Owen, is a student at Ennis Intermediate School; Drew is a third-grader at Austin Elementary. With two school-age boys, Wendy is an involved and busy mom. "I have always been active in the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)," Wendy explained. Serving as the chairperson for the Austin Chili Supper is keeping her busy this fall, and Drew is looking forward to all the fun the event brings.

Besides spending a lot of time with her boys, Wendy also works with Jerry, helping in his practice at the Ellis County Eye Center. He, in turn, assists with her chairperson duties. "Jerry usually comes and helps with the chili supper that night," Wendy said. "He usually works a booth." The chili supper gives many Austin Elementary families the chance to fellowship together.

Wendy explained, "We have the chili supper on a Friday before an Ennis Lions home game. It is October 12 this year." Dads come to help prepare the chili; they have all the necessary toppings, including Fritos for chili pie, while moms or grandparents come to slice cake. Parents also help



Owen, Wendy and Drew Northcutt display some of the bears that have been dressed for previous Austin Chili Suppers.

in the carnival area, where a dessert auction with cakes decorated by parents and area bakeries is held. There is always a lot of fun variety in the many cookies, cakes and pies. "One of the traditions they have had for a while is that all of the parents donate the desserts which come with the meal," Wendy said.

The carnival atmosphere is made complete with a slide or bounce house, balloon artist, cotton candy and snow cones. Students can buy 50 cent tickets to spend on rides, games or at the chili supper "store" which sells clapper and glow items. "The glow stuff was really popular; we had glow necklaces and bracelets," Wendy enthused, but maintains that one of the biggest attractions is the dunking booth. Older siblings, a few teachers or even some parents take turns in the dunking booth as folks line up to participate in the hysterical fun.

Before the event, Wendy is busy with preparations, including getting ready for the popular "Teddy Bear Walk." The PTO purchases 12-inch bears students "adopt" about three weeks

Education **NOW**

before the chili supper, taking them home to dress in costumes they create. The bears are then brought back to the school to sell. "The kids really love it," Wendy said. "A lot of the kids like to dress a bear. It really gets a lot of the parents involved. Last year, we had snow bears, soldier bears, ballerina

"We get a lot of Austin alumni that participate and help support the fundraiser. It is a tradition for people to come eat chili before the football game. We get citywide support."

bears and princesses. One was a garden bear in a flower pot. Everybody was really original." Parents often volunteer to dress extra bears. If people want to buy their own bear back, they can purchase it for \$10. Otherwise, they are lined up in the library throughout the week, where students or teachers can purchase them. "At the carnival, all remaining bears are given away in the Teddy Bear Walk, which is like a cake walk," Wendy explained.

In addition to decorating bears, students get involved by selling admission and raffle tickets, with top ticket sellers winning prizes such as a bowling outing, a magician show or a party with basketball, a bounce house and pizza. The community is invited to participate by making donations to the raffle. Past donated items have included Starbucks gift cards, \$50 savings bonds from community banks, DVD players, lamps, T-shirts, car oil changes, food coupons and restaurant gift certificates. "We usually have between 30 and 50 items that have been donated from throughout the city for the raffle. We will be happy to take donations from individuals or companies.

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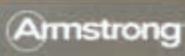
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It is not necessary to be present to win," Wendy stated.

Coming out to the chili supper is a yearly event that people never want to miss. Between 500 - 700 people attend each year. "We get a lot of Austin alumni that participate and help support the fundraiser. It is a



"A lot of the kids like to dress a bear."

tradition for people to come eat chili before the football game. We get citywide support," Wendy stated. "The Austin Chili Supper is a great way to help supplement the budget of the school. We usually make \$18,000 dollars from the chili supper which funds the PTO for the year." The funds raised are used for teacher appreciation, TAKS rewards, reading incentives and field trips. "It provides some extra fun activities and programs for the Austin Elementary students during the year."

On September 27, tickets will go on sale or people can buy chili tickets or raffle tickets at the door. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Raffle tickets are \$1. To make a raffle donation, contact Stephen F. Austin Elementary School at (972) 875-5571. **NOW**

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Around Town **NOW**



Refiner's Fire Ministries Fun Fest, top left, saw the line for school supplies form early in the morning. Police Chief John Erisman's wife, Michelle, top right in the center of the photo, received flowers during a recent Chamber luncheon. She was joined by Chamber president Patsy Grider and Amy Womack, regional vice president of CNB. Kristopher Jones, bottom left, came from Kemp to Ennis to frolic in the bluebonnets. Cute children, bottom center, smiled for the camera during the Bluebonnet Trails Festival. Face painting, bottom right, was a popular stop for the children who were in attendance during Ennis Regional Medical Center's grand opening ceremony.

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Around Town **NOW**



The Ennis Chamber of Commerce, top left, recently held a ribbon cutting for the new owners of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Children at Ennis Regional Medical Center's grand opening, top right, enjoyed the bounce house, the popcorn and the sodas. Refiner's Fire Ministries recently held their annual Family Fun Fest. Sumo wrestling, bottom left, was only one of the fun activities offered throughout the day. A talented group of students, bottom right, performed an Ennis High School musical review.

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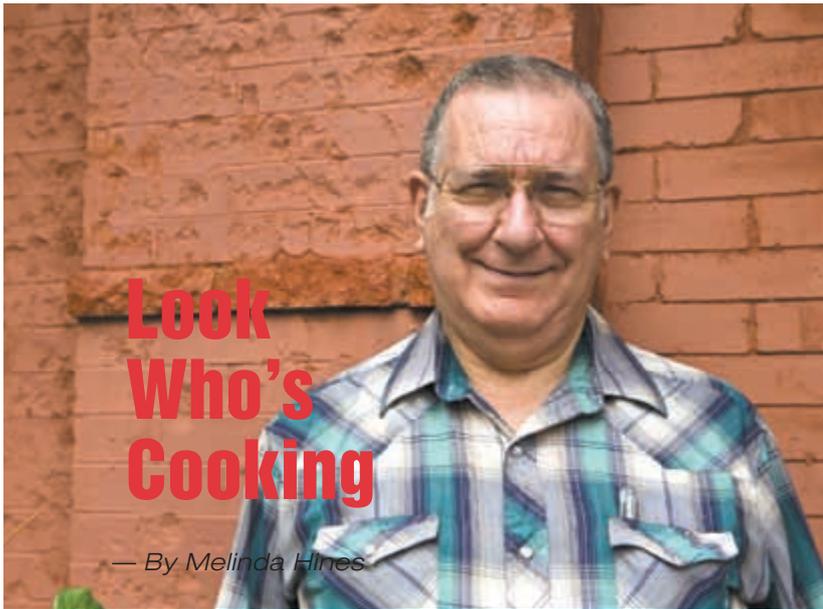


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Look Who's Cooking

— By Melinda Hines

IN THE KITCHEN WITH JAMES BRAZIER

James said his earliest memories of cooking involve helping his grandmother. “When I was about 10, my job was to mix things for Grandmother after she would put the ingredients in the bowl,” he recalled. James also enjoyed cooking with his mother. “As I got older, I would measure for mother and, being a bachelor, these cooking lessons have come in handy,” he said.

Several of the recipes James is sharing are from a late 1950s *Central High Home Demonstration Cookbook*. “I love recreating recipes of family and friends,” he enthused. As a child, James attended Antioch Church with his mother, and she would bring her meatloaf or date loaf. “Now I attend Baylor and fix one of my famous salads when we have a social,” James said. **ENNOW**

JAMES' ANGEL SNOW SALAD

- 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip
- 1 8-oz. tub sour cream
(or 1 16-oz. tub for extra tartness)
- 1 8-oz. tub large curd cottage cheese
- 2 17-oz. cans fruit cocktail, drained
- 1 15-oz. can mandarin oranges,
drained
- 1 8-oz. can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 16-oz. can diced apricots, drained
- 2 cups coconut
- 1 pkg. almond slivers

Mix Cool Whip, sour cream and cottage cheese together. Then add the rest of the ingredients, and stir and mix well.

Sprinkle top with coconut. You can add 3 or 4 red cherries for color. Place in refrigerator until serving.

MEAT LOAF BY JAMES' MOM HAZEL

- 1 lb. ground meat
- 1 medium sized chopped onion
- 1 medium sized chopped sweet bell pepper
- 1 3/4 cup spaghetti with tomatoes and cheese sauce (1 small can)
- 2 eggs
- 24 crackers

Mix all of the above ingredients well.

Add salt and pepper to taste. Place meat loaf into greased baking dish and brush on fried meat grease. Bake in oven at 275 - 300 F until done.

DATE LOAF BY JAMES' MOM HAZEL

- 1 small pkg. dates
- 1 cup sweet milk
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup pecans

Seed and cut dates and then add to the milk and sugar. Cook over low fire, stirring constantly. To test, remove small portion and beat. If done, the

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

mixture will become dry and creamy. Add nuts and beat whole mixture until creamy. Roll in damp towel until hard. Remove towel and re-wrap in wax paper. Slice and enjoy!

TEA CAKES BY JAMES' GRANDMOTHER GEORGIA ANN

- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 3 cups flour

Let butter stand in mixing bowl in a warm room until soft. Add sugar, egg, milk and vanilla. Sift the baking powder with part of the flour and stir into the mixture in the bowl. Stir in additional flour until the dough is stiff. Chill; roll dough very thin and cut into round cookies. Lift the cookies onto a greased baking sheet, using a spatula. Bake at 425 F for 5 minutes.

APRICOT SALAD BY JAMES' AUNT KATE

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 3 level Tbsp. flour
- 1 - 2 cans apricots (to taste)
- 1 cup apricot juice, drained from can
- 1/2 lb. cheese
- 1 cup pecans

Mix sugar, eggs, flour and juice until smooth. Place over fire in saucepan and let thicken. Cool and layer into a container. Add a layer of apricots, a layer of cheese and a layer of pecans. Repeat until all ingredients are used.

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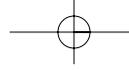
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Education -

the Key to a Bright Future

— By Gary Hayden

In today's competitive workforce environment, post-secondary education can serve as a springboard to better career opportunities. Whether from an accredited college or university or vocational school deemed eligible, the knowledge and skills acquired can pay lifelong dividends in terms of higher salaries and quality benefits. However, the cost of that higher education has increased dramatically through the years. One way to help prepare and to help offset some of the increased costs is to participate in a 529 plan.

A 529 plan is an investment plan for post-secondary education expenses. 529 plans help you save money faster because your investment grows tax free. You can start a 529 plan with an initial investment of \$250.00. The money can be utilized for a wide variety of college costs – tuition, fees, books and room and board – at any qualified

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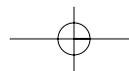
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“529 plans are a great way to save for children's or grandchildren's higher education.”

new skills. Investments in a 529 plan are subject to standard investment risks, and you should speak to your financial advisor to see if such a plan is right for you. **NOW**

Gary Hayden is a financial consultant with offices in Corsicana and Ennis.

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Prostate Cancer: **What's a man to Do?**



— By Ivan Webb

Prostate cancer is now the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men, excluding skin cancer, and is now the second-leading cause of cancer death in men. An estimated 30,350 American men will lose their lives to prostate cancer this year alone. This is more new cases than any other form of cancer, and represents 33 percent of all new cancer cases in American men.

Prostate cancer is nearly 100 percent survivable if detected early. Because there are often no early warning signs or symptoms, however, the only way to detect this disease in its early stages is through a simple blood test (PSA) and a digital rectal exam (DRE). Both are simple; each could save your life.

Before you gamble, know the odds!

- Every 2 1/2 minutes an American man finds out he has prostate cancer.
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How do you know if you are at risk?

- The older you get, the greater the chance you will develop prostate cancer.
- If someone in your family has or has had prostate cancer, your chance of having the disease is higher.
- If you are African-American, you are twice as likely to have prostate cancer, and twice as likely to die from it.
- If you are Hispanic, you are at high-risk of developing prostate cancer.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Have a physical exam and the PSA blood test.

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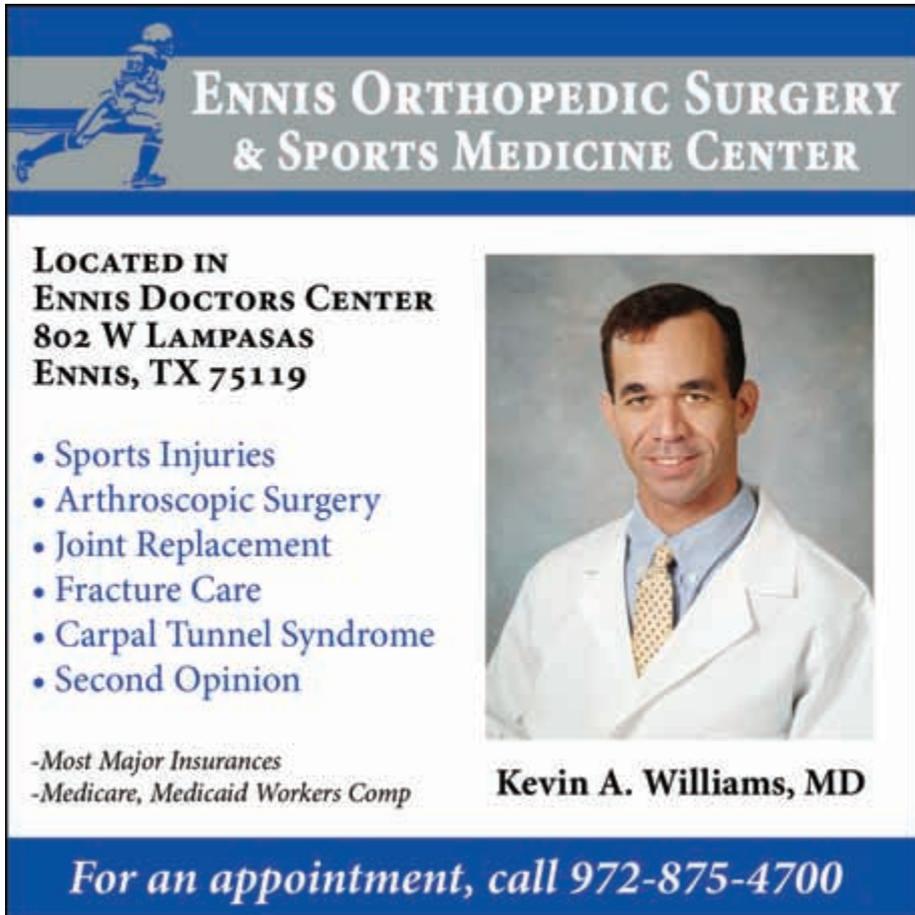
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- Watch your diet. Studies show that a diet high in dairy and fatty foods increases the risk of developing prostate cancer. Foods rich in antioxidants (vitamin E, selenium, and lycopene) have been shown to control cell damage and may prevent prostate cancer.
- Get physically active. A healthy exercise program will increase circulation, lower body weight, lower stress and may decrease levels of prostate stimulating androgens (hormones).
- Know your family history. African-American men and men with a family history of prostate cancer should begin screening at age 35; all others should start at 40.
- Talk to your doctor. The life you save may be your own! **NOW**

Ivan Webb is the Director of the Lab at Navarro Regional Hospital.



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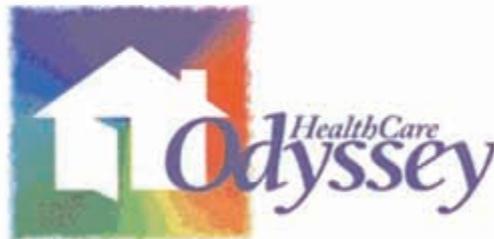
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September 2007 Community Calendar

Every Thursday

Ennis Kiwanis Club meets at noon at IOOF Retirement Center, 3202 S. Oak Grove Road.

First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants offers free informational sessions at 5:30 p.m. Call (972) 842-2999 for details.

Second and Fourth Mondays

Texas Ladies Networking meets from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fire Mountain Grill in Waxahachie. For more information, call (214) 587-1221.

Every Wednesday

Ennis Public Library hosts Story Time for ages 3 - 5 from 10 - 10:30 a.m.

September 3

Ennis Independent School District holiday.

September 4

Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball vs. Lancaster. Location: Lancaster. Time: 5:30; 7 p.m.

September 6

Ennis High School (EHS) Junior Varsity vs. Waco High. Location: There. 6 p.m.

September 6 - 8

Southwest Tournament. EHS Lady Lions Volleyball. Location: Fort Worth. Time TBA.

September 7

Ennis Lions Varsity Football Game vs. Waco High School. Location: There. 7:30 p.m.

Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball vs. Corsicana. Location: Corsicana. Time: 5:30; 7 p.m.

September 13

EHS Junior Varsity vs. Lincoln. Location: There. 6 p.m.

September 14

Ennis Lions Varsity Football Game vs. Lincoln. Home Game. 7:30 p.m.

Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball vs. Red Oak. Location: Ennis. Time: 5:30; 7 p.m.

September 15

Ennis Lions High School and Junior High Cross Country McKinney Invitational. Location: Erwin Park, McKinney. Time: 8:30 a.m.

September 15 - 16

St. John's Church Bazaar. Location: KJT Hall, 126 S. Paris.

September 18

Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball vs. Arlington Seguin. Location: Arlington Seguin. 6; 7 p.m.

September 20

EHS Junior Varsity vs. Mesquite Horn. Ennis. 6 p.m.
EHS Cross Country James Smith Invitational. Time: 8:30 a.m. Location: Camp Hablitzelle, Midlothian.

September 20 - 22

Waxahachie Tournament. Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball.

September 20 - 23

O'Reilly Fall Nationals at Texas Motorplex. For more information see www.texasmotorplex.com.

September 20 - 29

The Prisoner of Second Avenue by Neil Simon. Location: The Warehouse Theatre. For tickets or times call (903) 872-5421.

September 21

Ennis Lions Varsity Football Game vs. Mesquite Horn. There. 7:30 p.m.

September 22

Lights of Ennis Costume Party Fundraiser. For more information contact: (972) 878-2400.

September 27

Helping Hands of Ennis "Taste of Ennis." Location: KC Hall. Time 6 p.m.

EHS Junior Varsity vs. Lancaster. There. 6 p.m.

September 28

Ennis Lions Varsity Football Game vs. Lancaster. Ennis. 7:30 p.m.

Ennis Lady Lions Volleyball vs. Lancaster. Location: Ennis. Time: 5:30; 7 p.m.

September 29

Lions Den Invitational. Ennis Lions High School and Junior High Cross Country. Time: 8:15 a.m. Location: JC Park, Ennis.

October 20

Vendor registration has begun for the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's annual Fall Festival. This year's event will be held from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on George Hopper Road and will include arts and crafts, food, live entertainment and martial arts demonstrations. The Fall Festival will also be the location for several local events including the Chamber's 5K race - the Midlothian OctoberFAST Downhill Dash. Vendor booths, which are 12' x 12', are available for \$50 without electricity and \$100 with electricity and water for Chamber members and nonprofit organizations. Others may reserve a booth for \$60 without electricity and \$110 with electricity and water. For more information, call the Chamber at (972) 723-8600 or e-mail at info@midlothianchamber.org.

 <p>Call Today for more information.</p>	<h2>R Sterling Hyden</h2> <p>800 W 2nd Avenue • Corsicana, TX 75110 903-875-0400 • www.sterlinghydeninsurance.com</p>		 <p>A healthy dose of innovation. Authorized UNICARE Agent</p>																																																																						
	<p>FIT 2000 Plan Deductible Plan. MONTHLY RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS and FAMILIES IN TEXAS RATE AREA B</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Monthly Rates</th> <th>Under Age 30</th> <th>Age 30-34</th> <th>35-39</th> <th>40-44</th> <th>45-49</th> <th>50-54</th> <th>55-59</th> <th>60-64</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single Male</td> <td>\$93</td> <td>\$106</td> <td>\$117</td> <td>\$142</td> <td>\$193</td> <td>\$216</td> <td>\$288</td> <td>\$394</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Female</td> <td>119</td> <td>136</td> <td>157</td> <td>186</td> <td>214</td> <td>261</td> <td>292</td> <td>346</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applicant & Spouse</td> <td>212</td> <td>225</td> <td>253</td> <td>299</td> <td>379</td> <td>430</td> <td>549</td> <td>686</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applicant & One Child</td> <td>177</td> <td>194</td> <td>215</td> <td>244</td> <td>272</td> <td>319</td> <td>350</td> <td>452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family with One Child</td> <td>270</td> <td>283</td> <td>311</td> <td>357</td> <td>437</td> <td>488</td> <td>607</td> <td>744</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family with Two Children</td> <td>323</td> <td>336</td> <td>364</td> <td>410</td> <td>490</td> <td>541</td> <td>660</td> <td>797</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One Child Only</td> <td colspan="2"> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Under 1</th> <th>Child 1-17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$95</td> <td>\$58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Se Habla Español</h3> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>Sample Rates Only for UniCare FIT 2000 deductible plan effective 10/1/06 for UniCare TX rate area B (Amarillo, Corsicana, Longview/Tyler, Denton). Rates are illustrative only and are subject to change without notice. Our rates vary by gender, ZIP code, amount of benefits and underwriting classification. Rate is based on age of older spouse. Larger families will pay a higher rate. An application must be completed to apply for coverage and is subject to approval. Do not send payment in response to this ad. This is a PPO plan with substantial financial incentives for using independently contracted Network providers. You may be subject to a pre-existing condition limitation on your benefits for up to 12 months. Refer to the policy for a complete list of coverage, conditions, restrictions, limitations and exclusions. ® Registered Mark and ™ Service Mark of WellPoint, Inc. Insurance coverage underwritten by Unicare Health Insurance Company of Texas or Unicare Life and Health Insurance Company. © 2006 WellPoint, Inc.</small></p>			Monthly Rates	Under Age 30	Age 30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	Single Male	\$93	\$106	\$117	\$142	\$193	\$216	\$288	\$394	Single Female	119	136	157	186	214	261	292	346	Applicant & Spouse	212	225	253	299	379	430	549	686	Applicant & One Child	177	194	215	244	272	319	350	452	Family with One Child	270	283	311	357	437	488	607	744	Family with Two Children	323	336	364	410	490	541	660	797	One Child Only	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Under 1</th> <th>Child 1-17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$95</td> <td>\$58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Under 1	Child 1-17	\$95	\$58
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Most Americans spend about **90%** of their time indoors. According to the U.S. EPA, levels for many pollutants may be **two to five** times higher indoors than outdoors.

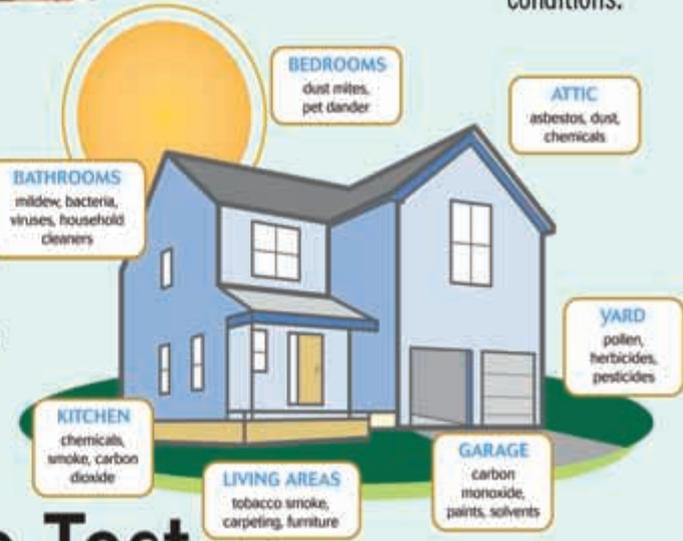
So what is the air quality in your home? Now you can find out. The Air Advice Indoor Air Analysis pinpoints key indoor air quality problems (IAQ) that can affect you and your family's health, as well as their comfort and safety.



To perform the Air Advice Indoor Air Analysis, Area Wide Services places an Air Advice IAQ monitor in your home for three days to measure the air you're breathing under real living conditions.

Indoor Air Pollution Can Trigger Asthma and Allergies.

Indoor air pollution can trigger allergic reactions, asthma attacks, and other respiratory symptoms. Children, the elderly, and even healthy adults can experience fatigue, nausea, headaches, scratchy throat, and nasal irritation. New Homes are constructed with tighter windows and doors to save energy, but they also keep fresh air out. Without adequate indoor air circulation, pollutants can build up over time, leading to poor indoor air quality. Most homes may not be properly equipped to filter and purify the indoor air.



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