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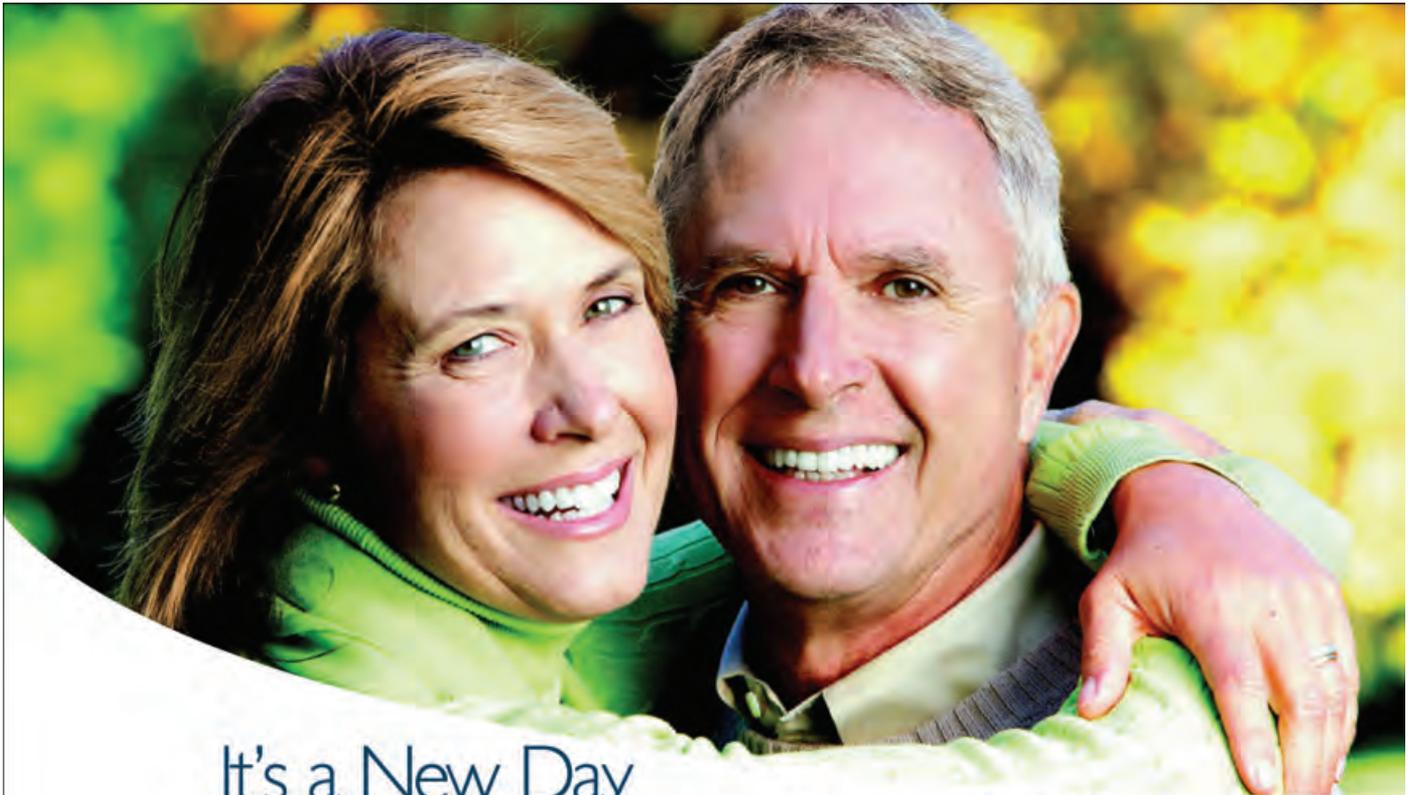


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## ON THE COVER



Farm living is the life for Richard and Nina Webb and their children.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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## Editor's Note

*Spring is blooming just around the corner...*

I know I can't wait for it. This year we've been lucky not to have had a harsher winter, but if you're like me, any cold is too cold. So after the chilly days have had their say, forcing us into sweaters that make us look like frozen stuffed sausages, I always look forward to trees turning green again and the flowers sprouting up.

Now, don't get me wrong — I'm no gardener. I couldn't grow a weed. But I do love to watch nature taking root, literally. Whether it's the pecan tree bursting with new leaves

in my back yard or the first bluebonnets rearing their floppy heads along country roads, I really drink in their promise of warmth and renewal.

And I know you'll agree with me that nowhere in Texas is spring prettier than right here in Ennis and our neighboring communities!

# Randy

Randy Bigham  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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# *Amanda Dlabaj and Dr. Kevin Williams*

**Were united in marriage on  
November 3, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at  
*First United Methodist Church of Dallas***

Amanda Dlabaj and Dr. Kevin Williams were united in marriage on November 3, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Dallas, Texas. Amanda is the daughter of Debra Wright and the late Stanley C. Dlabaj, Jr. of Ennis. Kevin is the son of Herbert and Alice Williams of Valdosta, Georgia. The bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Charles Dlabaj, in honor of her late father. Wedding Reception was held at the Belo Mansion in Dallas. Wedding photographer was Kym Skiles with F8 Studio. The couple continues to reside in Ennis.





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# A LABOR OF

— By Dianne Reaux

*Tom Standeford is a walking, talking reference guide for the construction industry. But he's also applied his talent after hours, making sets for biblical plays and musical performances at the Cowboy Church of Ennis. His work is seen at Christmas, will be admired this Easter and is always a feature of the church's vacation Bible school.*

Tom began learning his trade at the age of 14. "When I was a youngster, my neighbor owned a brick laying company," the warm-hearted builder said with a twinkle in his eye. "His son and I were close in age, so we both worked for him as helpers on the weekends and during the summer." That introduction led Tom on a journey that's spanned almost every facet of the industry. "I enjoy working and learning new things," he said. "But once I've mastered a trade, and it becomes boring, it's time to move on. I've worked every trade there is — electrical, plumbing, carpentry, air conditioning, heating — there's none of it I can't do."

Tom's background in construction has qualified him for a unique employment opportunity. "I work for a company that builds sets," he explained. "Whether it's a set that will be used in a movie, a party or a wedding, we can design and build whatever is requested. The work I do for a living inspires me."

Inspiration especially struck Tom when he attended the Cowboy Church of Ennis, where he immediately noticed the goodness of the people. He was so impressed he decided to join the small congregation, and he immediately began looking for ways to make a difference. Before long he found his niche at the Cowboy Church. "I attended vacation Bible school and noticed the kids had different activities that were designed around tents," Tom recalled. "There was nothing wrong with the tents, but I recognized an opportunity and saw how my skills could be a blessing to the congregation."

Tom decided he wanted to visually enhance the Bible lessons by creating theater-like sets and props. He puts a lot of thought into each of the concepts he develops. "I take the theme the church gives me," Tom pointed out, "and I mentally build what



I want the set to look like. My construction background taught me that without a set of plans, you're working in the dark. So the first thing I do is begin creating my sketches. I design with the wall measurements in mind. As I draw, I try to think of everything I will need, all the decorative touches that will pull the set together." Although Tom is the creative force behind his designs, he is quick to acknowledge he has help.

Barbara Rutkowski, Tom's creative consultant, is also a member of the Cowboy Church. She, her daughter Tessa, and 5-year-old granddaughter, Zana, are invaluable members of Tom's team. "I have no eye for color," he laughed. "I can build any and every part of the set, but when it comes to decorating, that's one thing I can't do. That's why Barbara is such a big help. Once I complete my sketches, Barbara reviews them and gives me her input."

Even Tessa and little Zana help. Tessa is a Sunday school teacher at the church, but when she straps on her tool belt, she is quite the handyman's helper.

The size and scope of the sets Tom builds are so massive that other church members happily lend a hand. Whether it's rounding up discarded items for their artistic debut or rolling up their sleeves to pick up a hammer or blade saw, the congregation makes sure Tom has all the help he needs to bring his creative vision to life. Wendy Hall, director of the vacation Bible school program, remembered the first set Tom worked on — Joseph in captivity in Egypt. Part of the set had been donated, but Tom enhanced it by adding Pharaoh's throne room along with a Nile

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River flowing off of the stage. Another theme was Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, an adaption where Jesus lived as a child, complete with a home as it may have looked in biblical days.

"Babylon — Daniel and the Lion's Den has been Tom's most ambitious project to date," Wendy stated, "and it was thrilling to watch the set being built." To help depict Babylon, the stage included an astronomy school, in which Tom replicated the stars, moons and planets. He brought the moonlit night indoors with fiber optic wiring, and the set included audio-enhanced sounds. He also built sets for the story of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the fiery furnace. And for Christmas, he built a home-for-the-holidays set, which featured an 18-foot fireplace, mantel, brick hearth, a large picture window overlooking a lawn covered with trees and snow, and a horse-drawn carriage. "Tom's props have brought a magical realism that helped to capture each theme and emphasize the



“I want the children to have a visually creative focal point at church they and their parents can enjoy.”

biblical messages being taught,” Wendy added.

The sets Tom builds for his church are truly a labor of love. On most days after getting home from his day job, he begins another four or five hours of work on his creations for the Cowboy Church. “It can take a couple of months to complete a set,” he said. All of his sets are works in progress because he constantly makes changes, sometimes right up until the opening curtain call. “But I do it for the kids and because I love doing it,” he admitted. “I want the children to have a visually creative focal point at church they and their parents can enjoy.”

Tom’s love and talent for working with



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But, he confessed, there's one verse that speaks to his soul:

**“It is more blessed to give than it is to receive.”**

Church members, but especially its youngest members.

Although the son of a preacher, Tom doesn't have a favorite Bible verse for himself. "All of the verses are valuable," he said, "and can be applied to each of us every day." But, he confessed, there's one verse that speaks to his soul: "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive." The popular and meaningful verse also illustrates how the expert builder demonstrates the virtues of giving and sharing. Tom's kind nature and creative talent are a blend of attributes the Cowboy Church can count as one of its own many blessings. **NOW**



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Dr. Jinks has practiced in Ennis, Texas since 1984. He graduated from The University of Texas Medical Branch as well as completing his internship and residency at Baylor University Medical Center.

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# NO PLACE Quite Like It

— By Rick Herron



*For Richard and Nina Webb, it seems fitting that the word for their beloved home state comes from the Caddo Indian word for friends. This warm and genuinely nice couple feels their friends are actually part of the family, and the home they've shared for the last four years reflects a deep appreciation for and love of family, community and each other. "It was his smile that got to me," Nina said, remembering when she met Richard in 1993.*

"I thought she was a truly amazing woman," Richard added. The couple fell in love and married in February 1995. With his two kids, Blanton and Stevie, they started a life together in the Dallas area. In 2008, they moved into the large and comfortable home that Richard's parents, Rex and Mary Lynn Webb, had built in Telico.

According to the Texas State Historical Society, Telico, a small community 10 miles east of Ennis, was settled prior to 1856 and was initially called Trinity City. It was renamed in the mid-1850s to Telico after Telico, North Carolina.

Richard and Nina own Sunbelt Brick in Ennis, located on I-45. "It's a business that's been in our family since 1979,"



## AT HOME WITH Richard & Nina Webb



Richard said. "It's served its purpose for the family, and it helped put our kids through college."

When Richard and Nina lived in Ennis, they were enthusiastic volunteers for several local organizations. "I joined the Rotary Club when we moved to Ennis, and was president of the local chapter in 2006. Later, the economy dealt a blow to the business, so I felt my focus should be at the office," Richard explained.

Nina's contributions have included doing everything she could to improve the environment and quality of care for children in Ennis Regional Medical

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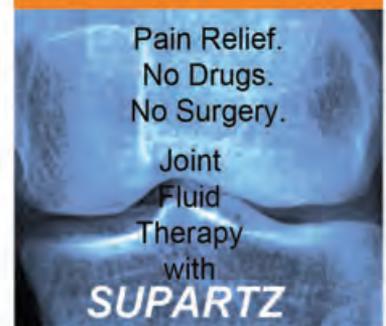
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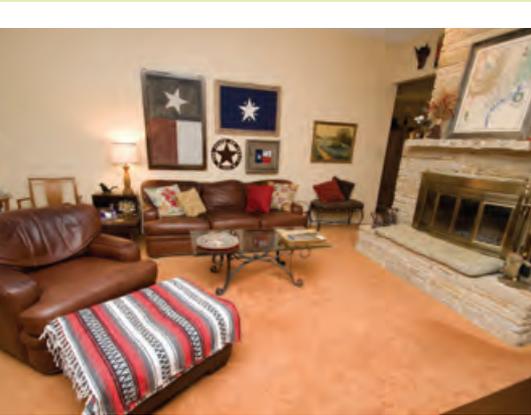
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Center's pediatric ward. "We donated toys, books and time over the five years I helped out there," she said. "I've always had a real passion for helping and teaching children, so volunteering at the hospital was a natural fit for me."



So great was the couple's generosity, both financially and with their time, that the hospital ultimately dedicated a wing of the building to them. Until moving to their Telico house, the Webbs were also active members of the Ennis Heritage Society, now renamed the Ennis

Historical Society. "We always wanted better things for our community," Nina said. "We wanted to do whatever we could to help move it into the future. When we moved here to the Telico house, it gradually took precedence."

After Richard's mom passed away, they began the process of selling the house his parents had built in 1985, but decided instead to move into it from their Ennis home. The 6,000-square-foot, ranch-style abode has four bedrooms, a couple of sitting rooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms, a formal living room, dining room, an intimate, comfortable den, a kitchen and an enormous family room — formerly the garage — that they call the big room.

Richard's dad chose white brick



from Henderson Clay Products in Henderson, Texas, for the home's exterior. Inside, the home has Saltillo tile floors throughout most of the larger rooms, and an enclosed back patio runs the width of the home. In the formal living room, floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, displaying family photos, line one

wall, and there's a rolling ladder for easy access to the higher shelves. An oak chair that came from the floor of the Texas Legislature sits in a corner of the room, and on the wall are hung three framed *molas* the couple found off the coast of Panama. *Molas*, worn as part of the traditional dress of Kuna tribal women, are hand-sewn depictions of family occupations.

A fireplace dominates the den, where

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Richard and Nina's family and friends often gather. Texas and Native American art adorn the fireplace mantel and walls of the cozy room. In the dining room, a large table, seating no fewer than 10 people, is flanked by an antique serving cabinet displaying a complete set of Lenox Presidential china.

"That china belonged to Richard's mother, Mary Lynn," Nina said. "I'm not sure how it came into her possession, but we are pretty sure it was handed down to her from her mother. The pattern is called Lenox Monroe Presidential Collection, and it's the informal pattern that Lenox made just for the White House, where it's used for informal dining. As I'm sure you can imagine, we've never eaten on it!"

In the family room, five cases of handsome, built-in, glass-covered shelves line the walls on one side of the massive room. "Each case represents a person in our family and contains keepsakes associated with that person," Nina said. "We use this room for special occasions, and it's where all the kids gather or the adults come to play cards."

The master bedroom is where Nina's pride and joy resides — a guitar autographed by Bruce Springsteen. Another bedroom, called the "antique room," contains period furniture which belonged to Richard's great-grandparents. Down the hall is another bedroom complete with its own sitting room.

A collection of dozens of serving plates with images of turkeys, as well as turkey figurines decorate a shelf high on the back wall of the kitchen, dining room and hallway. A panoramic photograph taken of the home and surrounding 50 acres, which hangs in the hallway, brings to mind images of the fictional Southfork



Ranch, made famous by the television show *Dallas*.

In the spring of 2009, Richard branched out as a farmer. He bought a few chickens, followed by “three pregnant cows that had calves.” He bought two more pairs, and today he owns 20 cows that happily roam the acreage surrounding the home. “My dream is to eventually have 100 head of cattle,” Richard said. “We put in a large garden and have pigs for bacon and chops with the goal of being as self-sufficient as possible.” In addition to the estate’s 50 acres, Nina and Richard own 500 acres of land near Fairfield, which Richard will use for his growing menagerie of animals.

From the moment visitors step into the Webbs’ home, it’s apparent Richard and Nina love Texas, and they love to share their large and comfortable home with others. Richard’s kids often come for extended visits, and the couple hosts large gatherings of family and friends many times a year.

“We are all about family, in every sense of the word,” Nina said. “We consider our friends as family. All are welcome, always.” **NOW**

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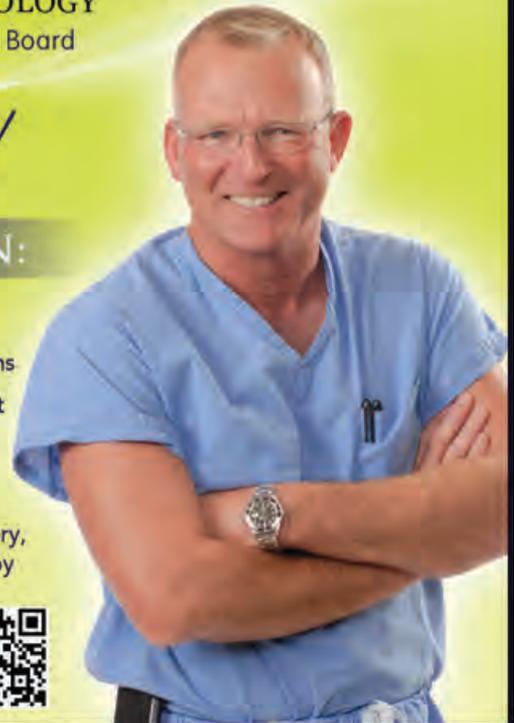
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— By Randy Bigbam



*An antiques connoisseur who moved to Ennis five years ago may miss old haunts back in North Carolina, but he's found the Texas market for period furniture and fine art as exciting as anywhere else in the country. "Relocating is always an adjustment, but I'm very happy here now, and the people of Ennis are wonderful," said David Gregory, the Yale-educated historian and appraiser who is an avid collector himself. When he exchanged his East Coast roots for life in the Lone Star State in 2008, it wasn't long before David realized what a promising collectors' market exists locally. "It's amazing what you can find in this area of Texas," he said. "The focus on history here is great, so there are some extraordinary antiques and collectibles available."*

From Civil War letters to Pony Express memorabilia to Indian Treaty documents, the range of valuable items that turn up at North Texas auctions, estate sales and antiques shops has intrigued David. Although as a professional

appraiser his specialty is paintings and furniture, he personally collects a wide assortment of pieces. Some recent Ellis County finds include a large wooden coffee bin from the early 1900s. The bin's original, painted Jersey brand label is still

*“You will be surprised what you can find, if you take the time to study and learn about the antiques you are interested in.”*

brightly visible. “This coffee stand would have been used in an old country store,” David explained, “probably right in this area.” In a local venue, he also found a big silver jug of the same vintage, all the more fascinating for the history associated with it. The pot’s 98-year-old owner was consulted, and he recalled it



had been used in the cotton fields near Waxahachie to take water to laborers.

Such anecdotal details fascinate David in his work as an appraiser and a collector. But he insists historical documentation is essential for identifying objects and evaluating their worth. “In my business, scholarship is the key,” he

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pointed out. "You really have to study history." And he has.

A graduate of Yale University, with a master's degree in art history, David apprenticed in book binding at Duke University Library and obtained his



appraiser certification from Long Island University. He has since applied his expertise to consulting for numerous museums, such as the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen, and for top international auction firms like Sotheby's and Christie's. As an appraiser, David received his most prestigious commission from Henry Ford's winter estate, Richmond Hills, near Savannah, owned at that time by the Saudi Arabian royal family. "That was an interesting job," he modestly admitted. "I'm proud of it, because it was there that I identified one of the most valuable pieces I've seen in my career. It was a Ming Dynasty jade scepter, which was so rare that many curators were surprised it existed."

In addition to his appraisal service, David was known in his native North Carolina for his work in exhibition design for museums, galleries and universities. He mounted a display at Salem College for that school's bicentennial, and his photographic exhibition celebrating the early women's rights movement at

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Wake Forest University has since been acquired by the North Carolina Council for Women. He also became well-known throughout his home state for a series of appraisal fairs based on *Antiques Roadshow*, the long-running television program that airs on PBS.

Ellis County residents will remember David best for a similar appraisal event he hosted here a few years ago, sponsored by the Ennis Arts Commission. That unique three-hour opportunity for locals to have their attic-found treasures evaluated took place at the Ennis Public Library. The fair attracted hundreds of heirloom-toting visitors and had to be extended to the following weekend to accommodate public interest. David enjoyed the experience of assessing Ennisites' antiques and was astonished at the variety and rarity of some of the pieces brought in. "I remember there was an ancient tribal death mask that someone had," he recounted. "And someone else had a 15th century leather scroll."

Since moving to the Bluebonnet City, David has amassed his own array of fantastic finds. Some have been purchased through the Ennis Auction House, where he occasionally serves as a consultant. Others he has picked



up at antiques shops, thrift stores, flea markets and rummage sales. "In almost all cases, what I buy comes from this area," he said, "whether here in town, in Waxahachie or other places not far away?"



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One of the most unusual and valuable items he acquired in the Ennis vicinity is a 1780s Mexican rug used for a funeral bier. "I contacted some textile experts at the University of New Mexico," David shared. "They were very interested in it, and said they'd never seen anything like it." Another incredible artifact he discovered locally is a small, early 18th century French sculpture of two classical figures embracing before Cupid who has laid down his bow. This little terra-cotta statue bears the hand-inscribed seal of a sculptor employed by King Louis XIV to produce *objets d'art* for the Palace of Versailles. "The item is virtually priceless," David enthused. "But I bought it for \$27.50!"

Finding such unbelievable specimens of art might not occur every day for the antique hound, but David is full of encouragement for fellow collectors. "You will be surprised what you can find, if you take the time to study and learn about the antiques you are interested in," he said. "And you can do it on a budget and not have to travel long distances."

David practices what he preaches. He doesn't spend more than \$400 a month on items he buys and doesn't drive over 30 miles to shop. Despite these self-imposed parameters, he has added significantly over the past few years to his already impressive collection of paintings, furniture and various decorative art pieces. He continues to collect using these rules of thumb along with others and advises fellow collectors to consider the plan.

Although his time is taken up by obligations to his consulting service, he manages to get away on weekends to comb estate sales and antique malls, even swap meets, looking for the next great deal. His most recent smart buy is a group of magnificent chairs. "They are a complete set of six Hitchcock side chairs, made in Connecticut, circa 1840, and are in splendid condition," David said. "One of the chairs has a chalk signature and the number 6 under the seat, a rare signed and numbered original." The chairs, David estimates, are worth \$2,800. He paid \$300.

David looks forward to many more weekend forays in and around Ennis: "This town is a treasure chest of rare antiques. Seek, and you will find!" **NOW**



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Doug Harman, a leader in the organization promoting the Texas Lakes Trail, often gives tours inside the Fort Worth Public Library. Wearing a Stetson and looking just like a cowboy in the stories he tells, Doug recently guided a group of more than 1,400 school children through an exhibit called "Comanche Nation: The Story of Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker."

Costumed in an authentic Comanche beaded vest, Doug's moccasin-clad feet moved soundlessly across the library's

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marbled floor. His passion for history is evident, ensconced in the cases and frames comprising the "Quanah Parker" exhibit. A majority of the artifacts were lent from his personal collection: war chief headdresses, peace pipes, spears and tomahawks, drums, ceremonial gowns, jewels and feathers. Doug spent his life collecting tangible pieces of the past, the Quanah Parker story being one of many interests among his collection.

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So, why have all this cool stuff if no one can see it? That question motivated Doug to take a leadership role in the Texas Lakes Trail, an organization that has given him and countless others among the nonprofit's membership the chance to bring history alive for others in fun and memorable ways.

The Texas Lakes Trail is one of the 10 Heritage Trails established by the Texas Department of Transportation in the 1960s. The Texas Heritage Trails Program divides Texas' 254 counties into 10 regions that collectively showcase "real places telling real stories" to millions of heritage, cultural and recreational travelers visiting Texas. Visitors step into landscapes unchanged by the march of time, stand in century-old, majestic county courthouses and stroll around vibrant town squares and early-era residential districts. For example, 86 Main Street communities



in Texas have preserved their original architecture and restored their downtowns to pulsing city centers once again. Within the trail regions are 700 historical museums, more than 15,000 historical markers, monuments and cemeteries, plus hundreds of designated historic landmarks. Each one tells part of the grand Texas story people are hungry to experience, whether they travel from across the sea or right next door.

The 31 counties within its regional borders realized long ago the name, Lakes Trail, is a bit misleading, because lakes are only a small part of the North Texas story. But this makes the Lake Trails unique among the Heritage Trails.



Doug Harman pioneered the concept of themes, like the “Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker” exhibit. Others have since followed, the region now offering historical and cultural experiences tailored to specific interests.

The Horse Country Tours theme evolved from the wealth of world-renowned horseflesh, equine trainers and breeders who settled on the northern and western areas of the Lakes Trail region’s sandy loam soil foundation. Thousands of lush, sprawling acres and billion-dollar empires gave this pocket of Texas the name Horse Country USA, and people from all over the world have visited to saddle up, see a horse or meet a real-deal cowboy. Others come to shop,



hoping to take a prize stallion or mare back to their own ranch. Horse Country is unlike any other equine concentration in America, and it always amazes.

The Butterfield Overland Trail was the first intercontinental mail route in America, a stagecoach service that traversed the country from St. Louis, Missouri, or Memphis, Tennessee, to San Francisco, California, in a swift 21 days — an astounding speed for

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1857. Crossing Texas from Sherman to El Paso, this trail brings the romance of stagecoach travel into stark reality, trekking the unforgiving geography between water stops and Cavalry forts



for safety and survival in one of the last wild frontiers. Battlegrounds, forts, stagecoaches, cemeteries and museums narrate this awesome road trip, the 1850s version of historic Route 66. Many people explore it in segments though, especially when time is a constraint.

The Chisholm, Shawnee, Great Western and Goodnight Loving Trails have fans of the Old West following these famous routes over which cowboys and vaqueros drove millions of cattle across Texas to points north before the railroad's debut. Rodeos, re-enactments, stockyards, famous Texas ranches, museums and landmarks keep the historic trails alive across unspoiled rural Texas and through the heart of what are modern metropolises today. With their imaginations ignited, cultural adventurers can "see" how the cowboys' and cattle trails' stories unfolded and, in the process, find surprising places and faces in the mix.

"The Texas Lakes Trail is the sum of all these other trails," Doug said. "Architecture, festivals, music, food, art, dinosaurs, gardens and courthouses — these are the themes we turn into experiential trails are as infinitely varied as Texans and the people who visit us here." **NOW**

*By Kim Phillips, Vice President Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau. Photos used with permission. Interested in history and travel? Contact Jill Campbell at the Texas Lakes Trail headquarters in Granbury at (817) 573-1114 or by e-mail at [jill@texaslakestrail.net](mailto:jill@texaslakestrail.net).*

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# *Making Memories by the Mile*

*Helping adventure happen is the stock-in-trade of Traylor Motor Homes.*

— By Randy Bigbam

Even after 35 years in the business of renting, selling and servicing RVs, Charmaine Traylor hasn't tired of hearing customers tell of their adventures on the road. As co-owner, with her husband Jerry, of Traylor Motor Homes, Inc., Charmaine listens intently to accounts of cross-country sightseeing trips, camping in state parks, family reunions and other fun on-the-road travels. "It's very fulfilling to hear of people's RV experiences," Charmaine said in her soft, cultured voice. "We loved traveling in our own motor home, so we know how exciting it is."

What was once a hobby has become a prosperous business for the couple whose first trip in a Winnebago with relatives

in 1977 left them determined to look into purchasing a motor home of their own. "We found a used unit and restored it," Charmaine remembered. "We redid everything, the plumbing, the upholstery. It's important to keep up maintenance on these vehicles. They're a house on wheels and have to be treated that way." Jerry and Charmaine didn't know it at the time, but they had taken the first step in the financial direction that would change their lives.

For the time being, they enjoyed their excursions, often bringing their little daughter, Jeriva, along. "Every weekend was a mini-vacation," Charmaine recalled. "Our favorite place to go was Turner Falls, Oklahoma. It's beautiful there —

mountains, waterfalls and caves.” The Traylor soon bought a newer RV, but an increased workload in their shared profession of outside sales limited their trips to scattered weekends and holidays.

Their decision to rent their RV in October 1978 had them in business for themselves, a trade that grew by leaps and bounds once they started buying, renovating and renting other used motor homes. In time, fellow RV owners hired the couple to act as leasing agents for their units. Profits from this sideline led to the purchase of a fleet of brand new motor homes, and a full-time vocation as RV dealers was born. “God has a plan for everybody,” Charmaine reflected. “And his plan for us was to buy that first motor home to get the experience for the career we would have one day.”

That career has blossomed from a home office to their first store in Cedar Hill in 1983 to their new location in Palmer, opened in 2008. Assisted by Jeriva, who helps maintain the company’s Web site, and a courteous, attentive staff, the Traylor oversee a large and thriving business. Both Jerry and Charmaine are entrepreneurial in character. And Charmaine has business acumen in her veins: her grandmother, Chloe Baker, ran the first Black sewing school in South Dallas.

Specializing in the Pleasure Way Class B Motor Home, the Traylor also deal in sales, rentals and care for classes A and C RVs, fifth wheels and travel trailers. In addition, the store stocks a full product line for RVs, from propane tanks to refrigerators to hot water heaters. Along with their convenient location along Interstate Highway 45, Traylor Motor Homes has a high-profile presence at the RV trade shows at Dallas Market Hall, held each spring and fall.

The Traylor are proud of their sustained success and of their new home base in Palmer. “We get a lot of traffic from people who visit the lakes,” Charmaine pointed out. “And the people of Palmer and Ellis County have been very welcoming. We’re here to stay!” **NOW**

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Members of the Waxabachie and Red Oak Fire Departments team up to pay their respects to Ellis County's fallen war hero, Chris Kyle, as he and his family make their way to his final resting place in Austin.



EHS students and parents discuss highlights of a recent Rachel's Challenge event.



Hundreds turned out for a family event hosted by Tabernacle Baptist Church.



Susan St. Clair, Debbie De La Cruz, Penny Santos Henderson and Rachel Brock ham it up at a Super Bowl party.



Students perform at a Crockett Early Childhood PTO Program.



Joe and Mary Zambrano celebrate their dual retirement at Friendship Baptist Church.



Jim Templin poses with local children following a program he gave for the Lights of Ennis Awards, hosted by Harriett Adams.



Recipients of Travis Elementary's Travis Cub Awards, smile for the camera.

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# Investing is a Marathon — Not a Sprint

Investors may sometimes get frustrated with their investments, because those investments don't seem to produce quick results. Perhaps that's understandable in our fast-paced society, in which we've grown accustomed to instant gratification. But investing is, by nature, a long-term activity. If you look at it in terms of an athletic event, it's not a sprint, in which you must pull out all the stops to quickly get where you're going. Instead, it's more like the 26.2-mile race known as a marathon. And as an investor, you can learn a few things from marathoners, such as:

- *Preparation* — No one gets up one day and is ready to run a marathon. Marathon runners train for months, and even years. As an investor, you, too, need to prepare yourself for the long run. How? By learning as much as you can about different asset classes, types of risk and all the other factors associated with investing.

- *Patience* — Marathoners know they have a long haul in front of them, so they typically create a game plan — one that takes into account such factors as their physical condition, the weather on race day and the characteristics of the course, such as whether it's hilly or flat. Investors should also create a strategy — one that encompasses their goals and ways of working toward them — and stick to this strategy.

- *Perseverance* — Marathoners may deal with injuries, dehydration and other setbacks, either while training or during the actual race. But as long as they're able to keep going, they do so. As an investor, you too will face obstacles, such as market downturns. But as long as you continue investing and don't head to the sidelines, you have a good chance of making progress toward your goals.

- *Vision* — Marathoners study the course they're on, so they know what's ahead — and where they're going. As an investor, you also need a vision of what lies in front of you — the number of years until your retirement, the type of retirement lifestyle you anticipate, what sort of legacy you plan to leave, and so on. Your vision will help drive your investment decisions.

- *Proper coaching* — Not all marathoners have individual coaches, but many have at least gone to clinics or joined running clubs, so they could learn more about the various aspects of this grueling event. As an investor, you can certainly benefit from guidance or "coaching" in the form of a financial professional — someone who knows your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance, and who has the experience to make recommendations that are appropriate for your situation.

Every marathoner is familiar with the difficulties of the challenge and the satisfaction of finishing the race. As an investor, you also will be tested many times. Furthermore, you'll never really cross the "finish line," because you'll always have goals toward which you'll be working. Yet, by emulating the traits of successful marathoners, you can continue working toward your objectives — and perhaps you'll avoid the blisters, too. **NOW**

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

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## Partners in Health Care

Albert Einstein, a famous scientist, is credited for saying, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Individuals and companies providing health care services are starting to do things differently by partnering together to communicate about how patients can be better served and other sensible ways of improving the quality of patient care. One important way is paying more attention to what patients are saying about the health care they are receiving, as well as improving communication between services a patient receives, so we aren’t just busy with the business of health care, but are making a positive impact on the health of those we serve.

Health care is a complex set of activities we participate in to maintain our health, prevent disease and get treatment when we do become ill. Everything from getting our annual flu shot to receiving treatment for a life-threatening accident or disease is part of the health care cycle. Using the health care system can be a difficult and frustrating task. A trip to the physician’s office may mean visiting several places, such as: a diagnostic center, laboratory and pharmacy in order to complete one simple checkup. A hospital visit will mean multiple bills from multiple care givers. Other frustrations may include not having enough information about the illness, medications prescribed or follow-up with other physicians.

Health care reform is attempting to direct health care consistency, while maintaining or improving the quality of services that are provided—for instance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ “pay for performance” program

provides quality targets that must be met to avoid a reduction in the payment for these services as a result of missing these targets. One of these important targets is surveying the satisfaction of patients receiving health care services, giving them a voice to say what works and what doesn’t work well in health care. Taking the time to complete patient satisfaction surveys is one way patients can join this partnership for better care.

Another way for patients to partner with the pay for performance quality improvement movement is by becoming well-informed and following discharge instructions for medications and follow-up, so readmissions to the hospital are prevented. Good communication about these medications and follow-up arrangements are ways the health care system helps the patient in this partnership.

As local health care providers become partners in helping patients navigate the complex system of health care, it is important for consumers to stay informed through learning about their own personal health, medications and insurance, as well as communicating with each health care service on what is working and what is not working. We need to become partners, do things differently and improve our coordination in order to make a positive difference that is good for everyone. **NOW**

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### March 1 and 3

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by Joseph Robinette: **Friday**, 7:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:30 p.m., San Jacinto Auditorium, 501 N. Gaines St. An Ennis Public Theatre K.I.D.S. production, presented in cooperation with the Ennis Independent School District. Based on the book by C.S. Lewis, the play records the adventures of four children in the magical land of Narnia. For tickets and information call (972) 878-PLAY (7529).

### March 2

Rowdy Run 5K: check in 7:00 -7:30 a.m., start time 8:00 a.m., Start/ Finish at Kimmel Park, 801 W. Ave. F and N. 2nd St. Parking, Midlothian. This is a residential area so please take care not to block driveways. For more information, go to [www.tinyurl.com/RowdyRun](http://www.tinyurl.com/RowdyRun).

### March 9

Ennis Opry & Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Ennis VFW Post 7106, 3100 N. I-45. The event features the Gatlin Band, playing classic country, bluegrass, polka and gospel. Admission \$5 for ages 16 and up. Proceeds benefit the VFW. Doors open at 6:30. Concessions available. For more information call (972) 846-2014 or (972) 846-2211.

### March 16

Ellis County Master Gardner Lawn and Garden Expo: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, Waxahachie. Adults \$5, children under 12 are free. Contact Ginger Cole at (972) 937-2440 or visit [www.ECMGA.com](http://www.ECMGA.com) for more information.

### March 19

Veterans Networking Group meeting: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Hwy 287 Bypass and 77, Waxahachie. Call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 for more information.

### March 20

March For Meals: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Individuals and businesses are invited to sponsor a senior, a community or even all of the non-profit's clients for an entire day. Contact Whitney Patterson, (817) 558-2840 or visit [www.servingthechildrenofyesterday.org](http://www.servingthechildrenofyesterday.org).

### March 23

James Bowie Elementary Spaghetti Supper: 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., James Bowie Elementary School, 501 Jeter Dr. For more information call (972) 872-7234.

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

### March 29

11th Annual Garrett Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry: 5:00-8:00 p.m., KC Hall. Event includes live and silent auctions. Adult admission is \$10. Children under 12 are \$7.

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



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## In The Kitchen With Suzanne Wilson

— By Randy Bigham

For Suzanne Wilson, cooking is a way to connect with family. It's also a way to celebrate special memories of her grandparents, the late J.P. and Odress Wilson, in whose former home she now lives. "I remember the Sunday get-togethers," Suzanne reflected. "And the delightful smells of food made from scratch by Mama Wilson, as we called my grandmother."

An emergency room admitting clerk at Ennis Regional Medical Center, Suzanne keeps a hectic schedule. But she's never too busy or too tired to cook for special occasions or for someone who has been ill or suffered a loss.

Baking is what Suzanne enjoys most: "I make all Mama Wilson's favorite recipes, and it's such a blessing to be here in her old kitchen!" **NOW**

### Oatmeal Pie

**2/3 cup sugar**  
**2/3 cup melted butter**  
**2/3 cup Karo syrup**  
**2 eggs**  
**2/3 cup oatmeal**  
**2/3 cup coconut**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**Dash of salt**  
**Unbaked pie shell**

**1.** Mix first 8 ingredients together. Pour into unbaked pie shell; cook at 350 F until golden brown.

### Four Layer Pie

*First layer:*

**1 stick oleo**  
**1 cup flour**  
**1/2 cup pecans**

*Second layer:*

**1 8-oz. cream cheese**  
**1 cup powdered sugar**  
**1 cup Cool Whip**  
**Coconut (to taste)**

*Third layer:*

**3 cups milk**  
**1 large instant pudding**

*Fourth layer:*

**4 cups Cool Whip**  
**Coconut (to taste)**  
**1 8-oz. pkg. pecans**

**1.** Mix all first layer ingredients; spread over bottom of 9x12-inch pan. Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes. Cool.

**2.** Mix first 3 second layer ingredients; spread over first layer. Sprinkle with coconut.

**3.** Mix third layer ingredients until thick.

Spread over second layer.

**4.** For fourth layer: spread Cool Whip over top; sprinkle with coconut and pecans.

Refrigerate.

### Chocolate Chip Pound Cake

**1 pkg. yellow cake mix**  
**1 small instant chocolate pudding mix**  
**4 eggs**  
**1 8-oz. pkg. chocolate chips**  
**1 8-oz. carton sour cream**  
**3/4 cup oil**  
**3/4 cup water**

**1.** Mix all ingredients; pour in greased bunt pan. Cook for 55 minutes at 350 F.

### Italian Cream Cake

**2 cups sugar**  
**1/2 cup Crisco**  
**1 stick margarine**  
**5 eggs (separated)**  
**1 tsp. soda**  
**1 cup buttermilk**  
**2 cups flour**  
**2 cups coconut**  
**1 cup pecans, chopped**

**1.** Cream sugar, Crisco and margarine.

**2.** Add egg yolks one at a time. Add soda to milk; add to creamed mixture, alternately with flour.

**3.** Beat egg whites until stiff; fold egg whites, coconut and pecans into cake mixture.

**4.** Pour into 3 large round cake pans; bake at 325 F for 30 minutes.

**5.** Frost with icing (below).

### Icing

**1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese**  
**1 stick margarine**  
**1 box powdered sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**

**1.** Mix cream cheese and margarine. Add sugar and vanilla.

### Sweetheart Salad

**1 pkg. lemon Jell-O**  
**1 pkg. strawberry Jell-O**  
**1 1/2 cups hot water**  
**8 oz. cream cheese**  
**1 can crushed pineapple**  
**Large Cool Whip**

**1.** Dissolve Jell-O with water. Add cream cheese; beat until smooth. Let chill.

**2.** After chilled, mix in pineapple and Cool Whip. Chill until firm.

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Left: Dr. Larry Jinks, Medspa Physician and Carolyn Ridenour, Merz Sales Representative. Right: one of the many doorprizes won at the event.



Left to right: Carol Anderson, Judy Baty, Christina Wihoite, Medspa Manager/Esthetician and Facial Therapist, and Carol Blaha.



Left: Theresa Darst, Natalie Jakubik, and Lisa Jakubik. Right: Janet Hill, demonstrates her company's Revisions product line to Kay Dela Garza.



Left: Sandra Wakefield, JoAnn Stokes, and Kay Banick. Right: Biopelle Representative Jeff Starling shows products to Janet Rudolph and Mickey Norwood.



Left: Dr. Jinks informs the crowd about the new laser services. Middle: Kristi Leal, ECMA Office Administrator and Laser Therapist, and Marisol Hernandez. Right: Brittani Walker and Stacey Bobalek, Laser Therapist



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