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M A G A Z I N E

OCTOBER 2025

## You Can Go Home Again

Joe Newman  
returned to Ennis after  
many travels

## Best Dressed

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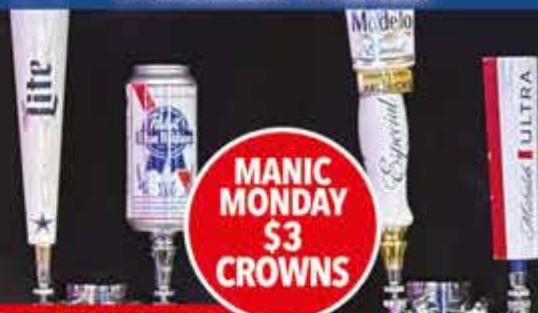
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

*Aging is just living ...*

One of the things we enjoy about autumn is getting ready for the holiday season. The weather is beginning to cool, and the leaves are falling. It is certainly a time of change.

I recently learned of a "holiday" that occurs annually on October 1st each year, and I suppose it should have some significance to me, particularly this year. I reached a milestone birthday recently — you know the one. It starts with a seven and ends with a zero. I felt really blessed to have achieved "three score and ten," and what a blessing it was to celebrate with my wife and our family.

The holiday that was news to me, and perhaps it will be to you, is International Day of Older Persons. On December 14, 1990, the United Nations General

**Bill**  
Bill Smith  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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Assembly passed a resolution to create this new holiday. The resolution apparently defined older people as those aged 65 or older. I sure wish I had known about this five years ago. I feel like I have missed out on some great holiday celebrations!

Going forward, I won't overlook this holiday. I have a lot of family and friends who I know will be happy to celebrate with me. The autumn of life should be fun!

Celebrate with me!

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## ON THE COVER



Joe Newman looks forward to his next adventure.

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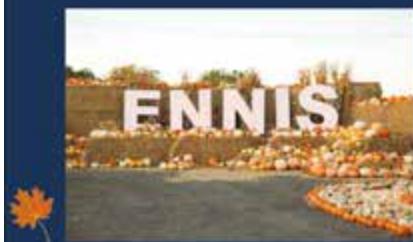
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# YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN

— By Bill Smith

*After starting his career in public service in Ennis, Joe Newman's career flourished across the state of Texas. He came from humble beginnings, but he said the small-town values he learned back in the 1950s served him well when he jump started his career as the Ennis Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau executive director. He served in that role from 1979-1985.*

"I came from a large family. There were seven children plus my parents, and with the exception of one brother who has passed, all of my siblings still live pretty close," Joe mentioned. "We lived in the country, and I recall making a family trip to visit Fort Parker, near Mexia, one Sunday afternoon. As we returned and neared our home, we saw smoke rising into the air, and it was our house that was burning. We lost everything.

"We moved into town on South Dallas Street, then later to South McKinney. Mom was a very hard worker, and we learned a lot from her. My first job was working at Sanders Food Store. I worked there from age 11 until I finished high school," he said. "There were basically three choices if you wanted to go to work for a major employer in Ennis then — the railroad, Ennis Business Forms or Leggett and Platt. I went to work reviewing orders at EBF (where city hall is today), and it wasn't long before Charles Gentry called me about a position with the *Ennis Daily News*."

There were a couple of local men that Joe considered more than mentors during his early career. "Charles Gentry and Ray Rickert were like fathers to me," he remembered fondly. "Charles was the publisher of the *Ennis Daily News* and got me started selling advertising for the paper. C.W. Tilley was the advertising director, but he left for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and Charles put me in his place.

"Just about every man in town working in management or sales was a member of a service club, and Charles thought I should join one also. Casey Casebolt was the editor of the newspaper and a member of the Kiwanis Club. Charles was a Lion, so I chose the Optimist Club and one of the members, Charlie Muirhead, took me under his wing. I wound up being the youngest club president they ever had at age 20."

Jack McKay was probably the first executive director of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce that senior citizens in Ennis today can recall. He served the Chamber for many years until he suffered a stroke, causing him to consider retiring. Joe recalled, "I was still with the newspaper and was a member of the board of directors at the Chamber. One day I walked into Dan's Town House. Jack called me over to his table and asked me about taking his job so he could retire. I committed to the position for six months and wound up staying for six years," Joe said with a laugh.

During that time, Joe worked on the Main Street project with the city. At the time, a number of Chambers of Commerce were avoiding involvement with Main Street projects because they were concerned about the impact it would have on them. However, Palestine was interested in having a Main Street program in their city, and was impressed with what Joe had accomplished here, so much so that they

hired him away from Ennis. "I was the executive director of the Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation," Joe continued. "During my four years in Palestine, we helped place a \$63 million prison in Anderson County and completed the Main Street Project designation."

Joe's work in economic development took off in 1989 when he went to work for the state comptroller's office as an economic development specialist/systems analyst. That was a springboard to one of his favorite positions, president of the Texas Economic Development Council, Inc. in Austin. "TEDC was probably my favorite job (except for the lobbying part). When I went there TEDC had 225 members, and it grew to about 1,100. Back then the state didn't have funds to market Texas, and it was up to this group to go tell corporations of the advantages of locating or expanding into Texas," Joe said.

One of his longest tenures occurred in Bastrop as president/CEO of Bastrop Economic Development Corporation. "I was there from 1999 until 2011. I

continued to live in Bastrop when I was hired for a similar position in nearby Elgin. I still have a lot of friends in Bastrop and enjoy getting back down there occasionally."

Joe might have intended to retire after Elgin, but opportunities have continued to present themselves because of his varied and successful experience in Chamber of Commerce management and economic development. Joe took interim positions in Copperas Cove and Kerrville in 2016 and 2017, and the position he took in DeSoto in 2017 was supposed to be an interim job, but he wound up staying four years.

Joe's confident but easygoing manner reflects that he is happy to be back in Ennis. As our economic development director, he is working as hard as ever to promote Ennis, support our existing business, and bring new businesses to town. At the same time, he is trying to work himself out of a job, looking for his replacement for the city. He also finds time to support the community as a volunteer through the Rotary Club and the Greater Ennis

Chamber of Commerce. He is right back where he started, and content to stay and watch Ennis grow. "Ennis is primed for a great future," he said. "We are working to get our infrastructure where it needs to be. A lot of rooftops are going up, and we know retail follows rooftops. A Florida company I'm currently working with plans to hire 400 employees. Ennis Economic Development Corporation actively recruits companies that pay good wages and have good benefits."

"My economic development jobs have allowed me to travel much of the world for business and pleasure," Joe shared. "With another retirement coming up, I will have time to spend with my family, including my three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. My 'bucket list' also includes some travel, including the Greek Isles, Ireland/Scotland, Australia/New Zealand and going back to Alaska to explore the interior instead of just from a cruise ship. I'm happy to go back to the farm. I may still take an occasional interim job, but it's good to be back here." **NOW**

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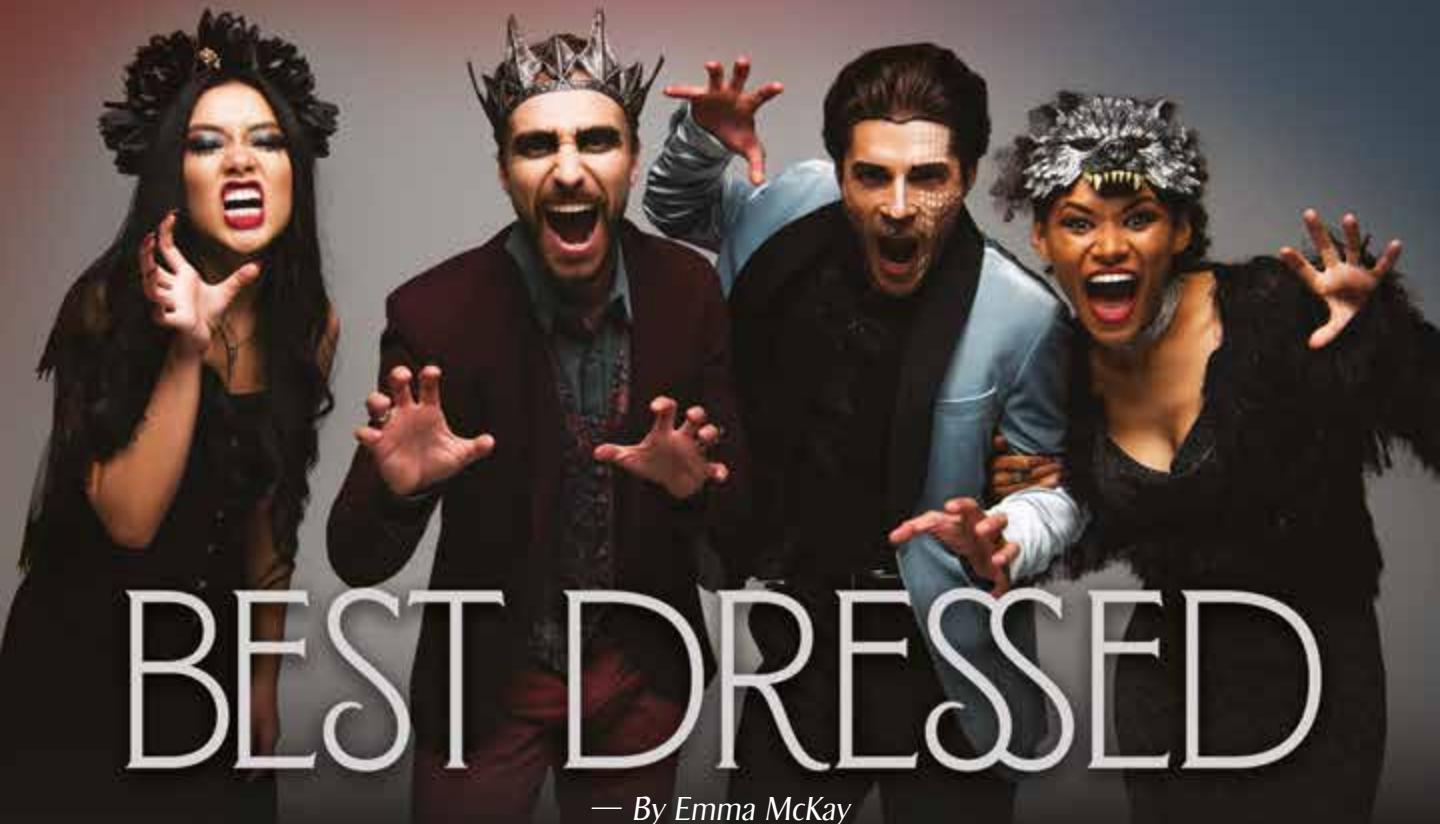
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# BEST DRESSED

— By Emma McKay



*Whether you're going to a Halloween party, fan convention or Renaissance fair, wearing a costume can be a fun way to immerse yourself in the experience. However, buying a premade costume can be expensive, despite the cheap, uncomfortable material it's made of, and you don't want to arrive at the event, just to discover other people in the exact same costume as yours.*

Crafting your own costume can be a fun and artistic way to ensure your outfit stands out. Unfortunately, stocking up on patterns and yards of fabric can quickly add up, and if you possess little experience in costume-making, it can be discouraging when your expensive outfit doesn't look how you imagined it. Here are some tips on where and how to source supplies, without breaking the bank.

## Thrift shops

The most important rule of searching for costume pieces

in a thrift shop is to not tie yourself to a specific idea of what you want to find. Chances are you're not going to find exactly what you envisioned. Instead, let the racks speak to you. If you want to dress as a pre-existing character for your event, choose a few different characters and save pictures of them in different outfits to your camera roll. That way, you have a better chance of finding a garment that resembles something one of them would wear, and you can use the photo as a reference to look for other items. It is also helpful to look at other people's cosplays of the characters. Seeing the creative liberties other cosplayers take will get your own creative juices flowing. "Screen accurate" is not the determining factor of a good cosplay.

Just because you will be purchasing ready-made clothes doesn't mean they have to stay that way. If you find a shirt made with the perfect pattern for your outfit but the style is completely wrong, feel free to chop it up! If the pants you want are a size too big, you can easily find tutorials on YouTube that will guide you through the process of tailoring them to your size.

You don't have to stick to the clothes racks, though. If you need large swaths of fabric for a cape or flowing skirt, check the linens section. If you're lucky, you may find a \$5 king-size top sheet in the color you need. Patterned curtains and tablecloths can also be useful if you desire something

that adds a dash of personality and is stain resistant.

#### Estate sales

In addition to the clothes and linens you could find at thrift stores, estate sales have a plethora of items that could be useful in your costuming journey. You can repurpose decor into props, or find some nice jewelry to elevate your look.

Some estate sales have rooms full of crafting supplies, including bolts of fabric, patterns, sewing supplies and other tools you need. Not only should these things be cheaper than at the craft store, but you might find better quality gadgets that aren't available anymore.

Although the first day of the sale has the most items available, usually the second day and beyond will have items at discount. You might be able to find a serious deal on something that everyone else passed over.

#### Fabric warehouses

Because they cater to a wide audience, craft stores are limited in what types and qualities of fabric they provide. Instead, visit one of the several fabric warehouses in the DFW area. Not only will there be more to choose from, but the prices will be better. Also, since the stores specialize in fabrics, the sales associates should be better suited to helping you figure out what type of fabric you need to pull off a certain look.

#### Etsy/Online Crafters

Sometimes the easiest way to get the exact accessory you want is to pay someone else to help you. Many cosplayers sell accessories, props and even full costumes online. However, buying premade pieces can quickly become expensive since you are paying for quality and labor. If you want the help of other cosplayers, consider choosing only one or two pieces that you for sure don't want to create on your own.

Some cosplayers sell downloadable patterns for costumes or files for 3D printers, so you can create the look at home. If you don't have a sewing machine or 3D printer, see if your local library has a makerspace you can access with your library card where you can use these tools for free!

Although it takes time and creativity to assemble, you'll treasure your costume for years to come. Who knows? Creating costumes may even become your new favorite hobby. Now



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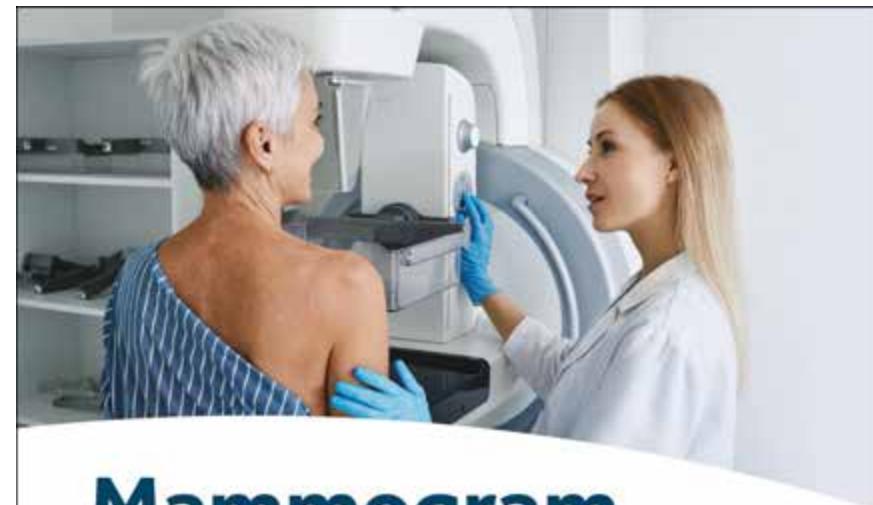
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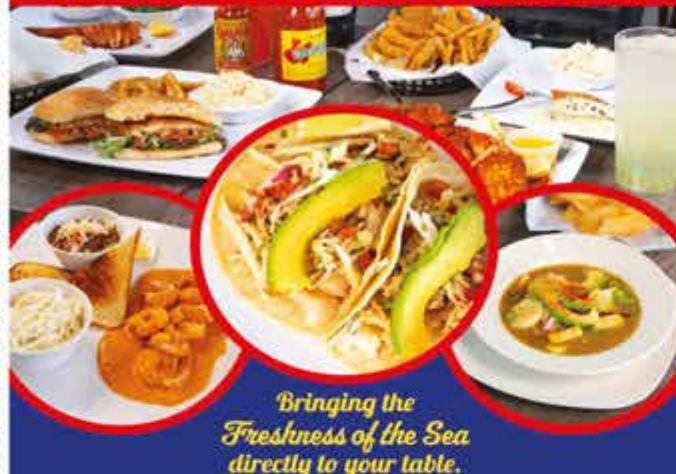
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- Virginia Woolf

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## Zoomed In: Loni McLamore and Courtney Buchanan

By Bill Smith

Loni McLamore and Courtney Buchanan were recently selling band souvenirs at the Ennis High School Band Ice Cream Supper and Concert. Courtney is serving as president of the Band Boosters while her sister, Loni, serves as secretary.

"I was in the band in high school and played the French horn," Courtney recalled. "I can still play it, but it's been a while!" she exclaimed. "I remember band as a good experience, and I enjoy giving back."

Loni played percussion in the band. "I just enjoyed it so much," she said. "We serve because we want these kids to have the same kind of experience we had."



Coach Don Drake is introduced by President Greg Vineyard at the Lions Club.



Hailey Hagler and Schaefer Weber share Drum Major duty for the EHS marching band.



Ashleigh's Downtown Kitchen and Bar cuts the ribbon with a large crowd present.



Jim Isbell, Dudley Fox, Ron Banks and Raymond Lawrence engage in 42.

# NOW



New EISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Bradley speaks to the Lions Club.



Zach Roper and Lyndsey, Everlea and Alden enjoy Mornings at Minnie along with their dog, Arty.



Congressman Jake Ellzey addresses the Ennis Rotary Club.

A large, modern showroom for flooring and lighting. The interior is well-lit with various display cases for tiles, wood, and lighting fixtures. A sign on the left reads "LONE STAR FLOORCOVERING" with the address "2203 W Ennis Ave Ennis TX (972) 872 - 9811 lonestarfloor.com" and "40 Years!". A large banner in the center says "Visit Our Showroom Today!"

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# CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH JAN WILLIAMS

— By Bill Smith



Jan Williams is a proud veteran who was stationed at several military bases, but her eyes seemed to light up when she mentioned Hawaii. After her service ended, she and her husband moved to Ennis in 1990.

"In the mid-1950s I used to make fried potatoes in lard, and they always turned out great!" she recalled. "Today's versions just aren't the same. Over time, I experimented with different dishes, but unfortunately, I no longer have those original recipes. I've picked up countless kitchen tips from friends and family, and cooking remains a favorite pastime. My son often shares new recipes with me, he's self-taught, but my attempts don't always match his results. Because my military service required frequent moves, I lost or gave away many of my recipes. Now, I only recall a handful. Luckily, I've managed to pass on some of these treasured recipes to you!" **NOW**

## Classic Tortilla Soup

**2** boneless, skinless chicken breasts or thighs  
Salt, to taste (divided use)  
Pepper, to taste (divided use)  
Garlic powder, to taste  
Onion powder, to taste  
1 tsp. smoked paprika, plus more to taste (divided use)  
1 qt. (4 cups) chicken broth  
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 large yellow onion, diced  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 jalapeño, stemmed, seeded and minced (optional, for spice)

1 tsp. ground cumin  
1 tsp. chili powder  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano  
1 28-oz. can whole plum tomatoes, crushed by hand or with a spoon  
2 dried chiles (optional)

**Garnishes:**  
Tortilla chips  
1 ripe avocado, diced or sliced  
1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco or shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
1/2 cup sour cream or Mexican crema  
Fresh cilantro leaves  
1 lime, cut into wedges  
Fresh jalapeño

1. Season the chicken breast or thighs with salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and paprika to taste. (Season the chicken any way you prefer.)
2. In a medium saucepan, bring the chicken broth to a gentle simmer. Add the chicken and poach until cooked through, about 10-12 minutes, depending on thickness. (You can also air fry the chicken at 400 F for 7 minutes then flip for an additional 8 minutes. Timing depends on how thick your chicken is.)
3. Remove the chicken. Let it cool slightly; shred with two forks. Set aside.
4. In a large soup pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions; sauté until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes.
5. Add the garlic and jalapeños; sauté for an additional 1-2 minutes until fragrant.
6. Stir in the cumin, chili powder, 1 tsp. smoked paprika and oregano; cook for 1 minute to bloom the spices.
7. Add the crushed tomatoes and dried chiles (if using), then pour in the broth.
8. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 20-25 minutes to meld the flavors. Remove the dried chiles and discard. If a smoother consistency is desired, use an immersion blender to puree the soup directly in the pot, or transfer batches to a blender, working carefully with hot liquids.
9. Season with additional salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.
10. Stir the shredded meat back into the soup; simmer for 5 more minutes to heat through.
11. Ladle the soup into bowls. Top with crispy tortilla strips and add garnishes as desired. Serve immediately with extra lime wedges on the side.



# HELLO, FALL

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.

# OCTOBER

**10/3-10/12**

## Texas Fall Nationals Stampede of Speed:

The Stampede of Speed is a 10-day festival of music, drag racing and amazing fan experiences leading up to the NHRA Texas Fall Nationals. Visit [www.stampedeofspeed.com](http://www.stampedeofspeed.com) for event locations, tickets and more information.

The Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287, Ennis, TX 75119.

[support@texasmotorplex.com](mailto:support@texasmotorplex.com).

**10/4**

## Ennis High School Choir Concert:

Come see this performance by EHS Choirs. Free! 10:30 a.m., Hay Maze Amphitheatre, 302 N. Dallas St.

## Build a Board Fall Workshop:

For beginners — boards, laughs and community! All supplies are included.

Make your own 10-inch bamboo board, includes specialty cheeses and meats, fresh fruit and assorted nuts, gherkin pickles and specialty olives, maple-flavored cookies, toasted pumpkin seeds and fall-flavored coffee and tea bar. \$40. 6:00-8:00 p.m., event by Blessed Boards by Betsy and Betsy Perez Segura, 2003 E. Ennis Ave. Contact Betsy Secura at [blessedboards117@gmail.com](mailto:blessedboards117@gmail.com) or call (972) 515-0617.

**10/18**

## 3rd Annual Fundraiser for Cara Caters:

Live music, live/silent auctions,

raffle, cash bar and food catered by Cotton Patch. Join us for an evening of inspiring stories. With each dollar raised, we move one step closer to putting an end to childhood hunger in small communities. Individual tickets: \$30; table for 8: \$300. Other sponsorships available. 6:00-10:00 p.m., State Farm House, 500 W. Ennis Ave. For information go to [www.caracaters.org](http://www.caracaters.org).

Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

**10/31**

## Trunk or Treat:

Bring the little children to the parking lot of Baylor Baptist Church for candy and games just their size! Free! 6:00 p.m., 210 N. Preston St.

**10/25**

## Crossroads of Texas GO TEXAN

### Country Festival:

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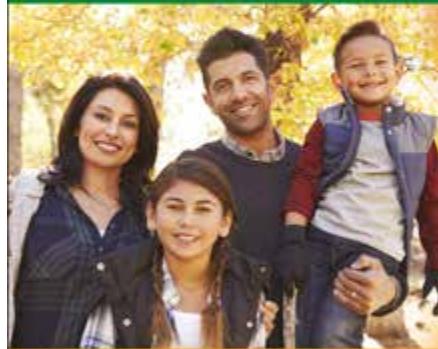
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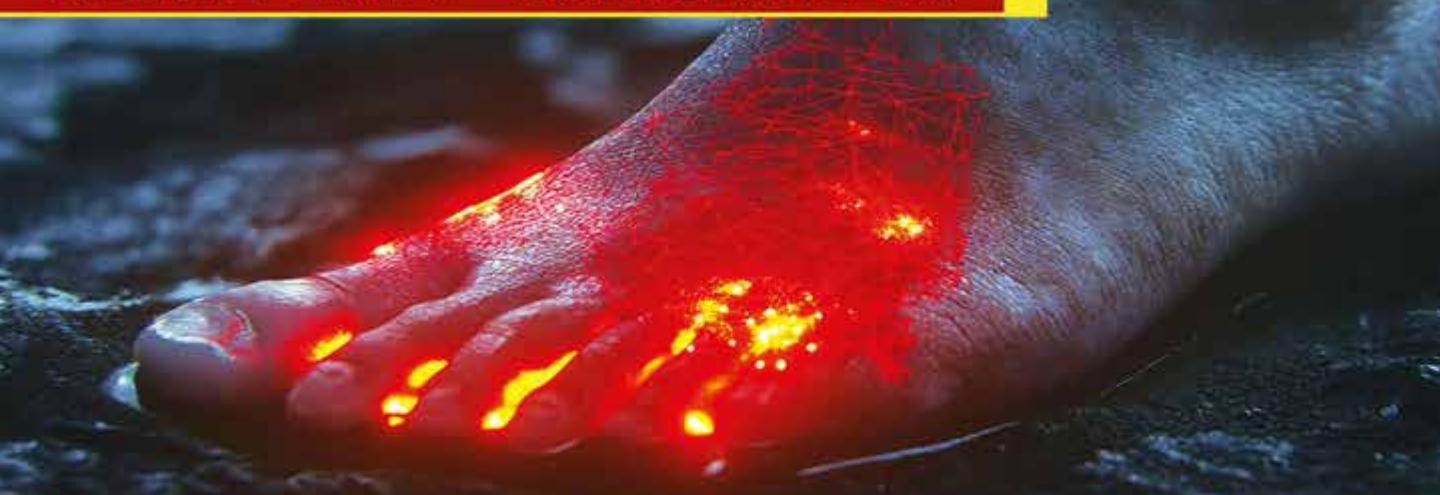
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