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Publisher, Connie Poirier | General Manager, Rick Hensley

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker | Ennis Editor, Bill Smith
Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith | Writers, Lisa Bell . Angel Morris
Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell . Sally Fuller . Virginia Riddle

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
Anthony Sarmienta . Jennifer Spence

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographer, Bill Smith

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives, Linda Roberson . Cherise Burnett
Dustin Dauenhauer . Bryan Frye . Kelsea Locke . Linda Moffett
Lori O'Connell . Steve Randle . Keri Roberson . Joyce Sebesta
Melissa Stacy

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ON THE COVER

The SPJST hall has a fresh, new look.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
EnnisNOW Editor
bill.smith@nowmagazines.com
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Let me call you sweetheart ...

Perhaps Valentine's Day falls during the coldest month of the year so we will draw nearer to that special "Valentine" for the extra warmth! Remembering fondly those first Valentine banquets as a youth in my church, those adults who decorated the fellowship halls and hired speakers like Bunny Martin and his yo-yo probably put forth the effort because they remembered their awkward adolescence also.

Remember the first time you held hands? Remember your first date? Remember your first kiss? Remember when you thought you were in love, but it turned out to be just a temporary infatuation ... or maybe you were in love, and your heart was broken? Wow, some memories are more painful than others, but somehow, we survive the hurtful memories in favor of the happy ones.

Today, I still go to Valentine banquets with my sweetheart of almost 44 years. We still get "kind of dressed up." The evening does not last as long as it used to, but as the banquet draws to a close, we still hold hands and sing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." The song leader will encourage us to "look longingly into our sweetheart's eyes" as we sing, which often produces grins and laughter, as we have been gazing into those beautiful eyes for so many years now.

The song ends and the note is usually held out a little too long. It makes us smile. We love each other exponentially more than that first date so many years ago. She's still my valentine, and she knows it.

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The SPJST Looks Back



The Ennis SPJST fraternity is as old as the parent organization, which was organized in 1897. Today, there is a great emphasis on the future of the local lodge, and the future is bright, according to local President JoAnn Jones and Vice President Arlene Honza.

As much as the organization is focusing on its future today, it is obvious how important the history of the lodge is to not only the longstanding members, that is, the generation before JoAnn and Arlene, but also to the young members who are just starting to get involved. "As a child, the SPJST was a regular part of our family life. I was here every weekend," JoAnn recalled. "My grandparents helped build it." When members speak of building the lodge, the meaning is two-fold. The lodge is built as new members join, but many have been involved in the physical construction and remodeling process of the building itself. "Our parents and grandparents can no longer change the light bulbs and sweep the floors like they used to, so it is up to the next generation to take the lead."

Construction of the current lodge hall began when the previous building was lost to a fire in 1970. The construction of the new hall brought the lodge closer to town and was completed quickly, with the grand opening occurring in November 1971. "Now, we are nearing the end of a three-year remodeling project that began with the new bar and club room in 2016," Arlene related. "We moved a couple of walls to expand the area and make it more attractive. The walls have been repainted, and the ceiling tiles have been replaced. It is a comfortable place for families to come and enjoy themselves. We have good crowds that come out every Wednesday evening and enjoy playing dominoes and building new friendships."

The remodeling projects are ongoing, and with the renewed building comes a renewed interest by members both old and new. "My father comes out to play 42 every Wednesday," Arlene continued. "We are open only on Wednesday evenings, but we have special events in the main area regularly." The remodeling project has extended now through the dining room and into the main hall. The hall originally had Spanish decor, with red-carpeted walls above dark wood paneling. "The carpet helps with the acoustics in the building, and that is important to the bands that play regularly here. We have brightened the walls in the dining room and dance hall, while keeping the acoustics in mind. We also upgraded the electrical systems for the bands, so their large speakers and amplifiers would not trip breakers."

The youth of the SPJST are also very active. Youth leader Rita Holland added, "Members meet monthly at the local lodge and get to plan not

TO THE Future

— By Bill Smith

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only social activities, such as dances and picnics, but also ways to help the community through fundraisers or charitable donations. Through state activities, youth gain confidence in themselves through competition and gain lifelong relationships. Members have an opportunity to learn about the Czech culture and traditions by learning songs, dances and the Czech language." Scholarships are given each year to qualified youth members.

The SPJST is well known for hosting wedding receptions, quinceañeras, reunions and many other events where people need a place to gather. "We added a new chandelier in the hall that is really beautiful. Wedding coordinators and decorators, such as Suzie Betik, make the hall look magical," JoAnn mentioned. "We see too many local weddings going out of town to other venues, and that is one of the things we had in mind with the recent remodeling of our entrance."

Arlene added, "The newly installed flagstone walkway crowned with new flowers and greenery is our latest addition. It's like our 'curb appeal.' It is a pretty place for the bride and groom to make their exit."

One fun-filled event that the SPJST has is its annual fundraiser, which will be on February 15th. Tickets are still available from individuals and merchants around town, as well as at the bar at the back of the hall on Wednesday evenings. The grand prize is a Kubota Side by Side! "The fundraiser has made the remodeling possible, and we have seen the event grow over recent years. People see what we are doing and want to be a part of it," Arlene said with some excitement in her voice. "Being in mid-February, we always have a Valentine's theme. The band, Lost Money, provides the music. The event includes a live

auction, raffle, dinner and dancing. The meal is a traditional Czech barbecue. A corn-hole tournament starts around 2:00 in the afternoon, come rain or shine, because we have the tournament indoors on the dance floor! We have other fun things, as well, such as a large heart-shaped candy box. We remove the chocolates and fill it with other valuable items, but as Forrest Gump said, 'You never know what you are going to get.' If you don't win that, we also have a lotto tree and a cash cake."



The recent upgrades to the building seem to be matched by a resurgence in interest from those coming back to the lodge. JoAnn recalled, "We have had so many compliments about what a good time people have had as they have come back to the SPIST hall. They say it reminds them of 'old times.' People are getting reacquainted with old friends they have not seen in a while."

As the building approaches its 50th year, it has had quite a facelift, and it has recently become a nonsmoking facility. People seem to really appreciate the nonsmoking atmosphere.

And what would a Czech hall in Ennis be without a great kitchen? The SPIST history records that in March 1969, "Ladies made 70 dozen kolache and sold them at 75 cents a dozen." The most recent part of the hall to be remodeled was the kitchen. Everything is new from the ceiling tiles to the floor tiles, with beautiful new cabinets, countertops, stoves and sinks. Betty Macalik faithfully manages the kitchen and is in charge of the annual holiday strudel fundraiser during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Imagine the strudel that the new kitchen turns out ... but they may cost a little more than the kolache of 1969! **NOW**

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A LION'S HEART FOR LEADING

— By Bill Smith

An article published in the October 2019 issue of Science Advances magazine cites research intended to explain why older generations often view “the youth of today” disparagingly. Perhaps better than another’s research, a more appropriate approach to evaluating today’s youth would be to spend some time with young leaders such as Ari’Ona Hughes.

As a freshman at Ennis High School, Ari’Ona recognizes she has a long and bright future ahead of her, and she genuinely sees herself being elected president of the United States someday. “Last summer, I attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. We learned a lot of things about the government there, and it helped me get some priorities in order. I would like to progress through politics and become a United States senator, then, hopefully, run for the office of president,” Ari’Ona related.

The conference Ari’Ona attended is sponsored by Envision, and the company’s mission is focused on giving high-aspiring students the unique opportunity to turn their career and life aspirations into reality. Without doubt, Ari’Ona meets the criteria of being a “high-aspiring student.” She was nominated to attend the conference by her eighth grade reading teacher, Mary Wooley.

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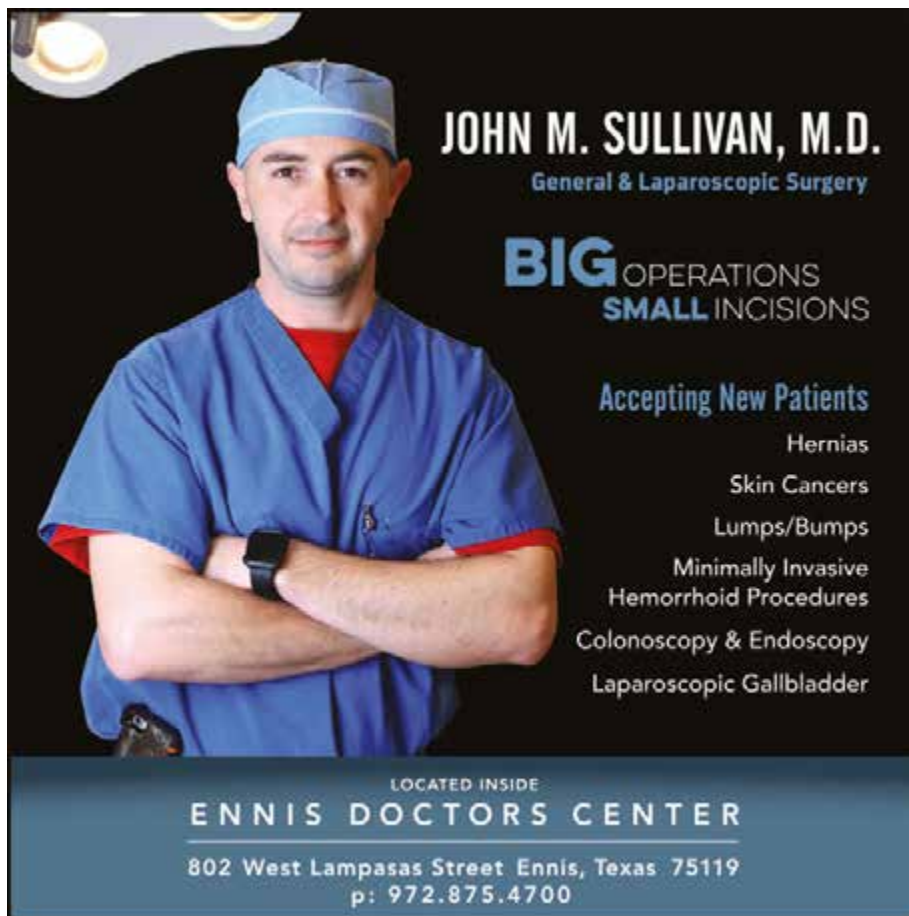
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"Ms. Wooley made me like English and reading," Ari'Ona affirmed. "History is my favorite subject, though. I think it is my best subject because it fascinates me."

In fact, Ari'Ona has her plans for college and beyond laid out in systematic order. "I want to teach history for a couple of years after college, then go to law school before entering politics. I believe I can impact others in the small groups that teaching provides, and that is one of the things I learned at the conference. It is also the reason I want to pursue the Senate before running for president."

At the leadership conference, Ari'Ona ran for and was elected president of her group of 32 students. "I think I won because I took the election seriously and worked hard. I really wanted to lead the group," she continued. "As president, I was given a crisis scenario to solve. The entire East Coast was being threatened with the loss of a major resource. We had a couple of alternative solutions to choose from, and just about the time we were ready to make the decision, they gave us several more crisis scenarios!"

"I learned a lot about working together with other people, as other students had been elected to other offices, such as vice president, and we learned how important collaboration with others is in leadership," she shared.

Back at Ennis High School, she also recognizes leadership in others. Ari'Ona loves her class, Principles of Education and Training, and the extra-





curricular club that is associated with it, Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE). "The other girls in TAFE are outstanding," she said. "They lead with empathy. I want to be like them."

A well-rounded student and member of her community, Ari'Ona's interests extend beyond the classroom. "I play basketball and have been team captain for two years in a row. I also play volleyball and run track. Last year, I received the Lion's Heart Award for leadership in athletics.

"I would like to be part of the student council, but I missed the election last year because of the flu. I will be there next year, though," she said with confidence.

Ari'Ona also has been involved with Give a Kid a Chance and Adopt-a-Highway for the past five years. She also credits her church for preparing her to be a leader. When she was younger, she gave monthly speeches in church. In 2015 and 2016, she won first place in the Unity in the Community oratorical contest. She also has been involved in dance and gymnastics, winning numerous awards in those activities, as well.

Ari'Ona is a successful young person, and she gives credit to those who have influenced her up to this point, including her church, her teachers and the support that she gets from home. She has received an invitation to attend another conference next year, The National Youth Leadership Forum: Law & CSI. Support from the community for youth such as Ari'Ona is an investment in not only her future, but perhaps the future on a much larger scale. **NOW**



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BusinessNOW

Gary Hayden, New York Life



Be good at life.

— By Bill Smith

Gary Hayden, New York Life

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At a recent Ennis Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event hosted by Gary Hayden, Gary presented four donations from his firm to nonprofit organizations in the Ennis community. When asked about his motivation, Gary offered, “Basically, I like Ennis.”

Before he could finish the comment, his business associate, Staley Shiller, interrupted with, “Gary, you love Ennis. How many years have you purchased the signed Ennis Lions-autographed footballs at the Chamber of Commerce auction?” Gary acknowledged that it had been many years, and that Staley’s comment was probably more accurate. He loves Ennis.

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gary graduated from LSU in 1969. After stints working with the YMCA and the state home in Corsicana, Gary spent several years in the automobile business before being approached by New York Life with a career opportunity. “They offered more than a j-o-b. It was an opportunity for a career and a long-term relationship. That really appealed to me, and it carries over from the company to the relationship we have with our individual clients. We are in the business of long-term relationships.”

After reviewing the demographics of Navarro County and Ellis County in 1983, Gary made the decision to move his business to Ennis. “At the time, there were about three times as many people in Ellis County. That is a lot more people that we can help with their long-range planning and financial goals,” Gary continued. “Our clients range from age 25 to 85. When we start working with a client who is 65 years old, we are planning ahead, perhaps 15 or 20 years down the road for the security of his retirement goals and his family. People think we are ‘product-driven,’ but we are not. We have tools and strategies that are unique and ‘solutions-driven.’”

Gary and Staley complement one another in their approach to the business. "I am not a salesman," Staley opined. "Most of what I do is teach. We recently worked with a client who manufactures farm equipment. I do not know anything about tractors, but after meeting with the client about some planning solutions for him and his employees, I asked if he could teach me about tractors."

"People think we are 'product-driven,' but we are not. We have tools and strategies that are unique and 'solutions-driven.'"

"Before I left, he explained a lot about the engines and various parts of a tractor. I know he really had to work to get down on my level with the mechanics. I did the same thing when teaching him about the products we offer that are solutions to his and his employees' financial needs," Staley said.


One of Gary's avocations through the years was serving as a high school and junior college football official. Interestingly, it was a football official who recruited Staley into his business. "An official who called a lot of games that I played in at Austin College was an agent for another company. Since I played center, we would sometimes talk while he placed the ball for the next play before he blew the whistle to start the play clock."

Gary confirmed that he and Staley are definitely in a growth mode, and he thinks the future is bright. "I am not ready to retire, but it is good that New York Life has a 'successor agent' program. I would not want to see my clients divided up between several agents who do not have an Ennis connection like Staley has."


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Zoomed In: Addison Butler and Noah Rankin

By Bill Smith

On a beautiful day in downtown Ennis, a skating rink popped up! Addison Butler and Noah Rankin were there to enjoy the fun. "It's harder than I thought it was," Noah remarked. "I used to skate, but I guess I'm having to learn all over again."

Noah and Addison agreed it was fun and really cool to have the open-air rink downtown. Both of them are freshman students at Ennis High School. "I've skated before, too," Addison said. "In fact, about three years ago, I was skating at my grandmother's house and fell, breaking my elbow." So, they were taking it slow on this pretty Saturday.



Robert McMillon installs a new light fixture on this recently remodelled Ennis building.



Raymond Caldwell serves as a guide at the Moore-Ventura home.



Centex Citizens stand proud at their grand opening.



The Quest Counseling team poses at their open house and ribbon cutting.



Brad Lane and Keith Jantz enjoying the car show in downtown Ennis.



Joshua Smith is ready for breakfast at Denny's.



DFW Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery has its 2nd Annual Bowling Extravaganza.



Dr. Tom Vance of Navarro College delivers the program about the Ellis County Mammoth Project to the Lions Club.

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“Food is medicine,” Gretchen Ort said. “I have a holistic view on nutrition and deep appreciation for the comfort food can bring.” As a midwife, she stresses the importance of eating healthy. Before focusing on midwifery, she owned two bakeries, making special occasion and custom treats.

Gretchen’s German grandparents raised her, insisting she learn cooking basics as soon as she could reach the stove. “I’ve loved feeding people since.” Married to an Italian man, pasta is a staple in their home. But she’s from New Orleans, so “that pasta is spicy.” A cook for Baylor Baptist Church, she tweaks recipes to please the crowd. “I’d love to cook more from my heritage, but I’ll have to wait until my kids’ taste buds can handle the heat.” **NOW**

Mississippi Pot Roast

- 1 3-lb. chuck roast**
- 2 cups beef broth**
- 1 12-oz. jar whole peperoncini**
- 1 pkt. ranch dip/dressing mix**
- 1 stick butter**

- 1.** Place roast in a Crock-Pot; cover with beef broth, half of the peperoncini and half of the peperoncini juice. (Add the full jar for a little more kick.)
- 2.** Sprinkle the ranch mix over the roast; place the stick of butter on top of the roast.
- 3.** Cook on low 6-8 hours until fork tender. If using an instant pot, follow all the same

instructions and cook on manual high-pressure for 90 minutes.

Chicken and Dumplings

Chicken:

- 1 whole chicken, cut into pieces**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- 2 Tbsp. butter**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 1 medium onion, finely diced**
- 1/2 cup carrots, finely diced**
- 1/2 cup celery, finely diced**
- 1/2 tsp. ground thyme**

- 1/4 tsp. turmeric**
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth**
- 1/2 cup apple cider**
- 1/2 cup heavy cream**
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley (optional)**

Dumplings:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal**
- 1 Tbsp. (heaping) baking powder**
- 1 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1 1/2 cups half-and-half**

- 1. For chicken:** Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper; dredge both sides in flour.
- 2.** Melt butter in a pot with olive oil over medium-high heat. In two batches, brown chicken on both sides; remove to a clean plate.
- 3.** In the same pot, add onion, carrots and celery. Stir and cook 3-4 minutes over medium-low heat. Stir in thyme and turmeric; pour in chicken broth and apple cider.
- 4.** Stir to combine; add the browned chicken. Cover pot; simmer for 20 minutes.
- 5.** While the chicken simmers, make the dough for the dumplings.
- 6. For dumplings:** Sift together all dry

ingredients; add half-and-half, stirring gently to combine. Set aside.

7. Remove chicken from pot; set aside on a plate. Use two forks to remove chicken from the bone; shred. Add chicken back to pot. Pour heavy cream into the pot; stir to combine.

8. Drop tablespoonfuls of the dumpling dough into the simmering pot. Add minced parsley. Cover pot halfway; continue to simmer for 15 minutes.

9. Check seasonings; add additional salt, if needed. Allow to sit for 10 minutes before serving.

Gretchen's Soft Sugar Cookie

Makes 60 bakery-style cookies.

1 cup margarine (not butter)

1 1/2 cups white sugar

3 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla extract

3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

2 tsp. cream of tartar

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1. Cream margarine; add sugar gradually. Beat until light and fluffy.

2. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in vanilla.

3. Add flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt to creamed mixture, stirring by hand. Cover; chill dough overnight.

4. Preheat oven to 375 F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

5. Roll dough out on a floured surface 1/8- to 1/4-inch thick; cut into your favorite shapes. Place cookies on prepared baking sheets.

6. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes, or until cookies have a golden appearance.

Lasagna Roll Ups

Makes 6 servings.

12 uncooked lasagna noodles

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 10-oz. pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

2 1/2 cups whole milk ricotta cheese

2 1/2 cups part-skim mozzarella cheese, shredded

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

1 24-oz. jar pasta sauce

1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Cook and drain noodles according to package directions.

2. Meanwhile, mix eggs, spinach, cheeses and seasonings.



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Mississippi
Pot Roast

28 oz. low-sodium
chicken broth
3 cups water
1 tsp. crushed red pepper
flakes (optional)
Salt, to taste (optional)
Pepper, to taste (optional)
5 medium russet potatoes,
thinly sliced
4 cups kale, chopped
1 cup heavy
whipping cream
Parmesan cheese, grated

3. Pour 1 cup of pasta sauce into an ungreased 13x9-inch baking dish. Spread 1/3 cup cheese mixture over each noodle.
4. Roll up and place on top of sauce, seam side down. Top with remaining pasta sauce. Bake, covered, for 20 minutes.
5. Uncover; bake until heated through, about 5-10 minutes. Top with basil.

Copycat Zuppa Toscana

Makes 8 servings.

16 oz. spicy or mild Italian sausage
8 slices bacon
1/2 large onion, diced
2-3 cloves garlic, minced

1. Brown sausage in a large pot. Remove with a slotted spoon; set aside.
2. Cut bacon into small pieces. Add to pot; cook until crispy. Stir in onion; cook 5-6 minutes, or until onion is translucent.
3. Stir in garlic; cook for 1 minute, stirring frequently. Add chicken broth and water. Add red pepper, salt and pepper, if desired.
4. Add potatoes and sausage to the pot; bring to a simmer over medium heat. Continue cooking until potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes.
5. Add kale to the soup; simmer an additional 5-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in heavy cream; heat through.
6. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

Gretchen's Signature Lemon Buttercream

Covers 24 cupcakes.

1 lb. butter, room temperature
2 lbs. powdered sugar
1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice,
no seeds or pulp
Zest of 1 lemon
Pinch of sea salt
1 Tbsp. water (if needed)

1. Beat butter with a mixer until creamed. Add sugar in batches until fully incorporated. Add lemon juice, zest and salt; beat until fluffy.
2. Add water, if needed, for thinning to consistency. Store in airtight container for up to one week.

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Tales of Texas

The DeBakey Difference

— By Angel Morris

The American Heart Association reminds us that one in four deaths each year in the United States is a result of heart disease. In response, American Heart Health Month takes place each February to raise awareness of the disease and how to prevent it.

Longtime Texas resident, Dr. Michael DeBakey, was a pioneer in cardiology whose accomplishments centered around heart health. Namesake of the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center, Dr. DeBakey performed the first successful removal of a blockage in the carotid artery, establishing the field of surgical treatment of stroke, in 1953.

While today, Dr. DeBakey's name can also be found on other Texas research facilities and schools, it was not his birth name. After immigrating to Louisiana from Lebanon, the Dabaghis decided DeBakey was a more suitable, anglicized version of their name.

Born to Shaker Morris and Raheehja DeBakey in 1908, Michael is said to have shared his parents' thirst for knowledge and discipline. Shaker was not only

a pharmacist, but also an investor. Michael's compassionate spirit no doubt came from his mother, who was an activist for nonprofit organizations.

In 1926, Michael graduated high school as valedictorian, then earned his bachelor's degree from Tulane University in 1930. While finishing his medical degree at Tulane's School of Medicine in 1932, DeBakey invented the roller pump — a tool helping blood flow continuously during operations. The device went on to be used in the first open heart surgery two decades later and was the first of more than 50 surgical heart and artery instruments credited to Dr. DeBakey.

Volunteering for military service at the start of World War II, DeBakey is credited with changing the way the Army handled casualties. Serving four years in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, he pursued movement of medical facilities nearer to the front lines, speeding the care of wounded soldiers and increasing their chances of surviving.

In 1945, he received the Legion of Merit Award for these efforts, which resulted in the Army's standardization of MASH units — Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals —

which were first utilized in the Korean War a decade later, with helicopters and airplanes used to transport wounded soldiers from front-line care centers to surgical hospitals.

As a result of DeBakey's efforts, reports suggest soldiers who made it to MASH units had a 97 percent chance of surviving. With ongoing concern for servicemen, Dr. DeBakey also developed the Veterans' Administration (VA) Medical Center System and VA's Medical Research Program to try and ensure the treatment of soldiers returning from war and veterans with certain medical issues.

Moving to Houston in 1948, Dr. DeBakey became a staff member at Houston Methodist Hospital and joined the Baylor College of Medicine faculty. Houston Methodist's website credits the doctor as "essential to the Texas Medical Center's evolution into the largest medical complex in the world."

DeBakey recruited doctors and researchers who, with him, developed many innovative treatments. Other significant accomplishments by Dr. DeBakey include the invention of the Dacron graft — tubes which can replace or repair blood vessels — which he initially prototyped using his wife's sewing machine in 1954. This method would save DeBakey's own life decades later, when he suffered a dissecting aortic aneurysm at age 97, and doctors performed his own procedure on him.


In addition to his Dacron graft development, DeBakey performed the first aortocoronary artery bypass in 1964, and in 1968, the first multiple-organ transplant of a heart, one lung and both kidneys from one donor to four recipients. Working into his 80s, the medical statesman is credited with more than 60,000 surgeries.

Dr. DeBakey ensured Houston would continue to be synonymous with heart surgery treatment by teaching at Baylor College of Medicine, training thousands of surgeons, conducting ongoing research and co-authoring some 1,300 published articles. In 2001, Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center officially opened. In 2008 at age 99, Dr. DeBakey died at Houston Methodist Hospital, where he had served a significant portion of his career and had greatly advanced cardiovascular medicine.

You can honor Dr. DeBakey's legacy by recognizing February as American Heart Health Month in large or small ways. Visit yourethecure.org for tips on living longer, healthier lives. Here you can also learn about supporting causes that promote heart health, such as being aware of upcoming health legislation and holding food companies accountable. In the spirit of Dr. DeBakey, the website helps you make decisions with heart. **NOW**

Source: houstonmethodist.org

Photos courtesy of Houston Methodist.



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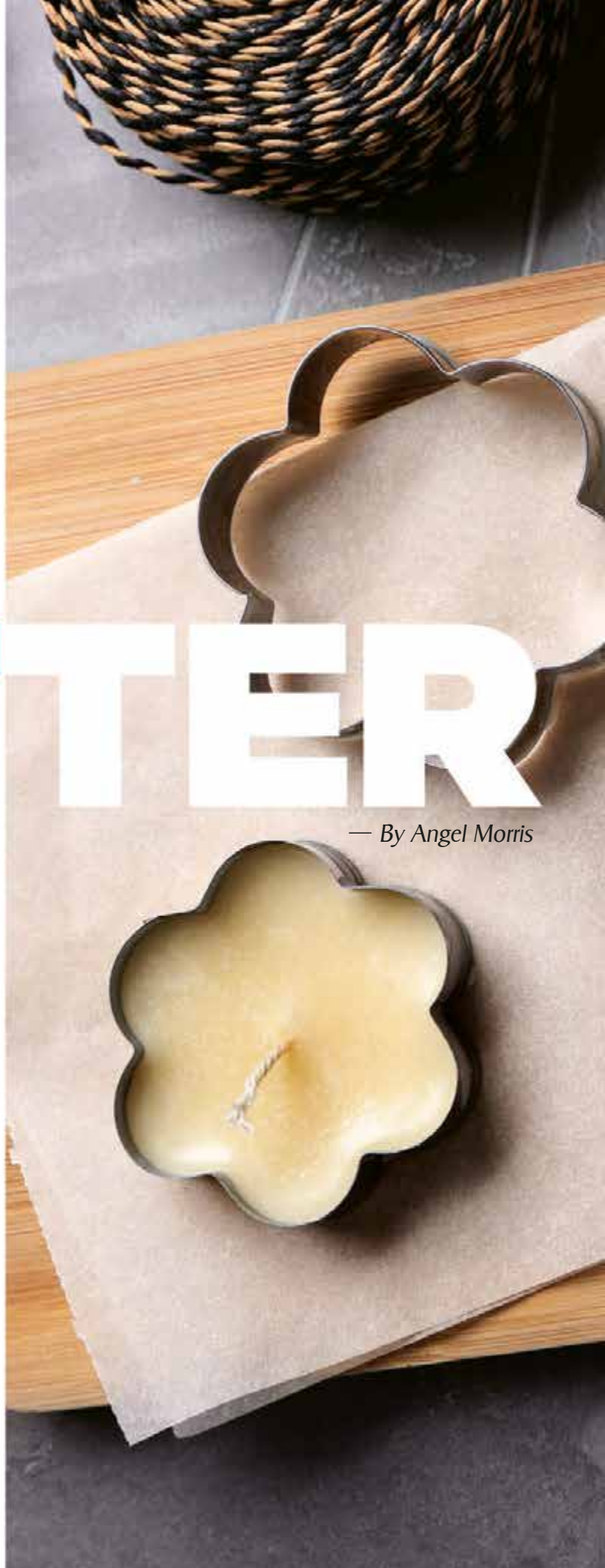


COOKIE CUT CATER CANDLES

— By Angel Morris

SUPPLIES:

- Candle ends/remnants, pre-packaged wax shavings or beeswax
- Small saucepan
- Small glass or metal bowl or clean tin can
- Metal cookie cutters
- Parchment paper or aluminum foil
- Sheet pan
- Metal-tabbed tea light wicks
- Crayons (optional)
- Cooking thermometer
- Craft sticks for stirring





If you've been thinking about dipping your toe in the DIY waters but are a bit afraid of larger projects, cookie cutter candles may be a simple way to start. While full-sized candles are also popular DIY projects, these mini versions made with cookie cutters might be less overwhelming for beginning crafters.

You likely have many of the supplies already on hand, but a trip to your nearest craft supply store is probably needed for at least a couple of things. For starters, supplies include the remnants of any candles you have on hand, or you can purchase wax specifically packaged for candle making.

You will also need a small saucepan, a glass or metal bowl or a clean tin can. Parchment paper, a sheet pan, cookie cutters of your choice are required, as well. Lastly, candlewicks are needed, and crayons can be used to add the hue of your choice to wax, if what you have is not already colored. A cooking thermometer can help ensure wax is the proper temperature when in doubt.

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Steps 1 and 2:

Place a few inches of water in the small saucepan, and bring it to a simmer. Next, fill your heat-safe metal or glass bowl (or tin can) with candle ends or store-purchased wax shavings or beeswax, and place it in the saucepan of simmering water. You have essentially created your own double boiler in this manner.

At this time, you may add bits of crayons to manipulate the color for your candles. Gently stir to blend the color as you watch for the wax to reach about 100 F, when it will be ready to pour.

Hint: If you would like to make several different colored candles at once, simply use a different tin can for each color within your makeshift double boiler.

Step 3:

While the wax is heating, cover your sheet pan with parchment paper or aluminum foil, and place cookie cutters atop the tray, leaving a few inches between the cutters. Put a candlewick in the center of each cookie cutter.

Hint: If you are creating a shape that will stand on one side, you should place a long wick across the interior of the cutter, leaving a small amount protruding from what will be the shape's top when standing.

Step 4:

Once the wax in your homemade double boiler has reached approximately 100 F and your wicks have been placed within the cookie cutters atop the sheet pan, you are ready to carefully pour the wax into them.





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If you have let the wax heat too much beyond 100 F, it may leak beneath the cutters and create a very messy situation. It is important to gently hold the cutters down to keep them in place while pouring and to stop as much wax from seeping beneath the cutters as possible. Letting a small layer of the wax cool prior to filling the cutter to the top edge can also be helpful in limiting seepage. If some wax does escape beyond the cutter, you can break it apart from your cooled candle and easily re-use it to make more candles.

Step 5:

Allow the wax to cool completely, about 30 minutes to two hours depending on the size of your cookie-cutter candles. At this point, you can decide if you want to remove them from the cookie cutters or leave the cutters as a decorative exterior.

If you find it difficult to remove candles from the cutter, simply place them in the freezer for about 20 minutes, or until you find them easier to remove. Of course, if you remove them, the cutters can be cleaned and reused to make more candles or for their original purpose — to bake cookies!

If you do choose to remove your candles from the cookie molds, use caution when burning them by placing them in a votive or other candle holder as the wax will, of course, melt and run.

DIY cookie cutter candles can make fun gifts, especially if you choose shapes related to the occasion. Apple-shaped for teacher gifts, heart-shaped for Valentine's Day, bunny-shaped for Easter, etc., the possibilities are only limited by the cookie cutter shapes you can find. **NOW**

Sources:

1. evermine.com
2. popsugar.com

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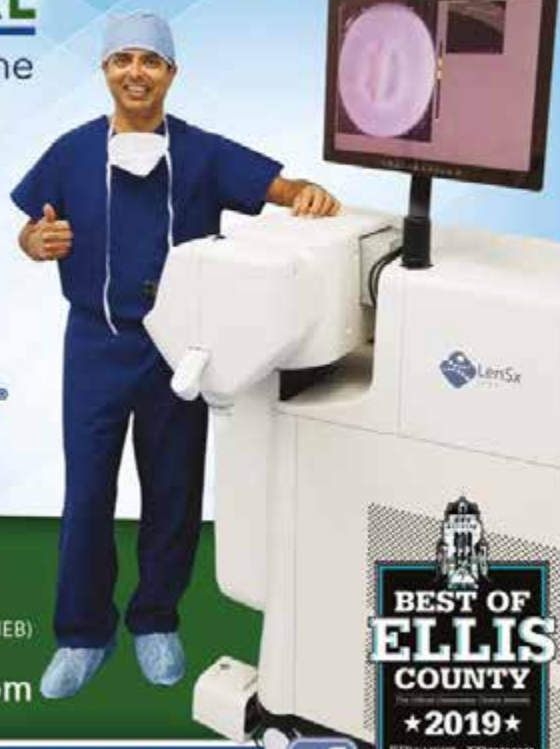
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Kids' Fun Page

Help friends to meet in the middle of the Valentine maze.



ANSWER:



Family

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



This is a zigzag word search puzzle. Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.

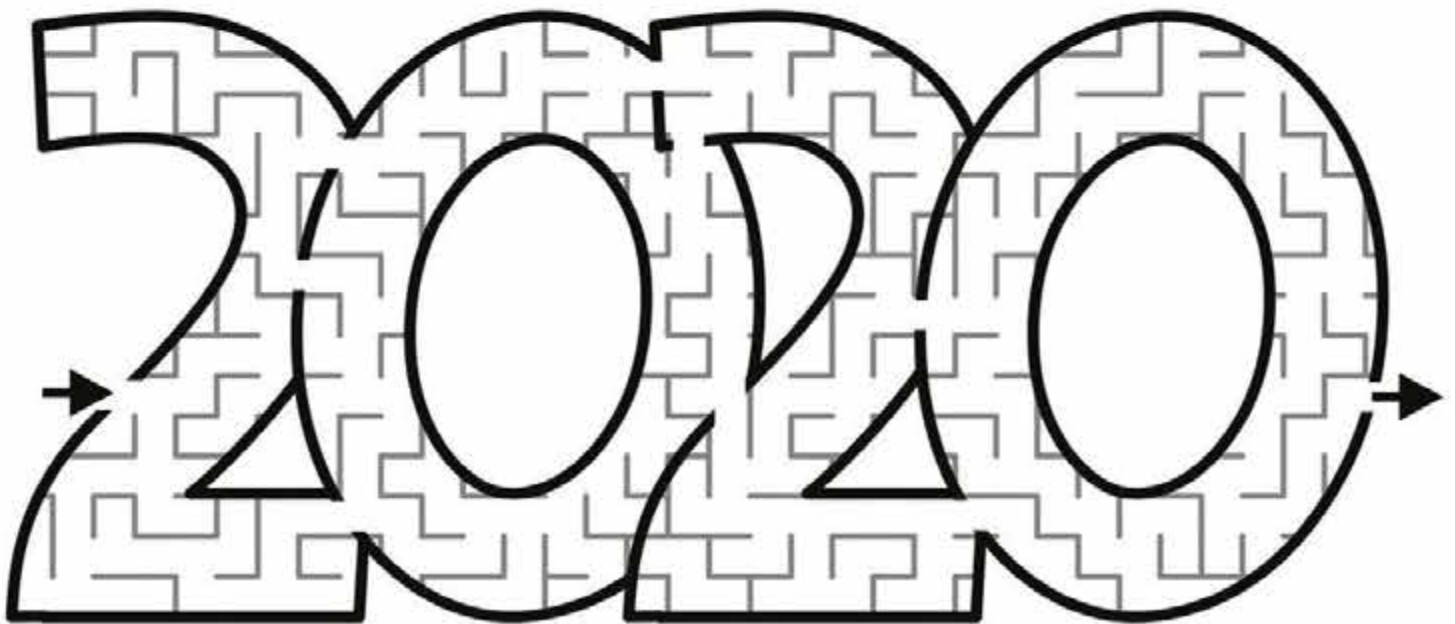
Find all the words from the word list (ignore spaces and dashes):

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| AUNT | MOTHER |
| BROTHER | NEPHEW |
| CHILDREN | NIECE |
| DAUGHTER | PARENT |
| FATHER | RELATIVE |
| GRANDFATHER | SISTER |
| GRANDMOTHER | SON |
| | UNCLE |



ANSWER:

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



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EnnisNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden rings in
5 different ads in this issue
(not counting the one above). Email
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ads where they are found, plus
your contact information and
phone number by February 15th to
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Hat was found on pages
11, 15, 19, 21, 33

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from NOW Magazines
Laurie Martinez - \$50 Gift Card
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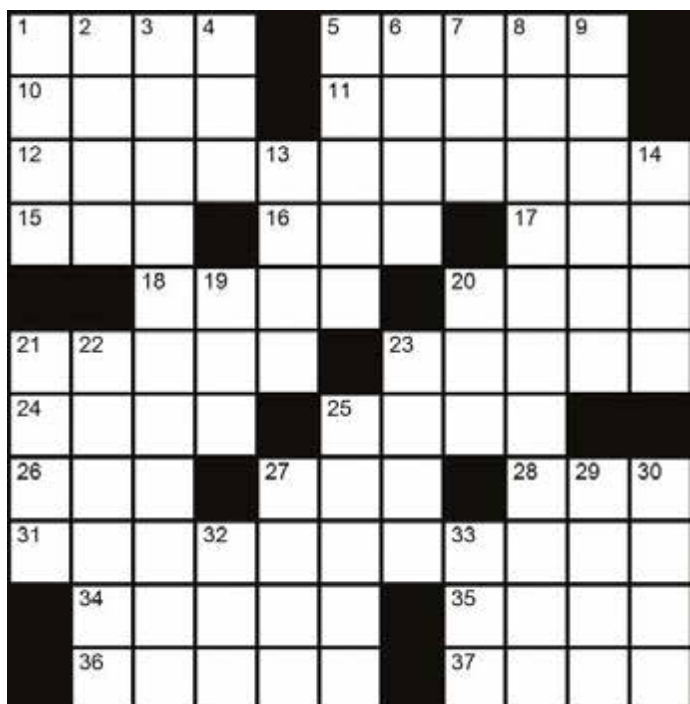
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 First part of a Web address
- 5 Stylish
- 10 Via
- 11 Playful prank
- 12 Entrées
- 15 Ad follower
- 16 Classic Ford
- 17 --- -Man (arcade classic)
- 18 --- the crack of dawn
- 20 The Beatles' meter maid
- 21 Settled
- 23 Head of the line
- 24 Pile
- 25 Cuckoo
- 26 And not
- 27 Trim, in a way
- 28 Letters in an open slot
- 31 Temperature reading of a sort
- 34 Get to know
- 35 Love god
- 36 Old Democrat --- Kefauver
- 37 About


Down

- 1 WWW code
- 2 Like tom yum soup
- 3 Feeders
- 4 Low form of comedy
- 5 "Ivanhoe" writer
- 6 She was urged to come into the garden (Tennyson)
- 7 Loan abbreviation
- 8 Hospital breathing machines
- 9 Dog rewards
- 13 Clothed
- 14 Hightail it
- 19 Vigor
- 20 Manipulate
- 21 "Say it ain't so!"
- 22 Persons in general
- 23 Deer in a petting zoo
- 25 Thugs
- 27 Bog
- 29 Rorschach test piece
- 30 Too
- 32 Southampton Insurrectionist --- Turner
- 33 Shooter ammunition

Solutions on page 44

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium


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

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Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 44

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Brock.petlovers@gmail.com



HAPPY

Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY

2/2

Finn MacCool's Third Annual Chili Bowl Cook-off:

Can you bring the heat? Come show us whatcha got! Bring your chili by kick-off, and judging will begin during halftime in three categories: Butt Burner, Most Exotic and Best Overall. Come have a little fun competition, or come and fill your bowl while we enjoy the Super Bowl! Free. 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 207 W. Ennis Ave.

2/4

Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Cleburne High School:

5:30 p.m., 1701 West Lake Bardwell Dr.

2/4-3/24

Ennis Public Theater Youth Theater Camp:

Deadline to register is February 3 or when the class limit is reached. Tuition is \$125 and is due by the first day of class. Space is limited; register now. (972) 878-7529. Registration form available online at ennispublictheatre.com/youth.

2/7-2/8

Ennis Czech Music Fest:

Friday: Join us in the Sokol Club Room for the Polka On! pre-party, featuring live music by All Around Czechs. 7:00-

11:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** Bands include Jodie Mikula Orchestra, Czech and Then Some, The Moravians, Ennis Czech Boys and Czech Harvesters. Sokol kitchen will be serving Czech classics all day long, including klobase and sauerkraut. Doors open at noon. \$8/person; 12 and under, free. \$10 fried catfish dinner: 4:00-7:00 p.m., Sokol Activity Center, 2622 TX-34.

2/8

Bang Up Stand Up Comedy:

A night of comedy to support our veterans. Must be 21 or older. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door; \$5 for veterans. Doors open: 8:00 p.m., VFW Post 7106, 3100 N. Frwy. Service Rd. (972) 875-8576.

2/9

Ellis County Singers Performance:

Everyone is invited to attend. Free; reception to follow in Clarke Hall. 6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney Street. For more information, call the church office at (972) 875-3196.

2/15

S.P.J.S.T. Fundraiser:

Dinner, dance, auction and cornhole tournament. Everyone wants tickets for the raffle! Raffle tickets: \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Grand prize is a Kubota Side-

by-Side ATV. Music by Lost Money. Admission: \$10; kids 12 and under: free. 6:00-11:59 p.m., 1901 W. Ennis Ave. (972) 875-8381 or (214) 837-9490.

Cupid Shuffle 5K and Fun Run:

Benefits Reach Council. A Race day T-shirt will go to all pre-registered participants, and medals will be awarded to the top three male and female overall age group winners. This is a family-friendly event. Registration for the 5K: \$25. Registration for the fun run: \$15. MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St., Midlothian. For more information, contact Shari Phillips at shari.phillips@reachcouncil.org or to sign up go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Midlothian/CupidShuffle5KandFunRun>.

2/21

Wildfire Band in Concert:

7:30 p.m., The American Legion, 706 Rumbo Rd.

2/22

Helicopters for Heroes Patriot Party in Downtown Ennis:

Helicopters for Heroes is proud to present a full day of fun for the entire family with street vendors, small shop displays, food trucks, face painting, puppy patch for dogs, real life tanks and helicopters for the entire family to experience. Live

entertainment all afternoon with a rising star, Tim Montana, and a special guest closing out the show. Free to attend. NW Main Street in Ennis.

Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Alumni:

11:00 a.m., 1701 West Lake Bardwell Drive.

2/29

Ivan Dillard Band in Concert:

Country, rhythm & blues, Americana music. 8:30-10:30 p.m., live at the Wooden Nickel, 111 W. Ennis Ave.

Weekends in February

Forever:

Live theater. Theatre Rocks presents the world premier of this play by Bill Rhoten. It is the 1940s-era sequel to last year's *My First Date*. Performance dates: Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23. 505 NW Main Street. (972) 878-5126. For tickets and more information, go to www.theatrerocks.com.

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



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and Claudia Adcock
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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	H	T	T	P		5	S	M	A	R	T	
10	T	H	R	U		11	C	A	P	E	R	
12	M	A	I	N	C	13	O	U	R	S	E	14
15	L	I	B		16	L	T	D		17	P	A
				18	U	P	A	T		20	R	I
21	O	P	T	E	D		23	F	I	R	S	T
24	H	E	A	P		25	G	A	G	A		
26	N	O	R		27	M	O	W		28	T	B
31	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	P	O	L	L	
		34	L	E	A	R	N		35	E	R	O
		36	E	S	T	E	S		37	A	S	T

Easy

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

Medium

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

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9 AM FIRST 50 PEOPLE RECEIVE FREE SMOOTHIES FOR 1 YEAR

9:30 - 11:30 AM BLENDER BIKE COMPETITION.
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11 AM - 12 PM SPIN THE WHEEL FOR PRIZES

12 - 1 PM PARKING LOT WORKOUT

1 PM RECOGNIZE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

1 - 2 PM SPIN THE WHEEL FOR PRIZES

2 - 4 PM BLENDER BIKE COMPETITION.
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