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AUGUST 2025

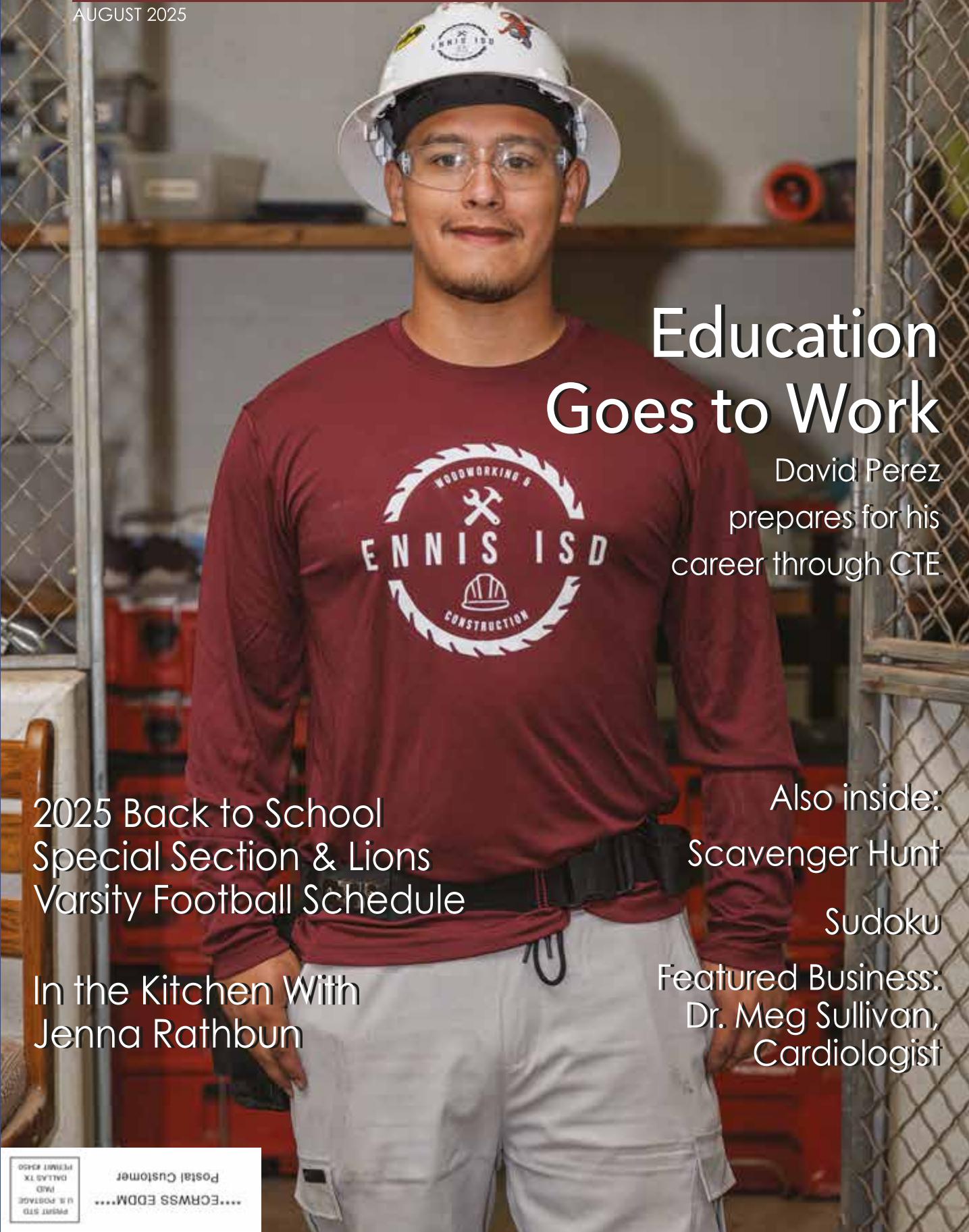
Education Goes to Work

David Perez
prepares for his
career through CTE

2025 Back to School
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In the Kitchen With
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EDITOR'S NOTE

We'll have these moments ...

We all have some significant dates in our lives that we look back on. Some people call them markers. This month marks a milestone date in my life, as I will celebrate my 70th year. For some reason, the passing of a decade is celebrated more than other birthdays, and the cat is already out of the bag — my family has something up its sleeve.

Do you know what an Ebenezer is? There is a song we sing in church from time to time, and it says, "Here I raise mine Ebenezer." The word means "stone of help," but the story in Scripture is about raising a marker to help remember something. You can read about it in I Samuel if you want the rest of the story.

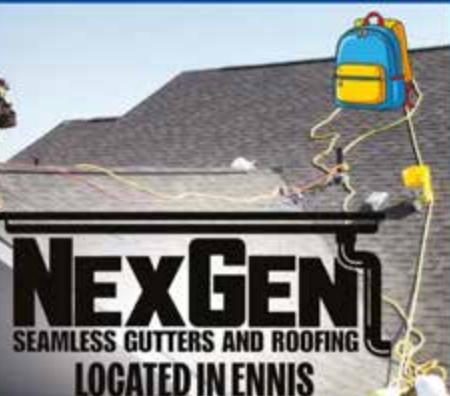
I can look back and recall where I was on some significant dates like November 22, 1963, or September 11, 2001. Those were disastrous moments, but worthy of remembering.

I can also recall some unbelievably happy dates, like graduations, weddings, births and reunions. On one particular birthday, my wife and kids "kidnapped" me and surprised me with a trip to one of my favorite places. Looking back is great, but I still look forward to the years to come with great expectation!

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August 2025
Volume 22, Issue 8

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David Perez is outfitted for work.

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EDUCATION GOES TO WORK

— By Bill Smith

Career and Technology Education (CTE) has come a long way since the days of “shop class.” Dr. Eric Pierce is director of postsecondary readiness and CTE for Ennis ISD and is obviously very passionate about his role. He explained, “I believe we have several great dual credit programs in the area of cosmetology, academic and trade school. We partner with Navarro College and Texas State Technical College for these college hours. Students in grades 9-12 are in this program. We want to increase the public’s awareness of these programs, which help students get a head start into college and careers at a discounted rate.”

Dr. Pierce said David Perez, a senior student in CTE, is an example of one such student. David is in the construction program at EHS as well as the TSTC building construction college program. His teacher, Mrs. Kayla McCabe Jones, is just as enthusiastic about CTE and David’s chosen career path.

An Ennis native, David did not hesitate to mention that CTE is his favorite class. “If I had to say what my next favorite would be, I’d say Coach Morrow’s history class last year,” he shared. Mrs. Jones pointed out that David is actually in two classes that consume three class periods in CTE, Principles of Construction and TSTC Dual Credit Construction.

“I’m not interested in working at a desk in an office,” David explained. “I like to work with my hands. I used to mow lawns in the summer. Now I work part time at AutoZone. I have also worked for the school in the maintenance department. My favorite area of CTE is doing electrical stuff.” A career as a professional electrician is the path David has chosen, although CTE has provided opportunities to learn other trades.

He recently entered a table he and a friend constructed at a show and won a division championship. “We made a wildlife table. I made the wooden top, and my friend made the metal parts. We won \$4,500 and put it back into another project.” There are many skills competitions for CTE students to participate in. David won third place in the district meet last year.

Demand for students’ skills is high, and Mrs. Jones agrees that David should be able to enter the workforce right after graduation. “A lot of companies offer paid apprenticeships, and David should be able to step into a position, especially if he continues in electrical,” she said. “He enjoys it because he likes to have to think about how things work, like completing a puzzle.”

David likes that electrical work is hands on, but not as labor intensive as





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roofing or Sheetrock installation. He has worked with Sheetrock in the past, and he has also built fences. "I have participated in shed building also, and the more trades we do, the more we learn. We can't build a shed with sloppy cuts that are out of square. We also have to understand building laws and safety," he added.

"We know when we run electrical into walls, other tradesmen will come after us to do their part. It might be plumbers or wallboard installers, but our work needs to be in its proper place, so they can do their job without having us come back to change things around."

According to Mrs. Jones, David is in the shop at school every time the doors are open. "This is where my interest and my friends are," he explained. "I tried other things like football and hanging out at parties, but this is what I really enjoy doing. During Christmas break last year, we were at the shop all but about five days. We were here almost every day during spring break. It is just like football or a lot of other extracurricular activities. If we are going to be good at it, it will take more than

one-and-a-half hours in the classroom. We have to practice." It is obvious that this is what David, as well as a number of other students, do for fun!

"There is something special about CTE students. They have a work ethic. They are passionate about their program of choice," Mrs. Jones offered. "Come visit my class, and you will see the students' commitment to their trades. The tests are rigorous, but they are different than a math or science class. You'll see students giving 110 percent effort, whether they are working on their project or sweeping the floor. As they match my passion and energy, they make my job easier."

Dr. Pierce also mentioned Jerold Nichols' role working with CTE students. Jerold is a master electrician and a product of Ennis ISD. He loves giving back to the community and Ennis schools, as well as other school districts. Dr. Pierce referred to him as David's coach. Jerold said, "I always like to drop into the classes toward the end of the year to see what the plan is for these kids' futures. I considered college, but decided that it was not for

me. I wanted to go to work and earn an income. I started out at what was then known as Flintkote (now Genstar). I went to work as an electrician and eventually became a master electrician.

"High school was a building block for me that helped me prepare for the life I have today. I hear people say that our schools don't teach what our kids need to be successful, but I disagree, and I encourage them to go visit the schools and see for themselves. I believe it is our duty to go back to see today's students and talk to them. A student like David will have a career path and can apply what he has learned to reach his goals. Today, it looks like four years as a paid apprentice, then two years as a journeyman, then he can become a master electrician." Jerold pointed out that not everyone follows this path, and that there are other opportunities David and other CTE students can pursue.

David lives at home with his mom and four sisters. "Mom likes what I am doing and is happy for me," he said with a smile. "I'm looking forward to going to work full time right after graduation." **NOW**

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Dr. Meg Sullivan's first interest in medicine came as she considered the plight of women's health in her hometown of Baltimore. "There was a significant amount of inner-city poverty," she recalled. "My compassion was for women who didn't have the resources to care for themselves. I was



not necessarily considering going to medical school, but I knew that I wanted to help people with their health." Her undergraduate studies were in human physiology, which is essentially biology of the human body.

It is not unusual for college students on the East Coast to travel by train to McGill University in Montreal, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. While studying medicine was a consideration, she also considered a career teaching or writing. "During my first couple of years, I also took some electives in urban planning and development. Those courses were helpful when I volunteered with the city of Ennis working on the Main Street project," she mentioned.

She moved to San Antonio where her sister lived and was introduced to The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio from which she graduated in 2004. "Some medical students don't decide their field until they get into their residency. When I went through my rotation in cardiac care, I fell in love with it." she reflected. She interned, performed her residency and completed her fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Baylor University Medical Center

in Dallas. A Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Sullivan is board certified in cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Sullivan provides outpatient stress testing, echocardiography, preoperative screening, preventative cardiology and pacemaker evaluation. She also offers advanced lipid and blood pressure management. She diagnoses peripheral vascular disease (leg and neck arteries) and coronary artery disease. "Part of practicing in a small town is knowing what can be handled locally for patient convenience," Dr. Sullivan said. "I am actively involved when one of my patients is having a stress test, not in my office waiting for results. Also, as director of cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation at the Ennis Hospital, I'm very pleased that patients can do their rehabilitation here rather than having to drive to another town. However, when a patient needs interventional cardiology, such as a catheter for blockage or electrophysiology for heart rhythm, "I will refer to Dallas facilities that do those things."

"Some medical students don't decide their field until they get into their residency. When I went through my rotation in cardiac care, I fell in love with it."

Dr. Sullivan's family includes her husband, Dr. John Sullivan, and their two sons. "We find our careers continue to be rewarding and fulfilling, but family time with the boys is very important also. It is good that the pace is a little slower in Ennis than it would be in a large city. "There have been challenges with the local hospital over the years, and it is ever evolving. I hope to see the hospital grow. It has tremendous potential as the community grows, and it needs to be a priority for us."

Dr. Sullivan concluded, "The smaller town gives us a greater opportunity for civic involvement." She served on the Ennis Main Street board for five years and is now actively involved with the local parks board. "We have developed our parks master plan and have a lot of great projects in the works. There are a lot of good things happening here. Ennis is a great place to practice medicine and a great place to call home." **NOW**



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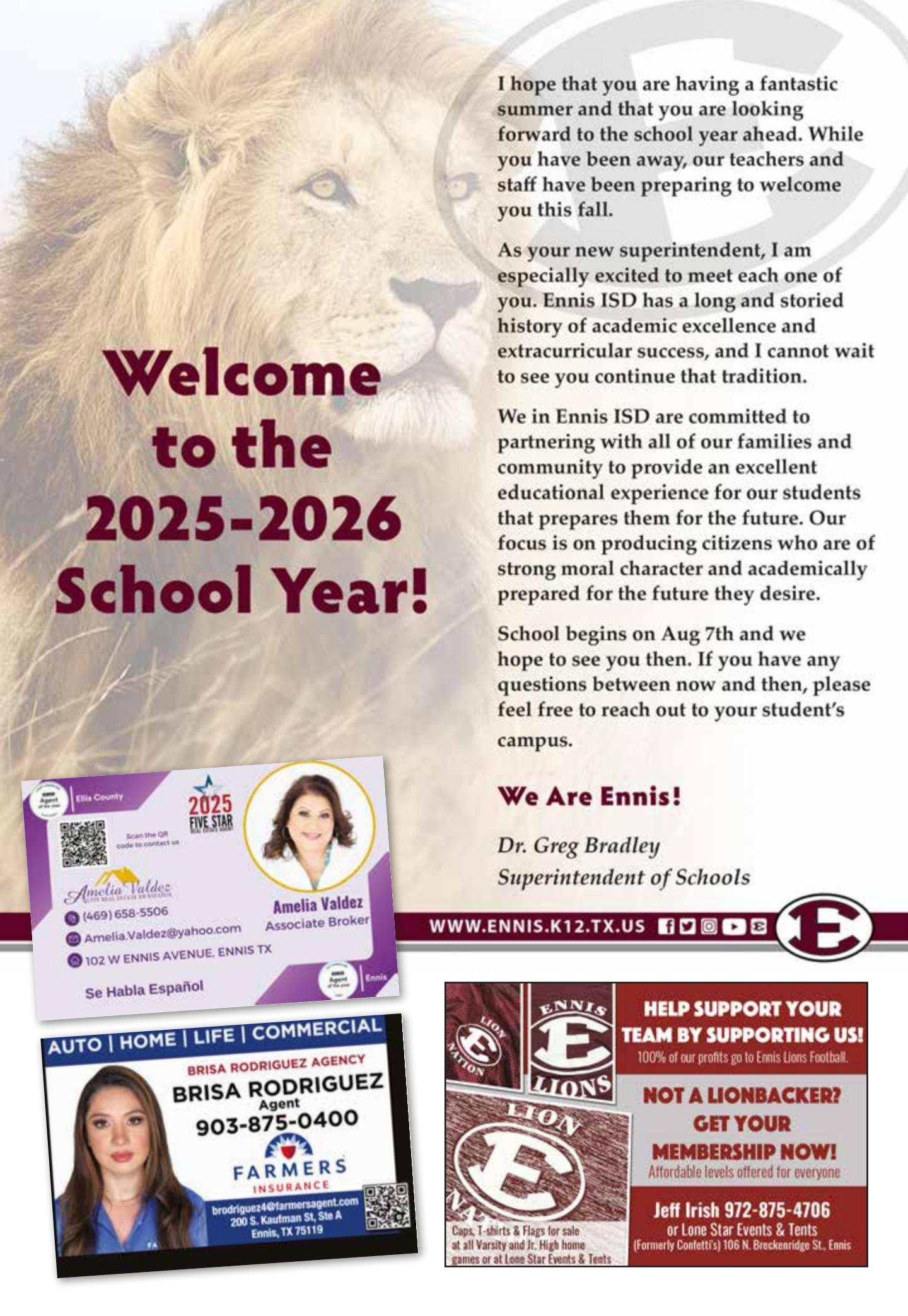
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Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

I hope that you are having a fantastic summer and that you are looking forward to the school year ahead. While you have been away, our teachers and staff have been preparing to welcome you this fall.

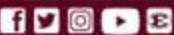
As your new superintendent, I am especially excited to meet each one of you. Ennis ISD has a long and storied history of academic excellence and extracurricular success, and I cannot wait to see you continue that tradition.

We in Ennis ISD are committed to partnering with all of our families and community to provide an excellent educational experience for our students that prepares them for the future. Our focus is on producing citizens who are of strong moral character and academically prepared for the future they desire.

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'25 JULY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

July 4 - Independence Day
 July 22-25 - New Employee Orientation
 July 28-31 - Staff Development Day

'25 AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				31		

August 1-6 - Staff Development Day
 August 7 - First Day of School

'25 SEPTEMBER						
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September 1 - Labor Day
 September 22 - Staff Development Day

'25 OCTOBER						
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October 9 - Student Early Release
 October 10 - Staff Development Day
 October 13 - District Holiday

'25 NOVEMBER

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November 7 - Staff Development Day
 November 24-28 - Thanksgiving Break

'25 DECEMBER

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December 18 - Student Early Release
 December 19-31 - Winter Break

'26 JANUARY

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January 1-2 - Winter Break
 January 5 - Staff Development Day
 January 19 - MLK Day

'26 FEBRUARY

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February 13 - Student Early Release
 February 16 - Presidents' Day

'26 MARCH

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March 9-13 - Spring Break
 March 16 - Staff Development Day

'26 APRIL

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April 3 - District Holiday

'26 MAY

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 15 - Student Early Release
 May 18-19 - Bad Weather/PD
 May 20 - Staff Development Day
 May 25 - Memorial Day

'26 JUNE

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June 19 - Juneteenth

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Tip Line:

As an added safety measure, EISD has a Tip Line. This Tip Line is posted on the home page of the EISD website, on each campus website, and on the district mobile app. If anyone were to suspect or become aware of any students or adults in a school who are planning or acting in an unsafe manner, they can report it. This includes, but is not limited to, the use or possession of drugs or weapons, and/or threats to injure or bully others. It is a fast, effective, and safe way to let us know about any unsafe situation. If they choose, tips can be submitted anonymously, without the worry of being identified as the source of the information. The Tip Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tips will be referred to school and/or law enforcement authorities as deemed appropriate.

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11. Ennis High School

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Zoomed In: Ulyess and Shirley Ray

Ulyess and Shirley Ray celebrated their 70th anniversary with their family and friends at the VFW. The event was a surprise orchestrated by their three children.

Their daughter, Suzy Ray Oster, shared, "My parents met while he was a senior and she was a sophomore at EHS. They were cast in a play together, and fell in love. She shared that their first kiss was backstage."

Shirley mentioned that they were married in the heat of summer at Rice Baptist Church. The church was cooled by water fans, but the preacher had them turned off because they were too loud for him to hear the couple's response to their vows. Shirley recalled with a laugh the perspiration dripping from Ulyess' face down onto his tie!

By Bill Smith



Jaycie Adams volunteers to assist Science Hero.



Abel, Nico and Memphis Collins have fun at Vacation Bible School.



Levi and Skylar Johnson and Harrison and Nolan McIntosh are ready to ride in the Red, White and Bike Parade.



Stephen and Suzanne Hickman enjoy the Bluebonnet Market.

NOW



Nora and Eric Puckett prepare to lead Make It at the Market.



Telvis Hair Design celebrates their 30-year anniversary.



Stanley Robinson volunteers to help organize the Juneteenth parade.

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Saturday, August 16, 2025

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Peach Cobbler

CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH JENNA RATHBUN

— By Bill Smith



Jenna Rathbun grew up cooking with her mom and grandmother, and she developed a love for being in the kitchen. "A lot of my recipes have been handed down to me from them. I get so much joy cooking for other people and getting to sit around a table with great food and great company," she reflected.

"My mother created a cookbook for me with all of her baking recipes, especially the ones for Christmas. My mom has passed away, but I love getting her cookbook out and baking. When I do, it feels like she is back in the kitchen with me. My son has inherited a love for cooking, and I am now teaching him all of the recipes that my grandmother and mom passed down to me." **NOW**

One Pot Pasta

1 white onion
6 garlic cloves
1 12-oz. pkg. cherry tomatoes
1 12-oz. pkg. linguine
2 sprigs fresh basil, plus extra for garnish
2 Tbsp. olive oil, plus extra for garnish
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
4 1/2 cups water
Fresh Parmesan, to taste

1. Thinly slice the onion and garlic cloves; cut the cherry tomatoes in half.
2. Add the linguine, garlic, onions, cherry tomatoes, basil, olive oil, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper to one pan.
3. Cover all of the ingredients with the water; bring to a boil on high heat. You will

want to stir it frequently, so it does not stick to the bottom. It will take about 8 to 10 minutes for the pasta to cook through and the water to be absorbed.

4. Plate the pasta; garnish with a few more sprigs of fresh basil, olive oil and grate some fresh Parmesan on top.

Peach Cobbler

Filling:
6-8 peaches peeled, cored and sliced
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 Tbsp. salt

Batter:

1 stick butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt

3/4 cup milk
Ground cinnamon, to taste

- 1.** For filling: Add the sliced peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan; stir to combine.
- 2.** Cook on medium heat for just a couple minutes, until the sugar is dissolved; set aside for later.
- 3.** For batter: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Add the stick of butter to a glass pan; melt the butter in the oven while it is preheating. Once melted, remove the pan from the oven.
- 4.** In a large bowl combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add the milk to the mixture; stir just until it is combined.
- 5.** Pour the mixture into the pan over the butter; smooth it out into an even layer.
- 6.** Add the peaches on top of the batter; top with as much ground cinnamon as your heart desires.
- 7.** Bake for about 40 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Pink Lady Salad

1 6-oz. box strawberry Jell-O mix
1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple in heavy syrup
1 24-oz. container small curd cottage cheese
1 16-oz. container Cool Whip
1 16-oz. bag mini marshmallows

- In a saucepan add the Jell-O and crushed pineapple; bring it to a boil.
- Refrigerate the Jell-O and pineapple mixture until firm. Once firm, use a hand mixer to fluff up mixture.
- Add the cottage cheese, Cool Whip and marshmallows; stir together well.
- Refrigerate for a few hours before eating.

Lemon Pesto Chicken Tenders

1 pkg. chicken tenders (12-14 tenders)
1 1/2 cups pesto
1 large lemon
2 cups mozzarella, shredded

- Add the chicken tenders to a glass baking dish. Mix the pesto and the juice of the lemon together; cover the top of the chicken tenders with the mixture.
- Spread the mozzarella on top of the pesto mixture; bake at 350 F until the chicken reaches 165 F.
- Eat with white rice or pasta.



WIN!

EnnisNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden
Backpacks

in 5 different ads in this issue
(not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers
and specific ads where
they are found, plus your
phone number, by August
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Liberty Bells were found
on pages 1, 3, 5, 9, 10



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Does fear of COPD flare-ups keep you close to home?

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The ENDURA-1 clinical research study is currently seeking volunteers to evaluate an investigational medication for adults with COPD.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a broad term that comprises several ongoing lung conditions such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Key signs and symptoms may include difficulty breathing, tiredness, and a chronic cough (with or without mucus). Symptoms may get worse at times, called "exacerbations." These flare-ups may do further damage to the lungs, so it's important to effectively treat COPD.

ologic medicine given as shots just under the skin. They want to see if it can lower the number of moderate/severe exacerbations (symptom flare-ups) and improve symptoms and quality of life compared to placebo* when used as add-on therapy. Researchers also want to assess how safe the investigational medication is in this population.

*shots with no medicine in them

Right now, a research study is enrolling adults with uncontrolled moderate to severe COPD. Study doctors are assessing an investigational medication — a type of bi-

You may qualify to participate in this study if you:

- Are age 40 to 80.
- Have moderate to severe COPD.
- Are a current OR former smoker.
- Have had at least one exacerbation (symptom flare-up) in the past 12 months that meet certain requirements.

Length of time in the study will vary by participant but is expected to last a minimum of 1 and up to 2 years during which there will be, on average, about one visit per month.

Qualified participants will be reimbursed for study-related travel expenses and they will be provided with investigational medication or placebo, rescue medication, and study-related medical care.

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Easy

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WELCOME Back to School AUGUST

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

8/15-8/24

The Actor's Nightmare & Wanda's Visit:

Recommended for ages 13-plus. Two hilarious one-act comedies: In *The Actor's Nightmare*, directed by Kati Tibbits, accountant George Spelvin is mistaken for an actor's understudy and forced to perform in a play for which he does not know any of the lines. In *Wanda's Visit*, directed by Becca & Michael Vaughn, Jim and Marsha have been married for 13 years and are feeling a little bored and unhappy. Wanda, Jim's old girlfriend, shows up for a visit and becomes the guest from hell. Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas St. For showtimes

and ticket information, visit www.ennispublctheatre.com or call (972) 878-7529.

8/15-8/31

The Odd Couple (Female Version):

Written by Neil Simon. Theatre Rocks!, 505 NW Main St. For showtimes and ticket prices, visit www.theatrerock.com or call (972) 878-5126.

8/16

Lung Cancer Awareness Benefit:

Silent and live auctions, BBQ, hot dogs, live music, raffles and more! Free entry and free parking. 1:00-7:00 p.m., American Legion, 706 Rumbo

Rd. For more information, contact Sharon Oglesby Shaw at sharonoglesby1970@gmail.com or (972) 481-0313.

8/18

Meet the Lions:

Come for this community event as Lions teams are introduced including cheerleaders and Lionettes. Free. 6:30 p.m., Lion Memorial Stadium.

8/30-8/31

Ennis Blues on Main:

Come join us for an evening filled with smooth tunes and soulful blues. This two-day event will be hosted by Unity in the Community of Ennis and

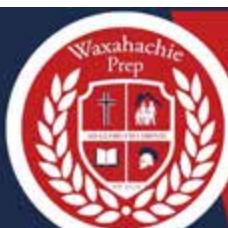
the Ennis Main Street. Come enjoy live music, games, raffles and a host of other entertainers. Be prepared for mouthwatering food and merchandise vendors and a family-friendly kid's zone.

Saturday events include a car show and health fair. Both days will feature DJ and live artists.

Free admission. Downtown Ennis. For full schedule, see www.visitennistexas.com/bluesonmain.

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

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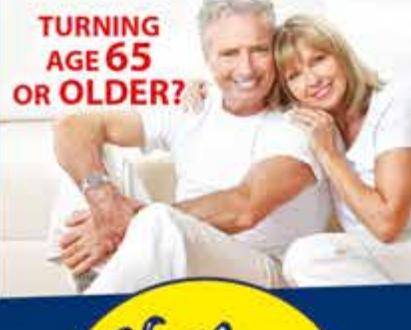
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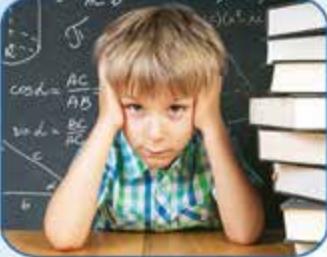
47TH ANNIVERSARY

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

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