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SEPTEMBER 2017

## A Nice Ride

At Home With  
Mark and  
Cindy Chesley

Good News for Kids  
New and Improved  
Creating Long-term Relationships  
In the Kitchen With Kerry Gilb

## Feeling Her Art

Marisa Rose  
Gonzalez is  
making a name  
for herself



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## ON THE COVER



*Marisa Rose Gonzalez gains experience with each new brush stroke.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Happy September!*

This ninth month of the year is filled with change. There promises to be a shift in the weather as we celebrate autumn's return on the 22nd, and what I hope are milder temperatures and cooler breezes. I look forward to the leaves as they turn from green to the colors of orange, gold and brown that are best associated with fall. It's also time to make a few wardrobe changes. I will trade worn out flip-flops and dusty tennis shoes for boots, boots and more boots. Hopefully, it will be cold enough this coming year to wear sweaters for warmth, and not just for the seasonal style changes they provide.

My youngest grandson, Zane Alvis, celebrates another birthday on the 26th. As he turns 4, I can't help but look at him and see the polite young boy he's becoming. He's got a sweet smile that can melt your heart. His fist bumps and high-fives are his little trademarks, and if you aren't fast enough, he will quickly let you know "you're too slow!" He's growing up too fast for this Granny, but isn't that what life is all about?

Try to enjoy the changes that come without fail!

### Sandra

Sandra Strong  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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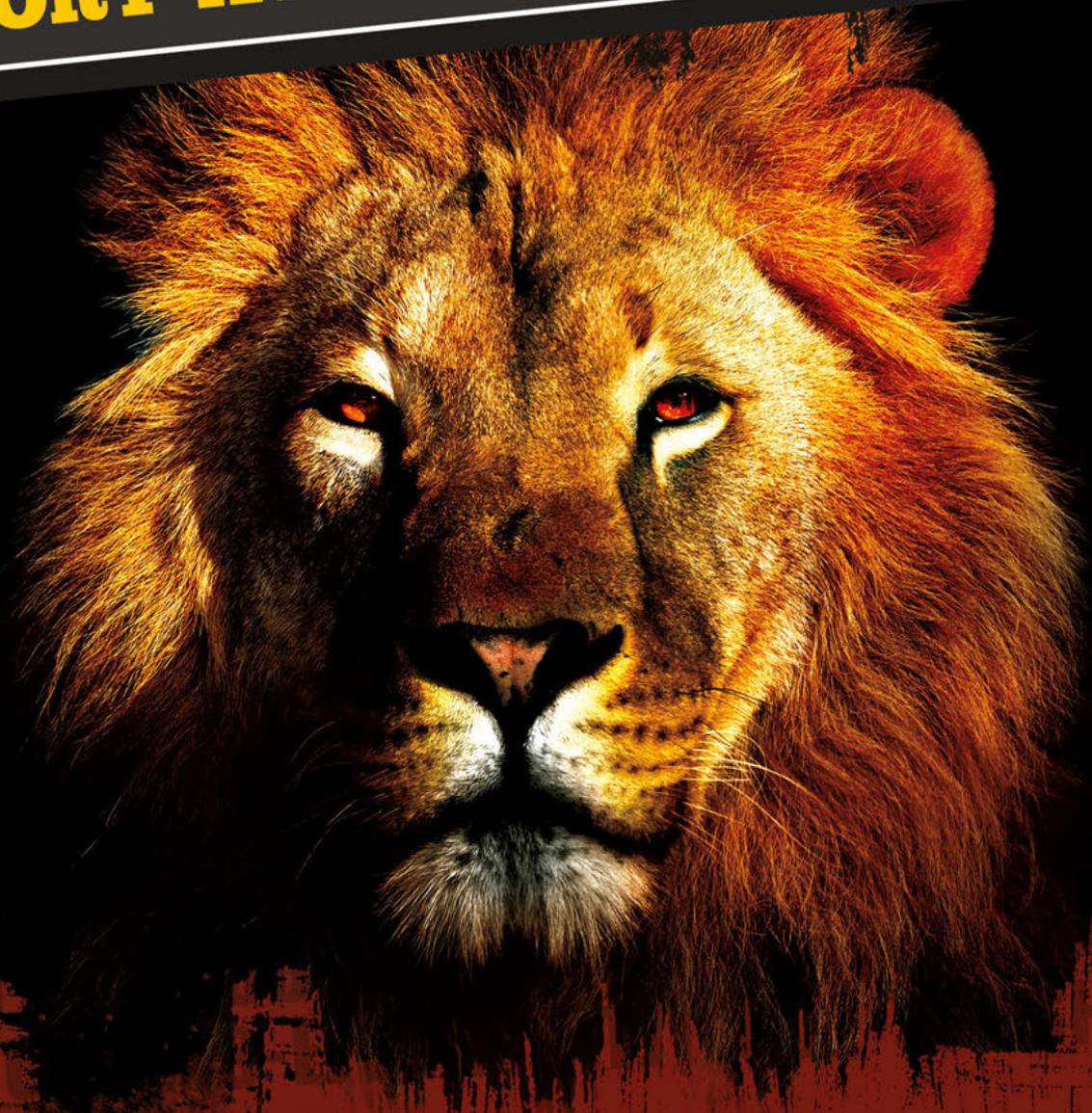
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# FEELING HER ART

— By Sandra Strong

*Marisa Rose Gonzalez isn't your normal 13-year-old. While her counterparts are shopping for the latest in fashion trends or technological gadgets, she is adding to her artistic portfolio — a body of work that began 10 years ago at the age of 3. "I bought her one of those oversized books filled with pages to color and various activities," Valarie Benavidez said, remembering how excited her daughter was when she came upon a picture of an elephant. "Marisa had to draw half of the elephant in the empty boxes provided, and her half looked better than the example she had to follow, or at least I think it did."*

Valarie quickly realized her oldest daughter had a gift — a special gift passed down from her maternal granddad, Roy Benavidez. "He has a different technique in the way he draws, but he's been an inspiration to me from the very beginning,"

Marisa confessed. "I remember the very big sketchbook he had when I was a little girl. The one drawing that held my attention was one he created using the same grid technique I had used on the elephant."

The elephant was Marisa's first framed piece of artwork. Over the years, Valarie has kept all of Marisa's drawings in a large tote, so her progress over the years can easily be seen. Marisa loves and will try any art medium available to her. She finds satisfaction in drawing life around her. To ward off boredom, it's commonplace for her to grab a napkin and begin sketching the people she sees. "I love drawing people out in public doing what it is they do," she explained. "I once drew a man drinking coffee. Sometimes, I will show the person and, maybe, get a hug of gratitude. Other times, I never show them."

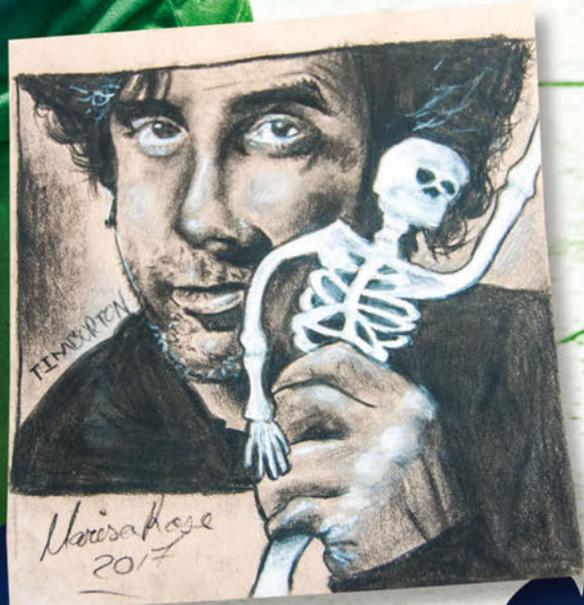
Marisa also put her talent to good use when she created a comic book about a young girl and her pet rat. "The world had become a wasteland after a huge explosion," she said. "The girl found a rat that quickly became her pet. It's a story of discovering love in the strangest places and experiencing peace in whatever situation you find yourself in."

Her maternal grandmother, Rosa Benavidez, remembers a family vacation to the beach. "At 11, Marisa was in her own





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little world as she walked the beach," Rosa shared.

"I love all the wonderful shells," Marisa added. "Shells can be used for so many things, from art pallets to collages." One day, she hopes to find a large shell she can paint a one-of-a-kind masterpiece in.

Marisa finds solace in sketching the ideas in her head or those she sees as points of reference right in front of her or in the countless magazines her mom gathers for her. "Sketching is my escape from the world," she admitted. "Through my art, I hope to inspire other young people to follow their dreams, just like I'm following mine."

Valarie and Rosa remember when Marisa's art took on a darkness during a time when she was being bullied, and the world wasn't as nice as it should have been. "I believe every good artist suffers from depression or tough times in life," Marisa stated. "These times have allowed me to express myself honestly."

As a seventh-grader, Marisa was given the choice to sign up for art or band. She signed up for art. "When she got her schedule, she was so upset because they had put her in band," Valarie recalled. "I went to school the next day and explained how important art is to her." As a proud mom, Valarie wants her daughter to experience every available opportunity afforded her.

This past year during the awards assembly, Marisa thought she was going to receive another academic award, but to

her surprise, they announced her as the art award recipient. “I was so nervous. They put my name, my yearbook picture and the award I’d won on a big-screen TV,” she said. “I’ve never gotten an award for art.” The award, although quite rewarding in and of itself, was the public validation Marisa needed to forge forward into what brings her the most joy — her art. It was one more big step in her artistic journey.

In eighth grade, Marisa is hoping to find what wasn’t present for her in seventh grade. “My art teacher, Daniel Smith, was great, but I’d already gone beyond what was offered in this beginning art class,” she said. “I’m taking art this year, and I’m even earning a high school credit. I’m looking forward to the challenges this class is going to offer me in mediums, sketching techniques, collages and caricatures.”



Marisa Gonzalez’s mentor, Ben Vyers, encourages her to follow her dreams.

Her talent outside the home and classroom hasn’t gone unnoticed. Ben Vyers, Ennis resident, gifted artist and owner of Monster Splash Art, saw something in Marisa. He wasted no time offering her an artistic opportunity she couldn’t pass up — a partnership in a downtown mural that hides the construction, while sharing the highlights of Ennis with passersby. “Ben is one of my favorite artists,” she admitted. “He took me under his wing, and he’s taught me so many new techniques.” He trusted her to get the job done, and now complete, the mural that wraps around one complete corner of

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Marisa's mom, Valarie Benavidez, (left) and little sister, Briana (right) celebrate all Marisa has achieved.

downtown Ennis is further validation that Marisa is doing what she was born to do — create artwork that evokes feeling from onlookers.

Today, Marisa no longer sees herself as a depressed artist. She is an artist who creates with emotion and deep inner-feeling. She finds inspiration in garage sale finds; Drew Struzan, the artist behind the wonder of *Star Wars*; a young girl from *America's Got Talent*; and a man with weird hair she's never met at Six Flags. She is an old soul, who loves the details found in Roman and Greek statues. She loves to draw flowers, and she can spend endless hours looking at the stars. For her, drawing a "serious face" is better than drawing one with a smile. "I love how ink flows on the paper. I love feeling the bumps the medium makes on the pages," she shared. "When buying a new sketch book, I love to touch and smell the pages, to feel the quality."

Valarie compares her talented daughter to a well-known *Peanuts* character. "She finds her security in a backpack filled with art supplies, the same way Linus finds security in his blanket," she said. "She loves to shop the art stores, and she's genuinely grateful for all she's been given."

A perfect day for Marisa starts when the sun shines down on her in shades of purple and orange. She then goes to Starbucks for an iced coffee and two chalupas from Taco Bell. "And then I go to Hobby Lobby, my favorite place in all the world," she said with a big smile. "I love, love, love it!" **NOW**

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Shannon Childs is an Ellis County native who has practiced in Ennis since 2001. She received her master's degree in nursing administration with a minor in education from The University of Texas at Arlington. Shannon received her Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate in 2000 and her Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate in 2009. She is board certified in both acute care and family nursing. Shannon is the proud mother of three daughters and has two beautiful grandsons. Shannon is accepting NEW patients of all ages.



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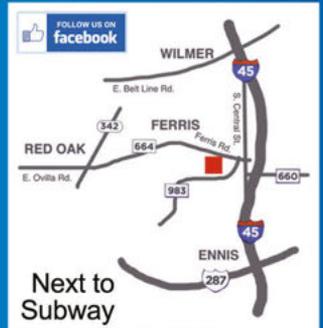
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# A Nice Ride

— By Sandra Strong



## *At Home With* Mark and Cindy Chesley



*Events in life become more apparent as you grow older, or at least that's been the case with Mark and Cindy Chesley. "You look back on life and realize something or someone bigger than yourself was mapping out the path in front of you," Mark said. "Life, for us, continues to be a journey, not a destination."*

Mark came to Ellis County by way of Pecan Gap, Texas. Ennis ISD recruited him right out of college. There was no application



process, just a phone call inviting him to teach high school math. "I was just a few years older than my charges when I started my teaching career," he admitted. "I was green as green could be." He is still doing exactly what he's always loved to do — teaching math — and he's currently teaching part-time at Navarro College's Waxahachie campus.

Cindy had lived in the area prior to moving to Victoria, Texas, where she

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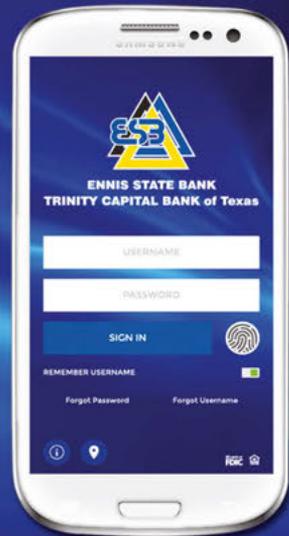
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earned her nursing credentials. When she left Victoria, she relocated back to Dallas, beginning her career at Methodist Central Hospital (now Methodist Dallas Medical Center). She then worked five years for an allergist before returning to the area to put her mark on the world of public education as the nurse for Waxahachie ISD. She retired from this position in 2006. "I am loving every minute of retirement," she added.

Mark and Cindy met at a family gathering in 1984. They both have somewhat different recollections of that first meeting. "He flirted with me," Cindy recalled. "When he asked me on a date, I remember telling him, 'No.'"

But, Mark was persistent that day. "She finally agreed to that first date," he stated, "and we've been exclusive ever since."

Six months later, on June 1, 1985, they became man and wife, blending their two families together as one. They quickly realized they wanted their new life together to include a home they could call their own.

While teaching driver's education, Mark saw a *For Sale* sign. He realized this could

be the home they were looking for, if only the price was right. "Someone was still in control, even then," Mark said. "The homeowner's family was in the process of developing Rutherford's Crossing. They purchased my previous home in Palmer as our down payment on our forever home here," he explained. "We had the home of our dreams, but no money changed hands."

"The spec home was turn-key ready. All we had to do was move in," Cindy added. "God was working in our favor."

In 30-plus years, Mark and Cindy have remodeled several times, adding hardwood floors, tile in the kitchen and bathrooms and changing out the paint colors and carpet a time or two. The backyard pool was added shortly after



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they settled in. They both agree that their favorite room is the living room. “It’s the place where we spend the most time when we’re indoors,” Cindy said.

“This is where all the living happens,” Mark said, thinking about the crackling fires and laughter to come as the chilly nights become cold.

The couple loves to see the world, so they take advantage of every travel opportunity that comes their way. “Lately, we’ve been taking several mini trips throughout the year,” Mark said. “We aren’t tightwads, but we are frugal when it comes to prices and getting the most for our money.”

“Mark works hard to find the best deals,” Cindy added, “and that’s fine with me.”



The home is filled with memorabilia from many of their trips, both near and abroad. Small, framed pictures displayed throughout the home are gentle reminders of trips to Rome, Venice and Reno, to name a few.

They have also enjoyed shopping for their home over the years, blending the old with the new. The antique table and lamp in the living room corner once belonged to Cindy’s maternal grandmother. “It’s well over 100 years old,” Cindy stated.

There’s an oil painting of a Maine seascape that brings memories back to Mark’s mind of a childhood well-lived. It was painted by his grandfather in 1917. Another framed work of art is displayed in the entry hall. “My grandfather sketched it in 1905 at the age of 15,” he said. “The funny thing about the drawing is that it looks just like the back fence and gate. The fence is old and worn and the gate is unlatched and hanging open.”

The more current wall art is by Mark’s favorite artist, Dalhart Windberg. The giclées — fine art prints created on Iris printers in a process invented in the late 1980s and has since come to mean any

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inkjet print — are beautiful to look at. “Each wall hanging in the home has special meaning to us,” Mark admitted. “They remind us of where we’ve lived or where we’ve traveled.”

Other notable items found in the home include a roll-top desk in one guestroom that Cindy just acquired, a beautiful quilt handmade by a neighbor, a large mirror that once belonged to Cindy’s grandmother and the unique antique dinner bell that hangs over the sink in the kitchen window that looks out to the quiet cul-de-sac in front. “That bell used to hang in my grandmother’s house,” Cindy added. “I can remember her ringing it.”

Mark’s children were grown, while Cindy’s two, 7 and 9 at the time, grew up in the home. The nest is a bit empty now that all the children are gone. They have considered downsizing, which would warrant the need for a moving van and a garage sale or two, but quickly decided they would remain where they are so richly planted. As family-oriented people, Mark and Cindy’s home is now the gathering place for the combined five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren they so enjoy. “The kids come to visit as often as they can,” Cindy said. “This is the family home. There are so many memories here.”

The home boasts of an open concept that was ahead of its time when the spec home was constructed in 1983. The three bedrooms — two of which are guest rooms — and two bathrooms make these family visits comfortable, inviting and enjoyable. Mark and Cindy are like two peas in the same pod when it comes to what they would like to change in the home. “The closet area in the entryway needs to go. It’s wasted space,” Mark said, as Cindy nodded in agreement “We’ve thought about renovating that area, but the expense quickly changed our minds.” Cindy would also like to one day replace the countertops and cabinets in the bathrooms, bringing them up to date.

The journey for Mark and Cindy has been filled with the ups and downs that come with blended families, demanding careers and life in general. After recently celebrating his 75th birthday, Mark is ready for the next 75. “I’m already planning my party in 2092,” he smiled. They both agree the journey’s been better than good — it’s been a nice ride! **NOW**

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— By Rick Mauch



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“I was praying about it. I was trained in 2012 (to be a GNC volunteer), and I’d done a little work in Tarrant County,” said Karen, who now lives in Fort Worth. “I’d incorporated some of my training in my teachings at Great Commission Baptist Church. Then, when I came back here and started teaching every fourth Sunday at New Hope Baptist Church, I thought about it a lot more. I spoke with Pastor Jeff McNealy, and he said, “Whatever you need to make it happen.””

That led her to a director in Tarrant County connecting her with Kevin Ferguson. He’s the director of the GNCs in Ellis, Hill and Navarro counties. Per Kevin, there are over 77,000 GNCs across the United States. “I partner with churches,” Kevin said. “They pick up the cost of the curriculum and provide a snack.”

The Ennis GNC had 45 students registered last year. Of those, around 18 to 22 attended on a regular basis. The program begins at 3:15 p.m. each day with a snack, a pledge to the United States flag and a moment of silence in which children are welcome to pray. From there, activities over the next hour include such things as songs, memory verses and games, including a review game at the end of the class that is very

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popular. “They love to hit the buzzer to answer questions, like on *Jeopardy*,” Karen said. “They get so excited. Carmen Gilbert will be sharing a story with a cliffhanger, telling them it’s continued next week. They’ll start saying, ‘No, we have to hear it now!’ They can’t wait to hear how it ends.”

While New Hope is the sponsoring church in Ennis, providing special T-shirts for the kids, the group meets at Travis Elementary. Kevin emphasized that there is no requirement to belong to any specific denomination, and it’s not sponsored by the school. The program is open to anyone who wants to join, including special needs children. “I was impressed at the involvement of special needs kids. In Ennis, they’re very open about it,” he said.

“A lot of parents appreciate us because some of their kids have physical disabilities that won’t readily allow them to participate in activities elsewhere,” said Carmen, a GNC coordinator and Karen’s best friend.

“We push positive ideas like honoring themselves and respecting others, from a biblical perspective,” Kevin said. “Teachers will come up to me and say, ‘I don’t know what it is about Johnny, but he’s so much better.’ We communicate with parents regularly. We’re trying to instill what the parents are also teaching at home.”

In fact, parents are invited to help as volunteers, and several do. Karen’s own father, Virgil Collins Sr., is among them. “He’ll be 84 this year, and he loves helping out here,” Karen said. “Even if he’s just sitting and watching over them, he just loves being a part of it.”

Volunteers play a key role in GNCs. They include teenagers, grandparents, family members and church members.

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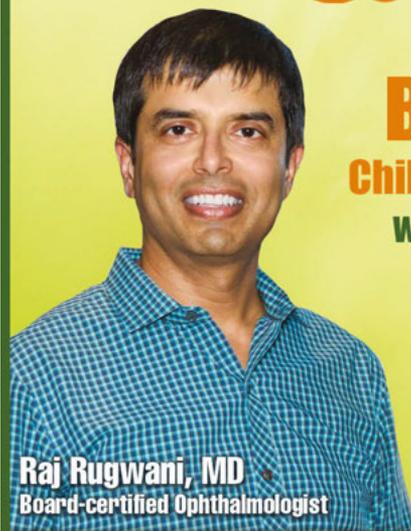
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They must pass three background checks from the church, school and Child Evangelism Fellowship. Volunteers are required to be 15 years of age or older. However, that rule can be bent if a youngster is accompanied by an approved adult volunteer. "I've even had a parent who had a family of 10, and all of them helped in some way," Kevin said. "Even homeschool groups have helped."

From all indications, this is the first time Ennis has had a GNC. However, there have been 15 active clubs in surrounding communities, including three in Red Oak and two in Waxahachie. "I'll have some parents start breaking out in song, and they'll say, 'My kid learned that song in GNC,'" Kevin said.

"I grew up in West Dallas, and we had a club at our recreation center," Carmen shared. "I don't know if it was GNC, but based on what it taught, I feel that it might have been."

Not only is the GNC good for children, it is also good for families. She cited one of her favorite examples. "A little girl told me, 'I want to learn more about Jesus.' I asked her if she had ever sinned, and she said she hadn't," Karen recalled, chuckling. "She came back the next week and said she had learned what sin was. Now, she and her mother are reading the Bible together. Her grandmother told me that." **NOW**

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— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*While spring may be the time for a deep cleaning of your house, autumn is a natural time to give things around the house a facelift. School, television shows and fiscal years are all starting anew, and the end of the extreme heat is perfect for starting those labor-intensive projects you have been putting off all summer. Here are some ideas for home improvement projects, big and small, you could do this fall.*



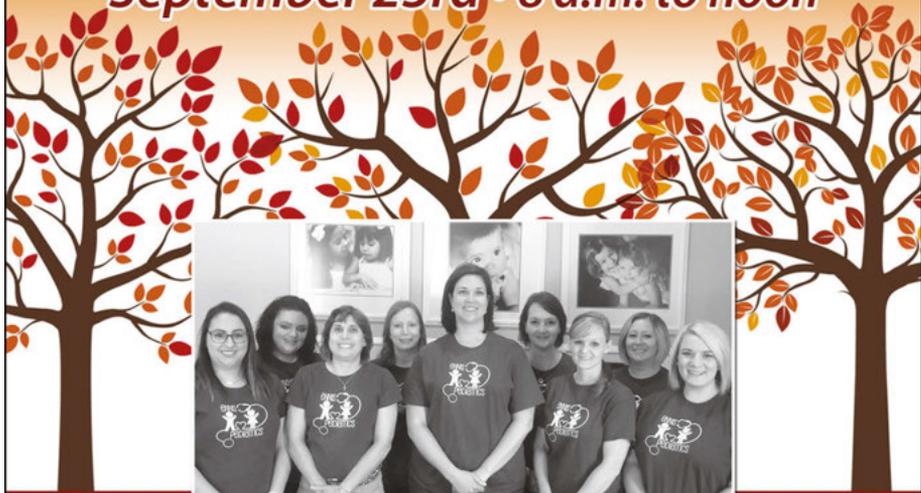


## Change Simple Things

• *Keep with the times.* Trends and styles change frequently, so think about swapping light fixtures and faucets. Chrome and oil-rubbed bronze are popular now, and changing fixtures can be a simple way to update your look. If you are working with electricity, be sure to turn off your power and test to ensure your breakers were labeled correctly before working with what could be live wires. If you are changing pipes, consider swapping your old connections for push-to-connect fittings that will make future plumbing work easier. And if cost is an issue, there are lots of metallic spray paints that will allow you to alter the look of your existing fixtures.

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• *Look above for a simple fix.* A step above just replacing light fixtures and lamps, swapping out your ceiling fan can alter the entire look of your room. If you are changing the color or style of the lighting in a room, it is probably a good idea to get a new ceiling fan to match. While you could technically take the fan apart to paint it to match, there are so many working parts that buying a new matching one is usually a better idea. When deciding on your new fan, you can keep it simple or get fancy when picking from the dozens of styles available at any local hardware store. Changing fans can be a two-person job, so think about getting a helper, and be careful to make all the hardware and electric connections to manufacturer's specifications.

• *Make a statement.* Painting the entire house can be an exhausting, time-intensive task. But painting a room, or even just adding an accent color on one wall, is a relatively easy way to achieve a drastically different look. You can even let each child choose a color to make their room their own. The key to any good interior paint job is the preparation. Tape off the trim, get plenty of drop cloths and give yourself enough time for the paint to dry before moving furniture back against the wall.

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## Know Your DIY Limits

- *Carpet has a shelf life.* If your carpet is hard to clean, fraying around the edges or just getting out of date, it may be time to call the professionals. Though you can install new carpet yourself, you need to weigh the cost of materials, including the tools you will undoubtedly need if you want to tackle the project on your own. If the space requires hiding a carpet seam in the middle of the room, it is likely that you will want an experienced company to do the work. Call around and get several quotes before you settle on someone, and be sure to look for reviews online to get a good idea of the quality of each company's work.

- *Hardwood does not have to be hard.* Decades ago, your choices were essentially carpet, sheets of slick laminate or real wood. Nowadays, though, you can find a variety of manufactured, wood-like floors that offer the refined look of wood without as much expense or difficulty in installation. Any home improvement store will have a selection of vinyl planks that look nearly identical to real wood, as well as ceramic and porcelain tiles offering a wood look. With any of these options, you should know your ability before deciding whether to do the work yourself or hire a company for the project. The flooring is easy enough to install in open spaces, but there is some finesse required for corners and transitioning to another type of flooring in another room.

- *Home needs a range.* While you are updating fixtures, it might be time to add a new cooking range to match the new style. If you have a combination oven



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and stovetop, it is easy enough to take out the old one and replace it with a new model. But, if you have a drop-in range, you need to be sure you know the steps involved before you end up with a hole in your kitchen counters.

## Work Smarter

- *Take advantage of empty rooms.* If you have had any inking to move or change your furniture around, try new ideas while your floors are bare. Once you have taken up the old flooring, test different layouts before you put the new carpet or hardwood down. This will prevent you from scratching or tearing your new floors. This is also the perfect time to paint, as any spillage will be covered once you install the new flooring.

- *Have a plan.* If you are planning to overhaul your whole house, make a list of jobs you want to get done, and devise a plan to maximize your work time. If you are paying professionals, you will probably need to do all major work at once. If you are doing the work yourself, figure out if you need to tackle one room at a time, or if you can knock out several rooms in one fell swoop.

Whatever your home improvement plans are for the fall, planning a timeframe and detailed budget will help ensure your project stays on track. Don't rule out professionals who can achieve the look you want to do harder tasks. Updates can really give the home a new and improved feel. Plus, should you decide to sell in this hot housing market, they can dramatically increase the value of your investment. **NOW**



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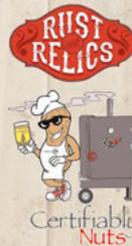
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#### Hours:

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Saturday: 7:30 a.m.-noon



The staff at Brazos Valley Equipment takes great pride in educating customers, both repeat and new, on their equipment needs.

## Creating Long-term Relationships

*Brazos Valley Equipment is no longer just your big green tractor store.*

— By Sandra Strong

Brazos Valley Equipment is an authorized Bestway Sprayers, Frontier, Great Plains, John Deere, Krone, Kuhn, Landoll and Stihl dealership. As a John Deere Signature Dealer, they take great pride in offering a full line of equipment for every type of property owner. “We have something for all,” Sales Manager Robert Graham said. “We have price points that meet the needs of every homeowner-independent farmer.” The list of offerings begins with zero-turn and commercial lawnmowers and extends all the way up to John Deere’s Gator, a utility vehicle that continues to grow in popularity, and tractors and hay balers for both large and small jobs, as well as all those in between.

Their customer base includes all of Ellis County and large portions of Navarro, Kaufman and Dallas counties. “Our primary service area is Ellis County,” Robert said, “but we can sell to anyone who shows an interest or has a need, no matter what county they reside in.”

The homeowner with 1 acre of land to maintain will usually come into Brazos Valley Equipment in search of a John Deere zero-turn mower or one of the larger commercial models available. “Nearly 80 percent of these homeowners come in thinking commercial mowers are too big for the job at hand,” Robert stated, “but that’s a fallacy.” Independent farmers with lots

of acreage to maintain shop the inventory found at Brazos Valley Equipment for higher horsepower tractors, hay balers and the large selection of farm equipment available to them. And the extended service plans make it quite convenient for Brazos Valley shoppers.

*"We value the opportunity to create a long-term relationship with our customers."*

The new location directly off I-45, with almost 5 acres of lot space and a vast amount of inventory, allows for on-site demonstrations, as well as making pickups and deliveries so much more manageable. The new location, with its welcoming entrance, store-front feel and interior layout, has seen an increase in female customers. Brazos Valley Equipment offers an array of John Deere, green and yellow, trademark items that include diecast metal toys for the child or collector, a full line of apparel for children and adults and logo-branded T-shirts and fitted caps. "Customers really do love the branded, fitted caps," Robert said. "The John Deere toys go all the way up to battery-powered, ride-on toys."

Brazos Valley Equipment has many repeat customers who find the John Deere product line to be second to none. "We're no longer the green and yellow tractor supply store," Robert said. "We are also servicing second and third generations." This generational service could be, in large part, due to the highly experienced and knowledgeable staff in place, which on average consists of 20-24 full-time employees. "We have several different departments," Robert explained. "There's sales, parts, service and accessories. We have dedicated individuals in each of these four areas." When a customer has a question, Robert and his staff find satisfaction in knowing the answer and being able to share it with their customers. "We value the opportunity to create a long-term relationship with our customers," Robert said. "We do that by giving customers the best customer service available." **NOW**



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Joan Huang, former owner of Unity Coffee, takes a moment from a busy day to reflect on life after the coffee shop.



Phillip Sarmienta Jr. celebrates his recent retirement from the USPS with his sisters.



Andra Williamson of Apple Annie's Garden Gate Floral & Gifts is enjoying their new location on West Ennis Avenue.



GO! Academy students learn about camping in their outside classroom.



Lyric Kirk, Kennedi Williams and Mykala Lambert pause from their evening walk to strike a pose.



Floor Instructor Stacey Houston, far right, poses with students from National Beauty College.



Daniel Whitehead, Ennis Care Center administrator, entertains residents at a recent get together.



Penfold Construction holds a ribbon cutting at their new building.



Lupee Beauchamp greets guests recently at Finn MacCools ladies marketplace.

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# Don't Get Swayed by These Investment Myths

Over time, you will run into various suggestions for investing successfully. Yet upon closer inspection, many of these ideas turn out to be myths, which could cause you trouble if you treat them as solid advice. Here are five of these myths, along with some reasons for ignoring them:

- **You can find the next “big thing.”** All of us probably wish we could have “gotten in on the ground floor” of Apple or Microsoft or some other tremendously profitable company. And who knows? There may indeed be a similar other business out there, waiting to take off. But it’s almost impossible for anyone to identify these potential “blockbusters.” There’s really no shortcut to investment success — you need the patience and discipline to invest for the long term, and you need to build a portfolio that’s appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance.

- **Investors should always seek to “buy low and sell high.”** This is actually good advice — or it would be, if were possible to consistently follow it. But how can you know when the market is high enough to sell or low enough to buy? You can’t — and neither can anyone else. Trying to time the market rarely works. A more appropriate strategy is to invest regularly and to diversify your holdings among stocks, bonds, government securities and other vehicles, based on your goals and risk tolerance. Diversification can help protect you against market downturns that primarily affect just one asset class. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses.

- **It’s always smart to buy investments that have performed well recently.** You may have read in investment prospectuses that “past performance is no guarantee of future results.” These words are certainly true. Just because

an investment has had a good run recently, it doesn’t mean its success will continue indefinitely. You need to evaluate each investment on its own merits and on how well it fits into your overall portfolio.

- **International investing is too risky.** In today’s global economy, it may be more risky not to invest some of your portfolio internationally. U.S. stocks represent less than half of global stock market capitalization — so by stopping at our borders, you are depriving yourself of a world of opportunities. It’s true that foreign investments carry some special risks relating to currency fluctuations and political and economic events, but you can help contain this risk by confining your international holdings to a relatively small percentage of your portfolio. A financial professional can suggest the best ways for you to add a global element to your investments.

- **You need a lot of money to make a lot of money.** Of course, it doesn’t hurt to have a sizable amount of money to invest right away. But the world is full of people who started investing with small sums and ended up having enough money to enjoy the retirement lifestyle they had envisioned. If you’re just beginning to invest, put in as much as you can afford each month; as your income goes up, increase your investments. As an investor, time is your greatest ally.

Sticking to a consistent investment strategy can help you write your own investment tale. And you can leave the myths to the storybooks. **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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*Moon Over Buffalo:* Ennis Public Theatre. For full details, pricing and curtain times, visit [www.ennispublictheatre.com](http://www.ennispublictheatre.com).

### September 2

Bring Your Own Meat Cook-out: Sugar Ridge Winery, 353 Sugar Ridge. For more information, call (972) 666-2888.

### September 9

34th Annual Ennis Chamber of Commerce Auction: Sokol Hall, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. Call (972) 878-2625 for more details.

### September 14

Meals-on-Wheels Golf Benefit: 1:30 p.m., Cleburne Golf Links, 2501 Country Club Rd., Cleburne. Still accepting sponsorships through the Double Eagle level, which will pay for 500 meals for residents in Johnson and Ellis counties who need help. To sponsor or register to play, contact Lisa Deese at (817) 558-2840, (972) 351-9943 or visit [www.mowjec.org](http://www.mowjec.org).

### September 14 — 16

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale: Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Call (972) 875-5360 for more information.

### September 23

44th Annual Hike for Life: 8:00 a.m., opening prayer, introductions and speakers; 9:00 a.m., hike begins, Getzender Park. For more information, visit [www.hikeforlifetexas.org](http://www.hikeforlifetexas.org) or call Hugh Reynolds at (214) 686-8774.

Classic & Custom Motorcycle Show: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. For more details, call Daniel at (214) 532-5795 or visit [vespaman76@gmail.com](mailto:vespaman76@gmail.com).

### September 30

2017 Southern Region Walk to End Alzheimer's: 8:00 a.m., registration; 9:00 a.m., opening ceremony; 9:30 a.m., walk begins, downtown Ennis. The route is 2 miles. For more information, contact Kathy Shockley at (214) 540-2434 or at [kshockley@alz.org](mailto:kshockley@alz.org).

NHRDA World Finals: Texas Motorplex. For more information, call (972) 878-2641 or visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

Ellis County Preparedness Fair: historic downtown Ennis. Call the ECVB at (972) 878-4748 for more detailed information.

Telico Volunteer Fire Department Annual Barn Dance: 4:00 p.m., Sokol Hall, E. Hwy. 34. The event will include a silent and live auction, live band, activities for the children, great food and fun for the family. For more information, contact Marvin Trojacek at (972) 875-6655.

### Ongoing:

#### Thursdays

Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. This is a nondenominational Bible study class. For more information, call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

#### Second Fridays

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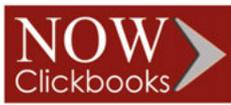
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## In the Kitchen With Kerry Gilb

— *By Virginia Riddle*

With grandmothers who were “fabulous” cooks and a mother who was a home economics teacher, Kerry Gilb was destined to start learning to cook and earn Girl Scout cooking badges at around age 9. “My father was in the military, and we traveled to Texas most summers to visit family. My grandparents had big vegetable gardens, so we had lots of fresh vegetables during our big, extended family dinners,” Kerry remembered.

These days, Kerry, a medical social worker in the home health field, prepares dinners four to five nights a week for her husband, Tony, and their two teenagers. “It’s a challenge, but eating together as a family is a priority,” Kerry said. “I enjoy preparing food for others to provide comfort and to show them that I care.” **NOW**

### Grandma’s Berry Pie

*Pie:*

- 1 unbaked pie crust**
- Berries of your choice to fill pie crust, fresh or frozen**
- 2 eggs, well beaten**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 1/2 cup flour**
- 1/2 cup sour cream**
- Pinch of salt**

*Crumble Topping:*

- 8 Tbsp. flour**
- 8 Tbsp. sugar**
- 4 Tbsp. margarine or butter**

- 1. For pie:** Fit pie crust to a pie pan; fill pan with berries.
- 2.** Combine remaining pie ingredients; pour over the berries. Allow the filling to settle for about 10-15 minutes.
- 3. For topping:** Using a pastry cutter, combine crumble topping ingredients; spoon onto settled pie filling.
- 4.** Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until topping is golden brown.

### Spinach-apple Salad With Maple-cider Vinaigrette

*Yields 8 servings.*

*Sugared-curried Pecans:*

- 1 6-oz. pkg. pecan halves**
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 3 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger**
- 1/8 tsp. curry powder**
- 1/8 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1/8 tsp. ground red pepper**

*Maple-cider Vinaigrette:*

- 1/3 cup cider vinegar**
- 2 Tbsp. pure maple syrup**
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard**
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 1/3 cup olive oil**

*Salad:*

- 1 10-oz. pkg. fresh baby spinach, washed**
- 1 Gala apple, thinly sliced**
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced**
- 1 4-oz. pkg. goat cheese, crumbled**

- 1. For pecans:** Preheat oven to 350 F; toss pecans in butter.
- 2.** In a bowl, stir together sugar and remaining pecan ingredients; add pecans, tossing to coat.
- 3.** On a nonstick aluminum foil-lined pan, spread pecans in a single layer; bake 10 minutes.
- 4.** Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes; separate pecans with a fork.
- 5. For vinaigrette:** Whisk together the cider vinegar and the next 4 ingredients; gradually whisk in the oil until well blended.
- 6. For salad:** In a bowl, combine all the salad ingredients. Drizzle with vinaigrette; toss to coat.
- 7.** Sprinkle with pecans; serve with remaining vinaigrette.
- 8. Variation:** You can make a Spinach-pear Salad With Sugared-curried Walnuts by substituting walnuts for the pecans, 1 ripe Bartlett pear for the apple and crumbled blue cheese for the goat cheese.

### Chicken Lasagna

*Yields 8 servings.*

- 1 8-oz. pkg. medium egg noodles**
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine**
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1 tsp. dried basil**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 4 cups chicken broth**
- 4 cups cooked chicken, chopped**
- 1 24-oz. carton cottage cheese**
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten**
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded**
- 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated**

- 1.** Cook the noodles per package directions. Drain; set aside.
- 2.** In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat; stir in flour and next 3 ingredients. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring constantly.
- 3.** Add broth, stirring until smooth. Bring mixture to a boil; reduce heat, and simmer until thickened and bubbly. Stir in chicken; remove from heat.
- 4.** In a separate bowl, combine cottage cheese and egg; stir well.
- 5.** In a lightly greased 13x9-inch baking dish, spoon 1/3 of the chicken mixture; top with 1/2 each of the noodles, cottage cheese mixture and mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers, ending with the chicken mixture.
- 6.** Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese; bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

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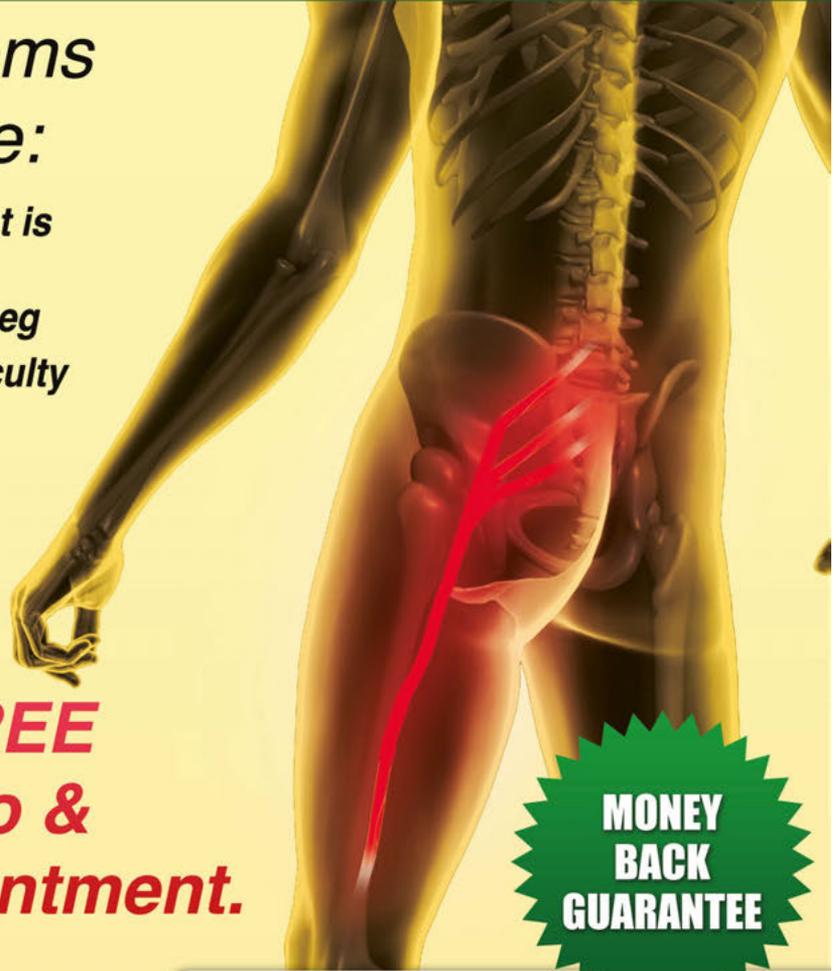
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