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DECEMBER 2018

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**2018 Holiday  
Shopping Guide**

**Discovering  
Extended  
Family**

**Rosemary Trojacek  
discovers her ancestral roots**

**Still Amazed**

**At Home With William  
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*Managing Editor, Becky Walker | Ennis Editor, Sandra Strong  
Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith | Writers, Amber D. Browne . Jeff Irish  
Corey C. Poole . William T. Smith . Virginia Riddle  
Editor/Proofreader, Angel Morris*

**GRAPHICS AND DESIGN**

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen  
Martha Macias . Brande Morgan . Anthony Sarmienta*

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Photography Directors, Chris McCalla and Sandra Strong  
Photographer, Hannah Chartrand . Amy Ramirez*

**ADVERTISING**

*Advertising Representatives, Linda Roberson . Cherise Burnett  
Dustin Dauenhauer . Trent Dean . Bryan Frye . Ashlyn LeVesque  
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## ON THE COVER

*The home of William and Vickie Parks lights up the night skies.*

**Photo by**  
Amy Ramirez.

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*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 875-3299 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).*

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Sandra*

Sandra Strong  
EnnisNOW Editor  
sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com  
(972) 765-3530

## *Christmas Merriment!*

How many of you get your Christmas shopping done early? And how many of you hide those same gifts and forget about them until you see them in the back of the closet? That's been me for the last few years. I actually go shopping the day after Christmas, so I can call, text or email my closest friends to say, "I've got my first, second and third gift bought. How are you coming with your shopping?" As I smile at my overachievement, I imagine their eyes rolling, as they shake their heads, wondering what shopping cart I fell out of.

My holiday "to-do" list used to include decorating for Christmas on Thanksgiving evening. But the last several years, I've been decorating the weekend prior, so I no longer have to push overstuffed people out in order to get my house ready for my favorite holiday. I'm able to take my time and do all the things that come with Christmas decorating — fluffing branches, untangling lights and deciding the best place to showcase my ever-growing Santa collection. The older I get the more I appreciate my need to overachieve. Getting the job of decorating done early means one thing — I get to enjoy what I've accomplished longer.

Here's hoping you enjoy what you accomplish!

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# Discovering EXTENDED FAMILIES

— By William T. Smith

*Rosemary Trojacek married into a huge Czech family in Ennis a year ago. It was no secret that Rosemary's mother, Amy Wright, had been adopted at birth, and with her mother's blessing and her mother-in-law, Connie's, encouragement, Rosemary sought to discover more about her original roots through a DNA test and a lot of research with Ancestry.com.*

Even the Trojacek's home is a tribute to the family that came before them. Rosemary's husband, Kaleb, smiled as he related, "This was my grandfather's house. He and my grandmother raised my father and his seven siblings here."

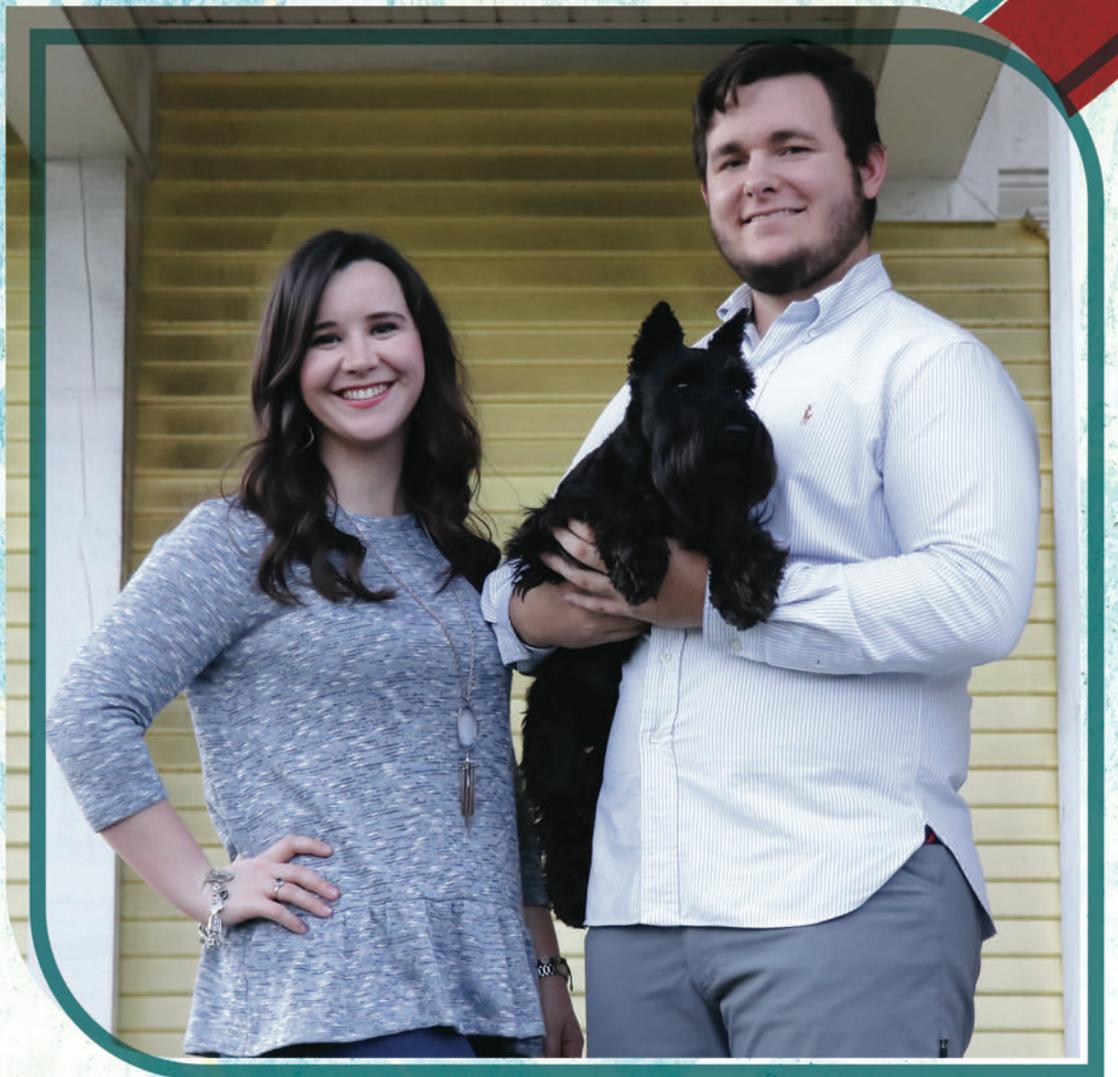
The home appears much larger in the interior than from the street view. "A couple of walls have been removed, and the side porch was taken in to expand the living area. The master bedroom was also added on, but it is still hard to imagine 10 people living here," Kaleb said.

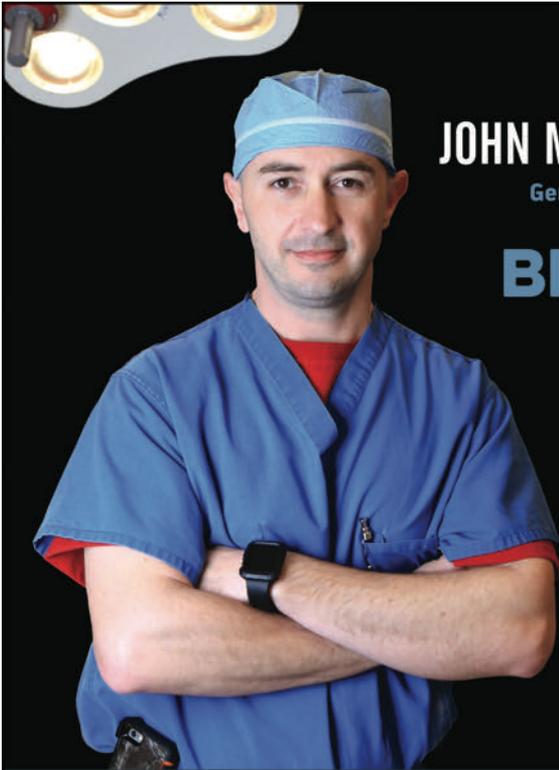
Rosemary wanted to know more about where she came from, as well as whether her medical issues might impact her children. "My medical issues are not genetic. If they were, doctors say there would be a 50-percent chance of passing them on to my children. Since they are not, it drops to less than 5 percent," Rosemary revealed.

Rosemary's journey of discovery started last Christmas, when her mother-in-law gave her an ancestry kit. "When I first got it, I was scared to do the test," Rosemary related. "I took the test in April, and then we began to dig in to the results."

Kaleb interjected, "Don't be afraid of the truth, but you don't know where it will lead you. It has been an amazing experience, to say the least."

ILY





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After the test results were received, Connie pushed them to investigate. Soon some connections were made. Stacks of ancestry records appeared and they had to “do the math” to see how one result might be related to another. Birthdates from the records were compared to see which person might be a possible sibling of Rosemary’s mother or a possible uncle, aunt or cousin.

Adopted at birth, Amy had no feeling of remorse or regret. Her adoptive parents loved her and told her, “We chose you. We picked you out!” They had the resources to see that she received a quality education, and she loved them as any child would love their parents.

As the story unfolded, it was revealed that Amy’s biological mother was sent from her home in Houston to the Edna Gladney Home in Fort Worth when her family learned she was pregnant. She related that the home was a very good place. They took good care of her and provided for her prenatal appointments and the delivery.





However, the identities of the birth mother and father were disguised and sealed from the adoptive parents. Records had names and even the gender of the child blacked out.

Pursuit of Rosemary's biological grandmother continued with cautious optimism. Amy had indicated that if they found her birth mother through their investigation, she would like to have any pertinent medical information, and she would like to say thank you to her for making the difficult decision of giving her up for adoption.

For a DNA test to yield results, some other relative that could be anywhere in the world would have also had to take the test. The connection Rosemary originally found was a first cousin. Amy's biological mother's brother had a daughter named Allie who had done a DNA test. The next connection was with a first cousin of Allie, Holly, who is a daughter of Amy's biological mother, and therefore Amy's half-sister.

It was soon discovered that although Holly and Amy's mother, Sharon, lives in Ohio, Holly is much closer, a resident of Austin, Texas. "We found Holly on Facebook," Rosemary related. "Soon we arranged a meeting with her in Waco. That was just this last May, and in July, we met again in Waco with Sharon; Chuck, her half-brother; and Amy. This was the first meeting between my mother and her birth mother. It was very emotional for both of them."

Kaleb added, "Sharon was very quiet, not as emotional."

The relationship between sisters Holly and Amy has grown to the point

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that they talk on the telephone weekly. Rosemary was surprised at how much her mother resembles her half-sister. "They favor in the way they talk with their hands," she said.

"I married into a huge family, and now it is even bigger," she continued. "I have found a grandmother, two uncles, an aunt and several new cousins."

Rosemary continues to credit her mother-in-law for encouraging the pursuit of her family, and also for all of the work that she did on the computer researching the ancestry. While records may be hard to come by and many things were hidden in years past, DNA matching has increased opportunities to connect families. "Holly was told at age 18 that she had an older sibling who had been adopted at birth," Rosemary said. "She had looked at the Edna Gladney files and thought all along that it was a brother because the gender was blacked out in the file. Since it had four letters, she assumed it was 'male.' The four letters actually spelled 'girl.'"

"We were not sure what these additions to the family would be like, or if they would be open to a relationship with us," Rosemary went on. "They have been very open. We have talked about having a big family reunion sometime in the future, but there is a lot to be worked out, such as would we have it in Texas or possibly in Ohio where Sharon lives?"

"You have to be willing to accept all of the possibilities that could result from what you find. We are pleased to say it has been a positive experience for our family," she continued. "And yes, there will be new additions to the Christmas card list this year!" **NOW**



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— By Sandra Strong

# Still Amazed

AT HOME WITH  
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A visionary, per Webster's Dictionary, is a person with original ideas about what the future could hold. As a self-proclaimed visionary, Vickie Parks can see the end result long before the actual work begins. "She has vision and the rest of the world has bifocals," William Parks said, regarding his wife. "She can see the finished product long before it comes to fruition."



What brought them to Ennis is a story worth retelling, and one that highlights Vickie's visionary gift. William's 25-year military career was nearing an end. His final tour of duty in Germany was almost complete, and the couple knew they needed to make some decisions on where they would live out their retirement from the Army. "We knew we had to find a home, or we would be homeless when my final tour was complete," William said.

The house they now call home was on the market when that they thought would be a lengthy search began. They soon realized that would not be the case. "We used to live in Ennis in the 1980s. Back then as we drove by this house, we always wished that we could one day live here," Vickie admitted. "When we realized the home was available, I called both of our families and asked them to look at it for us."

Their family not only looked, they took photos and filmed each room as they walked through. William and Vickie were able to see it all as if they were there. The Realtor, who also happened

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to be one of Vickie's closest friends, called her to say, "I'm standing in your home!"

"We bought the house without ever stepping foot in it," Vickie shared.

"We gave power of attorney to my mom," William added. "She closed the deal in our absence in December 2012."

Vickie was making several trips to Ennis from Germany to care for her ailing father, so moving into their new home came soon after the signing. "I lived here with a card table, one barstool, a TV and a rented bed," Vickie

explained. "Friends and family gave me the necessities like towels and dishes."

Living in the home for two years before William was able to join her allowed the vision she had for the home to come alive. The red accents found throughout the home were added. "The only red paint I saw as it was applied was the red on the dining room ceiling," William stated.

Her style of decorating incorporates all the things she loves — an array of colored glass, antique cigarette lighters, glass and crystal ashtrays, lamps and



black-and-white photographs. "I guess you could say that I'm a collector of beautiful things," she confessed. "If I like it, I buy it or refurbish it, and then I find the perfect place for it."

Her style is as whimsical as it is eclectic. Her color combinations are vivid and bright. Mirrors, when placed strategically, give the appearance of a much larger area with great depth. "The mirrors in the half-bath immediately made the small room feel larger," she said. "The mirrors in the kitchen window make the view appear to go on forever."

The solarium is now Vickie's sewing/craft room. With 10 windows, it affords her the natural light she desires when



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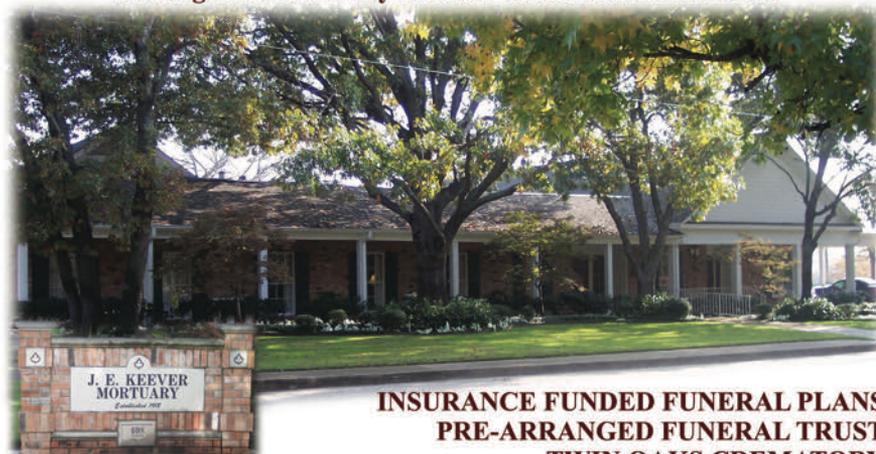


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sewing an intricate dress fit for a doll or adding the finishing touches to one of her many mosaic masterpieces.

One special wall hanging is found in the room that William refers to as his “man cave.” Bobby Parks, William’s uncle, collected the arrowheads and arranged them on the board that is now displayed with pride.

The past homeowners left a list of people to call when specific work was needed. The list included the plumber, electrician and construction company that had done the most recent work on the home. They also found two copies of the home’s original blueprints. “I had a copy framed for William for his birthday,” Vickie said. “And the frame is red!”

William and Vickie also love decorating for Christmas. “I start getting the storage tubs down in early October,” William said.

“And I start seriously decorating in late October,” Vickie added. Vickie’s love for the holiday season came from watching her maternal grandmother and her parents. It seemed the older they got, the more elaborately they decorated. Vickie has followed suit with beautifully lit trees in nearly every window, some themed and others with nothing dressing them except for twinkling lights. Santa and his reindeer are found in the front yard. “I leave it up until the New Year,” she confessed. “If I’m going to decorate, I’m leaving it up!”

“I admit, I used to be a grinch,” William said, referring to the time it took to get the decorations just right. “Now, I love to sit back and enjoy the finished product.”

Indoors, one Santa finds his place in

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the window seat, while another Santa and his reindeer appear to be flying down the stairwell. Red bird Christmas dinnerware completes the formal dining table that's fully decked out for all the holiday meals yet to come. "We just love this time of year," Vickie reiterated.

Like most couples, they have their favorite holiday movies, too. Coming in at number one is *The Bishop's Wife*, a movie starring Cary Grant. Coming in at a close second is everyone's favorite, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

"For years, we had Mexican food for Christmas," William shared. "But, this year, we're going back traditional with crispy duck. It's going to be wonderful."

Whether they're decorating for the holidays or rearranging items to allow for new favorite finds, William and Vickie are most likely doing it together. When Vickie's out and about alone, she always comes home by way of Clay and Denton streets. "I stop at the corner," she explained, "and just look at our home. I'm still amazed that we own the home we loved so many years ago." **NOW**

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# Staying the Course

— By Sandra Strong

Zivan Zuniga remembers the day he went to Sam Houston Elementary School to learn about becoming a Cub Scout. He was 8 years old, and he knew he wanted to join so he could “shoot a BB gun.” He remembers the initial disappointment he felt early on in his 10 years as a Scout. “I found out that I wouldn’t be able to shoot a BB gun until I was much older,” he said, looking back on the overall experience with a smile. “I wanted to get out many times, but I’m so glad I stuck it out and stayed the course.”

Scouting taught Zivan many life lessons that he will carry into adulthood. The first time he went on a camping trip was an experience he’ll never forget. “I was in a tent with one other Cub Scout,” Zivan explained. “The other boy ran to his dad because he was scared. I wanted to run, too, but I stuck it out.” This once traumatic camping trip is now one that

Zivan looks back on, realizing how it didn’t just make him stronger emotionally, it also grew his self-confidence.

His favorite thing about Scouting was hanging out with his fellow Scouts. “In the beginning, we came from different elementary schools in the district,” Zivan shared. “Once we were older, we all attended Ennis High School.” He also has fond memories of all the merit badges he earned as a Boy Scout in Troop 210 — memories that have made him more resilient in life.

Meetings are still held at Ennis’ First United Methodist Church. Young boys are still becoming men as they earn those same merit badges, go camping and give back by volunteering in their community.

As a senior in the class of 2018, Zivan wanted to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout ranking by giving something back to the community. “I wanted to do something that would represent all I’d been through as a Scout,” he admitted. “Once I started thinking seriously about it, I came up with miles markers for Kachina Trail, the nature trail located in Ennis at Lake Clark.”

Zivan quickly put his plans to paper, mapping out each phase of the mile marker project. He knocked on many doors to get the financial backing he needed to see the markers come to fruition. It wasn't long before the actual labor began. "I led the project, but I had lots of help from a group of fellow Scouts that included my younger brother, Zabian, as we dug holes and prepared the land for the granite markers," Zivan shared. "There is a total of five markers — three mile-markers, one donor plaque and a final marker with an arrow that points to the lake." Zivan also added a permanent bench at the beginning of the trail with his name and the completion date of November 11, 2017, engraved on it.

## SCOUTING TAUGHT ZIVAN MANY LIFE LESSONS THAT HE WILL CARRY INTO ADULTHOOD.

The community came together to help Zivan make his dream a reality. The list of those who helped is engraved for Kachina Trail visitors to see. Those names include the Ennis Garden Club, JTek, Blackland Lumber, the City of Ennis, Zabian Zuniga, Elliott Electric and Giles Monument in Waxahachie. "The Indian Trail Master Naturalists also played a huge part in the project," Zivan noted. "They donated the site, giving me the opportunity to do something for more than a few people. I was able to create something for the entire community."

As a freshman at The University of North Texas-San Marcus, Zivan is taking a full class load, and he's still making straight A's. He's personable and polite. He's a son that his parents, Hector and Angelica Zuniga, are quite proud of. The skills he learned as a Boy Scout — leadership, perseverance, will-power and confidence — will keep him moving in the right direction as he continues to stay the course set before him. **NOW**

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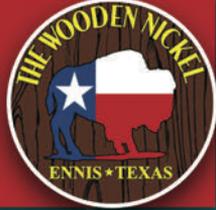


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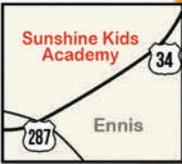
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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### CHRISTOPHER BRADFORD

— By Amber D. Browne

Whether it's cooking for his family or being a positive influence to parishioners at First Baptist Church Ennis, Christopher Bradford works with love to inspire. He grew up in Mexico working in the mission field with his family. "What I learned from living in Mexico is to cook with love."

Christopher began cooking at the early age of 6 with his father, who worked as a chef while in the Army in Vietnam. "Since we grew up poor, we have always learned to cook what we have. And, sometimes, it isn't much, but God has always provided for us." He now shares family recipes with his 11-year-old. The pastor tries others' dishes, but always adds a little flare. "A lot of times it's spice. My family and I enjoy spicy food." **NOW**

### Creamy Mushroom Chicken

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded to 1/2-inch thickness
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup milk
- 1 8-oz. packet of powdered mashed potatoes
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 10 oz. cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1/2 medium yellow onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper, plus more for seasoning

- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 cup half-and-half or whole milk
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley leaves, chopped

1. Thoroughly dry chicken with paper towels. Generously season with salt and pepper. Pour milk into a bowl. In a second bowl, pour powdered mashed potatoes. Dip chicken in milk and then batter in powdered mashed potatoes. Repeat until all chicken is battered.
2. Heat oil in a 10-inch or larger skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add chicken and sear 5-7 minutes, or until deeply browned on bottom. Flip with tongs and sear

5-7 minutes until browned. Transfer chicken to plate; set aside.

3. Reduce heat to medium; add butter. Add the next 5 ingredients. Stir occasionally for about 7 minutes, or until tender. Add flour and stir to evenly coat vegetables; cook for 1 minute.

4. Stir in cup of half-and-half or whole milk and chicken broth until no lumps from flour remain. Boil and reduce heat to a simmer; stir in Parmesan. Return chicken to pan and simmer about 2-3 minutes, or until sauce is thickened and chicken is cooked through. Sprinkle with additional Parmesan and parsley before serving.

### Chicken Bacon Fettuccine Alfredo

- 8 strips bacon, chopped and trimmed of all fat
- 2 large chicken breasts, diced into 1-inch pieces
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 6 1/2 cups milk, whole or half-and-half
- 1 lb. dry fettuccine pasta
- 1 large head broccoli, cut into florets, stem removed
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated

1. Fry bacon in large saucepan or pot over medium-high heat until crispy. Add chicken, and sauté until cooked through. Add garlic; fry for about 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Add milk and stir. Bring milk to a gentle simmer; reduce heat immediately. Add pasta; stir occasionally for 5-6 minutes, or until pasta begins to bend and soften. Add broccoli; stir and cover with lid. Cook about 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until pasta is cooked al dente.
3. Add Parmesan cheese and stir until cheese has melted. The sauce will continue to thicken if not served immediately. Add more milk, if needed. Serve with extra pepper and Parmesan cheese.

## Chris' Burger

- 2 strips bacon or 1/8 cup bacon bits  
 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped  
 1 clove garlic, minced or 1 tsp. garlic powder  
 1 egg  
 2 Tbsp. Tabasco sauce  
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 1 lb. ground beef, 70/30 for grilling or 80/20 for stovetop  
 12-15 Ritz crackers  
 1/4 cup parsley, finely chopped  
 4 slices processed American cheese or cheddar cheese, halved diagonally  
 2 slices pepper jack cheese, halved diagonally  
 4 hamburger buns, split and toasted

1. Chop bacon into very fine pieces; cook until crispy. Add onion and garlic about 2 minutes before the bacon is done to sweat vegetables. Set aside to cool.
2. In a small bowl, add egg, Tabasco and Worcestershire; whisk well.
3. In a large bowl, add ground beef. Use your hands to crumble the Ritz crackers into the bowl of ground beef. Add parsley and egg mixture to beef. Mix together with hands. Add bacon mixture; mix until ingredients are combined. Shape into four patties.
4. Grill patties, covered, on a greased rack over medium direct heat for about 4 minutes on each side for well done. During the last minute of cooking, top each patty with two triangles of American cheese and one triangle of pepper jack cheese. Serve on buns. If desired, top with lettuce, tomato, onion, bacon and ketchup or mustard.

To search for more great recipes from any of the **10 NOW Magazines** publications, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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BusinessNOW

# Interior Ideas

— By Virginia Riddle

## Interior Ideas

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### Hours: Interior Ideas:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

1st Thursday each month: Ladies' Night Out until 7:00 p.m.

### Wildflower Café:

Monday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., available at other hours for special occasions

Christmas trees custom designed and decorated, lights twinkling and catering for special holiday occasions — it all happens with an elegant flair this December. The holiday season brings an atmosphere of joy and excitement to Interior Ideas and The Wildflower Café, located in the downtown Historic District of Ennis. An annual Holiday Open House occurs the first Thursday of November each year and features beautiful Christmas trees,

Christmas candles and gifts for everyone. The cafe offers a quiet respite during the holiday rush.

Furniture, home accessories, jewelry, clothing and unique gift items are artfully displayed in the shop. Betty Glaspy showcases many vendors, some local, along with popular accessory brands such as Vera Bradley, Brighton, Mariana, Ronaldo and Susan Shaw.

Residential and commercial decorating services are available. “We appreciate when our friends shop locally. I love getting to know my clients and strive to make sure my clients enjoy designs that reflect around their needs and personalities,” Betty said. “We have everything for your home and office, and many of the lines I carry are exclusive to my shop.” All major credit and debit cards, cash and checks are accepted.

Interior Ideas was founded by Betty about 30 years ago, and The Wildflower Café was added about 15 years later. “Our location is a great meeting place for Ennis and nearby cities’ residents, as well as folks passing through town. We’re known for paying attention to even the smallest of details,” Betty shared. “My interior designs have been featured in magazines, and I have designed two

homes in the past three years that appeared on the Turtle Creek Tour of Homes.”

Dining is available at The Wildflower Café located within the shop proper. “It’s Bloomin’ Good!” is Betty’s motto for the café. “I want to make sure every customer has the best experience dining at The Wildflower Café,” she said.

The café is especially busy during the Ennis Bluebonnet Festival, offering Bluebonnet Tours throughout the month of April to guests arriving from all over North Texas. “Our staff of 14 is fabulous. All are cross-trained, so we can do whatever is needed,” Betty explained.

## The holiday season brings an atmosphere of joy and excitement to Interior Ideas and The Wildflower Café.

Betty serves on the Ennis Main Street Advisory Board and the Ennis Economic Development Corporation Board. Additionally, she is a senior warden at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and works behind the scenes at the Ennis Public Theatre. “I’m a founding board member of the theater, and it’s a personal passion,” Betty said. Her business is a proud supporter of various community and school activities, as well.

Born in Corsicana and raised in Pecos, Texas, Betty grew up with family ties to nearby Kerens and visits the area often. She earned a degree in marketing from Baylor University and has continued her studies in interior design throughout her business career. She was inspired to become an interior decorator by relatives, Robert and Leah Hamilton, who owned Hamilton House in Corsicana for many years.

Betty and her husband, Jerry, have two sons and one daughter, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They love to travel throughout the United States and abroad, bringing beautiful items back to Interior Ideas. “I am thrilled by the newest trends which are taking decors back to vivid colors and wallpaper,” Betty said. “It’s an exciting time.” **NOW**



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# The City of Lights

— By Corey C. Poole

Natchitoches is known for many things — its culture, cuisine and hard to pronounce name (Nack-a-tish). Named after a Native American Indian tribe, Natchitoches translates to “pawpaw eaters,” a fruit tree once plentiful in the region.

From its roots as the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, Natchitoches was established in 1714 by French explorer Louis Juchereau de St. Denis as a French Outpost along the Red River. After the river changed its course in the late 1800s, Cane River Lake was created, a 33-mile long section of the Red River that is now landlocked. The downtown Historic District is nestled along the banks of this picturesque body of water.

“The City” is known as the filming location for *Steel Magnolias*, as the Bed and Breakfast Capital of Louisiana and as a popular tourism destination. Nicknamed “The City of Lights,” Natchitoches is best known for its six-week Christmas Festival of Lights, featuring more than 300,000 lights that make the town twinkle with magic. Starting the weekend before Thanksgiving with a “Turn on the Holidays” celebration, the festival continues through January 6. The official Natchitoches Christmas Festival Day is the first Saturday in December. A Christmas parade winds its way through downtown. Vendors sell fresh meat pies, and bands perform through the night. 2018 marks the 92nd annual celebration.

While this is the most popular festival, there’s a plethora of events to enjoy year-round. Enjoy a day of competition, and cheer on rowers at the Dragon Boat Races, held annually at the beginning of March. In April is the Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival, where more than 100 vendors sell

their wares beneath the canopy of oak trees at Melrose Plantation, just 17 miles south of Natchitoches. And the Natchitoches Jazz R&B Festival is held annually in May with four stages playing a variety of music from jazz to rock.

For 39 years, the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival has been held annually in July in the air-conditioned Prather Coliseum on the Northwestern State University Campus. Browse through vendors and demonstrations, and listen to an eclectic variety of musicians.

Both the Fall and Christmas Tour of Homes offer sneak peeks inside some of the town’s historic buildings, presented by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation and the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. Also in the fall, stroll the streets and look under the hoods of antique autos at the annual Natchitoches Classic Car Show.

Each October, prominent figures from Natchitoches’ history come to life at History Among the Tombstones: Stories from the American Cemetery. And the Grand Ecore Visitors Center, Los Adaes State Historic Site and Fort St. Jean Baptiste each offer unique programming throughout the year from lectures to demonstrations and re-enactments.

Stroll through downtown shops like Kaffie Frederick — Louisiana’s oldest general store. Bring a boat and cruise Cane River and Sibley Lake for some of the best fishing spots around, or grab a kayak and take it slow. Whatever adventure you have in mind, Natchitoches will welcome you with its true Southern charm and hospitality. **NOW**

*Photo credit: Poole Photography.*



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# Kids' Fun Pages

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

## Time for Presents

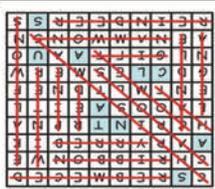
Can you spot the two identical pictures?

ANSWER: 9'z

## MYSTERIOUS WORD:

C	S	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D
C	H	R	I	B	B	O	N	W	E
A	A	R	Y	R	R	E	B	I	K
H	C	R	I	N	T	R	P	N	A
L	A	O	O	S	A	E	I	T	L
E	N	T	M	L	T	D	N	E	F
G	D	C	L	E	S	M	E	R	W
N	L	G	I	F	T	A	A	U	O
A	E	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	N
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	S	S

- ANGEL
- BERRY
- CANDLE
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS
- COMET
- DECEMBER
- GIFT
- HAT
- PINE
- RED
- REINDEER
- RIBBON
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- WINTER



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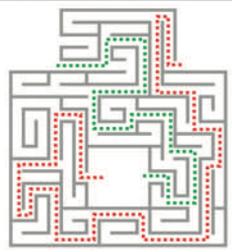
just  
for  
kids.

# Kids' Fun Pages

Help the little elves to find the way to Santa's sack.



ANSWER:



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:

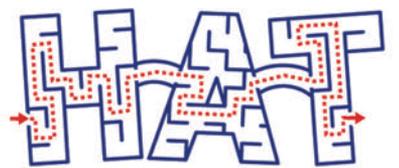


ANSWER:



Help Santa get through the HAT maze to catch up to his hat. It was blown away by the wind.

ANSWER:



Jon Paul Honza, Owner

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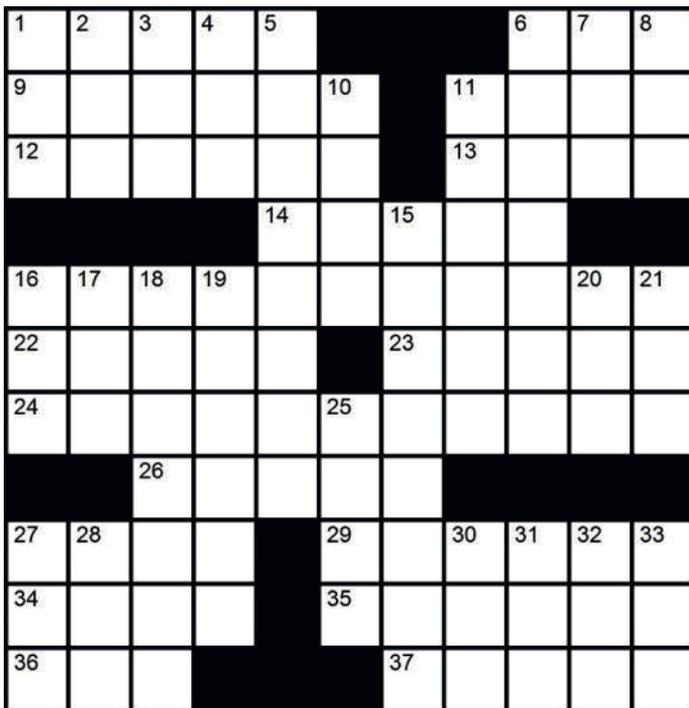


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# Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

## Across

- 1 Spud source
- 6 Short boxing punch
- 9 Roomy autos
- 11 Saintry symbol
- 12 Accident
- 13 "I suppose"
- 14 Match
- 16 Turnpike convenience
- 22 Solo numbers
- 23 Like certain organs
- 24 Multiply rapidly
- 26 Teacher
- 27 Gratis
- 29 Onetime Disney chief
- 34 Obstructs
- 35 How bodysuits fit
- 36 They go with outs
- 37 Pixie

## Down

- 1 Doctrine
- 2 Agnus or Opus follower
- 3 Sales aids, for short
- 4 "Baloney!"
- 5 Stopping by
- 6 Capital of Indonesia
- 7 Cotton state
- 8 Early man?
- 10 Building detail, briefly
- 11 Type of balloon
- 15 Breaking off
- 16 Plant juice
- 17 Sin
- 18 Unruly mob
- 19 Appraises
- 20 Consume
- 21 Malt beverage
- 25 Hatfields and McCoy's
- 27 Crime fighters
- 28 Hurried
- 30 Daystar
- 31 The Y is one
- 32 Horror street
- 33 Cereal grass

Solutions on page 43

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 43

## Dream Horse or Night-Mare?



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## Zoomed In: Bluebonnet Patches By Sandra Strong

The Bluebonnet Patches continue to celebrate their 32nd year as a close-knit group of ladies who enjoy the art of quilting. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at First Presbyterian Church. “Once a quarter, we meet for three consecutive days,” President Judy Wensowitch said. “We all enjoy these quilting retreats.”

Over the years, quilters have created some really unique items — items that are utilized in their daily lives. They include oversized bags, shoulder purses, billfolds and Christmas stockings, table runners and holiday quilts. Members are looking forward to 32 more years of the close fellowship that comes with quilting.



The ladies from the House of Refuge, along with several members of Refiner’s Fire, pose for a photo following a wonderful morning of praise and worship.



Nathan Grant dresses as Chase from Paw Patrol as children from the community come in from the rain to enjoy a Halloween Trunk or Treat event.



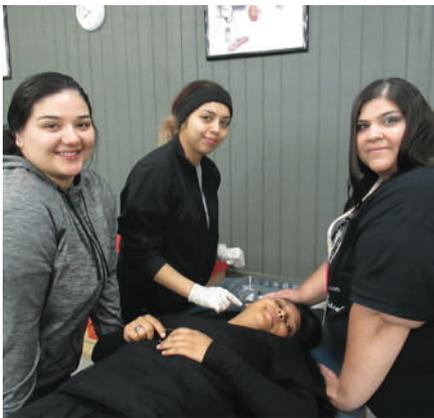
The Strikers soccer team takes direction from their coach during the halftime break.



The City of Ennis, the Ennis Rotary Club and National Fitness Courts partner together to bring a new fitness court to Jaycee Park.



Alan and Loree Scott enjoy an evening at the Chamber auction.



Instructor Samantha Verastegui, far right, instructs students at Medical Professional Institute using the hands-on method.



Ryker and Brody McGahan enjoy a fun afternoon at Ennis Autumn Daze.

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A photograph of a group of about ten men standing in front of two white A1A Moving trucks. The trucks have the company logo and name on them. The men are wearing dark polo shirts and shorts. There are several cardboard boxes stacked in front of them.


## 12/1-12/15

Holiday Carriage & Wagon Rides:  
www.enniscarriageandwagonrides.  
eventbrite.com.

## 12/1-12/2, 12/7-12/9

Bethlehem Revisited: Step back in time 2,000 years to the town of Bethlehem where you'll meet storekeepers, Roman soldiers, shepherds and a young couple and their newborn baby. Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St., Waxahachie.

## 12/1-12/16

A Doublewide Christmas: Ennis Public Theatre. For curtain times, visit www.EnnisPublicTheatre.com.



## 12/2

Holiday Marketplace: 2:00-6:00 p.m., Finn MacCool's.

Christmas Concert with Hollyn: Christian pop singer and American Idol finalist Hollyn will perform at the Oaks Church. 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Oaks Church, 777 S. I-35E, Exit 408, Red Oak, (214) 376-8208.

## 12/7-12/22

Where's Santa: Theatre Rocks!, www.theatrerocks.com.

## 12/8

Holiday Fashion Fundraiser at Once Upon a Time Bridal Boutique: 101 S. Dallas St., Ste. 101.

Lights of Ennis Movie Night featuring *Home Alone*: 7:00 p.m., 104 N. McKinney St.



## 12/12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession: downtown Ennis.

## 12/13

Sip, Shop & Stroll: A holiday shopping event in downtown Ennis. 5:00-8:00 p.m.

## 12/15

Lights of Ennis Movie Night featuring *Frozen*: 7:00 p.m., 104 N. McKinney St.

YMCA Santa Run: downtown Waxahachie.

## 12/31

New Year's Eve dance: 8:00 p.m.-midnight, Sokol, 2622 Hwy. 34.

Fourth Mondays  
Texas Master Naturalists Indian Trails Chapter: 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Waxahachie. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. www.txmn.org/indiantrail.

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

Tuesdays  
Lariat Bridge Club: 6:30 p.m., Boy Scout Cabin, 1139 Brown St., Waxahachie. Email Shari at weatherscf@yahoo.com or call (505) 270-4017.

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.

Ellis County Bible Study  
Fellowship Satellite Class: This is a nondenominational Bible study class. 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. Call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.



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.

Second and Fourth Fridays  
Ennis Bridge Club: 1:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Email Judy at judytx@sbcglobal.net or call (972) 878-1035.

Fourth Sundays  
William Henry Parsons Camp #415 Sons of Confederate Veterans: Visitors are welcome. 3:00 p.m., Bubba's Bar BQ and Steakhouse. Visit www.scv.org.

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

# Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	I	D	A	H	O				6	J	A	B			
9	S	E	D	A	N	S			11	H	A	L	O		
12	M	I	S	H	A	P			13	O	K	A	Y		
									14	V	E	S	T	A	
16	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	A	R	E		20	21	A	
22	A	R	I	A	S				23	V	I	T	A	L	
24	P	R	O	L	I	F	E	R	A	T	E				
									26	T	U	T	O	R	
27	F	R	E	E					29	E	I	S	N	E	R
34	B	A	R	S					35	S	N	U	G	L	Y
36	I	N	S						37	G	N	O	M	E	

Easy

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

Medium

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



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Dec. 8 - HOME ALONE  
Dec. 15 - FROZEN

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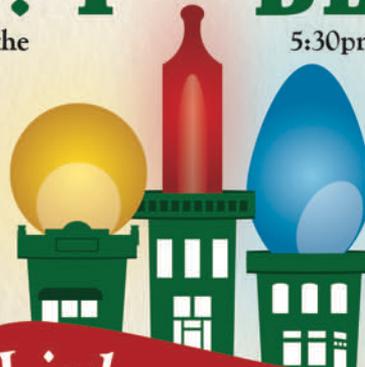
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## Questions to Ask Your Financial Advisor

You should always be able to ask as many questions as you'd like when working with your financial advisor. So, before you have your annual review, think carefully about what you'd like to ask. Here are a few suggestions:

### Are my goals still realistic?

When you first began working with your financial advisor, you may well have articulated a number of financial goals. For example, you might have said that you wanted to pay for most of your children's college educations, or that you wanted to retire at a certain age, or that you wanted to travel for two months each year during your retirement. In fact, you could have many different goals for which you're saving and investing. When you meet with your financial advisor, you'll certainly want to ask if you're still on track toward meeting these goals. If you are, you can continue with the financial strategies you've been following. But if you aren't, you may need to adjust them.

### Am I taking on too much — or too little — risk?

The financial markets always fluctuate, and these movements will affect the value of your investment portfolio. If you watch the markets closely every day and track their impact on your investments, you may find yourself fretting considerably over your investments' value and wondering if you are taking on too much investment risk for your comfort level. Conversely, if you think that during an extended period of market gains your own portfolio appears to be

lagging, you might feel that you should be investing more aggressively, which entails greater risk. In any case, it's important that you know your own risk tolerance and use it as a guideline for making investment choices — so it's definitely an issue to discuss with your financial advisor.

### How will changes in my life affect my investment strategy?

Your life is not static. Over time, you may experience any number of major events, such as marriage, children, new jobs and so on. When you meet with your financial advisor, you will want to discuss these types of changes, because they can affect your long-term goals and, consequently, your investment decisions.

### How are external forces affecting my investment portfolio?

Generally speaking, you will want to create an investment strategy that's based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. And, as mentioned above, you may need to adjust your strategy based on changes in your life. But should you also make changes based on outside forces, such as interest rate movements, political events, new legislation or news-affecting industries in which you have invested substantially? Try not to make long-term investment decisions based on short-term news. Yet, talk with your financial advisor to make sure your investment portfolio is not out of alignment with relevant external factors.

By making these and other inquiries, you can help yourself stay informed on your overall investment picture and what moves, if any, you should make to keep advancing toward your goals. A financial advisor is there to provide you with valuable expertise — so take full advantage of it. **NOW**

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*



## Season's Greetings

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.



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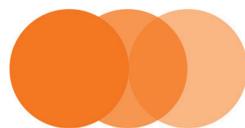


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