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MARCH 2019

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for Anne Ludwig  
and her daughters

## Virgil's Vision

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## ON THE COVER

*Gracie and Landry Ludwig have competed in pageants since infancy.*

**Photo by**  
Bill Smith.

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mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Ennis ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50  
per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O.  
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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Bill*

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*A new thing ...*

I have known my predecessor, Sandra Strong, for more years than I'll put a specific number to. Suffice it to say, we were neighbors when our children were growing up, and one of my sons considered her a "second mom." One of our most vivid memories is my wife and I arriving home from work and finding our son on Sandra's living room sofa. He had gone over the handlebars on his bicycle and broken his collarbone. Sandra took care of him as if he were her own.

I am often asked if I have lived in Ennis all of my life. My answer is "not yet!" As a youth in Ennis, my father was the local distributor for *The Dallas Morning News*, so I had a paper route from the time I was in the second grade until I left home for college. I felt like I knew everyone in town and where they lived! Ennis is about twice the population it was back then, so I certainly do not know everyone in town today, but I am looking forward to meeting you. Contact me if you have a story to tell, or if you know someone who would fit in one of our features.

Sandra's farewell editor's note in last month's issue credited the Lord for the time she spent behind this keyboard, and I feel the same way about this new opportunity. The Bible puts it this way, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19 ESV).

Godspeed Sandra. We wish you the very best.



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# THE BOWS

*An old poem insists that little girls are made of “sugar and spice and everything nice.” While Gracie and Landry Ludwig certainly personify that sweet description, anyone who knows them knows they can’t be summed up in a short nursery rhyme. “Sunshine, rainbows and ribbons for hair bows,” yes, but don’t forget glitter, slime and a passion for unicorns.*

The 5- and 3-year-old sisters are as multidimensional as they are active. They are happy to politely answer questions about their many pageant competitions one minute, yet ready to break into a ballet pirouette or cartwheel without warning or toss their Cabbage Patch dolls high in the air before scurrying off to the kitchen to fetch their latest creation of blue slime the next.

The daughters of Chris and Anne Ludwig, an Ennis family four generations deep, Gracie and Landry have been competing in little girl pageants since infancy. Before her daughters were born, Anne had limited, although very positive, experience with pageants. At 21, she entered her first and only pageant and won the Texas State Cinderella Woman. The experience impressed Anne so much she knew when she had a daughter, she would want her to follow in her footsteps. “I knew when I had a little girl, I was putting her in it,” she said.

“One thing I always wanted was for my girls to be well-rounded, because that’s the way I was raised. I wanted them to be able wear a cocktail dress or camouflage,” Anne shared.

Anne’s first two children, sons Ethan and Ryder, obviously were not going to be the ones to follow in Anne’s footsteps. “When my boys were born, I knew I was going to have more deer hunters,” she said, shaking her head. “All the men in the family hunt.”

A few years after Ryder was born, Gracie came along, and Anne entered Gracie in her first pageant when she was a few months old. “She was born in November, and I entered her in the prelims in February,” Anne said.



# THAT *Bind*

— By Sally Fuller

“Honestly, it was just the joy of knowing I could share in something with my daughter. Daddy had his deer hunters, and I had my little pageant beauty,” Anne shared sentimentally. A few years later, Landry was born, and at just 2 months old entered her first pageant. “I put her in because if I was doing it for Gracie, then I was going to do it for Landry,” Anne said.

While some pageants have the unhappy reputation of replacing childlike beauty with glamour, the pageant circuit Anne and Chris chose for their daughters is the antithesis of the reality show depiction. One of Gracie’s favorite pageant activities — besides swimming in the hotel pool — is called, appropriately, Playtime. “You just find someone to play with and you play,” Gracie explained with 5-year-old simplicity.



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During Playtime, judges discreetly observe the interaction between the girls. “They watch to see if they are sharing, and if they are being nice. It’s about being a nice little girl in a natural setting,” Anne explained.

“And no makeup. You can curl their hair, but you can’t use a lot of hairspray. You’re not doing any glitz. It’s straight natural. As a matter of fact, if your child has makeup on, they automatically are disqualified,” she continued.

Of course, there is some “onstage” activity when the girls are required to stand in front of audiences of 500-plus. Anne said learning to stand with poise in front of a large crowd teaches self-discipline and confidence.

“They learn how to stand there with poise and pretty posture and pretty feet because there’s a discipline about it. They know that playtime is playtime and when it’s not, it’s time to listen. I see that in so many things. She (Gracie) is quieter and more obedient — like at mass at church — because she knows how to listen and be still.”

At the mention of pretty feet — which is akin to third position in ballet — Gracie eagerly demonstrated. “Like this,” she said, standing erect with one foot toward the front of the other, heel to toe and pointed outward.

The ultimate prize for Anne and her daughters is not a ribbon, a tiara or a trophy on a shelf, although they have plenty of those. The real treasure is the mother-daughter bond. “You always want your child to win, but a lot of times we haven’t,” Anne shared. “At the end of the day, it’s not about that. It’s about learning the connections and them learning to trust me.

"Chris, the deer lease and the boys are equal to me, the girls and the pageants. It's our time. It's a mom-daughter thing. First and foremost, it's a deep connection with me and my girls. It's a cherished moment no one can take away from me," Anne said, choking up a little.

Anne and Chris' goal of having their children be well-rounded means letting them try multiple activities. "Me and my husband always try to give the same opportunity to each child. If you want to try all the sports and then pick out one, that's fine. So that's what we're trying to do with all of our kids."



Ethan has tried football, basketball and track, and Ryder "is in love with soccer," Anne said.

Gracie, who has watched older contestants dance, will be enrolling in tumbling and ballet classes soon "because I want to spin," she said, twirling around, "and because ballerinas wear pink, and I love pink." Landry will be learning tumbling.

"They are just everyday kids. It [pageant competition] is just an activity, like soccer or basketball, and Gracie just happened to fall in love with it," Anne shared. "Not all girls are cut out for it, but you don't know if you don't try."

While Gracie will continue pageants in the future, Landry "probably will not," Anne admitted. "And that's fine. Honestly, I see Landry deer hunting," she concluded with a laugh. **NOW**

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# VIRGIL'S VISION

— By Sandra Strong

*As he sits back to relax in his easy chair, Virgil Collins begins to reminisce about his life — a life he admits has been hard at times, but one that has certainly been well lived. Virgil, now 85, came to Ennis in 1957 from Anderson County, with his late wife, Cleo, and two of the nine children they were blessed with throughout their 58-year marriage, prior to her passing in 2013. “It’s been a good life,” he confessed, “but it hasn’t always been easy.”*

To understand just how far Virgil has come, you have to travel back to the time when he was just a young boy. “My dad passed when I was 5, leaving six kids at home at the time,” he explained. “My brother, Griffin, who we called Griff, helped me in many ways after dad passed. He not only gave me a job, but he was a good role model as he helped the family grow.”

As Virgil matured into manhood, the hard lessons he learned about life were tempered with the love he received from Griff. “Griff sure helped me out,” Virgil said, adding that things haven’t been quite the same since his passing in 1991. “He taught me how to swim. He did everything in my dad’s absence.”

As an adult living in Ennis, Virgil partnered with Griff in a concrete business. That lasted about a year before Virgil’s brother, Alfred, introduced him to the business of construction — demolition jobs to be exact. This is also where the idea of a business of his own was born. “I salvaged the items from the demo jobs that no one wanted,” he stated. “I turned it into a business, Virgil Collins Used Lumber Co., that Griff and I partnered in together for over 15 years.”

The work ethic Virgil learned watching and working alongside Griff has been the example he’s worked diligently to pass on to his own children. And he started teaching them by example at a very young age. “When we moved to Ennis, we just had the two oldest kids,” he remembered. “We lived in the rent house next door. By the time we started to build the main house, we had six kids.”

Building a house may not seem like a daunting undertaking to most, but to Virgil and Cleo, they had a specific plan they wanted to follow — they wanted to build it brick by brick, room by room and not owe anyone money when the project was completed. “He and mom did that and so much more,” said Karen Collins, the middle girl out of the bunch, who recently moved back home to live with her dad.



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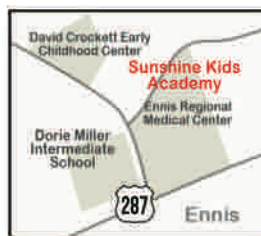


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As the building process began, the naysayers seemed to come from every direction. "They told me that I was never going to finish," Virgil said.

The process of building included Virgil, Cleo and six of the nine children. "I remember cleaning bricks as a kid," said Cornelia Harris, the proud-to-be middle child. "We would fuss over those bricks. Daddy paid us a penny per brick, and you knew if someone was trying to take away from the stack of bricks you had been cleaning! We used the money we earned to attend a local carnival."

After nearly 10,000 bricks were rubbed clean by family, friends and neighbors who wanted nothing but to see Virgil succeed, the outside of the home was complete. "It looked finished from the outside," Virgil said, "but it was blank on the inside." It was six months after the outside was complete before Virgil was able to get started on the inside. He accomplished this in 1972 from money he earned hauling trash from Fair Park in Dallas. "God gave me the strength to finish the house and owe no one," he said, proving the naysayers wrong.

Cornelia loved the extra space the new brick home afforded with its four bedrooms and three bathrooms. "I shared a bedroom with one sister, instead of two," she said with a smile.



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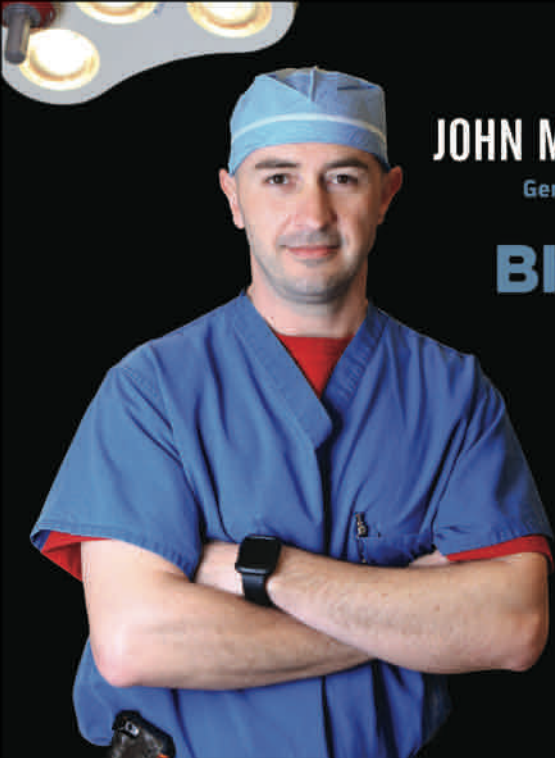


"I remember the many sightseers who stopped by all the time to tour the home and see the final product," Karen added.

Virgil doesn't show signs of slowing down anytime soon. He still picks up donuts on Sunday; drives the church van, picking up fellow churchgoers who are in need of a ride; and sings in the church choir. He still attends every Ennis High School football and basketball game. He's still an active member of the Travis Elementary Good News Club. "And I still work a little bit contracting, cleaning up a few lots here and there and hauling some trash," he said. "I drive a Bobcat now, so I no longer get my hands as dirty as I once did."

The rent house where the family first began belongs to Virgil, as does the 4 acres surrounding the home that he and his family built. The business is still located out back, and his office sits between the house and lumberyard. He didn't just make a good life. He and Cleo raised a group of children who grew up to be responsible, respectable individuals. "Mom and Dad told us that we would all graduate from high school, and we did," Karen said. "If we graduated, they would pay cash for our college." Twelve degrees have been celebrated in the Collins household, with a few of the children holding more than one.

Virgil is proud to say he never borrowed any money from a bank or lending agency, and he's always been one to give to those less fortunate. He has tried to instill these same life traits in his children and grandchildren. "I feel Cleo and I did what we were supposed to do," he said, looking at one of the many family portraits that represent the vision he had from the start. **NOW**



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## BusinessNOW

# Ennis Dental Center

— By Sandra Strong



### Ennis Dental Center

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Dr. Michael Eeds, DDS, opened Ennis Dental Center in February of last year in the same building where Dr. Ronald Ogelsby, DDS had practiced dentistry for 43 years. The story behind the purchase is one well worth retelling. You see, Dr. Eeds and Dr. Ogelsby had known each other long ago — long before they ever attended Baylor College of Dentistry. “We

were friends in the late '60s, early '70s,” Dr. Eeds shared. “We worked for the same company, building high voltage towers.”

In the early years of his dental career, Dr. Eeds’ practice in Irving flourished. Twenty years into his career, he decided to take a hiatus from his practice. “I sold my dental practice in Irving and soon became the CEO of Martin Brothers Bikes, where I stayed from 2002 until 2008,” he explained. “It was an experience, to say the least.”

Soon thereafter, he was playing at the goalie position during a game of ice hockey when his eye was severely injured. As he recuperated from the injury and got familiar with what his wife, Evie, refers to as his bionic eye, Dr. Eeds had a conversation with God about restoring his sight while sitting in the back row of Northwest Bible Church. “I told God I wouldn’t whine anymore about being a dentist,” he recalled.

As his sight was restored even better than before the accident, he realized he needed to find a practice where he

could once again put his knowledge and experience to work. That place came to fruition as Dr. Ralston Gober, a longtime dentist in Corsicana, was contemplating retirement. "I saw a diamond in the rough," he stated, also sharing that Evie's 40-year career in the fashion business was coming to an end at the same time. "I told her, 'Let's do this!'" And do it they did — opening Navarro Dental Center in September 2009.

**The staff at Ennis Dental Center looks forward to all 2019 has to offer as they continue to grow and get to know those in the community in which they serve.**

Fast forward to 2018, when the same scenario in Corsicana was about to repeat itself in Ennis. Dr. Ogelsby was ready to retire, and Dr. Eeds once again saw a need — a need for the patients who would be displaced in Dr. Ogelsby's absence. As the two friends reunited, it just seemed right for the practice to change hands, so to speak. "Their personalities are similar," Evie said. "Reestablishing a relationship was the best thing for both of them."

The staff at Ennis Dental Center looks forward to all 2019 has to offer as they continue to grow and get to know those in the community in which they serve. Evie is the practice administrator, while Jessica Owen and Elisa Arias are the two registered dental assistants on staff. There's also Lauren Thedford, registered dental hygienist; Monique Sanchez, patient coordinator; Christene Oliver, team leader; and the newest staff member, Marketing Director Afton Aldama, who along with Dr. Eeds, offer complete dental care under one roof. They are excited about the new smiles they will surely see in the future. **NOW**



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## Zoomed In: Ryan Casas

By Rachel Smith

Ennis high school star athlete Ryan Casas was honored with the Black Flag Award for his courage, effort and above-and-beyond attitude for the team. At the Ennis Lions Football Banquet, his mother, Julie Casas, stands lovingly beside him, honoring his achievements and ambitions. "When he was younger, he got involved in some pole vaulting and other sports," she mentioned. "But once he played football, he found his love."

He leads in other areas, as well, by being an example in the youth group at First United Methodist and making his mark in baseball. His extracurricular activities during his time away from school include hunting, which he really enjoys. This busy Ennis Lion knows what dedication and hard work is — and is rightfully being recognized for it.



*Cole Hejny has a good time playing at Jaycee Park.*



*Eric Chmelar, the Lions Varsity Girls Soccer coach, speaks to the Ennis Noon Lions Club.*



*FBM property management holds a ribbon cutting at their future location.*



*Ennis celebrates the beginning of construction on the new Buc-ee's with a groundbreaking ceremony for their store opening in April 2020.*



Alyssa Fincher, kindergarten teacher at Carver ECC, and her cousin, Lillie Slovak, are all smiles on the 100th day of school.



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Marcus and Ariana Rogers enjoy playing with a fire truck at the Ennis Fire Station No. 3.

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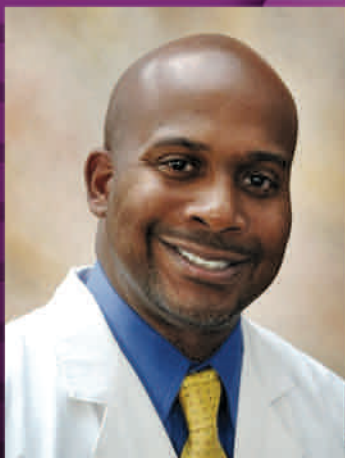
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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### DYLAN JONES

— By Sandra Strong



Dylan Jones has always liked trying new and different things, and when he's not in the kitchen trying new recipes using wild game, he can be found hunting and fishing. Cooking seemed to be something he could do that would make others smile. "I started cooking at the age of 11. I'm in my second year in the high school culinary program," Dylan said. "I have also learned a lot from mom, but I'm mostly self-taught."

Growing up in a Czech family that loves to cook may be a big reason for Dylan's love of cooking. "I use some recipes from cookbooks that I inherited from my great-grandmothers," he shared. "I use the Internet and videos of people cooking. Then I try different spices and techniques to make the recipes my own." Dylan's favorite spice is garlic, and he enjoys cooking in a cast-iron skillet when the recipe calls for it. **NOW**

#### Duck Steak With Cream Sauce

8-10 duck breast halves  
4 Tbsp. salt  
5 cups water  
2 cups Caesar vinaigrette  
6 oz. mushrooms  
1 Tbsp. butter  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 Tbsp. shallots, minced

1/4 cup chicken broth  
1 cup heavy cream  
1/2 tsp. black pepper  
1/4 tsp. dried thyme  
1 tsp. chicken bouillon granules

1. Soak duck breast halves in the salt and water in the refrigerator for 24 hours.  
2. Remove; wash breasts off. Let them soak in vinaigrette for 12 hours.

3. Wash mushrooms in lukewarm water; dry fry them in a pot until moisture is cooked out.  
4. Add the butter, garlic and shallots; sauté for about 3 minutes. Add the broth, cream, pepper, thyme and bouillon.  
5. Bring to a slow simmer for 15-20 minutes; set aside.  
6. Cook breasts on the grill until they are medium-rare to medium. Spoon sauce over the breasts; serve.

#### Duck Kabobs

8-10 duck breast halves  
4 Tbsp. salt  
5 cups water  
2 cups Italian dressing  
2 red bell peppers  
2 green bell peppers  
1 onion  
4-5 wooden skewers

1. Soak duck breast halves in the salt and water in the refrigerator for 24 hours.  
2. Take out and wash breasts off in

lukewarm water; soak them in dressing for 12 hours.

3. Clean out the insides of the bell peppers. Slice the peppers and the onion into 1/2-inch strips. Slice duck breasts into 4 strips each.

4. Place everything on the skewers in order of red pepper, duck, onion, duck and green pepper; repeat.

5. Cook on grill until duck is medium-rare to medium; serve.

## Ultimate Chili

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 lb. stew meat, diced into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 lb. ground Italian sausage, no casing
- 2 cups diced onions
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 2 14.5-oz. cans stewed tomatoes
- 1 14.5-oz. can tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 Tbsp. cumin
- 2 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup green onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. garlic, minced

1. Heat oil in a large pan. Brown stew meat; set aside. Brown ground beef and sausage; add to the bowl with the stew meat.
2. Remove all oil. Add diced onions and bell peppers to a large pot; sauté until tender.
3. Add the beef broth. Reduce it by half; add the meat back in.
4. Add the stewed tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, brown sugar, salt, pepper, chili powder, cumin, red pepper, water, green onions and garlic.
5. Bring to a boil; lower to a simmer. Let simmer for 3 hours before serving.

## Baked Ziti

- 1 lb. ziti pasta
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil, plus extra to toss with pasta
- 1 lb. Italian sausage
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. rosemary, minced
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1 32-oz. jar marinara

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Baked Ziti

**1 cup ricotta cheese**  
**1/2 lb. grated mozzarella cheese**  
**1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated**  
**1 cup cheddar cheese**

1. Cook pasta per package directions; drain using a colander. Toss with a bit of olive oil so pasta does not stick.
2. Heat olive oil in a large pan on medium-high heat. Add the sausage when the oil becomes hot. Break up; brown well. When meat is almost brown, add onions; sauté until translucent, about 4-5 minutes.
3. Add garlic, rosemary, Italian seasoning and pepper flakes. Stir and cook for 1 minute. Add marinara sauce; bring to a simmer.

4. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a 9x13-inch pan, spread a thin layer of sauce; dot surface with half the ricotta cheese. Ladle a spoonful of sauce into the pasta; stir well. Add pasta to the pan.

5. Pour rest of the sauce over the pasta. Dot remaining Ricotta over pasta; top with mozzarella, Parmesan and cheddar cheeses.

6. Bake 20 minutes until the top is lightly brown; serve.

### Monkey Bread

**1 cup sugar**  
**2 tsp. ground cinnamon**

**2 12-oz. pkgs. biscuit dough**  
**1/2 cup margarine**  
**1 cup brown sugar**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9- or 10-inch Bundt pan.
2. Mix sugar and cinnamon in a baggie. Cut biscuits into quarters. Shake 6-8 biscuit pieces in the mix.
3. Arrange pieces in the bottom of the pan. Continue the process until all biscuits are coated and placed in the pan.
4. In a small saucepan, melt margarine with brown sugar over medium heat. Boil for 1 minute; pour over biscuits.
5. Bake for 35 minutes; let cool for 10 minutes. Turn over onto plate; pick apart and eat.

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# TravelNOW

## Endless Options

— By Kelly Shannon

Imagine rolling mountain terrain, breathtakingly beautiful waterfalls, thriving woodlands and 170 miles of winding rivers. This paradise is known as the Pocono Mountains, a 2,400-square-mile region in northeastern Pennsylvania just waiting to be explored.

The Pocono Mountains, also known as “the Poconos,” is teeming with history. A popular destination to many on the East Coast, it’s a short drive from major metropolitan areas, such as New York City, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Within reasonable driving distance of many airports, Allentown is the closest, and Philadelphia and Newark are the next closest. From Dallas-Fort Worth, that’s only about a 3-hour flight. Once at a nearby airport, a rental car is the best option to be able to fully explore the Poconos, which is about the size of the entire state of Delaware.

Natural scenic beauty; fun-filled, year-round activities; and luxurious accommodations make the Pocono Mountains the perfect

place for a romantic stay. The region has become a haven of world-class, luxury spas incorporating breathtaking, natural surroundings. Romantics indulge in decadent amenities, such as saunas, massage tables, log-burning fireplaces and whirlpool baths.

Accommodations are as varied as the Poconos’ landscape. Consider a bed-and-breakfast atop a mountain peak overlooking one of the Poconos’ many quiet coves, or an inn nestled among rolling hills and scenic mountains. Alternatively, visitors can stay in a historic, downtown boutique hotel that caters to romance with its vintage charm and warm hospitality.

The past decade has transformed the region into a family-friendly destination. Endless entertainment is provided, whether it be in the form of indoor water parks, arcades, adventure parks, NASCAR races, scenic train rides, festivals, ski/snowboard lessons, snow tubing or a resort with daily activities tailored to children. Options

are endless, and families return time and time again.

The Poconos' bountiful nature makes the destination shine. There are nine states and two national parks, more than 261 miles for hiking and biking, dozens of majestic waterfalls, rivers for whitewater rafting, more than 35 golf courses and lakes for boating, fishing and jet skiing. Even just driving around, visitors can catch grand scenic overlooks.

Winters offer guests the opportunity to ski or snowboard 163 ski trails, snow tube (including galactic tubing and family-style tubing), snowmobile and even snowshoe their way through snowy wonderlands.

The family will love the Pocono Mountains' miles of snowmobile trails in the winter and its wonderful selection of family-friendly resorts, motels, cottages and condos just steps away from the many lakes in the summer.

The region's water park resorts welcome families to splash and stay in any season, as they are always 84 degrees. Full-service hotels and resorts serve up extensive amenities and make for a well-appointed home base while exploring. A variety of campgrounds can be found along the rivers, lakes or in the woods.

Foodies will have a field day at a variety of restaurants around the region. Find upscale French flair at the Delmonico Room at the Hotel Fauchere, or at the French Manor Inn & Spa. End the family-fun day at Kalahari's indoor water park with a juicy burger and a milkshake — topped with a donut at B-Lux Grill & Bar. Share a sunset toast with your travel buddy at The Dock on the third largest lake in the state, Lake Wallenpaupack.

While exploring the quaint downtowns, visitors find unique cafés, bakeries, ice cream parlors and coffee shops. The local breweries and wineries offer some of the tastiest beverages on the East Coast.

The Poconos' year-round cultural tours and art exhibitions, abundant antiques, brand-name shopping and full calendar of festivals showcase the heritage, music and food of the Pocono Mountains. If you are considering a vacation to this region, the friendly professionals who manage the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau are happy to help. **NOW**

*Photos courtesy of PoconoMountains.com.*



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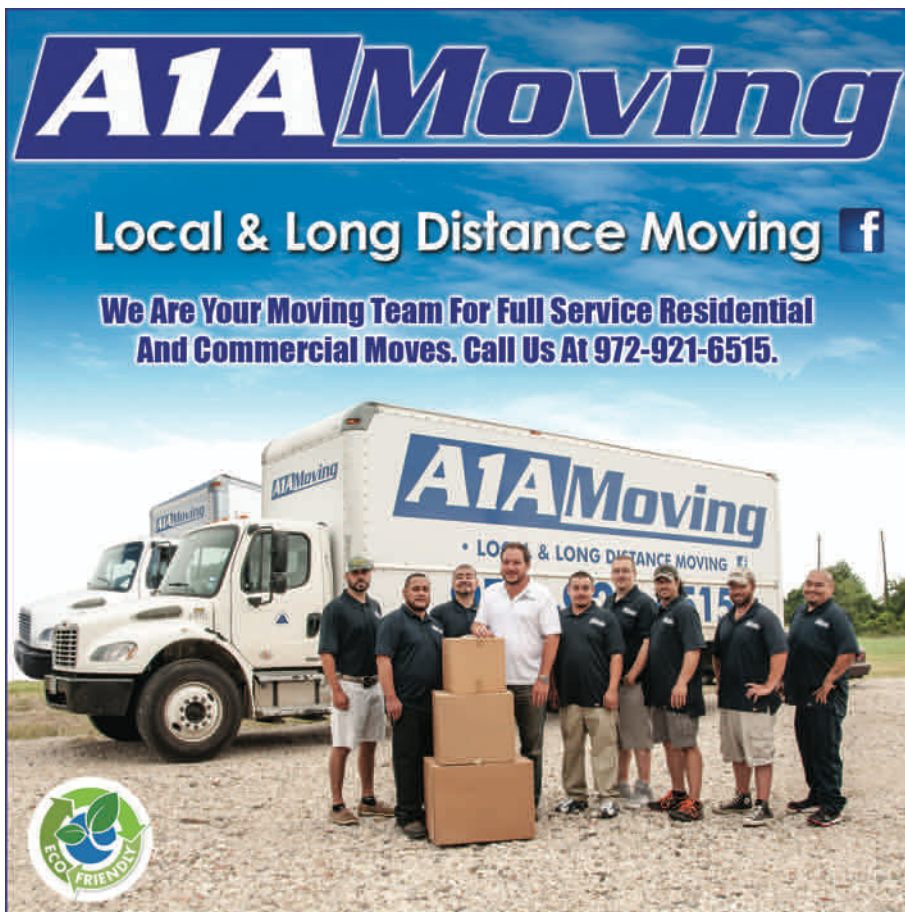
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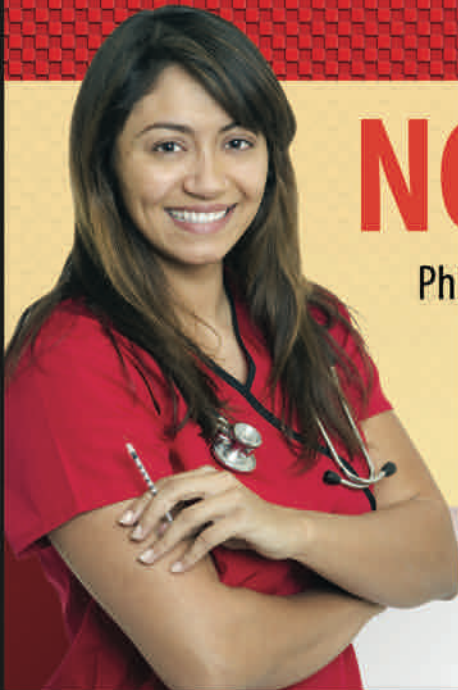


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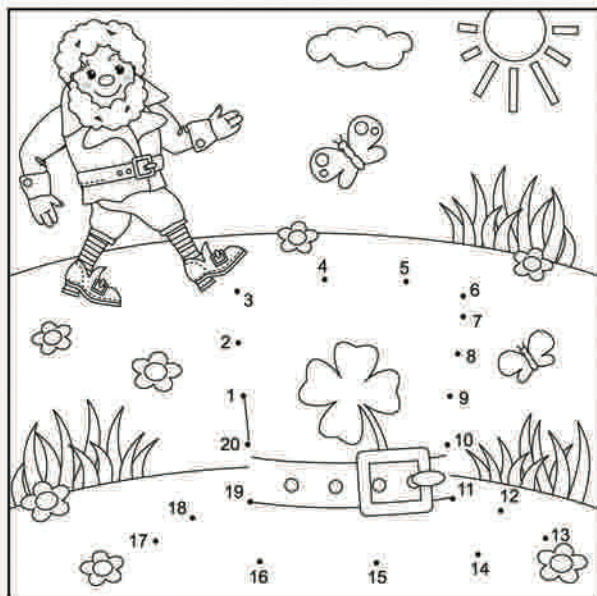
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# Kids' Fun Pages

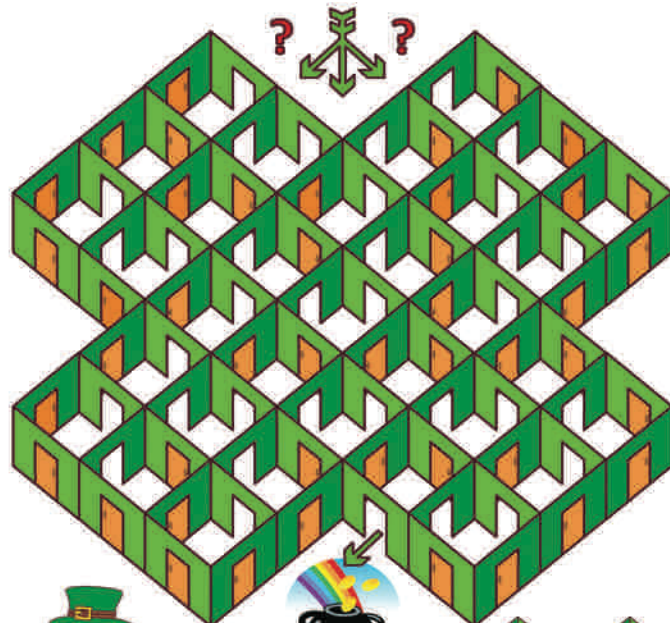
Draw a line from dot number 1 to dot number 2, then from dot number 2 to dot number 3, 3 to 4, and so on. Continue to join the dots until you have connected all the numbered dots. Then color the picture!



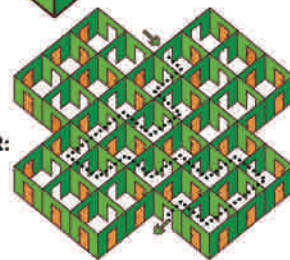
ANSWER:



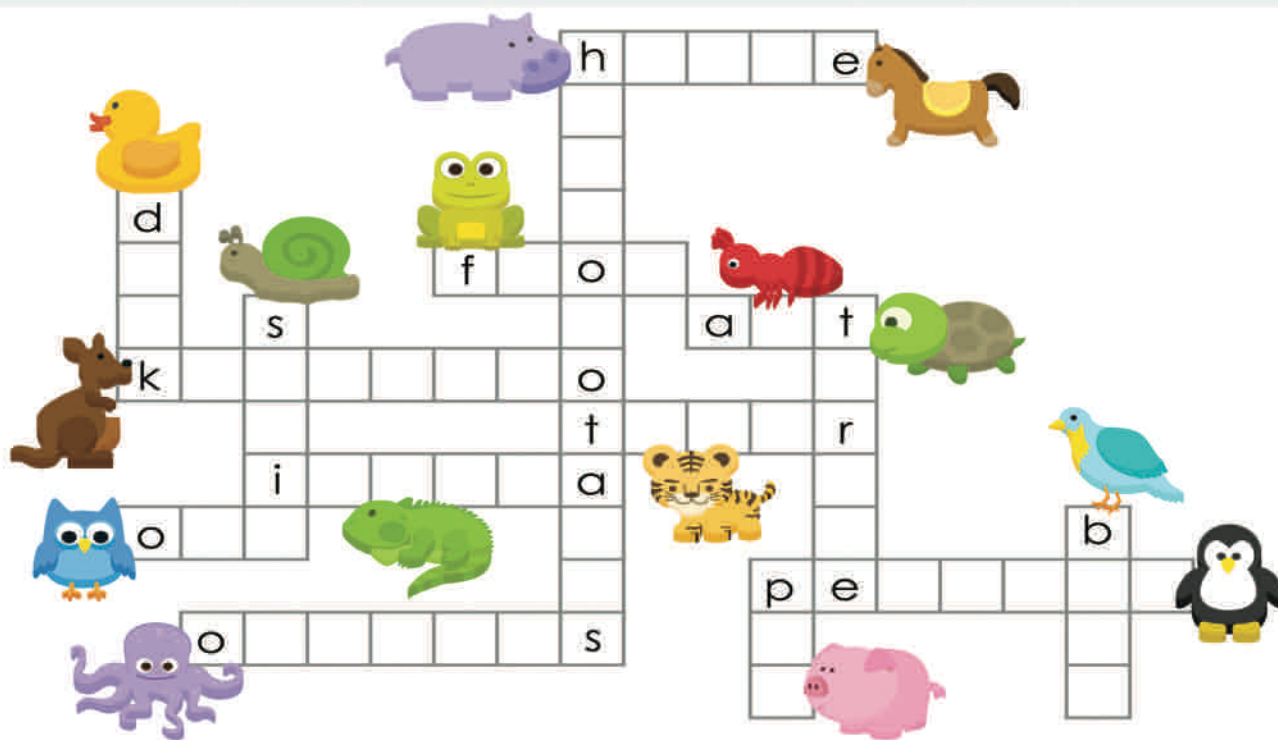
Help the leprechaun get through this quatrefoil shaped maze. Start from the top. Avoid locked doors.



ANSWER:



## Animals Crosswords



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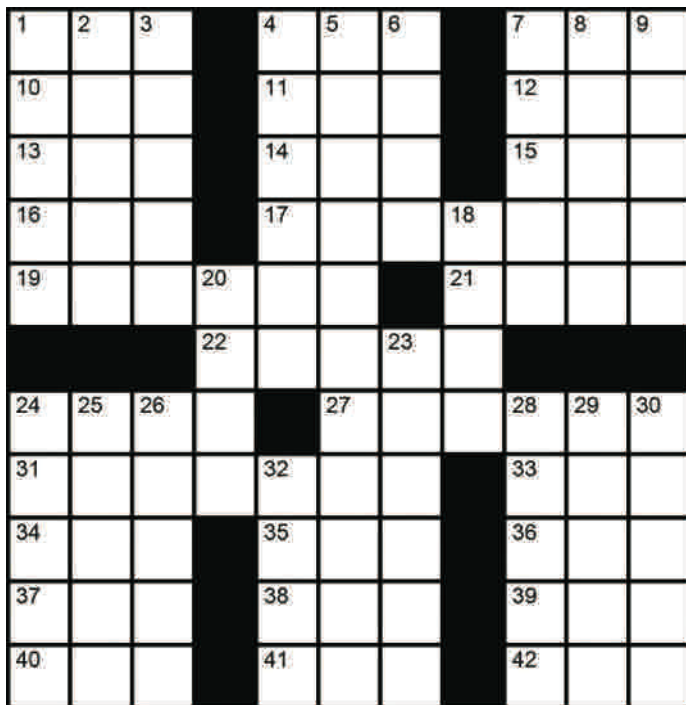
- 1. Currently take Medications other than rescue Inhaler for Asthma.**
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this.**

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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 British Delta Force equivalent
- 4 Short change?
- 7 Iraq war *casus belli*
- 10 Presidential advisory grp.
- 11 "Figured it out!"
- 12 Weeding implement
- 13 Diamonds
- 14 Actor --- Gibson
- 15 Admiration
- 16 Fiver
- 17 Built
- 19 Party, south of the border
- 21 Blades
- 22 Drop by unannounced
- 24 Transfer legally
- 27 Cover completely
- 31 Drafted
- 33 Observe
- 34 Free
- 35 El operator
- 36 Highest mountain in Crete
- 37 Repetitive behavior condition, for short
- 38 Atmosphere
- 39 Crackpot
- 40 Might
- 41 Statute
- 42 Navigational aid

## Down

- 1 Smell
- 2 Computer data character set
- 3 Part of an act
- 4 Woke up
- 5 Healing
- 6 An auction
- 7 "Oh, --- Beautiful Mornin'"
- 8 Lawn-care buy
- 9 Real estate documents
- 18 Nam force
- 20 Vomit
- 23 To a certain extent
- 24 Information holder
- 25 "Fear of Fifty" author --- Jong
- 26 Annie's Lieutenant-General
- 28 On drugs
- 29 Introduced, with "to"
- 30 Achievements to be proud of
- 32 College sporting org.

Solutions on page 44

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If you are fortunate, you will retain your physical and mental capacities throughout your life and can always live independently. But there are no guarantees for any of us. If you ever require some form of long-term care, will you be prepared?

So, what is the risk of needing long-term care services? According to the Department of Health & Human Services, about 40 percent of individuals over age 65 receive some form of paid in-home care, with an average care period lasting less than one year. However, about one-third of the population receives care in a nursing home. Of those individuals, about half stay less than one year, 30 percent stay between one and three years, and 20 percent stay longer than five years.

And, unfortunately, this care can be expensive. For example, it costs \$97,500 per year, on average, for a private room in a nursing home, according to the 2017 Cost of Care Survey produced by Genworth, an insurance company. In some major metropolitan areas, the cost is much higher. Furthermore, Medicare typically pays only a small percentage of these expenses.

So, how do you protect yourself against these potentially catastrophic costs? Essentially, you have four options:

**Self-insure** — You can try to build enough financial assets to cover the costs of a long-term care event. However, you would need to accumulate an extremely large sum to fully protect yourself, and you'd be diverting assets that could be used to help fund your retirement.

**Long-term care insurance** — A traditional long-term care (LTC) insurance policy will pay for qualified long-term care costs. The younger you are when you purchase your policy, the lower your annual premiums are likely to be. Keep in mind, though, that a basic LTC policy

offers no death benefit or cash value. Your premiums are only paying for a nursing home stay, home health care or other type of long-term care service. (Also, even a good LTC policy will include a waiting period before the insurance kicks in and a maximum amount of coverage, such as three years.)

**Hybrid/linked benefit insurance** — Because of some concerns about paying for insurance but never needing care with traditional long-term care insurance, this type of insurance provides a death benefit, plus long-term care coverage. You can accelerate the death benefit to help pay for long-term care costs, and you can also choose to create an additional pool for these costs after the death benefit has been exhausted. But if you don't need long-term care, you still have the life insurance death benefit. Due to the death benefit, your premiums will be higher than those of a traditional long-term care policy.

**Life insurance with long-term care/chronic illness rider** — By choosing a permanent life insurance policy with this rider, you can accelerate all or part of the death benefit to pay for long-term care costs. (Your death benefit will then be reduced.) This option generally provides more flexibility in paying premiums than a hybrid policy, which may require a larger dollar commitment. Similar to hybrid, you still have the life insurance benefit if you don't need care.

Which option is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone, but a financial professional can help you choose the method that's most appropriate for your situation. And from an economic standpoint — and possibly an emotional one, too — you may be better off by taking action sooner, rather than later. **NOW**

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*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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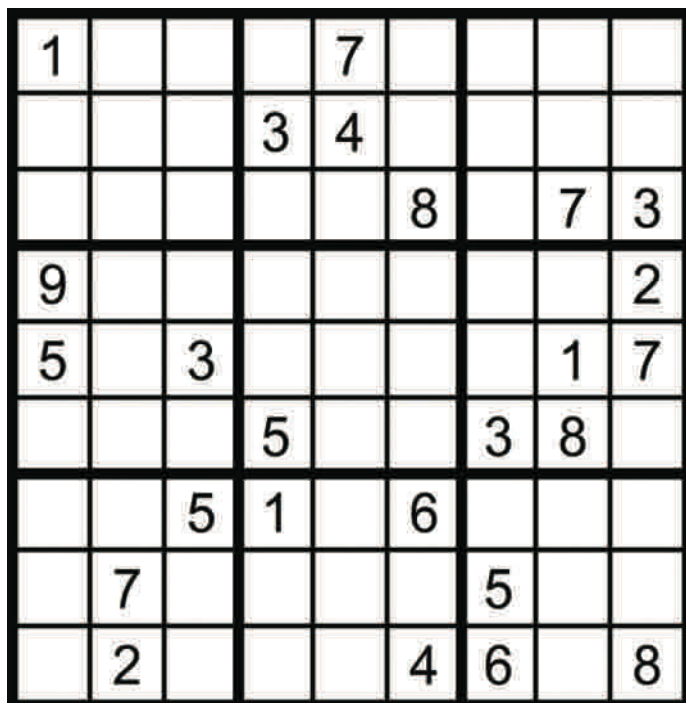
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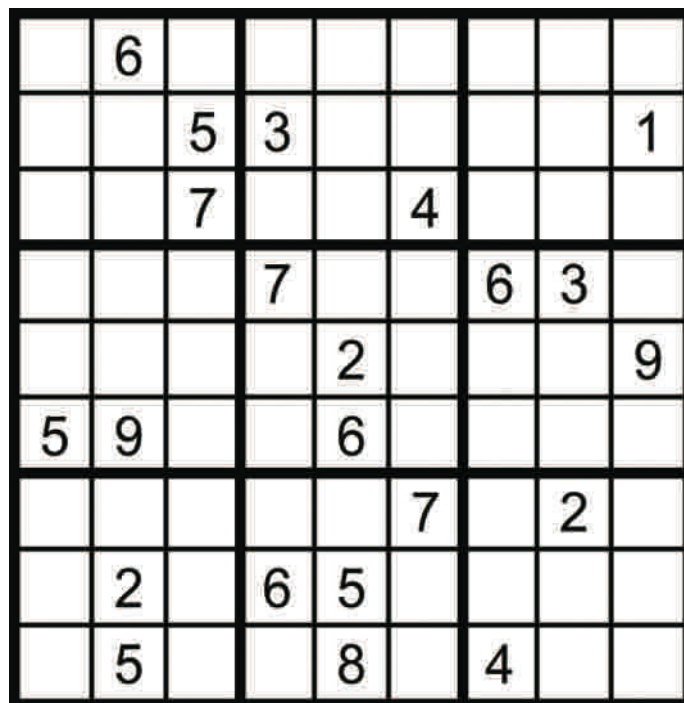
# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



Solutions on page 44

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3/1-3/3

## **Sweethearts and Orphans XX:**

Sweethearts refers to the fact that the event is held in honor of wives, girlfriends or significant others who have put up with the old car obsession that many times takes them away on Valentine's Day. Orphans refers to the cars that have been orphaned that include, but are not limited to, the Hudson, Studebaker and Nash, as well as Chrysler, Ford and GM models. **Friday**, 60-mile driving tour; **Saturday**, car show and dinner; **Sunday**, awards ceremony. Downtown Waxahachie. Larry Kollie, (972) 903-9037. AKLOL1915@gmail.com.

3/2

## **Annual Sokol \$10K Building Fundraiser:**

Listen and dance to classic rock, country and polka music performed by The Pontiac, The PBR Band and David Slovak & Friends. \$150 ticket for two includes steak dinner and open bar. 6:00 p.m., Sokol Inc., 2622 TX-34. www.visitennis.org. (972) 878-4748.

3/5

## **Ennis ISD Student Showcase:**

Learn what's going on at Lion Nation. 5:30-8:00 p.m., Ennis High School.

3/10

## **Import Face-Off:**

National car show and drag race. Gates open: 8:00 a.m. Racing starts: 10:00 a.m. Event ends around 5:00 p.m., Texas Motorplex, 7500 US-287.

3/16

## **Sister Janez & The Bad Habits:**

8:30 p.m., The Wooden Nickle, 111 W. Ennis Ave.

3/21-3/30

## **Ellis County Youth Expo Livestock Show and Rodeo:**

Nine days of activities that start with professional rodeos and live concerts and continue with a full schedule of events every day. Ellis County Fair and Rodeo: **21-23**; Stock Show: **24-30**. Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie. www.ecyexpo.com/tickets.

3/22-3/23

## **Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project presents Heaven's Front Porch:**

All tickets are \$12. 7:00 p.m., **Friday**; 3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. www.WaxaOFS.com.

3/23

## **EISD Education Foundation Wild Game Dinner & Auction:**

Tickets are \$30. 6:00-10:00 p.m., KC Hall, 850 S. IH 45.

4/1-4/30

## **Ennis Bluebonnet Trails:**

Celebrating 67 Years of Ennis Bluebonnet Trails. Ennis showcases more than 40 miles of mapped driving Bluebonnet Trails sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club. www.visitennis.org.

4/12-4/14

## **Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival:**

Enjoy the bluebonnets, and then come downtown to enjoy the festival: wine wander, arts & crafts, kids' activities, food and live music. Free admission. www.bluebonnettrail.org.

4/26, 4/28

## **Lionettes' Spring Show:**

The Ennis Lionettes dance troupe will present their annual Spring Show. Tickets are \$7 per person. **Friday**: 7:00 p.m.; **Sunday**: 3:00 p.m., Ennis High School Auditorium. Paw.Power@yahoo.com.

Mondays

## **Sign Language Class:**

Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave.

Fourth Mondays

## **American Legion Riders meeting:**

6:30 p.m., Chisolm-Landers American Legion Post 361, 706 Rumbo Rd.

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. Contact Cecil Curry at ccurry\_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.

Thursdays

## **Chess:**

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

Second Thursdays

## **Mom's Connected meeting:**

9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country



3/22 — 4/7

**Noises Off:** Called “the funniest farce ever written,” this play presents a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing’s On*. Adults: \$15; Students/seniors/military: \$12. Show times are **Fridays and Saturdays** at 7:30 p.m., with one **Sunday** performance at 2:30 p.m. and one **Thursday** performance at 7:30 p.m. during the show’s run. Ennis Public Theatre, 4009, 113 N. Dallas St. [ennispublictheatre.com](http://ennispublictheatre.com).

Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861.

## Fourth Thursdays

### MACS:

Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center.

## Last Thursdays

### Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting:

All active, retired or former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. 7:30 p.m.,

Refiner’s Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave. (214) 803-4954.

## First and Third Fridays

### MOPS meeting:

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

## Second and Fourth Fridays

### Ennis Bridge Club:

1:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. [judytx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judytx@sbcglobal.net)

## Saturdays

### Big O Speedway (formerly 85 Speedway):

Clay oval dirt track racing at its best. New owners have added new offerings, such as a go-kart track called The Bullring. Through **November**. [www.bigospeedway.com](http://www.bigospeedway.com).

## Fourth Saturdays

### Bristol Opry:

Featuring local singers and

musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

## Sundays

### GriefShare meeting:

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

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



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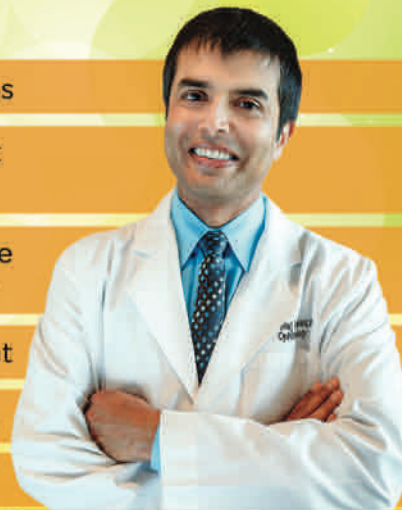
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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	S	A	S		4	C	T	S		7	W	M	D
10	N	S	C		11	A	H	A		12	H	O	E
13	I	C	E		14	M	E	L		15	A	W	E
16	F	I	N		17	E	R	E		18	C	T	E
19	F	I	E		20	S	T	A		21	O	A	R
					22	P	O	P		23	I	N	
24	C	E	D		27	E	N	G		28	U	L	F
31	D	R	A		32	W	N	U	P		33	S	E
34	R	I	D		35	C	T	A		36	I	D	A
37	O	C	D		38	A	I	R		39	N	U	T
40	M	A	Y		41	A	C	T		42	G	P	S

Easy

1	3	6	2	7	5	8	4	9
7	8	9	3	4	1	2	6	5
4	5	2	9	6	8	1	7	3
9	1	8	6	3	7	4	5	2
5	6	3	4	8	2	9	1	7
2	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	6
8	9	5	1	2	6	7	3	4
6	7	4	8	9	3	5	2	1
3	2	1	7	5	4	6	9	8

Medium

9	6	1	2	7	8	3	5	4
2	4	5	3	9	6	8	7	1
8	3	7	5	1	4	9	6	2
1	8	2	7	4	9	6	3	5
3	7	6	8	2	5	1	4	9
5	9	4	1	6	3	2	8	7
6	1	9	4	3	7	5	2	8
4	2	8	6	5	1	7	9	3
7	5	3	9	8	2	4	1	6

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