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ENNISNOW

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ON THE COVER

Perry Nutt remains focused on his students.

Photo by
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National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ellis County Volunteer Deputy Registrars will be at each location to register any voter in Ellis County. Either a new application, change of address, change of name... they will be ready for you!

7:00 am - 8:00 pm - Ellis County Elections Office, 204 E Jefferson St., Waxahachie, 75165
8:00 am - 8:00 pm - A.H. Meadows Library, 922 S 9th St., Midlothian, TX 76065
8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Boze Community Center, 161 W Main St., Italy, TX 76651
9:00 am - 6:00 pm - Ferris Public Library, 301 E 10th St., Ferris, TX 75125
10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Ennis Public Library, 501 W Ennis Ave., Ennis, TX 75119
11:00 am - 7:00 pm - Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Dr., Red Oak, TX 75154

Check your voting status by calling the Elections Office.

October 9th is the deadline to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in November.
Get a voter registration application at a local City Hall, Tax Office, Election Office or Election Website.

General and Special Elections Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Early Voting begins October 22nd - November 2nd

Election Day polls will be open from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Visit the website for a complete listing of polling locations, sample ballots and more.

Elections Office: 204 E. Jefferson Street, Waxahachie, TX 75165.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sandra

Sandra Strong
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Happy Grandparents Day!

I'll never forget how I used to roll my eyes and sigh when someone would ask, "Would you like to see a few pictures of my grandchildren?" A few to them was definitely more than three. Some years ago, I became that same grandparent who is beyond proud to share photos and accolades when it comes to my grandchildren. People are rolling their eyes and sighing at me now, but that's OK. My grandchildren mean the world to me, and when something means the world to me, I feel compelled to share it.

I only wish I could talk to my grandparents just one more time. To hear the pride in their voices as they shared in my victories would mean so much. To hear them reprimand me over something I'd done wrong or a decision I'd made in error would also be welcomed. I always thought as a grandparent, I would spoil my grandkids and then send them home, full of zeal and energy because of all the "junk" I let them eat. But, that's never been the case. I see a second chance to "get it right." By example, I teach them about unconditional love and what it means to be nice to those around you.

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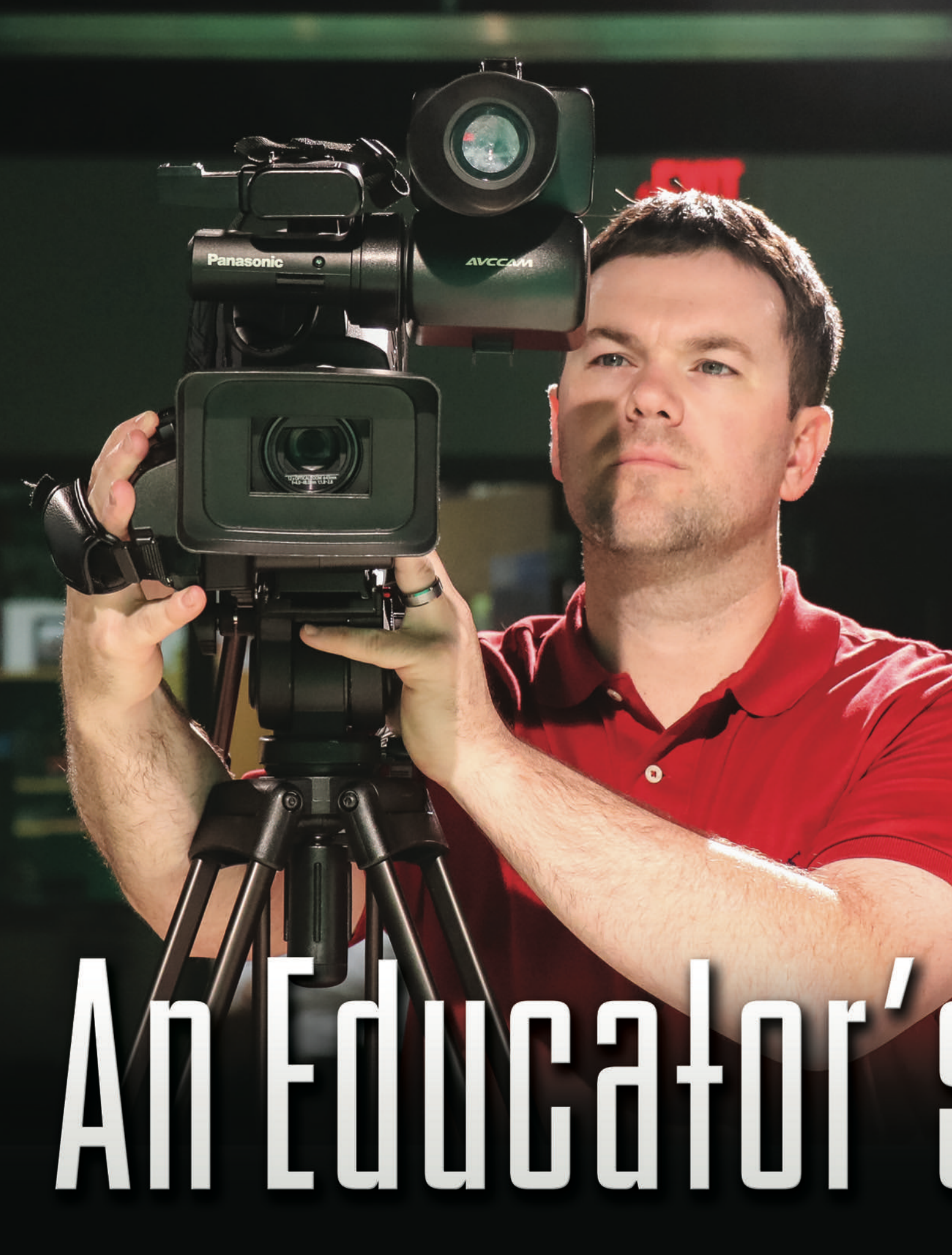
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An Educator's



“Life’s battles don’t always go to the stronger or faster man. But sooner or later, the man who wins is the man who thinks he can.” Perry Nutt was quick to cite this famous phrase when asked about what inspires him. Though Vince Lombardi is often credited as the originator of the phrase, Perry said, “Coach Keith Howard required that the tennis team know it by memory when I was in high school here. If one of us could not recite it when called upon, the whole team suffered the consequences!”

While there may be some discussion about the origin of the quote, there is no doubt about the inspiration that it continues to provide for many, including Perry, the Ennis ISD audio/video instructor. As a native of Ennis, like most teenagers, Perry never imagined that his career path would bring him back to his alma mater.

However, as a junior in high school, he was inspired by his journalism teacher to pursue his dreams, even though the local program did not offer near the curriculum one would need to study broadcast journalism. “Ms. Joy Wood was our journalism instructor,” Perry remembered. “Although the journalism department at the time did not have the resources to produce other than print media, we were encouraged in our interests that went beyond the resources of our class.”

The seed of inspiration was planted that led to Perry completing his education in radio, TV and film production at Texas Christian University. After his formal education, the road back home passed through Waxahachie with a stint coaching tennis and teaching English.

The call back to Ennis came from Perry’s mentor and friend, the aforementioned Ennis ISD tennis coach, Keith Howard, who had continued to be an important part of Perry’s life. An opening was available for an assistant coach, but the position also offered an opportunity to teach courses in photography and outdoor education. “This was right up my alley,” Perry admitted. “I love hunting and fishing, so teaching outdoors was a perfect match for me.”

— By William T. Smith

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Perry originally attended Howard Payne University on a tennis scholarship, but after a shoulder injury, he transferred to The University of Texas at Arlington for a year before finishing at TCU. Perry refers to his college education as "a journey."

Passing on to his students what he has learned along the way makes Perry's eyes light up with enthusiasm. Teaching about 120 students each day has its challenges. The audiovisual classes are part of the Career Technology Education Program at Ennis ISD, and students get not only theory, but also hands-on training with a variety of equipment that might be found in a TV studio, including a green screen, where the weekly YouTube videos, "The Lion's Den" are produced.

To watch the videos, one needs only to enter Perry's name in the YouTube search engine. There you will see samples of the professional video reporting the Ennis CTE students record on a weekly basis.

As with all such media, there is copy to be written, interviews to be conducted and video to be edited. And it all must be completed by the end of the school day on Wednesday of each week for publication on Friday. Perry has instructed his students, "If assignments are not completed on time, the news becomes 'old news' and unworthy of publication."

Seeing students come into his classroom who have already begun experimenting with the technology they carry around in their pocket that is capable of recording short movies excites Perry. These students seem to want to learn more and more beyond what they are capable of producing on their cell phones for social media. Some students have already begun editing short videos before they enter the class, but then they learn much more about lighting, high resolution video, mixing audio, computer graphics and all of the work that goes on behind the scenes that most take for granted when watching the evening news.

Perry's media interest extends beyond the classroom. As an avid outdoorsman, he takes advantage of time hunting and fishing to photograph landscapes, and examples of his still photography cover the office window at the high school. Another interest Perry has is collecting concert posters, and visitors will notice the poster of Elvis Presley and another of the infamous Rat Pack performers.

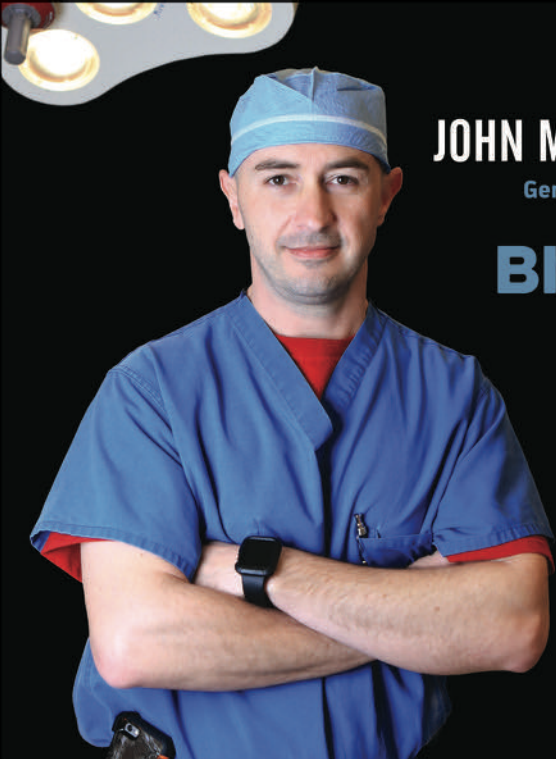


The enthusiasm Perry has for teaching is evidence that he loves what he does. However, when the discussion moves to his family, he really lights up. "As much as I enjoyed coaching, today I really look forward to being home with my wife and kids," he shared.

As a husband and the father of two energetic children, he can turn the cameras off when he goes home and dream of what the world of media will be when his son and daughter are grown. Technology obviously is not slowing down.

Comparatively speaking, one would not refer to Perry as a "seasoned veteran," but Perry has already seen some of the students he has coached or taught begin to achieve their dreams and form goals for their futures. Perry speaks with joy about Ben Erdmann: "Ben was on the eighth grade tennis team that I coached, and this year he went to state." His students have also already expressed how they plan to pursue careers as sports journalists and videographers.

The mission of "The Lion's Den" is to produce positive EHS news. In a given year, 60 or more videos will be produced. The program has already garnered more than 30,000 YouTube hits. It is easy to see why Perry returned to his hometown to teach what he loves. He is enthusiastic. He is inspiring. And that is positive news! **NOW**



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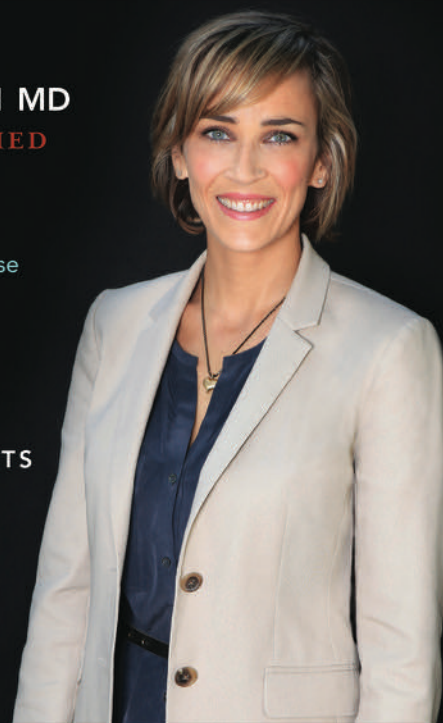
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From MUSIC to Memories

— By Virginia Riddle

At Home With Bryan and Penny Atwood

Bryan and Penny Atwood didn't grow up in Ennis, but for the past 44 years, they've made Ennis their home and place of business. They were the faces of Ennis Motorcycle Sales until their retirement. "We've served several generations, so we're recognized around town," Bryan commented. "When we sold our business, everyone thought we would move."

They did, but not from Ennis. In November 2015, they moved into their "new" home which was built in 1956 and beautifully updated by longtime friend, Sara Irwin. She removed walls to open the living spaces and incorporated the couple's love of Asian decor into the home, all while they were on vacation. "We knew the house and bought it from good friends," Bryan recalled. "Then we gave Sara six months and free rein."

Their active lifestyle and interests are represented in the home. A Frankston, Texas, native, Bryan met Penny, a Dallas native, while attending Tyler Junior College. Penny was a member of the famed Apache Belles. They continued their education at The University of Texas at Austin, pursuing degrees in engineering and marketing. Bryan opened an engineering firm, and Penny worked at Sanger-Harris in Dallas. "I sold my firm and was looking for something else to do and loved motorcycles," Bryan explained. "I drew a line around Dallas and looked for a place with no dealerships at that time and then opened the shop in Ennis where we both worked."





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They were active supporters of their children's schooling and interests. Both their son and daughter were Ennis High School valedictorians and are now engineers. The couple has four grandchildren. Penny's motorcycle jaunts are history, but Bryan enjoys revving up engines with the kids and going on trips with guy friends.

Over the years, they have enjoyed lots of activities together: snow and water skiing, rock climbing, spelunking, bicycling and sailing. "We both have lots of energy," he explained. "I've raced dirt bikes for years, and Penny did well in an endurance race."

They love to travel the world. "Business trips took us to Japan twice," Penny said. "We went on a Mediterranean cruise, sailed a lot of places and bicycled through Europe. Our favorite family vacation was a motorcycle trip to Mexico."

Penny enjoys reading, gardening and volunteering and has served as the garden club's president. She takes library books to nursing homes, volunteers during annual bluebonnet trail days and is known as "Miss Penny" at the local Boys & Girls Club. "I cook with the kids, and then we serve the food to staff," she explained.

The couple are members of Ennis' First Presbyterian Church, where Bryan designed the altar's background scene while remodeling was taking place. He's lifted his voice with the choir for 35 years, while Penny has served in the bell choir.

Bryan performs locally and recorded a song he wrote on YouTube. His music room has a wall of instruments and his guitar, sound board and amps are ready to "plug in" fellow musicians for jam sessions. "I don't play for money — it's all volunteer," he said.

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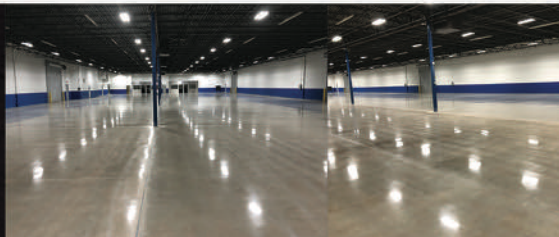
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A sailboat clock reminds the couple of their first blue water sailboat, and a map of Chesapeake Bay charts the Delmarva Peninsula, around which they navigated, while living on their sailboat on Maryland's shores. "That was Penny's idea, since the grandkids were living there. We enjoyed life there for nine years during summers," Bryan recalled.

"It was so beautiful there," Penny added. "We had a great lifestyle." Bryan had built a boat and learned to tie knots as a Boy Scout. He bought a previously sunken sailboat and fixed it up for their adventures. In all, Bryan's built four boats. Photos of the boats, sailing adventures and Bryan's boyhood horse companions join family photos throughout the home.

Living close to water is just one of the reasons Bryan and Penny love their home. Beyond the den, kitchen and master bedroom views of the patio, with its arbor shade and flowing fountain, is the lake where the couple has a dock for boating fun. "I kayak nearly every day," Penny said.

Fishing expeditions are followed with Friday night get-togethers with friends on the patio while the fish sizzle. "My dad was an East Texas fishing expert. Fishing's a fun thing!" Bryan explained.

The kitchen buzzes with activity during those fish dinner nights or when family arrives for holidays. Sara painted the refrigerator the same as the cabinets for a uniform look. "All my favorite things — family pictures,

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elephants and flowers — are in my kitchen,” Penny said. “My favorite place is the patio, where we have breakfast and dinner when it’s not too hot.”

The informal and formal dining areas combine with the breakfast bar for ample dinner seating. The red-themed formal dining/living room is perfect for displaying the couple’s collection of Japanese geisha dolls and other Asian treasures. Max, the couple’s rescue Schnauzer, keeps watch on the front yard, while Bugs, his counterpart, is the rear guard. Penny’s mother’s secretary holds family photos. Elephants are evident in every room. “I was born on Friday the 13th,” Penny explained. “The elephants, with their upturned trunks, counter with good luck.”

The “Hollywood Bath” features the original pink tile with an added red-and-black theme, chandelier and Marilyn Monroe’s photo. “This is a fun room,” Penny said.

A guest bedroom and the master bedroom and bath allow for quiet, restful moments. Bryan built the master bed’s headboard to complement the rest of the room’s furnishings. A picture of their granddaughter’s christening gown, sewn by Bryan, hangs in the hallway. “My mother taught me to sew when I was 9,” he said.

Leading lights mark a port entryway much the same way as Bryan and Penny have marked a path of lives lived well. “Our home has brought out our personalities,” Bryan concluded, “and we’re truly at home in Ennis.” **NOW**

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Sewing Is Their Joy

— By Sandra Strong

The Ennis Sewing Circle turned 60 at the beginning of the year. Irene Prachyl, president of the group, celebrates the organization and its opportunity to keep quilting from becoming a lost art. “I have sewn all my life,” Irene admitted. “I want to teach others. I want to share my love of sewing.” She also admits that she has so many new ideas for quilts, she only lacks the time to start and complete them all.

Although quilting by hand in most sewing circles has been replaced by machine quilting, that is not the case with the longtime members of the Ennis Sewing Circle. “We are so much more than a ‘sewing circle,’” Irene stated. “We are a group of friends who come together on the second Thursday of the month to sew, share in a potluck lunch and learn new techniques. It’s therapeutic.”

Dolores Vrana, treasurer of the talented group of

sewers, knows all too well that if they don’t keep hand quilting alive, it will go by the wayside, and the camaraderie found in this group and so many like them would be lost. “You don’t see anyone piecing a quilt by hand anymore,” Dolores explained. “Individual squares are pieced together by machine.”

The ladies of the sewing circle piece their quilt patterns for the top at home by machine. A new quilt top from one of the members is introduced at each meeting. Before the sewing begins, the top, the batting filler and the fabric for the back are stretched tightly on a large frame. “We get seated around it and begin what we call ‘stitching in the ditch,’” Irene shared.

“Since everyone stitches a bit differently — some have longer stitches that are loose, while others have smaller stitches that are perfectly the same size and tightness throughout — stitching in the ditch blends better,” Irene said, referring to the stitches that are sewn between the individual pieces of the quilt top.

The member who brings the quilt will take it home with her at the close of the meeting. It is now up to her

to complete the hand quilting on the remainder of the quilt top. "We did work on one particular quilt two months in a row," Irene admitted, "but that's rare."

Currently, the club has 30 active members and five inactive, homebound members. Several members moved away to live with family, but when they pass through Ennis, they always want to come on the second Thursday. "Many times," Irene said, "they stop by the Sokol to say hello."

Living in Ennis is not a prerequisite to being a member of the Ennis Sewing Circle. "All anyone has to do is pay their membership fees and enjoy hand quilting with like-minded individuals," Irene said. "We have many second-generation members."

"When the club first formed, dues were 10 cents a month," Irene shared, with a smile. "In 60 years, it's increased to \$5 per year."

WE ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN A 'SEWING CIRCLE.'

Irene, Ennis born and raised, became a member in 2009, while Dolores came in 2013, after moving to the area in 2001. To this day, Irene finds solace in the camaraderie the women share, and Dolores still finds great worth in being taught the proper way to hand quilt. "To be a joiner meant I brought a lot of new friends into my life," Dolores admitted.

Quilts come in all shapes, sizes and colors. They are made from materials such as shirts, dresser scarves, doilies and crocheted collars. The rules are simple: Don't bleed on the quilt; measure twice, cut once; there are no mistakes, just creative opportunities; and there are no quilt police.

Simply stated, if they imagine it, they can quilt it. Sewing is their joy. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Contact Irene Prachyl at (972) 875-2109 for more information on the Ennis Sewing Circle.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

CARLTON MYERS

— By Lindsay L. Allen



While Carlton Myers loves playing volleyball and being with his dogs, his profession and other love is in the kitchen, with a preference for gourmet cooking. He learned to cook at age 16 from his mother and went on to culinary school after growing up in California.

“Cooking brings all types of people together and gives us the joy of love with our food,” Carlton said. “I personally love to cook with thyme.”

He loves inventing his own dishes and adding to existing ones as he prepares food for his friends and family regularly. And he is busy creating many family traditions that revolve around the table and kitchen, as well. **NOW**

Hoisin-glazed Salmon

- 1/3 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce**
- 1/4 cup hoisin sauce**
- 1 Tbsp. chili garlic sauce**
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice**
- 1 Tbsp. fresh ginger root, grated**
- 1 garlic clove, pressed**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 6 skinless, boneless salmon fillets**

- 1.** Whisk together the soy sauce, hoisin sauce, chili sauce, lemon juice, ginger, garlic and olive oil in a 9x13-inch baking dish.
- 2.** Place the salmon fillets into the marinade; turn to evenly coat.
- 3.** Cover the dish with plastic wrap; marinate in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
- 4.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Remove and discard

the plastic wrap from the salmon; use a spoon to scoop up the marinade that has collected in the bottom of the baking dish. Drizzle it over the salmon fillets.

- 5.** Bake in the preheated oven until the salmon flakes easily with a fork, about 30 minutes.

Grilled Filet Mignon With Gorgonzola Cream Sauce

- 4 cups heavy cream**
- 3 oz. Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled**
- 3 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, grated**
- 3/4 tsp. salt**
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper**
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg, ground**
- 4 fillets beef tenderloin**
- 1 pinch lemon pepper**

- 1 pinch garlic powder**
- 1 pinch onion powder**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 12 slices bacon, thick-sliced and chopped**
- 4 green onions, chopped**

- 1.** Pour heavy cream into a saucepan; bring to a boil over medium heat.
- 2.** Reduce heat; simmer until the cream has reduced by half, stirring occasionally, about an hour. Remove from heat; whisk in the Gorgonzola cheese, Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper and nutmeg until the cheese has melted.
- 3.** Season the beef tenderloin with lemon pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and salt and pepper; set aside.
- 4.** Place the bacon in a large, deep skillet; cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain the bacon on a paper towel-lined plate.
- 5.** Preheat an outdoor grill to medium-high heat; lightly oil the grate.
- 6.** Cook the steaks until they start to firm and are reddish-pink and juicy in the center, 3 to 5 minutes per side. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 130 F.
- 7.** Remove the steaks from the grill; tent with foil to rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Serve each steak with the Gorgonzola sauce; top with crumbled bacon and chopped green onions.

Apricot Pork Tenderloin

Butter, to taste

1 2-lb. pork tenderloin

Salt and pepper, to taste

1 tsp. ground thyme

2 tsp. garlic powder

1 18-oz. jar apricot preserves

2 Tbsp. honey

1/4 cup dry sherry

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spread butter all over the pork tenderloin. Season with salt, pepper and thyme.

2. Combine garlic powder, apricot preserves, honey and sherry in a separate bowl.

3. Roast the pork in the preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes.

4. Remove the pork from the oven; brush with the apricot sauce.

5. Return the pork to the oven. Continue roasting, basting occasionally with the remaining sauce, until the pork is no longer pink in the center, about 15 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 F.

White Chocolate Macadamia Crème Brûlée

6 Tbsp. macadamia nuts, chopped and toasted

1/2 cup sugar

2 cups whipping cream

4 oz. white chocolate, chopped

4 egg yolks

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed

1. Preheat oven to 300 F. Set 6 4-oz. ramekins in a deep baking dish. Put 1 Tbsp. of the macadamia nuts into each of the ramekins.

2. In a saucepan, stir the sugar and cream over medium heat. When the mixture comes to a slow simmer, add the white chocolate; remove from the heat.

3. Whisk until the chocolate has completely melted. Stir in the egg yolks, one at a time, continuing to whisk until combined. Stir in the vanilla extract. Divide the mixture evenly between the ramekins.

4. Place the dish into the oven and then pour water into baking dish until ramekins are 3/4 submerged.

5. Bake in preheated oven until custard has set, about 45 minutes. Remove pan and turn oven to broil.

6. Sprinkle the brown sugar over each of the ramekins. Place pan under broiler until sugar has melted and caramelized, about 5 minutes.

7. Remove ramekins from water bath. Allow to cool for about 15 minutes.



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BusinessNOW

Hamil, Harrison & Co. LLC

— By Sandra Strong

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Meeting the heating and cooling needs of customers — residential, commercial and new-build — is the main goal at Hamil, Harrison & Co. LLC. The company, founded in 1955 by Rich Hamil, partnered with Mike Harrison in 1977. In 2014, the company's name may have changed, but the exceptional service did not. They still provide complete installations, repairs and preventative maintenance to air conditioning and heating units at locations in Ennis and Navarro counties and beyond. The mission for the company is to complete every job on time

and within budget. “In general, we keep customers’ HVAC equipment running at maximum efficiency,” President James Davis stated. “We do everything we possibly can to satisfy our customers.”

James and Vice President Scott Payne became the new owners of the company in 2014, while Mike serves as a consultant for the company. When combined, James and Scott have well over 40 years of HVAC experience. Amber Warren is the office manager. James’ son, Justin Davis, and Victor Garcia are certified technicians and installers. Jesus Fraga is a technician in training.

The company holds memberships at the Better Business Bureau, Ennis Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business and Air Conditioning Contractors of America. Hamil, Harrison & Co. LLC offers licensed and state-registered technicians, who are also Trane Comfort Specialists. Annually, they all attend continuing education classes at Trane.

From an early age, James, a Rice native, loved working with his hands. "I was a natural at any kind of trade-type work," James admitted. James is a Blooming Grove High School grad who received on-the-job training, as well as Trane School training.

Scott, an Ennis native, was in college when he became interested in HVAC work. He got his initial training on the job, too. "I didn't want to work where I stayed in one place all the time," Scott explained. "We both like the fact that the HVAC business is challenging and ever-changing. Every job is different, as we try to figure out the problem, and the best part of all — there is not a set daily routine."

The Texas climate demands that technicians and installers work in extreme hot and cold temperatures. It's during these peak times of hot and cold that the HVAC units do the most work. It's also during these peak times that customers experience the most problems.

James and Scott agree that the joys of helping customers, whether they be neighbors, first-time customers or repeat customers, far outweigh the challenges that Texas temperatures present. "We are out meeting people from all walks of life on a daily basis," Scott stated. "Everyone knows everyone, which promotes relationships that are based on trust, honesty and integrity."

Whether on the job or during downtime, which they say is very little, James and Scott are often together. "We've been friends for more than 20 years," Scott shared. "Both of us are very work- and family-oriented, so the company is, as well." With three children each, James and Scott spend time at sporting events and enjoy time with extended family members.

The longevity of Hamil, Harrison & Co. LLC speaks volumes. With James and Scott leading the charge, the company will no doubt continue to offer the best overall service to its valued customers. **NOW**

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TravelNOW A Canadian Adventure

— By Alf Blanchard

From the stunning red cliffs, the miles of red and champagne beaches and the vibrant small-city scenes, there is only one way to describe Prince Edward Island — magical. If driving, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the highway. It takes you through towns and villages, scenic landscapes and coastal views. Every journey on the island is as special as the destination. Driving along the highway or one of the designated coastal drives, you will see a small glimpse of life on Prince Edward Island, and it will make you feel the need to explore.

Prince Edward Island is also known as Canada's Food Island. Once you take a bite of what the island has to offer, you will undoubtedly understand why. Not

only is the island abundant with fresh ingredients such as mussels, oysters and potatoes, artisanal cheeses, breweries, wineries and distilleries, its views will also take your breath away. Every September, you can attend Fall Flavours Festival, which includes the International Shellfish Festival. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy these festivals.

The size of Prince Edward Island is one of its greatest assets. You can taste fresh seafood in a small fishing town and still only be a short drive to the capital city of Charlottetown for experiencing live music, theater and bars.

Visitors can spend their time basking in the sun on one of the 90 beaches, listening to the waves crash and

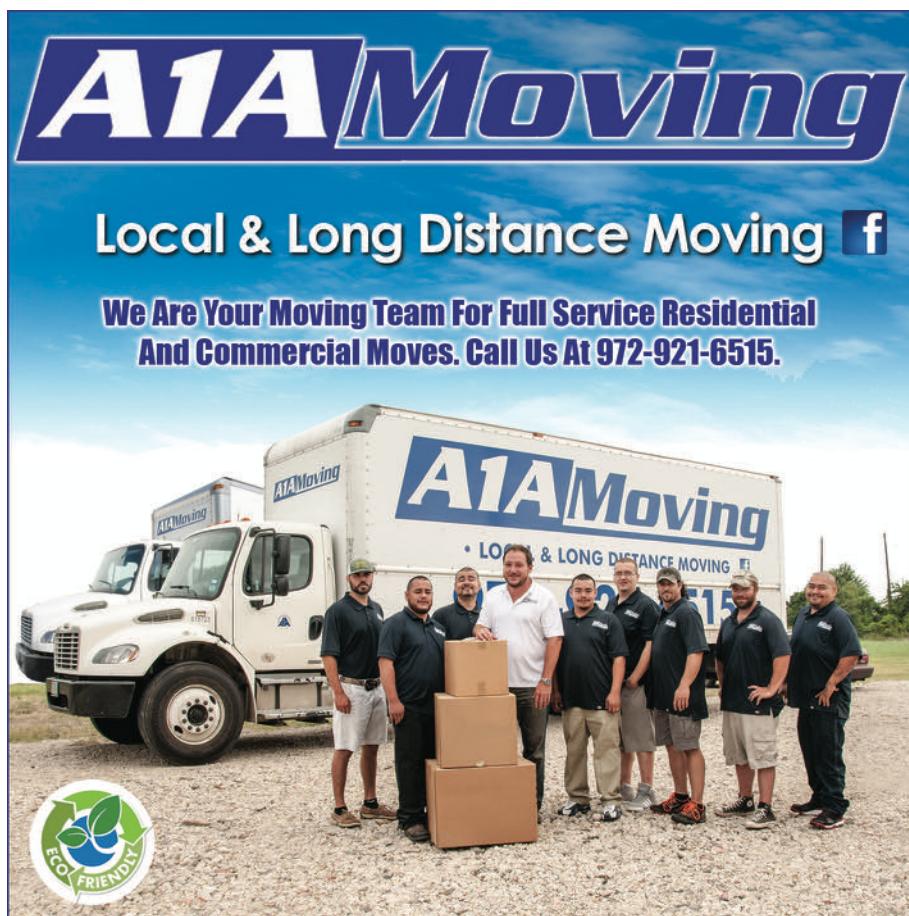
digging their toes in the sand. Prince Edward Island isn't just for relaxation though. Get your heart racing with paddleboarding, kiteboarding, hiking or cycling. The Confederation Trail is built on an abandoned railway that goes across the entire Island. It's 269 miles of rolled stone-dust surface — an incredibly unique way to experience Prince Edward Island.

If all that adventure isn't enough, Tourism Prince Edward Island offers hands-on activities led by local community leaders. Jigs & Reels, where you join Captain and multi-instrumentalist J.J. Chaisson onboard his boat, *Chaisson A Dream*, is one such activity. Learn about traditional music, step dancing and how to play a musical instrument.

At the Table Culinary Studio in New London, one can take classes or have an experiential meal. For instance, Marilla's Table — A Taste of the Past, begins with a visit to the birthplace of L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, to see what life was like in Anne and Marilla's time, and ends with an authentic meal made from locally grown organic vegetables, while listening to stories from a historian who specializes in Montgomery history.

Speaking of Anne, if the book holds a special place in your heart, you will enjoy visiting the island. Head over to Green Gables Heritage Place and feel like you are part of the story, or visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum (operated by relatives of Lucy Maud Montgomery and part of the inspiration for the world-famous novel). In Charlottetown, see Anne on stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in *Anne of Green Gables — The Musical™*, or watch love bloom at the Guild in *Anne & Gilbert*.

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A New Way to Landscape

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Landscaping can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for homeowners. Pulling weeds and trimming bushes are jobs that are seemingly never really finished. Instead of planting flowers, consider adding hardscapes, decorative structures or materials that add a different kind of beauty to your yard.

Patios and Walkways

- *Create a Walkway.* One of the simplest ways to enhance part of your property is with a patio or walkway. The most permanent route is to pour concrete, possibly even covering your new space with an awning or gazebo. For a simpler DIY project, you can lay stones to make your new walkway or patio.

- *Do It Yourself the Right Way.* If you decide to lay your own stone, there are some important choices to make.

You can buy square or rectangle stones and lay them end to end, leaving no space between. Or, you might want a more irregular stone, which necessitates putting a material like pebbles or crushed granite in the gaps. Whatever your finished product is, your first step should be laying down weed blocker. And the key to a solid, level walking surface is getting a good foundation of sand before you put your stones down.

Build What You Need

- *Add Form to Function.* Sometimes, hardscapes can be as much about necessity as beauty. If you need to build a retaining wall, you will want to carefully plan your project. Including pipe for drainage is essential, as is tamping down the soil while you backfill to cut down on the land's settling making your wall uneven. And to improve the aesthetic value, spread out any stones that are slightly discolored to give the wall a more artistic look.

- *Check for Codes and Cables.* If you decided to build stairs, retaining walls over a few feet or are pouring a new driveway, do not start the work on a whim. For some larger projects, city codes may dictate size restrictions and what materials you can use. For projects that require significant digging or trenching, you should always call 8-1-1 first, so you can ensure there are no pipes or cables underneath your project area.

Accent Pieces

- *Create Some Counterspace.* If you admire your friend's outdoor kitchen, but building something that large is not an option, consider building an outdoor island. Find a space, get your measurements and use simple right angles to design a counter for food prep. Large hardware stores and lumber suppliers will generally make cuts for you, so you will only have to put the wood together yourself. And if you want to add a small refrigerator underneath, it is easy enough to install an exterior outlet by tapping into an existing outlet inside.

- *Create a Buzz With a Blaze.* If you want to add something fun that can be a conversation piece, fire pits are a great and relatively simple project idea. Unless your pit is going on top of existing hardscape, you should dig about a foot into the ground, then add sand as a foundation for the stones. Be sure your stones are at least 12 inches above ground level to ensure a safe barrier between your fire and your yard.

If you need design help for whatever hardscape ideas you have, sites like Pinterest are flush with pictures and plans perfect for builders of all levels. With all the options available, hardscaping your lawn is a great way to put your personality into your property. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Andrew Milligan

By Sandra Strong

Being born and raised in Ennis has allowed Andrew Milligan to know his way around his hometown. One thing he loves to do on a regular basis is to ride his skateboard. "I've been skateboarding for about two years," said Andrew, now a 16-year-old sophomore at Ennis High School. "I skate as often as I can. I skate almost every day."

Skateboarding offers Andrew a great form of exercise, but for him, the most important thing skateboarding presents is a chance to clear his mind. "As I skate, I'm able to let the regular everyday 'stuff' leave my thoughts. I skate the stress away," he explained. "And it doesn't matter what the weather is, unless it's raining. I won't skate in the rain."



The new owners of Frank's Towne, Michael and Jackie Self, hold a Business After Hours.



Brittany Navarro and her daughter, Elena, arrive home after a busy day.



Madelin, Phillip and Scarlet Sarmienta sort out all their supplies as they get ready for their first time going to public school.



The new KFC is open for business.



Coach Sam Harrell addresses the Ennis Noon Lions Club on his return for the upcoming football season.



Kinley and Frankie Gutierrez love eating donuts for breakfast.



Tom Martinek takes a chainsaw to some trees to make room for the next new home he's about to build.



Jonathan Sanchez eats a snow cone while enjoying cooler weather.

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*Event date:
Saturday,
Oct 6, 2018*

Patients are encouraged to arrive early, dress appropriately for the weather and to bring blankets, water, snacks, etc., as they may be outside waiting to be seen.

For more information, please contact:
972-347-0895 | www.WaxFamDent.com
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Event Hours: 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



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Calendar

September:

4

Ennis Garden Club meeting: 10:00 a.m., First Presbyterian Church in Ennis. The event will include a guest speaker and refreshments. Prospective new members are welcome to attend. For more information, call or text (214) 557-9691 or message them on the Ennis Garden Club Facebook page.



12

Survivor Trail, Surviving Cancer Together: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County. There are new topics presented at each of the meetings. Call (972) 935-9801 for topic titles, more information and directions to the church.

13

2018 Meals on Wheels Annual Golf Benefit: Cleburne Golf Links. For more information, visit www.mowjec.org/2018-annual-golf-benefit or call (817) 558-2840 or (972) 351-9943.

14 — 16

20th Annual Cancer Memorial Golf Tournament: **Friday**, practice round; **Saturday**, tournament play, silent auction from 3:00-7:00 p.m., dinner for golfers, sponsors and spouses at 6:00 p.m., Calcutta and live auction following dinner; **Sunday**, tournament play continues, tournament will be played at the

Old Brickyard Golf Course, 605 N. I-45, Ferris; all other activities will be held at the Sokol, E. Hwy. 34, Ennis. Cash donations, hole sponsorship and live and silent auction items are welcomed. For more details, call Marilyn Boon Linsteadt at (972) 365-1206.

22

Walk to End Alzheimer's/Southern Region: To register and find out more about the event, visit www.act.alz.org.

Ellis County Women's Praise, Worship & Prayer Night: 7:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. For more information, call (972) 875-3861.

29

Telico VFD 33rd Annual Fundraiser – "The Barn Dance": 4:30 p.m., doors open; 6:00 p.m., band takes the stage; 8:00 p.m., live auction, Sokol Hall, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. The event also includes a barbecue dinner, games for the children, raffle, craft and so much more the whole family. For more information, call Marvin Trojacek at (972) 875-6655.

Waxahachie Chautauqua: "Comedy & Humanity": 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. Explore and discover humor through science, history, drama, spirituality, psychology, politics and so much more. Also, come paint a trash can in the part for "Trash Can Transformation." For more details, visit www.WaxahachieChautauqua.org.



Bridges Bands & BBQ Bash: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie. Event includes a state championship BBQ cook-off, cup cake war, car show, goat yoga, cornhole, live music, silent auction, raffle prizes and a bounce house for the children. For more information, call (817) 996-8793 or visit www.Bridgestf.org.



October:

4

PreStage Fan Fest: downtown Ennis. The event celebrates the AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals. Call the ECVB at (972) 875-4748 for complete details.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays
Parkinson's Support Group: Ennis Regional Medical Center.

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

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

Tuesdays
Lariat Bridge Club: 6:30 p.m., Boy

Scout Cabin, 1139 Brown St., Waxahachie. For more information or to confirm the meeting, email Shari at weatherscf@yahoo.com or call (505) 270-4017.

Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class: 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave. This is an interdenominational Bible study class. For more information, call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

First Wednesdays
Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 for more information.

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 Thursdays
Mom's Connected meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861 for more information.

Fourth Thursdays
MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

Last Thursdays
Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting: 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave. All active, retired or former Marines,

Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. For more information, call (214) 803-4954.



Fourth Sundays
William Henry Parsons Camp #415 Sons of Confederate Veterans: 3:00 p.m., Bubba's Bar BQ and Steakhouse. Visitors are welcome. For more information, visit www.scv.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com.

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Time to Put Excess Cash to Work?

You'll always want to base your investment decisions on your own needs and goals. But there may be times when you might consider adjusting your portfolio because of risks and opportunities. Now may be one of those times.

Here's some background: In recent months, the Federal Reserve has raised short-term interest rates several times, and given its generally favorable outlook on the economy, it has indicated it may continue bumping up interest rates gradually over the next year or so. The Fed doesn't control long-term interest rates, but these rates often follow the lead of short-term movements. However, longer-term rates haven't yet risen as much as shorter-term ones, which means the difference between short- and long-term rates is relatively small, historically speaking.

This doesn't mean you should make drastic changes to your portfolio. You still need to stick with the asset allocation that's suitable for your situation, which typically involves owning a certain percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks, and a certain percentage of fixed-income securities, such as bonds. However, if you do have space in the fixed-income part of your portfolio, you may find the higher interest rates offered by short-term bonds and certificates of deposit (CDs) to be attractive. To take advantage of this opportunity, though, you will need to have the cash available to invest.

Some people hold too much in cash, waiting for interest rates to rise, or as protection against the risk of a market decline. But holding excess cash involves its own risk — the risk of not investing. So, if you have your cash needs covered, you may want to consider investing any excess cash.

To determine if you are holding excess cash, you'll need to review your entire cash situation. For example, do you have enough cash, or cash equivalents, to create an emergency fund of three to six months' worth of living expenses? This fund can be vital in helping you pay for things like a major car repair or an unexpected medical bill without dipping in to your long-term investments. And, of course, you need enough liquidity to provide for your lifestyle, including your regular spending needs — your mortgage, utilities, groceries and so on. Also, you may want to set aside enough cash for a goal you want to reach in the next year or so, such as a vacation.

But if you have taken care of all these needs and you still have excess cash, you may want to consider putting this cash to work, possibly by investing in short-term, fixed-income vehicles now being issued at higher interest rates.

And keep in mind that regardless of where interest rates are going, bonds and other fixed-income investments can offer some key benefits to investors. In addition to providing a source of regular income, these types of investments can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. While bonds can, and will, fluctuate in value, they typically can provide more stability to your portfolio and tend to behave differently than stocks over time.

After years of historical lows, shorter-term rates now have risen to levels that are more attractive to investors. Take the time to review your situation, perhaps with the help of a financial professional, to determine if taking advantage of these rates may be appropriate for you. **NOW**

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

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