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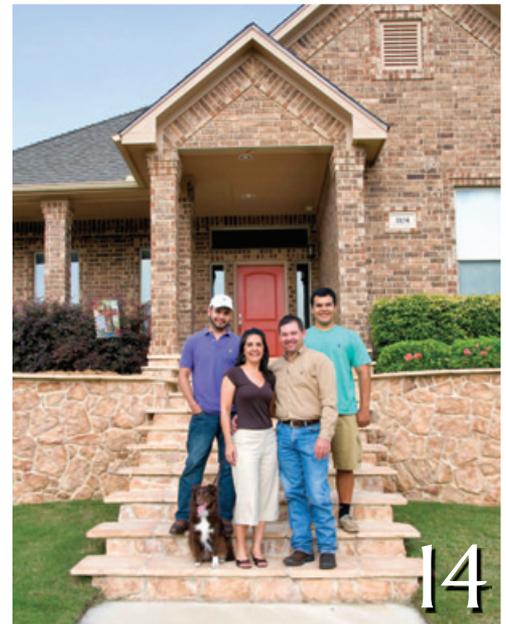
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Editor's Note

Hello Ennis Family and Friends,

Texas is well known for its sizzling hot summers, and this one is proving to be another one for the record books. I'm trying to keep my yard, flowers and foundation watered, but I do believe I'm fighting a losing battle. The increase in my electric bill has caused more than one OMG moment, that's for sure. But, I guess that's the price you pay if you want a pretty yard and comfortably cool home.

This month also recognizes our independence — the independence we should be celebrating every day. There will

be Fourth of July parades, backyard barbecues, lakeside parties and annual family reunions. Many will travel outside the city limits to pop firecrackers, shoot bottle rockets and watch as children are mesmerized by colorful sparklers. Whatever your plans may be, please be sure to apply sunscreen, drink lots of water and have lots and lots of fun.

Sandra

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EnnisNOW Editor
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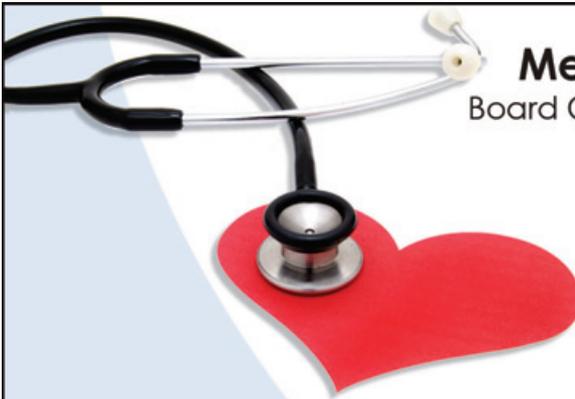
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A man wearing a tan baseball cap and a white t-shirt is seen from the back, looking at a vibrant, abstract painting. The painting features bold colors like blue, red, yellow, and black, with swirling patterns and thick brushstrokes. The man's cap has a small logo on the back. The overall scene is brightly lit, emphasizing the textures and colors of the artwork.

Paint It, and They Will. Come!

— By Randy Bigham

A young athlete with dreams of a baseball career has found his calling in the world of art. Although creative since childhood, he didn't realize his potential as a painter until a family crisis five years ago determined his future in brushstrokes instead of batting averages. Yet Leighton Autrey, once a draft

pick for the Seattle Mariners, has hit a major home run with his new profession. His first gallery showing in January at the Life in Deep Ellum Cultural Center in Dallas attracted widespread media coverage, as well as praise from art connoisseurs and critics from across the state.



“It was a big day for me,” said the 27-year-old Leighton, whose 6-foot-6-inch stature belies his quiet disposition. “But I give the credit to God. He’s given me the tools and the inspiration to put my work out there. From here on, it’s in His hands.”

Leighton, who teaches art at Palmer High School, is modest about his talent, but there’s no mistaking his heart is in his paintings, each a dramatic splash of form, color and spiritual meaning. “They are all based on Bible scriptures,” he said. “But the style is influenced by urban street art.” Leighton’s popular, graffiti-rooted canvases sell for \$150 a square foot, which the artist sees as validation of his life’s goal to spread the Gospel through his paintings. “My teachers always said I could make money from my art. I just never took them seriously,” he laughed. “Well, I’m doing pretty well, so there’s that.”

He wasn’t always so confident, at least not as an artist. His first love was baseball, and he was close to realizing his own field of dreams when he received the devastating news that his mother, Phyllis, had been diagnosed with skin cancer and that her prognosis was terminal. “She had melanoma in her arm, and the doctors told her to prepare for the worst,” Leighton remembered. “But my mom was such a trooper. She called the family in and told us she was going to beat the cancer. And she

wanted us all to pray for her recovery. She told us to read Psalm 91.”

They did, and from it Leighton, his father, Larry, and his brothers, Heath, Garrett and J.T., gained fresh courage to face an uncertain end. While Larry remained at his wife’s side at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Leighton moved closer to the family home in Stephenville to help rear his two younger brothers.

Although he took odd jobs as a carpenter, he wasn’t sure what he was going to do for a living in the long-term until he had a moment of clarity one day on a construction site. “I was down on my knees doing tiles when God spoke to me,” Leighton recounted. “He said, ‘You are going to paint My Scriptures.’” Until then, art had only been a hobby for Leighton, but he didn’t dispute the summons. He started right away.

Today, examples of Leighton’s work are displayed on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin and in the homes of such baseball major leaguers as Huston Street of the San Diego Padres. Fans are attracted to his unique perspective because of his use of vivid colors and the sense of movement — a kind of emergence or escape — that characterizes many of his canvases.



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This is particularly true of his recent exhibition, *Crowbars*, presented at the Mokah Art Gallery, where Leighton speaks through oils, acrylics, various inks, aerosol and enamel. His artist statement for this show reads: "Like a crowbar is used to pry and loosen old things that are held together, these works are made to pry and loosen the viewers' thinking of the Holy Bible."




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Among the striking pictures on view were "Fragrance," a study of a flower, both alive and dying, derived from 2 Corinthians 2:16; "The Past," a mix of lines and colors in a state of erasure, based on Jeremiah 2:23; and "Seekers of Rest," a series of graffiti-covered human faces representing Matthew 11:28. Other pictures from the *Crombars* exhibit reference 1 Peter 5:8, James 1:2-8 and Proverbs 28:15. Some of Leighton's paintings are disturbing, others stirring, but all evoke liberation of a kind, whether triumph over impediments or release from a captive state of mind.

"My work is about chance, risk and not being afraid to push the limits of all types of artistic mediums," Leighton confided to visitors on his Web site. The painter's favorite aspect of his work is the process itself. "What I love most about what I do is transferring it from my mind to canvas," he said.

"The course it takes from thought to completion — that's what really gets me."

He also likes knowing his success has underscored the power of prayer, and points to the greatest news he's had in a long time as evidence: his mom's cancer, which motivated him to seek spiritual direction, is in remission. "She is completely healed," he said. "The doctors told our family they had never

seen anybody heal as well as my mother."

Leighton considers his role as a teacher as an extension of his artistic mission, and his passion for helping his students recognize their potential is as great as the devotion he applies to his own work. Letting his pupils express themselves on the walls and ceilings of his Palmer High School classroom may be




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unconventional, but he has a practical message for them, which he hopes will carry them into their lives as adults. “Young people often want everything to happen right now,” he pointed out. “I try to teach them that life isn’t a quick download, that it takes time to achieve success and that hard work pays off.”

Leighton is shining proof of his theories, and although his humility prevents his acknowledging the fact, he’s proud of the work he has accomplished and his hopes are high for his future in art — as a painter and an educator. He still loves baseball, but his goals have changed. “I’ll just be playing the major league in a different way now — I’ll be painting for it,” he grinned. With wife, Mallary, and their pets, two American Bulldogs named Shae and Bear, Leighton is ready for what life sends his way. “It’s all in the Lord’s hands,” he said. As for producing the art that defines his faith, he’s still going strong. “After all,” he added, “there’s a whole Bible to paint.” **NOW**

Editor’s note: Leighton’s artwork can be viewed at www.leightonautrey.com



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ROAD MAP

Through Life

— By Sandra Strong

AT HOME WITH *Kelly & Becky Herrera*

The story that brings Kelly and Becky Herrera to their current home reads much like a roadmap. “The boys and I were living in the house next door when Kelly and I married,” Becky remembered. “We bought the lot next door to my home after we married, but decided to sell it so we could build a home out in the country to accommodate Kelly’s grandfather, Harroll Kelley, also known as PaPa.”

After two-and-a-half years in the country, the family decided they wanted to return to the city. “We ended up swapping our home in the country with another couple who lived in the city,” Kelly explained. Not long after the second move, Kelly and Becky repurchased the lot.

It’s on this lot that Kelly, Becky and the boys, Michael and Mark Sanchez, 25 and 18 respectively, now reside in the traditional style, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath home. “Kelly built the home almost exactly like the one we lived in next door. The only

thing I wanted to change was where the windows were located. Unfortunately, PaPa passed prior to the completion of the second home,” Becky said.

“The house is the same,” Kelly agreed. “The few changes in the plans were made to meet our individual needs as a family.”

The family of four, plus two cats, Moses and Itty Bitty, and one dog, Lexie, who also serves as the guest greeter, have spent the last four years in their new home. Kelly and Becky still consider it a work in progress. “I looked for just the right piece of artwork for the wall in the den directly behind the sofa for such a long time,” Becky confessed. “I finally found what we were looking for. It was shipped from New York.”

The spacious kitchen, with its oversized central island, is home to Becky’s collection of roosters, most of which she gifted to herself over the past 13 years. “I buy for myself because I know what I want,” she stated. “I like those that



“YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT YOU CAN’T TAKE THE COUNTRY OUT OF THE BOY.”

have rich, deep colors; the deep reds, blues and greens.” The rooster from punched metal, one of Becky’s favorites, found a home over the double fireplace mantle in the eating area of the kitchen. The coppery tones add character to an already unique piece of artwork.

A large matchbook collection is displayed in an antique glass Lance Peanuts jar. The fun here is trying to find at least one of the many Kips Big Boy matchbooks. The cornice shelves above the kitchen cabinets display the couple’s modest collection of tins. Oreo Cookies, Curious George and Log Cabin, to name only a few, remind the family of days gone by, when both Kelly and Becky’s families owned small local businesses. “My maternal grandfather owned Kelly’s Drive-In,” Kelly said. “Becky’s paternal grandfather owned the Martinez Chicken Ranch.”

Becky’s maternal grandfather is ever-present in the Herrera home, too. “He had vending machines,” Becky smiled. “Each of the boys has one of the vending machines in their room.”

Michael’s room is home to the baseball vending machine. The machine has five holes. In order to earn a gumball, players had to make sure the ball found its way into one of the five holes. “This particular machine had to be pulled




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from shelves,” Becky admitted, “because people started using them as a gambling tool.” The vending machine displayed in Marc’s room is a tribute to the game of basketball. “You had to land a basket to get a gumball,” Becky added with a smile.

The Boston Baked Bean vending machine can be found on a small table at the far end of the kitchen, along with a photograph of Becky, her brother and her grandfather. An antique clock, with its original Calumet Baking Powder



imprint, hangs above the table. “I remember putting my money in the machine as a kid,” Becky shared, “and getting a handful of baked beans.”

The couple admits they love to entertain. In fact, Kelly laughed as he remembered the first time, while they were dating, that Becky asked him over for dinner. “The table was set with cloth napkins,” Kelly mused. Kelly has always been a country boy, so the memory of those “real cloth napkins” still brings

a smile to his face. Becky has always considered herself to be a city girl. But, they both agree that their differences are what brought them together, and after 10 years of marriage, they agree that those same differences are what make the marriage work. “You can take the boy out of the country,” she laughed, “but you can’t take the country out of the boy. I grew up with special touches, like cloth napkins, and I still love them.”

The landscaping in the front yard has

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a story well worth sharing. To keep from mowing a very large, sloped hill, Kelly decided to level the front yard from the sidewalk to the stone encased flowerbed, while designing a large stone stairway up to the front patio. It makes those passing by the home take notice. The flowerbeds are the handiwork of Kelly and Michael,



while Becky and Michael share in the mowing duties. "I love the outdoors," Becky stated. "Mowing is relaxing for me." The backyard is still very much a work in progress. As they try to decide on the perfect plan for an outdoor kitchen, Becky is content to sit back and listen to the water feature, while Lexie peers beyond the wrought iron gate. "It's her window to the world," Becky laughed.

Kelly and Becky admit they were once a pair of workaholics.



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Since the boys are grown, they're learning to take advantage of downtime when it comes their way. "Kelly loves to deer hunt," Becky explained. "I love to deer hunt, too, as long as there's electricity and running water." They enjoy travelling to the Hill Country, too. Sometimes they take the off-road vehicles along, while



other times they hook up the travel trailer and pile in the truck to see where the roadmap takes them. One of the most fun times they shared was on a two-week trip that included stops at Carlsbad, the Grand Canyon and Durango, Colorado. "One day," Becky said, as Kelly smiled, "we'll have a little, old house and a big, old motor home." But, until that time, they are content with the blessings they have now.

The space they share may once have been just a vacant lot, but today it's a home that Kelly and Becky are proud of. "The home suits our needs," Kelly said, as Becky nodded her head in agreement. "It's what we wanted, and we're very happy here." **NOW**



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A Cinderella Story

— By Sydni Thomas

Becoming a Future Farmer of America had never motivated Kayla Threet. She hated getting dirty and didn't like the idea of showing animals. Scott Threet, Kayla's father, had loved the club when he attended Ennis High School, as did her brother, Colby, so he wanted his daughter to try it at least once. Much to her dismay, Scott made Kayla show a pig. It turned out not to be as bad as she thought. Kayla kept winning shows and competitions, went on to become the chapter president, was elected as an area officer and earned a Lone Star Farmer degree. FFA members earn degrees as they progress through the phases of their leadership, academic and career skills.



“Kayla didn’t want anything to do with showing,” Scott said. “We made her show a pig, and she’s been doing it ever since. The little girl who hated getting dirty now scoops poop. She’s following in her dad’s footsteps, and we couldn’t be more proud!”

The past two years of showing have been Kayla’s most successful. At the 2010 National show in Kingsville, Texas, Kayla had just gotten Cinderella, a Santa Gertrudis heifer, when they took class winner. Their success continued in San Antonio, where Cinderella earned Class Winner, Junior Division Champion and overall Grand Champion. With all of these titles, Kayla won a belt buckle and a \$10,000 scholarship.



In March 2011, Kayla showed Cinderella in Houston and took home the same titles as in San Antonio. Besides winning a belt buckle and cash, she received three airline tickets, which she and her mother, Mindi, used to go to New York City over Christmas break. “Most people work their whole lives to win a major show and never do,” Scott said. “Kayla has won every major show in Texas.”

“I had wanted to win a belt buckle since I started showing,” Kayla said. “I have won nine since last year.”

Kayla took the State Fair of Texas show by storm this past year with Rose Hills Miley and her other cows, Rafter Y’s Julie and Cinderella. Miley took Overall Grand Champion, Julie took Overall

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Reserve Grand Champion, and Cinderella was Champion Senior Female. The judges look at several different things to determine the winners of each class. When an animal walks in front of them they look at their bones, utters, ribs and how sound they are when they move.

Kayla's showmanship and the way her animals react are the keys to her success. "It takes time to get the animals to where they need to be," Kayla admitted. "They have to be ready for the judges in a short amount of time. A lot of what I do each day with the animals is training them."

"Cinderella was nicknamed Miss Automatic at the shows we went to," Scott said. "She sets up right away for the judges."

Kayla's family has been a big part of her success. They help her load the cows at 3:00 in the morning, drive two-and-a-half hours to the show, wash the animals and watch as she shows them. Then they reload the truck and drive back home.

"Our last four years of vacations have been spent at stock shows," Scott said. "We go to every single one. The little shows are the hardest, but that is what has gotten Kayla to where she is now."

"Shows are family events," Mindi said. "We load up and go to all of them together. Colby, our son, even comes home to go with us to help his sister."

Kayla has little time for other activities. Each day she has responsibilities at the different barns where her animals are kept. Up until her junior year Kayla was a cheerleader. She let go of cheerleading to spend more time taking Agriculture classes and being involved with FFA. By the time she was a senior, Kayla had taken just about every Ag class offered at

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Ennis High School. "I'm at the barn for at least two hours every day," Kayla said. "There's a lot to do when I'm there. I have to clean the pens, exercise the animals and feed them."

FFA has a lot more to it than showing animals for Kayla. The organization has become the largest youth organization in the country with over 80,000 members. Through FFA she has traveled all over Texas for competitions, shows, conventions and conferences. During the year, she competes in Career

Development Events (CDE) and Leadership Development Events (LDE). She has competed in all the way to state.

Each year FFA hosts a state convention, and Kayla has participated in those for the last three years, getting to travel to Lubbock, Corpus Christi and Dallas. Through friends in the FFA, Kayla learned about a National Leadership Conference that was to take place in Washington, D.C. Ennis FFA doesn't participate in this conference, so it was up to Kayla to raise funds for the trip on her own. She raised the funds and was able to spend five days in Washington alongside FFA members from all over the United States, working on community service projects, touring national monuments and taking leadership classes. "I've traveled all over Texas, as well as other states, because



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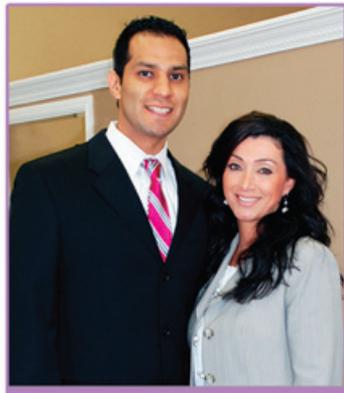
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of FFA," Kayla said. "I've made friends from all over Texas to other parts of the U.S. My favorite part of FFA is the opportunity I've had of making so many friends."

Not only has Kayla been successful at showing, but also has found success at LDE and CDE contests. She is also president of the Ennis FFA Chapter and an Area VIII FFA officer. During her freshman year, Kayla hadn't considered doing these things, but once she got involved she went all out. When FFA officer election time for her senior year came around, Kayla campaigned for president. The long and difficult process of election included an interview, speech, written test and a chapter-wide vote. Kayla was elected president and went on to run for an area FFA office.

As an elected area officer, Kayla joined a small group of Ennis FFA Alumni members who have also been area officers. "In the history of the Ennis FFA, only five members have ever been elected to an area office," Scott said. "Two of those are Threats." Kayla also earned a Lone Star Farmer Degree, the highest degree that can be held in Texas, through leadership and community service hours.

"I wasn't motivated to do anything with FFA in the beginning," Kayla said. "FFA has taught me responsibility and respect. All of the things I've accomplished during my time in FFA wouldn't have been possible without the help of others. My mom, dad, brother and County Agent Mark Arnold have helped me this entire time." **NOW**

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— By Sandra Strong

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Donna, along with office manager, Terri Miller, works directly with realtors and lenders. Their office may be located in the heart of Ellis County, but they are able to conduct business anywhere there's a need for title insurance. "We are backed by the largest underwriter in the United States — Fidelity National Financial," Donna stated. "We are financially solid."

This month marks the eighth anniversary for Lawyer's Title at their present location. The level of business has definitely

fluctuated during this time. "When the real estate market is booming," Donna clarified, "the title insurance company will be booming. If the housing market is down, so are we. It's really based on the overall economy." Ennis is a unique market, but Donna and Terri are happy to report a healthy increase in business over the past year. The level of title insurance business is based on the amount of credit lenders are able to let go of. "As they loosen their requirements," Donna explained, "we begin to see the business increase."

The years of valuable experience Donna and Terri share speak volumes to the level of customer care you will receive at Lawyer's Title. Donna has 27 years, while Terri is in year 12. "Anytime a consumer has concerns," Terri shared, "they can always feel free to talk to us at the title company."

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“We have lots of walk-ins,” Terri added. “We will help customers in any way we can.” When the right questions are asked and answered at the beginning of the process, it makes the overall process of buying and selling go as smoothly and stress-free as possible. Lawyer’s Title is considered to be the “middle man” in the process.

Donna and Terri have a responsibility to their customers. The most important aspect of that job is to clearly explain

“We help them understand they should not buy property without title insurance.”

why title insurance is so important. “We help them understand they should not buy property without title insurance,” Donna explained. “Title insurance insures that the buyer has an indefeasible ownership of the property, no matter what the property is: residential, commercial or vacation.”

“Lenders require title insurance. It’s a must. And surveys go hand-in-hand with title insurance,” Terri said. “Title insurance protects the consumer from others who may come in and try to stake claim to the property.”

Over the years, Donna and Terri have found that family transactions are the most difficult. Family members seem to just “pass it down,” whatever “it” may be. “The difficult cases are those that have been handed down verbally,” Donna said. Verbal agreements are only good when all parties agree. When push comes to shove, verbal agreements carry no weight. “Title insurance allows the customer to prove the property belongs to them without question,” Donna continued. “And it’s good on all property — mortgaged or paid-in-full.” **NOW**



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Helen Skoda spent the day at the Dallas Arboretum with her great-grandson, Easton Rider McIntosh.



Abby Rose shows her awards for perfect attendance and straight A's for the entire school year!



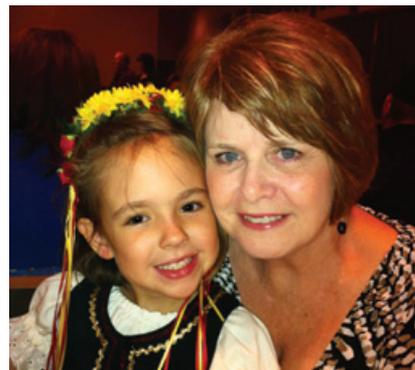
Congratulations to the EHS Lionettes 2012-2013 25th Line — celebrating 25 years of high kicks and excellence.



Jill Rose grabs a hug from her grandfather, Earl Fisher, on Memorial Day.



Ellis County Athletics poses after becoming the 2012 WYBA 8U Champions!



Diane Gorman and granddaughter, Kenna, enjoy some great Polka music.

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Have a Drink

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

You should drink eight glasses of water a day. No, you should drink only six glasses per day. Or, perhaps three glasses is enough. So, what is the right answer? When you consider that your body is 60-percent water and every day you lose some of it by breathing, urinating and perspiring, it should be clear and incontrovertible how much you need to replenish it. It should be, but it is not. The optimal amount of fluids your body requires may change depending on the circumstances. The hydration needs of a sweaty athlete practicing in the hot sun will be monumentally different from a person who spends most of their time on the couch in a comfortable room.

The standard amount most often given as a starting point is eight eight-ounce glasses of fluids a day. Contributing to that eight-glass total can be fluids such as: broth, soft drinks, milk, Jell-O and juice. However, water is the ideal drink, because your body does not need to process extra substances, such as sugar, alcohol or caffeine. You also can receive a great percentage of water through your food, especially fruits and vegetables.

Here are a few guidelines to consider for your hydration needs:

- If you exercise, and particularly if you perspire heavily, you must increase your intake of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding requires more liquid to support the baby and to produce milk.
- Extreme temperatures will affect your intake. When it is very cold, use of indoor heat is very drying and causes your skin to lose moisture.

Likewise, hot temperatures cause sweating, and that water needs to be replaced.

- Illnesses that cause vomiting, diarrhea or fever increase your need for fluids. Some illnesses require limiting your liquid intake. When advised of this by your health care professional, guidelines should be strictly monitored.
- Although alcoholic beverages and drinks containing caffeine are included in the daily fluid count, you may have to drink more water because of the diuretic action these liquids have on the body.
- Diets that contain large amounts of salt or fiber will create a need for extra water.

You can tell if your body is receiving the proper amount of fluids each day. Dark colored urine may be a sign of not enough fluids. Don't try to reach your daily total amount of fluids in one sitting. Spread your drinks throughout the day. Once again, water is the best choice for your body. If you have an aversion to drinking plain water, add lemon or cucumber slices to jazz it up a bit. Try not to get thirsty, and if you do, have a drink! **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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Automatic Investing Can Pay Off for You

To achieve investment success, you don't have to start out with a huge sum or get lucky by picking "hot" stocks. In fact, very few people actually travel those two routes. But in working toward your investment goals, you need to be persistent — and one of the best ways to demonstrate that persistence is to invest automatically.

How do you become an automatic investor? You simply need to have your bank automatically move money each month from a checking or savings account into the investments of your choice. When you're first starting out in the working world, you may not be able to afford much, but any amount — even if it's just \$50 or \$100 a month — will be valuable. Then, as your career progresses and your income rises, you can gradually increase your monthly contributions.

By becoming an automatic investor, you can gain some key benefits, including these:

- **Discipline** — Many people think about investing but decide to wait until they have a little extra cash. Before they realize it, they've used the money for other purposes. When you invest automatically, you're essentially taking a spending decision "out of your hands." And as you see your accounts grow over time, your investment discipline will be self-reinforcing.
- **Long-term focus** — There's never any shortage of events — political crises, economic downturns, natural disasters — that cause investors to take a timeout from investing. Yet if you head to the investment sidelines, even for a short while, you might miss out on some good opportunities. By investing automatically each month, you'll maintain a long-term focus.
- **Potential for reduced investment costs** — If you invest the same amount of money each month into the same investments, you'll

automatically be a smart shopper. When prices drop, your monthly investment will buy more shares, and when prices rise, you'll buy fewer shares — just as you'd probably buy less of anything when prices are high. Over time, this type of systematic investment typically results in lower costs per share. Furthermore, when you invest systematically, you're less likely to constantly buy and sell investments in an effort to boost your returns. This type of frequent trading is often ineffective — and it can raise your overall investment costs with potential fees, commissions and taxes. (Keep in mind, though, that systematic investing does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss. Also, you'll need the financial resources available to keep investing through up and down markets.)

Clearly, automatic investing offers some major advantages to you as you seek to build wealth. Of course, if you're contributing to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you're already automatically investing because money is taken out of your paycheck at regular intervals to go toward the investments you've chosen in your plan. But by employing automatic investing techniques to other vehicles, such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can continue your progress toward your long-term goals, including retirement.

So, do what it takes to become an automatic investor. It's easy, it's smart — and it can help you work toward the type of future you've envisioned. **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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Fridays in July

Uptown Village at Cedar Hill Hosts 5th Annual Jam to Give summer concert series benefiting local nonprofits: 7:00-9:00 p.m. **July 6:** Watusi (reggae) benefiting Duncanville Outreach; **July 13:** Ricki Derek (big band, swing) benefiting Paws for Reflection Ranch; **July 20:** Jonny B. & the Uptown Boys (mix) benefiting Hope Mansion; **July 27:** Havana NRG!, benefiting Two-Wins Foundation.

July 6, 13, 20, 27

Texas Motorplex Fast Fridays: Call 1-800-MOTORPLEX for more information.

July 7

Pearce Museum Summer Art Classes: 1:00-2:30 p.m., Corsicana. Ages 8 and up. The \$10 fee covers all materials and instruction. For more information or to make reservations, call (903) 875-7420.

July 12-22

The Boys Next Door: Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave., Corsicana. For show times, reservations and information, please call (903) 872-5421 or visit www.warehouselivingartscenter.com.

July 14

Brandon Steadman Band: 9:00 p.m., Fat Daddy's, 781 West Debbie Lane, Mansfield. The Brandon Steadman Band is determined to take the Red Dirt scene by storm. Combining ripping guitars, thumping bass lines and hard-driving rhythms, it is all high energy as soon as they walk on stage. For more information, visit www.fatdaddyslive.com.

July 21

American Heart Association First Aid & CPR Class: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation and Fitness Center, 507 Hwy. 77 N., Suite 700, Waxahachie. For more details, call (972) 938-3311.

Free Seminar on Diabetes by Michael Schwartz: 3:00 p.m., Ann's Health Food Center, 2305 Highway 77 North, Waxahachie. For more information, call Angelo at (972) 923-1400.

Red Oak Reunion: 6:00-10:30 p.m., Sleep Inn & Suites, 1701 N. Hwy. 77. For more information, contact Renee Bryan Wood at reneewood1963@yahoo.com or Nancy Holloway Drake at njhdrake@yahoo.com.

July 22-26

Baylor Baptist Church Vacation Bible School: 6:00-8:30 p.m., 210 North Preston Street. For more information, call (972) 875-2521 or visit www.baylorbaptist.org.

July 23-24

Hip Hop Dance: 10:00 a.m.-noon, The Annex,

Corsicana. Join DJ Slicky D as he teaches the latest dance moves to the best beats. For more information, call (903) 654-4845.

July 26-28

Waxahachie Community Theatre's Showcase Kids Production of *Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother*, **July 26, 27:** 7:30 p.m.; **July 28:** 2:30 p.m., McCafferty Hall, SAGU, 1200 Sycamore, Waxahachie. Advance tickets: \$8. Tickets at the door: \$10. The venue is not wheelchair accessible. For more information, call (972) 646-1050.

July 29

Hymn sing: 6:00 p.m., Wheatland United Methodist Church, 8000 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas. For more information, call (214) 906-2921 or e-mail peter.mcnabb@wheatlandumc.org.

July 30-August 2

EHS Lionette Rookie Camp: 3:00-5:30 p.m., EHS Dance Studio.

September 7-8

Fun Ford Weekend: Texas Motorplex.

September 20-23

27th Annual AAA Texas Fall Nationals: Texas Motorplex.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th Street, Midlothian. This is a program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery program.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meetings: 7:00 p.m. at Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org.

Fourth Mondays

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

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meetings: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 North Dallas Street. For more information, contact Cecil Curry

at [ccurry_98@yahoo.com](mailto:c Curry_98@yahoo.com).

Third Tuesdays

Veterans Networking Group: 5:00 p.m. at Ryan's Steak House, Hwy. 287 Bypass and 77, Waxahachie. Call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 for more information.

Skyblazers of Waxahachie R/C Club: 7:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building in downtown Waxahachie.

Third Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Chess for Kids: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

Open mike night at Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th Street, Midlothian. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. Start time: 7:00 p.m. Anyone can come and play as long as it is family-friendly.

Second Thursdays

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

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Songwriter Saturdays: 6:00 p.m.: social time; 6:30-7:15 p.m.: dinner and fellowship; 7:30-8:15 p.m.: opening act; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: featured artist. For more information, contact Randy Tredway at (972) 938-9990 or e-mail him at randy@inthemusicroom.com. Bring beverages for yourself and a covered dish to share. Seating is limited.

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: 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.

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



In The Kitchen With Edna Newman

— *By Sandra Strong*

Edna Newman never took any cooking lessons. She learned her way around the kitchen by watching her mother. “I tried to help her in any way I could,” Edna remembered. “I guess I like down-home cooking the best since that’s what I was raised on.” But Edna also loves to bake. Most of the recipes she uses have come from close friends and family members.

Born and reared in Telico, Edna is the youngest of eight children. She and her husband, Charles, have five children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. “There’s always someone wanting something to eat,” Edna grinned, “so there’s always lots of cooking going on in the kitchen. My favorite hobby is cooking because I get so much pleasure from cooking for others.” **NOW**

Chocolate Steam Cake

Cake:

- 1/2 cup shortening**
- 1 stick margarine**
- 4 Tbsp. cocoa**
- 1 cup water**
- 2 cups flour**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 2 eggs**
- 1/2 cup buttermilk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**

Frosting:

- 1 stick margarine**
- 4 Tbsp. cocoa**
- 6 Tbsp. milk**
- 1 box sifted powdered sugar**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**

- 1.** For cake: Bring shortening, margarine, cocoa and water to a boil. Add the remaining ingredients. Bake at 400 F for 20 minutes in a 10x15x1-inch pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray.
- 2.** For frosting: Bring margarine, cocoa and milk to a boil. Add the mixture to the powdered sugar. Mix in pecans.
- 3.** Pour frosting over cake while the cake and frosting are both still hot.

Hot Chicken Salad

- 4 cups chicken, cooked and chopped**
- 1 cup celery, diced**
- 1 cup onion, chopped**
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice**
- 1 cup almonds, slivered**
- 1 cup mayonnaise**
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup**

- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 1 cup cheese, shredded**
- 1 cup potato chips, crushed**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine all ingredients except for the cheese and potato chips. Then spoon mixture into a casserole dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray. A shallow dish will give the best results.
- 2.** Top with cheese and chips. Bake for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

Strawberry Salad

Salad:

- 1 pkg. spring mix salad**
- 1 head Radicchio, torn into bite-size pieces**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. mozzarella cheese, grated**
- 1/2 cup walnuts or pecans, chopped or halved**
- 1 bundle green onions, sliced**
- 1 large carton strawberries, sliced or halved**
- Pepper, to taste**

Dressing:

- 3/4 cup canola oil**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar**
- White pepper, to taste**
- Garlic powder, to taste**
- Paprika, to taste**

- 1.** For salad: Toss all ingredients together.
- 2.** For dressing: Mix all ingredients well. Pour over salad before serving.

Apple Dumplings

- 2 large Granny Smith apples**
- 2 cans crescent rolls, 6 rolls per can**
- Cinnamon to taste**
- 1 3/4 cups sugar**
- 2 sticks margarine**
- 1 can Mountain Dew soda**

- 1.** Cut each apple into 6 pieces and core. Wrap each slice in a crescent roll triangle. Place in a 10x13-inch baking dish.
- 2.** Sprinkle each dumpling heavily with cinnamon.
- 3.** Melt sugar and margarine together; pour over the dumplings. Then pour the Mountain Dew over it all.
- 4.** Bake at 350 F for 40 minutes, basting half way through and again at the end.



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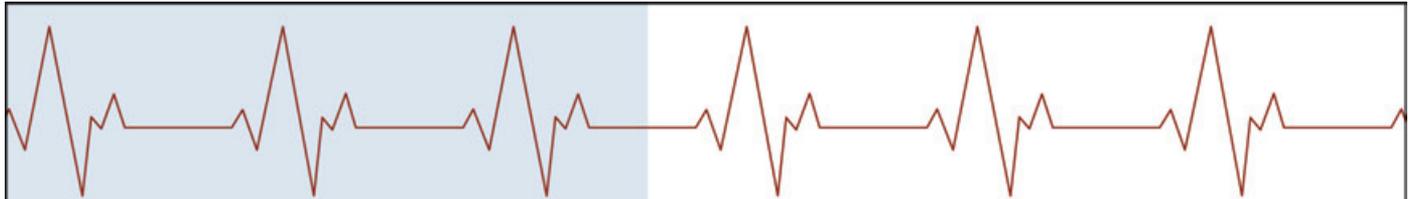
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