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## Editor's Note

*Jump into June!*

We are born with five senses — sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. After a recent visit to my ophthalmologist, I realized that I've taken my five senses for granted. I thought the blurry vision and daily headaches were from spending so much time in front of the computer. That is part of it, but age, normal use and wear and tear have a lot to do with the new pair of glasses I'm currently sporting. I

can see you now, and you look wonderful!

I've taken notice of the other four senses as I walk through each day. I make a conscious effort to listen to the birds as they chirp a new song. I savor the flavors as I eat slower. Stopping to smell the flowers brings pleasure to my nostrils. I will never take the sense of touch for granted again. It would be heartbreaking to go through the rest of my life not feeling the loving sensations as my hand is held or my neck is hugged.

Be sensible as you stop to smell the roses!

*Sandra*

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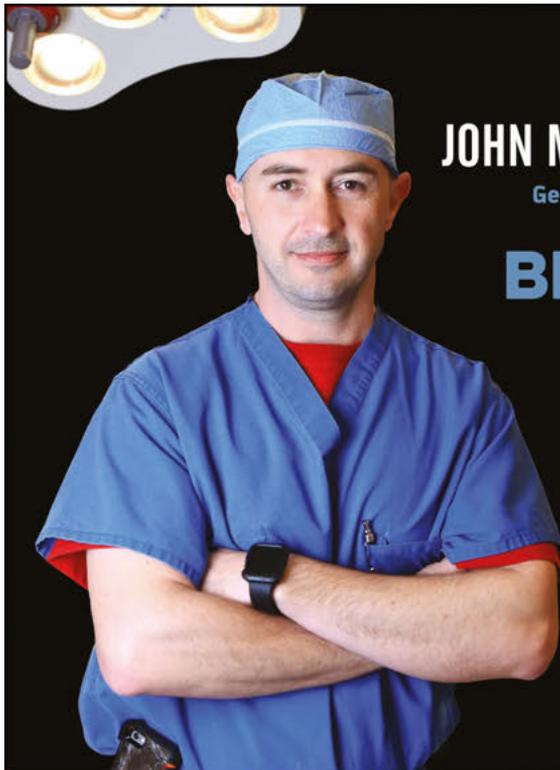


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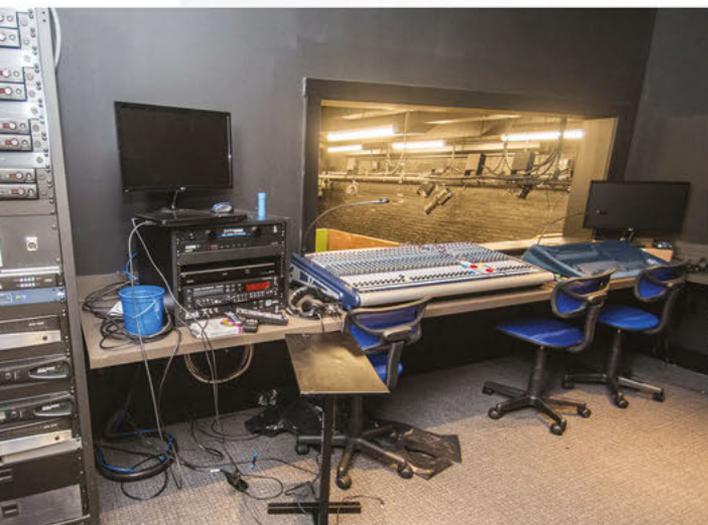
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*The stage was set. An excited opening night crowd moved from the elegant lobby to their seats, as the production's cast and crew nervously made final preparations for the Ennis Public Theatre's first performances in its new home in downtown Ennis. A hush fell over the audience as the lights came up on 100 Years of Broadway, the first of this season's seven wonderful offerings. "Every night during the two-week run was a memorable night, since it was an opening night for each audience," Betty Glaspy, founding director of the theater, recalled. "It was a really exciting moment when everything came alive."*

Having a community theater in Ennis was a dream that Betty and other interested citizens realized when nonprofit status was gained. However, the fledgling community theater located in a strip center's old converted garage, never could be as creative as it wanted to be with sets, lighting and sound. Betty and the nonprofit's board members were determined to "grow" the theater. "People really became involved when the theater became a nonprofit," Betty explained.

EPT's board of directors has been instrumental in the theater's purchase and remodeling of what was once home to Ennis State Bank on N. Dallas Street. Joining Betty on the board are Angie Juenemann, president; Jim Cooper, secretary; Sandy Anderson, treasurer; Michelle Beard; J'Layna Betik; Carol Blaha; Jo Ann Cody; Cathy Criner; Nancy Dodson; Brenda Haupt; Tom McAfee; Hanna McCleary; Steve Medina; Bettye Moore; Lynn Moore; Glenda Quinn; and Jennifer Wartsbaugh. "This is a very active, working board," Betty said.

Following Ennis' 2013 tornado that ripped apart several downtown businesses and closed streets in the historic business district, private investors partnered

# WHERE M



# MAGIC HAPPENS

— By Virginia Riddle

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with the Ennis Economic Development Corporation and, most recently, the Ennis Main Street Project, to bring life back to Ennis' downtown. The timing was right for the theater to relocate. "People love Ennis, so when they were asked, people gave willingly," Angie, who also serves as Ennis' mayor, said.

"People even gave without being asked," Betty added.

For a year, the board worked with Greg Ibeaz, a Fort Worth architect, to achieve the results audiences, cast, crew members and employees now enjoy. "We relied on Greg, since he had previously designed theaters. The whole building had to be gutted," Betty remembered. "Remodeling is a true surprise." Over one year of continuous rehab work followed before the building was ready for its opening night in February of this year.

The results are spectacular. The box office is conveniently located just inside the retro front doors and opens to an elegant lobby complete with a modern concession stand and kitchen. Framed posters of the 2017 season's productions line the original brick walls and are lit by restored chandeliers. Modern stainless steel tables are both functional and complement the red brick and gray and white wall colors. The famous EPT cookie, along with other treats and drinks, are available.

A soaring ceiling and walls of black create a staging opportunity never possible in the previous location. The theater seats 87 in comfortable tiered seating. "We wanted to keep an intimate, close relationship between the audience and cast," Betty explained. The new sound and lighting boards are state-of-the-art and allow the creativity to flow. Sound and lighting crew members have a bird's eye view of the production from their second story perch that overlooks



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the stage. The sound and light booth came at great expense, but the results are worth it. "I'm thrilled with the mics and this whole system," Betty said. During intermissions, audience members can take advantage of the newly installed restroom facilities.

Behind the scenes, on the first story, the expansive prop room allows for larger sets to be constructed. The original bank vault still stands in this room. Dressing rooms and cast and crew restrooms complete the first story. "We installed flat-screen televisions in the lobby and the dressing rooms," Betty said. "Theater goers won't miss any of the production, and the cast and crew don't miss their cues."

A second story allows for access to the sound and light booth, storage, a restroom complete with a shower and classroom space for the K.I.D.S. children's program. "We're lucky to have Jamey Pritchett as our K.I.D.S. director," Betty stated. Jamey teaches at Mildred ISD, directs Mildred Junior High's One-Act play and coaches Mildred High School's UIL speech and debate teams. "Seeing the children perform, some of whom have special needs, is phenomenal," Betty said.

Other staff members include Shelley Aubrey, artistic director, and Eliz Lofreddo, managing director. Shelley earned a degree in theater from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M University) and has been involved in theater for over 40 years as cast and director. Her list of productions is extensive. Eliz began as a volunteer at EPT and joined the staff four years ago. She's the smiling face who handles the day-to-day operations.



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Community theater, however, couldn't be representative of its community without the many volunteers. "We have about 50 behind-the-scenes volunteers," Betty explained. They include people who sew costumes and create the sets, mothers who drive children to rehearsals, the actors and board members and their spouses.

"We're good at reeling in our spouses when they are needed," Angie quipped.

Not only has the show season opening been celebrated, but the theater hosted its appreciation gala in February for those who donated to the capital campaign. "We had valet parking, the red carpet, beautiful floral arrangements, strawberries and a champagne dinner and gave tours of the building," Betty said. EPT's grand opening was celebrated on April 1 with tours of the building, in conjunction with the opening of Farmers Market in Ennis.

Future plans include not only the continued offering of seven plays and musicals each year but also hosting movie nights, other live guest performances and open mic nights. "There's a central synergy of lights and activities in downtown Ennis now. People can go to several restaurants before an EPT production and then walk somewhere for dessert afterwards," Betty said. "We're a part of the Margaret Mitchell Arts District and the Minnie McDowell Park and would love to see more galleries come to downtown." Betty owns Interior Ideas and volunteers with the Ennis EDC and Main Street Project.

Memberships and tickets for upcoming EPT productions are available online. "We are passionate about this theater and want to see it continue to grow as we learn how to include the community more," Betty said. "It works best to let everyone's talents shine." **NOW**

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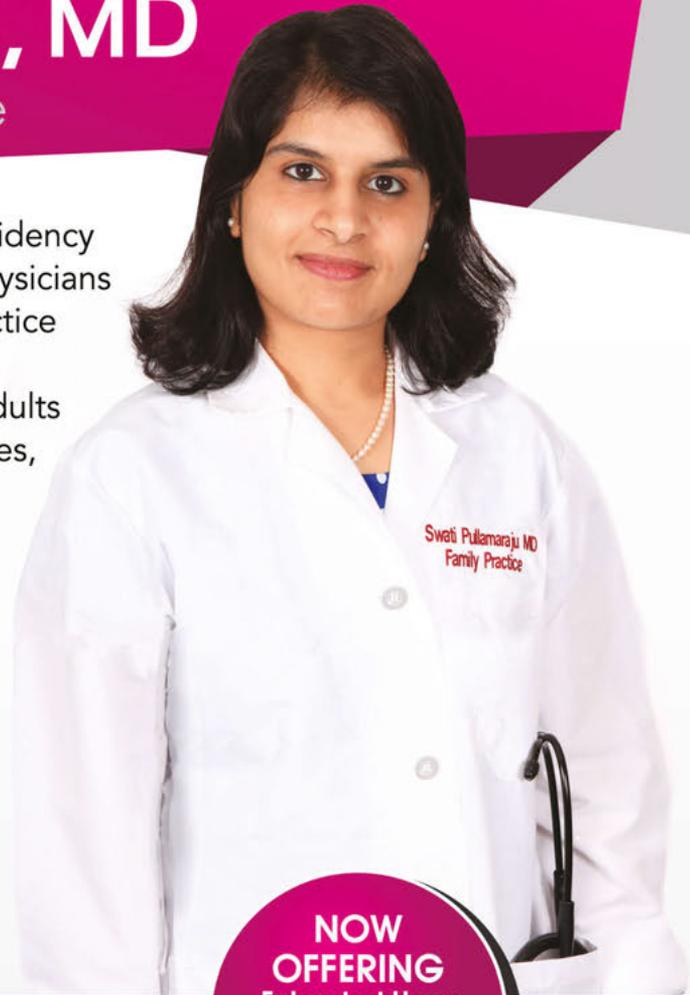


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# Swati Pullamaraju, MD

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Dr. Swati Pullamaraju ("Dr. Swati") completed her residency at East Tennessee State University with the Family Physicians of Kingsport, KY. She is Board-certified in Family Practice and cares for patients of all ages, from newborn to geriatrics. She particularly enjoys treating children, adults with chronic conditions (High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, COPD, etc.), women's health, and routine physicals. Dr. Swati has been practicing Family Medicine for over 6 years. We welcome her as our newest addition to Ennis Doctors Center!



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# A “Mayberry”

— By Virginia Riddle

# Neighborhood

At Home With Nathan and Eva Richardson

*Kids of all ages shooting hoops together on the side streets; a neighbor walking home from work, still in his smart uniform denoting a nearby grocery store; folks sitting on their front porch; and Annie, a beautiful Husky and escape artist, standing vigilant guard over her neighborhood and its kids — that’s exactly the kind of street where Ennis natives Nathan and Eva Richardson wanted to live. “I love my neighborhood and all these kids,” Nathan said. “The teenagers take care of my kids and play basketball over here.”*



“Kid Central Station” describes the atmosphere that surrounds this older area of Ennis, with Nathan and Eva adding three kids of their own to the mix. Miranda, the oldest at age 11, loves her cell phone and is in gymnastics, competitive cheer and softball. She just completed fifth grade at Dorie Miller Intermediate School. Their son, Ethan, is 7 years old and attends Stephen F. Austin Elementary School. He shares Nathan’s passion for baseball, basketball and the San Francisco 49ers professional football team. “My mother’s a Dallas Cowboys fan, and my brother likes the Green Bay Packers. My dad is a Bears fan, and



my brother-in-law is a Patriots fan. So football season in my family is very competitive,” Nathan explained. “The 49ers were the first love of my life, but I have to watch the games by myself.”

“That’s because he gets so excited and yells so loud,” Eva added. “When I sit with him, I have to be quiet. Watching football is about the only time Nathan is sitting.”

At 2 years of age, daughter, Mila, enjoys going to school with Eva who works at two Ennis mothers’ day out programs two days a week each at First United Methodist Church of Ennis and Tabernacle Baptist Church. “I’m with kids all day and then come home to my

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kids and all their friends. They all have so much energy, and I love it,” Eva said.

Rounding out the busy family’s home life is Willie Wayne, the cockatiel. “He doesn’t say anything, but he does whistle,” Eva said. “Willie will hop up on Annie’s back, and they’ll walk around together.” Willie became part of the family two years ago, and Annie was adopted recently into the family. Both

family pets enjoy their time spent in this active household.

“We’re big on the name Wayne as a second name in this family,” Nathan said of Willie’s middle name. “I like that tradition.”

Nathan Wayne is a production planner with U.S. Polycy, and his awards of excellence are proudly displayed in his home office, along with his family photos and a *I’m booked on Daddy* sentiment. “I’ve



been in asphalt since I graduated from high school,” Nathan said.

It was while students at Ennis High School that the couple met at a friend’s gathering. “Family is a big thing for us, and our families are big with nearly everyone living here in Ennis,” Nathan said.

Eva agreed, “We don’t have any problem ever getting a babysitter.” The couple celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary last January with a trip to San Francisco, California.

While the family has enjoyed trips to Disney World, SeaWorld and Great Wolf Lodge, much of Nathan and Eva’s spare time is devoted to remodeling their cottage on the corner. In their home



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for seven years now, they have made many changes. “We only looked at five houses, and when Nathan walked into this one, he just knew it was the one,” Eva recalled.

“I liked the corner yard, all the room for kids and the patio,” Nathan explained. The couple has, with occasional help from friends and family, screened-in the patio, put in new hardwood floors, put up exterior shutters, remodeled the bathrooms and utility room and painted the exterior and interior of the home. Nathan built Annie’s backyard doghouse, which will soon be joined by a swimming pool with a deck this summer. An old-fashioned tire swing is hung near a handy shed. The screened-in porch holds many of the kids’ “big” toys, provides comfortable seating and is cooled by ceiling fans, so the family will enjoy summertime at home this year.

The gray cottage with white trim and black shutters is sheltered under mature trees with shrubs and roses encircling it. Near the front door is a cross and sitting area. “Nathan is OCD about a yard,” Eva stated.

The living room’s comfortable seating, with its leather coffee table, accommodates the family and all guests easily. A fireplace and Eva’s collection of crosses serve as focal points. A *Live, Love, Laugh* plaque well represents this family’s life together.

The “Kids’ Wing” consists of three bedrooms and a shared bath. Next-day needs and backpacks are stored on hooks in the hallway above which the kids’ artwork is proudly displayed. Ethan’s room, with its new futon bed, displays his baseball medals and photos of himself, friends and Nathan. “He loves to collect photos,” Eva explained.

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Miranda's room is a preteenager's delight, decorated in blues and white with white lights lit around the ceiling and her bedstead. Hearts hang above her bed, and the word, *Dream*, is her room's theme. A black chest-of-drawers is dressed up with classic glass door knobs for pulls. When Miranda



expressed a desire to have a Husky for a pet, Nathan and Eva took her to Build-A-Bear to build a Husky. It now sits stately in her room.

Pink and "tons of toys" decorate Mila's room. Nathan crafted her toddler bed and her three-tiered baby doll bed. A corner Minnie Mouse card table and chairs and the words, *Let me be the princess!* appearing above her bed complete this royal little girl's room.

The eat-in kitchen cabinets have been newly painted in ivory, which matches the vintage six-burner stove perfectly. Practical hardwood floors and a colorful table cloth make meals easy and fun. Nathan's office/utility room are just beyond, as is the master bath with its claw-footed tub. "I'd always wanted a claw-footed tub, but I don't have much time to relax and enjoy it," Eva said. The master bedroom is still a work in progress, but with its wall of storage, it's a very appreciated and needed room for this family.

"Our son was 4 months old when we purchased this home," Eva recalled. "We wanted to raise our kids in a friendly neighborhood, and that's what we have today."

Nathan concluded, "We're making memories every day with these kids." **NOW**

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# Road Trip

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*Here in Texas, summertime usually means road trips! With miles as expansive as these, it will not be long before you are traveling like a true highwayman. Whether a seasoned pro or a first timer, here are some tips to make sure your trip does not sputter from the start.*





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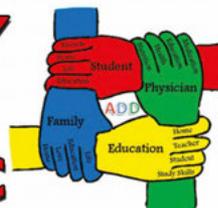
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• *Oil changes are important.* While the old model of changing your oil every 3,000 miles or three months is often outdated, you do need to make sure to maintain your vehicle's standards. But before you run to an oil shop just before a trip, know that gaskets on oil pans and filters can be faulty, so you want to make the change at least a few days before your trip. That way, you will avoid getting stranded on the highway with a blown engine.

• *A clean car is a happy car.* Washing your car helps with more than just aesthetics. Regularly washing and waxing will protect your car's paint. And if your trip takes you to the sandy beaches of the Gulf or the red dirt near Oklahoma, you will want to make sure to give the car a thorough cleaning after your trip, as sand and grit can hurt both your car's exterior and its inner workings, if left over time.



## PLAN FOR THE WORST

• *A little preparation goes a long way.* While no one wants to break down or be in a wreck, ending up stuck on the highway is sometimes an inevitability. While you cannot prepare for every situation, having an emergency kit is a simple step to take. You want to include things like foam tire sealant, jumper cables and duct tape that may allow you to fix minor problems until you can get into a proper shop. You

should also have road flares or reflective triangles, as well as a fire extinguisher and flashlight to keep yourself safe and protected.

- *Have more than just tools.* In addition to roadside safety items, you should always travel with food and certain clothing items. It is smart to throw bottles of water and nonperishable snacks in the car for a long trip, in case you are stranded for a long period. Gloves will come in handy when changing a tire or lifting the hood to check for leaking fluids. And even though it is summer, you want to be sure you have blankets and a poncho, as changing a tire in the rain is no fun at all.

- *Information is key.* You should always have an up-to-date insurance card with you, but especially before embarking on a long trip. Additionally, know where your various roadside assistance numbers are located. All Texas driver's licenses have a number on the back, as do toll tags and insurance cards, if that is part of your coverage. And if you are a member of a group like AAA, you have ample options for getting help when your car is stranded.

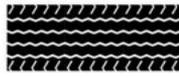


## DRIVE SAFELY

- *Don't be distracted.* Drivers sometimes think that long stretches of highways are less dangerous, but trying to text or otherwise letting yourself be distracted is dangerous. Playing road trip games or singing along is great, as long as the driver stays focused on the road.

- *Speed kills.* "Young drivers, especially, often think the open road

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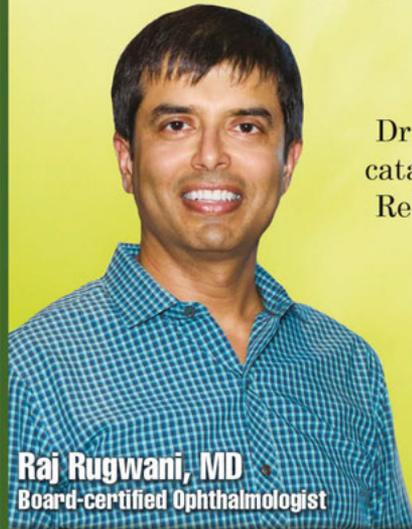


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is an open invitation to see how fast they can go, but that is a huge mistake. Other than being distracted, the biggest problem is driving too fast and following too close," an officer with the DeSoto Police Department said. "Make sure you keep at least three car lengths between you and the next driver in town — more on the highway."



## WORST CASE SCENARIOS

• *Don't make it worse.* If you end up having an accident, the first thing you need to do is get yourself in a safe place. "If the car can drive, slowly move it off the road," the officer continued. "If the car cannot drive, just leave it where it is and stand in safety away from the road." Before worrying about insurance, fault or repairs, you need to be in a safe place.

• *Make the call.* When you are in a wreck, the first call you make needs to be to the police. "If it's a teen driver, they should call the police first, then call their parents," the officer detailed. "Then, call your insurance company." If a tow truck is needed, you or your insurance should call it in. State troopers calling a wrecker often leads to higher costs.

• *You should see the other guy.* Only when both drivers are safe, exchange insurance and contact information. If you are hit and the other car flees the scene, do not try to track them down. "The best advice is to get the color, the plate and any description of the driver you can," the officer stated.

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Gerald and Beverly Weatherall agree that having multi-locations is a good thing. Their goal at each location is to treat clients the way they want to be treated.



# Meeting Needs

*Gerald and Beverly Weatherall help create memories that last a lifetime. — By Sandra Strong*

Gerald Weatherall was attending college when he went home for the Christmas holidays with a friend. The experience he had during that single visit caused him to leave seminary to pursue a career as a mortician. “We happened to walk in the wrong door at the funeral home my friend’s dad owned. His dad was working on a woman who had been in an accident,” Gerald remembered. “I have no idea why I was so intrigued, but I was.”

Beverly Weatherall, his wife of 10 years, was already in mortuary school when Gerald arrived some 33 years ago in 1984. Oddly enough, they never met while in school. They happened upon one another at a business meeting in 2001. “We started dating several months after that first meeting,” Beverly shared. “We both knew a lot of the same people up to this point, but we just never crossed each other’s paths.”

After 10 years of marriage and sharing in the ownership of the four locations of Eternal Rest Funeral Home, Gerald and Beverly still have different views when it comes to business, but they still lovingly agree to disagree. “Having multi-locations is a good thing,” Gerald said, as Beverly smiled and nodded her head in agreement.

“We know each other,” Beverly added, “so we respect each other’s views.”

The vision at Eternal Rest Funeral Home is to meet the needs of every family no matter their economic status. In fact, Gerald, Beverly and their staff of 30 total, with seven in Ennis, take great pride in not just saying they can meet every need, but by delivering on each request. Prices for a complete funeral package start at \$1,495, while direct cremation starts at \$595

and prearranged cremations are \$995. As a full-service funeral home, Eternal Rest offers a variety of packages for those who have something special or out of the ordinary in mind. "We can hold small, quaint services or very large family affairs," Gerald explained. "We can take a family's ideas to fruition or help them make final decisions during this very difficult time."

"Once you come here for any reason, you become part of our extended family. You are treated the way we want to be treated."

"We have one time only to get it right," Beverly confessed. "We can't replay a loved one's funeral."

Over the years, many requests are still for the basic casket, but the requests for specialized caskets and themed funerals have become quite popular, as well. Specialized services for children have included Superman, Batman and Sponge Bob, but the one Beverly recalls with a tear in her eye is the one for a newborn. "The nursery bedroom suite ended up in the viewing room," she said. "It seemed to make it much easier for the family to say goodbye."

Gerald and Beverly have never looked at Eternal Rest Funeral Home as a business venture. "It's our ministry," Gerald stated. "That's why we are able to meet the needs of every family that comes through our doors."

"Once you come here for any reason," Beverly added, "you become part of our extended family. You are treated the way we want to be treated."

At the end of the day, Gerald and Beverly don't want anyone to have second thoughts on who to call when a funeral home is needed. With over 500 services overall per year, 60-plus in Ennis alone, Eternal Rest Funeral Home has the experience to reinforce their goal of helping families create memories that will last a lifetime. **NOW**

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*A ribbon cutting is held for the newly remodeled Wal-Mart, who also now offers a pickup service.*



*Adalee Updegraff, 10 years old, sings the National Anthem during Wal-Mart's open house event.*



*A ribbon cutting is held at N Wynn's Jewelers.*



*Jessica Diaz discusses Ennis Public Library past and present to the Ennis Noon Lions Club while Bob Taylor and Ronny Dowd look on.*



*Charlie Smith with Ennis Ford enjoys his evening at the annual Ducks Unlimited Banquet held at the Waxahachie Civic Center.*



*Several pre-K students from David Crockett Early Childhood Center perform during a recent PTO meeting.*



*A'nyalah Simpson is one of many beautifully painted faces seen at the Bluebonnet Festival.*



*Several members of the EISD Education Foundation work the Wine Wanderer booth during the Bluebonnet Festival.*



*Marisa Gonzalez and Ben Vyers begin to add vibrant artwork to the barrier around what once was the Sports Connection building.*



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## Financial Gifts — and Tips — for New Graduates

It's graduation season again. If your child is graduating from high school or college, you have reason to celebrate. But what should you give to your newly minted diploma holder? You might want to consider offering a combination of financial gifts and tips, which, taken together, could set your graduate on a path toward a successful, independent life.

What sort of gifts and tips should you consider? Here are a few ideas:

- **Give a few shares of stock.** Everyone should understand the financial markets and how they work. One great way to encourage this interest is to give your child a few shares of stock. Young people enjoy owning a piece of a company that makes the products and services they like — and the very act of ownership can inspire them to learn more about investing and to ask questions: *What causes the stock price to go up or down? How long should I hold this stock? Should I own several stocks like this one, or is it better to branch out to find new opportunities?* Over time, in learning the answers to these and other questions, your child can become familiar with investing and how to make the best choices.

- **Encourage your graduate to open an IRA.** Your child can open an IRA as long as he or she has some earned income. You might want to suggest that your child consider a Roth IRA, which, at the child's age and income level, may be a good choice. With a Roth IRA, children can access their contributions at any time, tax- and penalty-free. They can't touch the earnings without incurring both taxes and penalties, however, until they reach 59 1/2. But you will want to encourage them to keep the money in their IRA intact, giving it the chance to grow.

- **Provide some financial education.** Unfortunately, most young people don't really receive any kind of formal financial

education. Of course, you can try to provide some of this knowledge to your own children, but, as you know, advice from Mom and Dad sometimes gets ignored. However, you might get better results if you arrange for your recent graduate to meet with a financial professional. As mentioned above, owning stocks, and following their progress, can teach your children a great deal about investing, but a financial professional can paint the "big picture" and explain how all aspects of money management — such as borrowing, budgeting, saving and investing — fit together to help individuals stay in control of their finances and make progress toward their important financial goals, such as buying a house and retiring in comfort. Recent graduates, whether leaving high school or college, are at turning points in their lives and can benefit greatly from understanding the importance of developing good, lifelong financial habits.

Most of us can think of several money-related mistakes we've made over the course of many years. And your children will make some errors, too. But by providing them with some appropriate financial gifts and valuable advice upon their graduation, they may well be better prepared to keep those mistakes to a minimum — while maximizing their ability to make good decisions. **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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# A Body Heat Wave

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

As the sun heats up, the incidences of heat-related illnesses will rise. It's important to know what you are dealing with and what to do. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are sometimes used synonymously, as if they are the same. That is understandable, considering they are heat illnesses with their genesis in very high temperatures, but they are different medical conditions. Both are serious and require immediate medical attention, but heat stroke can be fatal.

Some of heat exhaustion's symptoms are: heavy, drenching sweating; feeling weak; having a weak but rapid pulse; fainting; cold and clammy skin; experiencing nausea; headache; and muscle cramping. If any of these symptoms occur, the person should be removed from the heat to a preferably air-conditioned location. Give them non-caffeinated liquid to drink. Avoid sugar and alcoholic drinks while rehydrating. Loosen clothing and elevate legs above the heart. Use cool, wet cloths or shower to bring the body temperature down. If the person is not better within an hour, do not delay in seeking medical treatment. Forcing the body to continue an activity when it is in heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke, if not treated. It is important to note that heat stroke can develop without the accompanying symptoms of heat exhaustion.

If experiencing heat stroke, the body loses the ability to regulate

its temperature. The heartbeat speeds up, as it tries to cool the body down. The skin feels hot and dry and is unable to sweat to bring down the temperature. One may experience nausea and vomiting. The temperature spikes to 104 degrees or higher. Confusion, delirium, dizziness, seizures, loss of consciousness and even coma can occur. If not treated quickly, organ failure and death can result.

In order to prevent these heat illnesses that can have such a devastating result on the body, it makes sense to try to prevent the problem from happening. If one has been indoors, acclimate yourself slowly to outdoor heat. Keep hydrated with water. Avoid outdoor activities during the intense heat of the day. When outside in the sun, protect your head with a wide-brimmed hat or cap. Wear sunglasses for eye protection. Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn, which interferes with your body's mechanism for ridding itself of heat. When in a heated location, whether it's outside or in a non-air-conditioned gym, it's important for you to watch others for heat illness and for someone to watch out for you and respond appropriately. Call 911 immediately at the first sign of heat stroke, and you just might save a life. **NOW**

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.*



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## Through October

Ennis Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Saturdays**, historic downtown Ennis.

## June 3

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. The event will include classic airplanes and fighters, helicopter rides, fly-overs, Midlothian Classic Wheels, Gold Wing Road Riders, RC model airplanes, live music and children's activities. Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children over the age of 8. Children under 8 are \$3. Parking is free. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).

Wine & Film – A Perfect Pairing Dinner with Hayley and Gary Cogill: For more information, visit [www.crossroadsotxf.com](http://www.crossroadsotxf.com).

## June 6, 13, 20, 27

Shuffleboard Tournament: 7:00 p.m., KJT Auditorium, 1216 S. Paris St. \$10 per person team play/blind draw double elimination. For more information, call (972) 875-7982.

## June 9

Welcome to the Underground Live Professional Wrestling: 7:30 p.m., meet and greet; 8:30 p.m. bell time, KJT Auditorium, 1216 S. Paris St. The event will include a steel catch match.

## June 9 — 25

*Mojave*: Theatre Rocks! For details, pricing and curtain times, visit [www.TheatreRocks.com](http://www.TheatreRocks.com).

## June 10

Unity1 Summer Music Fest: 3:00-6:00 p.m., family activities; 6:00-10:00 p.m., live music, historic downtown Ennis.

## June 17

Father's Day Craft Beer Sip 'N Stroll: 4:00-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

## June 23 — 25

4th Annual Lonestar Shootout: 7:00 a.m., **Friday**; 8:00 a.m., **Saturday** and **Sunday**. Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287.

## July 1

Ennis Freedom Fest: historic downtown Ennis. The event features the Red, White & Blue Parade; the Red, White & Blue BBQ Cook-off and a large-scale fireworks show at the Texas Motorplex.

## July 21 — 30

Disney's *The Little Mermaid*: Ennis Public

Theatre. For full details, pricing and curtain times, visit [www.ennispublictheatre.com](http://www.ennispublictheatre.com).

## Ongoing:

### Mondays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

Acrylic Painting Class: 4:00-6:00 p.m., Interior Ideas, 211 W. Knox St. Classes offered by Jana Jennings. \$75 (one time only) supply fee for the year, plus \$15 per class. For more information, call (972) 878-6868.

### Second Mondays

Parkinson's Support Group: Ennis Regional Medical Center.

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

### Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org).

### 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](http://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.

### Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at [ccurry\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:c Curry_98@yahoo.com).

### First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 or Diana Buckley at [SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com](mailto:SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com) for more information.

### Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Kay at (972) 935-2054 or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 for reservations.

### Thursdays

Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

### 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.

### 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.

### First and Third Fridays

MOPS meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m. during regular school semester, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 County Club Rd. A ministry for mothers of preschoolers in the Ennis community. Visit [www.tabernaclefamily.org/mops/](http://www.tabernaclefamily.org/mops/).

### Second Fridays

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Group: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center.

### Saturdays

Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 100 N. Dallas St.

### Fourth Saturdays

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.

### Sundays

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

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



## In the Kitchen With Judy Kirby Hodges

— *By Virginia Riddle*

A certified dietary manager at Legend Healthcare, Judy Kirby Hodges is charged with cooking for the residents. “We host a monthly polka night. I don’t dare not make my banana pudding, or I’ll have an uprising on my hands,” Judy said. She began cooking at age 8 under her grandmother’s tutelage. “My grandmother was German. I bake a lot of traditional desserts to carry on her memory,” Judy explained. She has also taught her daughters to cook, as well as others who share her passion for cooking.

During Judy’s childhood, her family moved frequently, so she experienced different cultures. “My family enjoys choosing different genres of food that I prepare,” she said. “Cooking is a way of nurturing, while showing family, friends, co-workers and residents my love for them.” **NOW**

### Jalapeño Rice

- 4 cups hot water
- 2 cups Minute Rice
- 4 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 lb. Velveeta Cheese, cubed
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 pickled jalapeños

1. In a stock pot, combine all ingredients; bring to a boil.
2. Reduce to low heat; simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally without breaking open the jalapeños.

### Cajun Pasta

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 lbs. chicken, deboned, skinned and chopped

- 4 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning
- 2 tsp. butter
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, sliced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, sliced
- 1 orange bell pepper, sliced
- 1 10-oz. bag fresh spinach
- 1 pkg. fresh mushrooms
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup white wine
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 8-oz. tub heavy whipping cream
- Cornstarch, as needed
- 1 16-oz. box penne pasta, cooked according to pkg. instructions

1. In a pan, pour olive oil. Coat chicken with Cajun seasoning. Pan fry chicken in oil; remove.
2. Add butter to pan. Add all vegetables, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook mixture on high heat for 10 minutes; remove vegetables from pan.

3. To deglaze the pan, add wine; reduce heat by half.
4. Add chicken stock; bring mixture to a boil. Whisk in heavy cream; reduce heat to simmer.
5. Thicken mixture to desired thickness with cornstarch.
6. Add reserved chicken and vegetables; combine with cooked penne pasta.

### Polka Night Sweet and Sour Meatballs

- 1 32-oz. pkg. fully cooked meatballs
- 1 18-oz. jar grape jelly
- 1 24-oz. jar medium hot picante sauce

1. Place all ingredients in a Crock-Pot; cook on high for 2 hours, stirring often.

### Buttermilk Pie

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup Bisquick
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/3 stick butter, melted
- 3 eggs

1. In a blender, combine all ingredients until smooth; pour mixture into a buttered pie plate.
2. Bake at 325 F for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until pie does not jiggle.

### Polka Night Banana Pudding

- 2 5.1-oz. boxes banana pudding mix
- 4 cups cold milk
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip
- 4 bananas
- 1 11-oz. box vanilla wafers

1. In a bowl, whisk together the pudding mix and cold milk until smooth.
2. Using a mixer, combine the cream cheese and Eagle Brand milk; add the pudding mixture to the cream cheese mixture. Mix together until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip.
3. In a dish, alternate layers of bananas, cookies and pudding.

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



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