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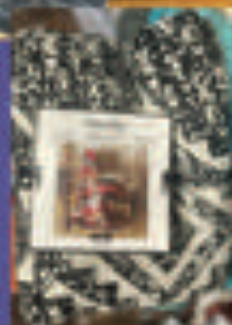
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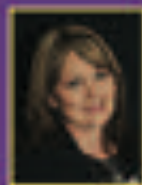
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
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Inspiration ...

My wife and I were enjoying dinner with a new friend recently, and our friend asked us to what we attribute the success of our marriage, as we approach Valentine's Day and our 47th anniversary. Rhonda and I learned quite a few years back that the closer we are to the Lord, the closer we are to each other. We also learned that a protracted fight is a waste of energy because we know we are going to make up sooner or later, so why bother with an extended disagreement? Sometimes, that means just giving in. Sometimes, it is a compromise. Sometimes, we just recognize that it is OK to disagree.

We recently went on a four-day bus trip with about 40 other seniors. Many of them had been married for more years than we have been. Some were on their second marriages. Some had lost their spouses a few years ago and liked to share fond memories. In their own way, all of them were inspiring to me. One couple in particular stood out as he had some health issues and used a walker for assistance. His real assistance came from his wife of many years, who was constantly by his side. They are continually on the go with their friends and relatives, and their senior years do not seem to have slowed them down at all. We all have our aches and pains at this age, but all we have to do is look around to find inspiration to keep going.

I love my wife, my family and my friends. I just felt inspired to let you know in this note until the next time I see you in person.

Happy Valentine's Day!


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GETTING INVOLVED

THE UNITED WAY

— By Bill Smith

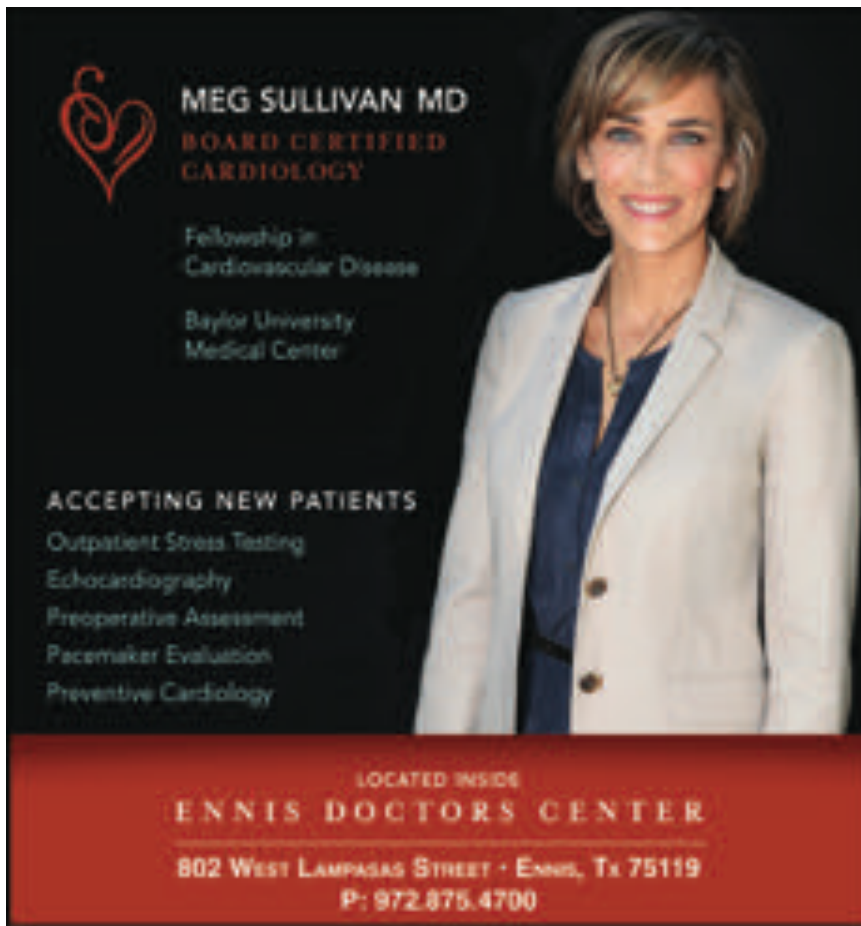
Johna McGuire knew when she retired after 35 years as an educator in public schools that she would soon be active with another endeavor. “I let my friends and family know that I had no intentions of being a ‘couch potato’ in retirement, although I could have, because I love my home,” she mused. “But I also love being around people. I like the interaction and making new friends.” It was not long before she received a text message from a dear, lifelong friend about an opening with the Greater Ennis United Way.

Johna admits to being a night owl, and she was not at all surprised when the text message saying she would be perfect for the executive director position at the United Way came while she was on vacation in Destin, Florida, at 11:30 p.m. “I knew whatever position I took after retiring would have to be part time, without a time clock to punch or a set lunch time. One of the reasons I retired was to have the flexibility to attend my son’s tennis matches. The job offered all those things, plus the opportunity to meet new people. It just clicked on so many levels. I felt it was a God thing, so I applied.”

Looking back at her experience before the United Way, Johna mentioned how the things she has done prepared her for this role. “My education includes an undergraduate degree in elementary education with an English minor and a master’s degree in library science and technology. I managed SOKOL pool and taught swimming lessons for decades. At the same time, I was either teaching school or serving as a librarian and involved with lots of technology. I was managing people, working with vendors, sales and accounts receivable. There were many things to juggle, but the most significant thing was working with a lot of people and making a difference. That’s what makes this job perfect for me.”

There were a couple of new skills that she had to learn with the new position, and she credits the GEUW board for their patience and help as she settled in as





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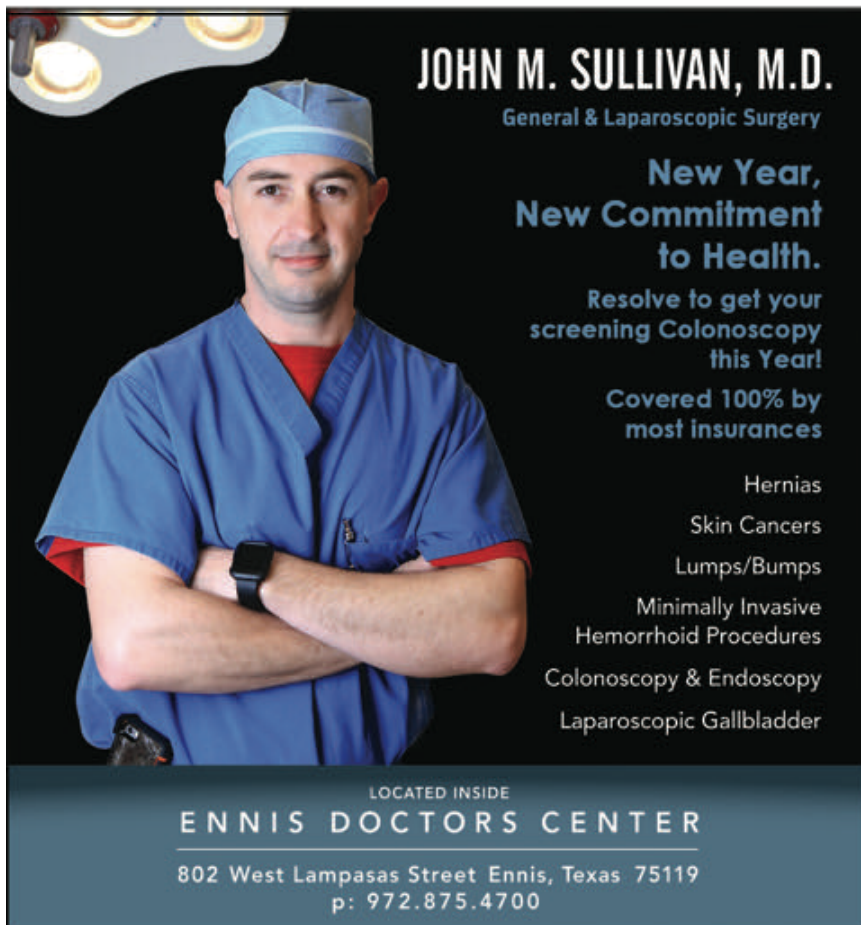
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executive director. “Board member Julie Pierce has been like an angel to me,” Johna reflected. “She is so busy with her position as a bank officer, but she always finds time for me. Bramlet Beard graciously provides this office space for me. Our board is comprised of several very busy individuals who have full-time jobs, families and other responsibilities, but they always have time to help me when I call.”

One of the first stops on the campaign this year was to Schirm USA where the president and CEO, Chad Kern, also serves as president of the board of GEUW. “Chad set the tempo by being first, and it developed into a ‘friendly competition’ with Kevin Fincher, branch manager at Leggett and Platt,” Johna continued. “They made their campaigns a lot of fun and motivated the employees to do something awesome. I’m hoping to encourage others to do fun, creative things next year. Those two leaders were outstanding.”

Johna acknowledged that Ennis has many great companies with a lot of great, hardworking employees. “My emphasis when we speak to the employees is to get [them] involved with the Greater Ennis United Way. Of course, the donations are important, but being a part of something really helpful and needed is what it’s all about. We live in a very fast-paced world, and we can’t overlook the humanitarian needs. I often ask the employees if they have used any of our member agencies, such as the Boys & Girls Club, Meals on Wheels, the Golden Circle or Give-A-Kid-A-Chance. Most people have used at least one of them or they have a family member who has experience with one of our 12 member agencies.”

In addition to her friends and board members, Johna mentioned that her greatest support, not only with the GEUW, but throughout her life, has been from her family. “My mother, Cathy Stacks, was another one who told me this job was perfect for me. My husband, Bill, is an electrical engineer and office and program manager for Brock Solutions in Dallas. He was a big supporter when I said, ‘Hey, by the way, I’m done,’ announcing my retirement from public education. We have twin sons, Matt and Jake, who are in the



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petroleum industry in Houston. Our younger son, Ryan, is the tennis player and a sophomore at Ennis High School.”

The first area of emphasis for Johna when she was first hired was the campaign that was just getting underway. She had to “hit the ground running,” and was immediately involved in presentations to businesses and service clubs. “We did a great job with the campaign. Jenny Vidrine was a strong lead as our campaign chairperson. I learned a lot from her.” Johna laughed as she recalled, “One of the hardest parts was finding the front door to some of these companies that have large campuses with multiple buildings!

“Mike French with FBM is an old friend who let us into his company this year. I also loved meeting with Jeremy French at Ennis Door and Trim. He was one of my swimming lesson students at the SOKOL many years ago. Eric Toth at Blackland Building Supply was another one I enjoyed getting on board. My family has always told me what a giving, people person I am. Speaking before a group of people has never been an issue for me.”

Johna wanted to learn all she could about GELW, and said she read everything she could get her hands on. Today, she wants to promote the agency’s website and Facebook page to those who desire to know more about giving through the United Way. “We are upgrading our website to make it more user friendly and informative. Follow along to see who is getting involved,” she said. “Then come join us!” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Follow the Greater Ennis United Way at: <https://www.facebook.com/greaterennisunitedway> and <https://www.ennisunitedway.org/>.



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LET'S HAVE A SUPER PARTY

— By Bill Smith

If you are a die-hard football fan, then the Super Bowl is all about watching the game. If you are a casual football fan, but really enjoy viewing your local or regional team, and they make it to the Super Bowl, you want to watch the game. But even if you are not really into the game, you might still enjoy the commercials that Madison Avenue develops, and the advertisers pay serious money to have them aired during the big contest. Still not a fan? The halftime show is just for you!

Whatever category you fall into, hosting a Super Bowl party can be a lot of fun for both the hosts and the guests. If it is your turn to put on the party, here are four focus areas that can make your party a hit with apparel, decorations, games and food!

There are a couple of ways to go with apparel. Rather than your invitation saying “casual dress,” why not say “football related attire”? Most of your guests will arrive wearing the jersey of their favorite team, but some might get creative and come as cheerleaders, referees or play-by-play commentators. These days, most invitations are sent by email, and it would be easy to offer some subtle hints by attaching pictures of some alternatives. Or you could offer, “optional dress, come representing your favorite Super Bowl commercial.” Imagination takes over, and someone shows up as a Pepsi can or a Budweiser Clydesdale!

Decorate the space for the party with balloons, paper lanterns, streamers, pom-poms and other party decor in the teams’ colors. Paper plates and plastic cups are fine for this casual affair, and your local party supply or big-box store will probably have them in team colors. You can probably find a green tablecloth marked with yard lines to look like a football field. If you have some green cloth, you can make your own yard lines with a simple piece of white chalk. Goal posts are simple to make with a few straws, a hot glue gun and a couple of squares of Styrofoam to support them. Use a big water cooler (the kind they use at the end of the game to dump Gatorade on the winning coach) for holding punch,

and maybe a bucket of ice decorated with streamers to hold other canned or bottled beverages.

Some guests will be too far into the game to want to participate in other games, but others may want some side action. An inexpensive football board that pays a dividend on the score at the end of each quarter may actually spark some additional interest in the game. Some other games can be played before the big game comes on and during half time. Challenge your friends to a football trivia contest, and award a simple prize to the winner. Change it up a little by having a Super Bowl commercial trivia contest! A 1992 Nike ad showed Michael Jordan playing hoops with what cartoon character? (Bugs Bunny!) Another idea for the commercial lovers is charades, but all of the clues are acting out a Super Bowl commercial from prior years, and the opponent tries to guess what product is being advertised. If you can take the games outdoors, bean bag toss is popular, and if you have time to make the bean bags in the shape of footballs, even better. Smaller children could even have a variation of the game indoors, using a green felt “football field” with a large round or square design to land the fleece football on. Kids love LEGOs, so you could have them make goal posts with the LEGOs and use them either on a table or on the floor with paper triangle “footballs.” (Warning — the dads may take over this game!)

Finger foods rule at a Super Bowl party, and guests are often more than happy to bring simple things like chips and dip. Staying with the football theme as the host, you might want to have a “concession stand” with food like your guests would find if they were at the stadium — corn dogs, fries and popcorn. If Buffalo is in the big game, Buffalo wings might be in order. If it’s Kansas City, how about barbecue? Serve Tex-Mex if Dallas is playing. Philadelphia would lead us to cheesesteak! You get the idea.

Just remember, it’s not whether your team wins or loses, it’s just about how much fun we have. Now get ready for the kickoff! **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://play.howstuffworks.com/quiz/super-bowl-commercials-quiz>.
2. <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/g4953/super-bowl-party-games/>.
3. <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/super-bowl-party-food-ideas/>.





Zoomed In: George and Melrose French

By Bill Smith

George and Melrose French came to Ennis in 1978 and made it their home. They have celebrated a lot of Valentine's Days together, having been married for 59 years. Both are active in the community, and their business has evolved over the years. George laughed and said he has two jobs now, "I work for my son, Mike, at FBM Property Management, half of the week, and the other half of the week I work at our church, Tabernacle."

Melrose proudly pointed out, "We have four grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Our youngest grandchild is 31, while the youngest great-grandchild is 2 years old."

George, considering Melrose getting the numbers correct, smiled and said, "Time really flies!"



Derek Scovell and Rush Blair take a break from tossing the football around at Rotary Park.



Young Calan Davis does a great job assisting the Tailtwister at Lions Club.



Jackson Gilkey signs his letter of intent to play football at UTSA as his parents Tim and Shara watch proudly.



Kazzie King and Mandy Tate enjoy dining al fresco in downtown Ennis.



Luis Santiago knows his way around the tables at the new Fern In the Wild restaurant.



Alonso Romero and Edgar Rincon pose in their food truck at The Backyard.



Todd Gillispie and Chrissy enjoy the winter sunshine at the dog park.



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— By Virginia Riddle and Sandra Johnson

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A1A Moving is a full-service, customer-oriented, one-stop packing and moving service provider. “We work to build rapport and a positive relationship with each customer and strive for a high level of performance,” Frank Weaver, owner of A1A Moving, said. “We are a hometown business, and the majority of our customers are from Ellis County.”

Frank, an Ennis native son, is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University. Frank had already become a business owner when his former college roommate asked him to join his moving business. In 2004, Frank opened A1A Moving as a subcontractor to larger companies, such as his roommate’s company. “Most of our customers are in Ellis, Navarro and



Kaufman counties,” Frank stated. “A1A Moving is authorized to operate anywhere in Texas, as well as make interstate moves. “We handle residential and commercial moves. Every move is different, so we completely customize that move according to a customer’s needs,” Frank explained.

The customized service can include full packing services; secured handling of sensitive legal, medical or financial documents; and special handling of family heirlooms, valuable art collections, antiques or very fragile pieces. “For instance, all crew members are trained to look for antique fragile parts and give them special attention when packing and loading,” Frank shared. “We handle a great many jobs in the Dallas art and design district for artists and decorators who change out furnishings repeatedly until they get the mix they want. In all we do, the crew realizes that even happy moves are stressful to the customer, so we try to lessen the stress.”

With A1A Moving, the customer’s belongings are the only load on the truck, and the customer decides the schedule of pickup and delivery of those belongings. “We have worked

jobs in inclement weather, but we will pull off the road if it gets too hazardous to drive safely,” Frank said. “The same crew that packs will unload and unpack, if the customer wants that level of service. We unhook appliances and re-hook them at the other end of the move. We give free quotes that will not increase, unless the customer changes a variable.” Most customers who wish for a full-service move are businesses and homeowners.

“We handle residential and commercial moves. Every move is different, so we completely customize that move according to a customer’s needs.”

The rapid growth in the Ellis County areas has added the need for a fleet of four trucks with multiple crews. “AIA Moving can handle whatever the needs of our customers may be,” Frank added, stating that movers are a luxury, since individuals can always pack and move themselves. “Our crew of eight is experienced, and they love what they do.”

Not all moves are stress-free. The crew handles emergency moves that might be necessitated by abusive relationships, floods, roof damage, hoarders or eviction of the owner. “We also offer temporary, on-site storage for customers who need a few weeks or so before they can locate and/or occupy a new residence,” Frank said.

Loading belongings onto the truck is very much like fitting jigsaw pieces together, and the moving industry offers many challenges. However, Frank and his crew at AIA Moving handle every situation professionally. “We know we are dealing with an intimate part of a customer’s life,” Frank shared. “We want them to be able to breathe a sigh of relief and be completely satisfied at the end of the day.” **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

SHERI LEE

— By Bill Smith

Sheri Lee recalls spending hours in the kitchen learning to cook with her mom and grandmothers. “Along with learning to cook items from casseroles to cakes, the memories we made laughing and spending time together is something I will never forget,” she said.

Today, she has three boys with three crazy schedules from football, baseball, college and work. “Teaching them to cook is important for me. I want them to be able to help out in the kitchen one day if they choose to have their own families, and I also want them to be able to cook meals for themselves.”

Sheri also works full time as sales director for Lone Star Events and Tents. “At the end of a crazy day, it is nice to come home to my boys and visit together over a good meal.” **NOW**

Black-eyed Peas With Bacon

1 lb. dried black-eyed peas
4-6 strips bacon, cut into small pieces
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1 medium onion, chopped (white or yellow)
4 garlic cloves, sliced
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
1 tsp. garlic powder

4 cups chicken broth
2 cups water
3 bay leaves
Hot pepper vinegar (optional)

1. Put the peas in a large pot. Cover; soak overnight. Drain and rinse.
2. Cut the bacon into small pieces. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat; add the bacon, onions and garlic; cook until the onions and garlic are lightly browned.
3. Add the salt, black pepper, cayenne

pepper and garlic powder. Cook until the mixture is coated with the spices. Transfer to a large pot.

4. Pour in the chicken broth and water; drop in the bay leaves. Bring the mixture to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, covered, for about 30 minutes.

5. Add the peas to the pot; simmer until the peas are soft. Usually, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

6. Taste for seasoning; add hot pepper vinegar, if desired. Discard the bay leaves; serve.

Cornbread

2 Tbsp. butter
1 1/2 cups yellow self-rising cornmeal
1/2 cup self-rising flour
1 egg
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup water
2 Tbsp. oil

1. Put the butter in a skillet in a cold oven. Let the butter melt as the oven heats to 425 F.
2. Mix all the remaining ingredients in a mixing bowl.
3. Take the skillet out of the oven; pour half of the melted butter into the mixture; stir just

a little, leaving most of the butter on top.
4. Pour the mixture into the hot skillet;
cook for 25-30 minutes.

Orange Salad

- 1 large can crushed pineapple**
- 1 large pkg. orange Jell-O**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar**
- 2 cups buttermilk**
- 1 large container Cool Whip**

- 1.** Put the pineapple with juice in a pot; bring to a boil.
- 2.** Add the Jell-O and sugar. Set aside; cool completely.
- 3.** Mix the buttermilk and Cool Whip.
- 4.** When cool, mix together and refrigerate. Serve when solid.

Granny’s Pound Cake

- 2 cups sugar**
- 1 cup shortening**
- 6 eggs**
- 2 cups plain flour**
- 1 tsp. vanilla flavoring**

- 1.** Cream the sugar and shortening; add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition.
- 2.** Add the flour and vanilla gradually.
- 3.** Pour into a greased Bundt cake pan; bake for 15 minutes on 325 F. Reduce the heat to 300 F for 1 hour.

Shrimp/Chicken Alfredo

- Pasta Shrimp and Chicken:*
- 1 24-oz. bag thin spaghetti noodles**
 - 1 12-oz. bag frozen shrimp**
 - Salt, to taste**
 - Pepper, to taste**
 - 1 rotisserie chicken (original flavor)**

- Alfredo Sauce:*
- 1 stick butter**
 - 1 Tbsp. minced garlic**
 - 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream**
 - 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning**
 - Salt, to taste**
 - Pepper, to taste**
 - 8 oz. Parmesan cheese**
 - 1 cup mozzarella cheese**

- 1.** For pasta, shrimp and chicken: Cook the pasta according to the package directions; drain.
- 2.** Cook the shrimp with salt and pepper.
- 3.** Shred or chop the chicken; mix together.
- 4.** Add the chicken and shrimp to the cooked pasta; pour into a casserole dish.
- 5.** For Alfredo sauce: Melt the butter in a skillet.
- 6.** Add the minced garlic; stir until mixed.
- 7.** Add the heavy whipping cream; stir until well mixed.

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Mac and Cheese

8. Add the Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Stir in the Parmesan cheese slowly until melted.
9. Pour the mixture over the pasta, shrimp and chicken: mix together. Top with mozzarella cheese. Bake at 350 F for 20-30 minutes, or until hot all the way through and cheese is melted.

Mac and Cheese

- 1 16-oz. box pasta, spirals or elbow (Use a 32-oz. box if you have a larger crowd.)

- 32 oz. chicken broth
- 8 oz. heavy whipping cream
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 8 oz. pepper jack cheese, shredded
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded
- Green onion, to taste, chopped (optional)

1. Pour the box of pasta into a casserole dish.
2. Pour the chicken broth over the noodles until covered.

3. Pour the whipping cream over the noodles. (Do not use the whole container, just cover to make it creamy.)
4. Add the salt, pepper, garlic powder and minced garlic; mix together.
5. Add half the bag of cheddar cheese and half the bag of pepper jack cheese; mix together.
6. Add half the bag of mozzarella cheese on top.
7. Top with remaining cheddar and pepper jack cheese.
8. Add the remaining cheese as desired. You do not have to use all of the cheese.
9. Top with green onions, if desired. Bake at 350 F for 30-40 minutes.

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Nature's PLAYG



ROUND



— By Virginia Riddle

The smell of pine is usually in the air, especially on dew-filled early mornings. Birds chirping busily in trees and logging trucks hitting the roads, it's another busy start to a day in Lufkin, Texas.

The city was founded in 1882 as a depot stop for the narrow-gauge Houston, East and West Texas Railway. A debate exists over the city's namesake. Some records show it was Abraham P. Lufkin, a Galveston merchant, and some records list Edwin P. Lufkin, a civil engineer and surveyor. The city was incorporated in 1890 and became Angelina County's seat in 1892. Surrounded by towering forests, its major industries are foundries and wood and paper mills, the largest of which was Temple Industries, now Temple-Eastex.

The legend of Angelina, for whom the county is named, dates to 1690 when the Spanish Franciscan fathers explored the Piney Woods and befriended Angelina, an indigenous girl from the Hasinai Tribe. Her name graces a river, a village, a national forest and the county. Of Texas' 254 counties, only Angelina is named for a woman.

In the 1930s, land was acquired by the United States to create the Angelina, Sam Houston, Sabine and Davy Crockett national forests in East Texas, making the Neches River Valley the largest continuous wildlife area in East Texas. Lufkin and the surrounding national forests and state parks provide plenty of outdoor, family fun. Bikers of all proficiencies can enjoy the Azalea Trail, Crown Colony Loop and Old Orchard Park. Birding and golfing are available. Hiking and running trails are in city parks, on a college campus and nearby Angelina National Forest; Davy Crockett National Forest, which also offers horseback trails and camping; and the

Sabine National Forest. Lake Sam Rayburn and the Cassels-Boykin County Park Lake offer fishing, boating and swimming. Want to paddle your own canoe or kayak? Alligators, otters, birds and other wildlife can be viewed along the 9.2-mile Neches-Davy Crockett Paddling Trail, a designated Texas Paddling Trail.

Family fun continues with the dinosaurs in the Naranjo Museum of Natural History or with lumberjacks at the Texas Forestry Museum. Parks and playgrounds are available in all parts of the city. Lufkin is also home to Atkinson Candy Company, maker of Slo Poke, Chick-O-Stick and other vintage favorites. Visit the Ellen Trout Zoo, the Hijinx Trampoline Park, Pawsitive Animal Encounters, Skate Ranch and city splash parks.

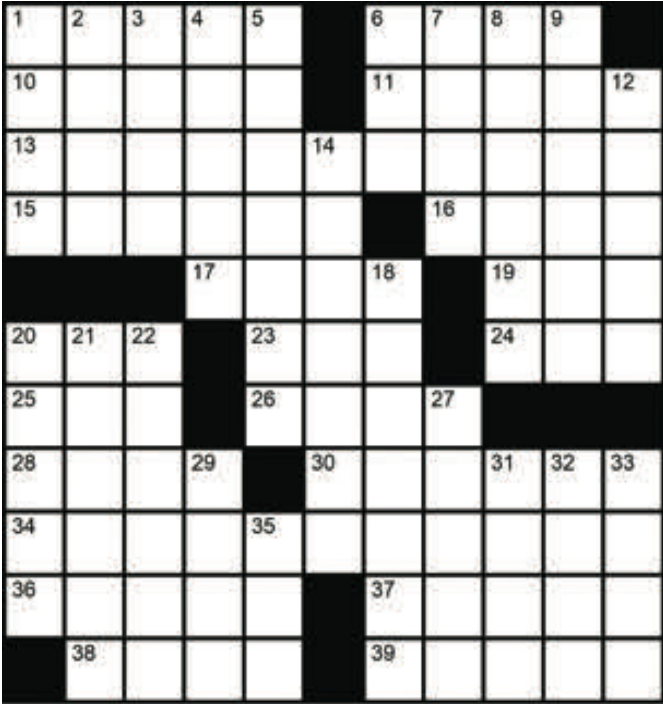
Lufkin, a Main Street member since 1983, boasts a vibrant downtown with restaurants, businesses and entertainment. Come enjoy SpringFest, Halloween, Heritage Festival, Flag Day and Christmas events. Lufkin and Angelina College offer great shows in the Pines Theater, as well as art exhibits showing creations from a thriving local art community. Downtown murals brighten several buildings.

From barbecue to hamburgers, pizza, seafood, Italian, Asian, Cajun or downhome Southern comfort food, Lufkin has a restaurant that will please palates. Fast food, bakeries, restaurants, delis and coffee shops are available. B&Bs, camping, RV parks, hotels and motels are available in all price ranges. Come stay for a day, a weekend or longer. **NOW**

Sources:

1. The Big Thicket Guidebook: Bonney, Lorraine G., *The Big Thicket Association and University of North Texas Press*, #6 in series The Temple Big Thicket Series 2011.
2. *Lufkin Convention & Visitors Bureau: visitlufkin.com.*

Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

- Across**

1 Robert Downey Jr's father's original surname

6 Javanese tree, a source of arrow poison

10 Cavalry weapon

11 Get --- (banish)

13 Failed to keep cool

15 Behind, at sea

16 Dictator of former Yugoslavia

17 Consider

19 "But of course!"

20 Front part of an apron

23 Half a South American dance

24 After costs and taxes

25 "Messenger" molecule

26 Bright, positive Chinese principle

28 Man-eating giant

30 Angolan capital

34 Globally renowned

36 Hullabaloo

37 Often "done" in the middle of the day
- Down**

1 Scat artist Fitzgerald

2 "Land of a million elephants"

3 "Meet Me --- Louis"

4 Behaved

5 Requirement for a surprise party

6 Vase

7 "Seven Years in Tibet" actor

8 --- Monk, TV "tec"

9 Alleviate

12 Fishing bob

14 Sine of 30°

18 Instruction books, as Mulan reinterpreted

20 Chesterton's sleuthing cleric

21 Close, Don and I go off

22 Pan inventor

27 Full range

29 "Born Free" character

31 Forbidden act

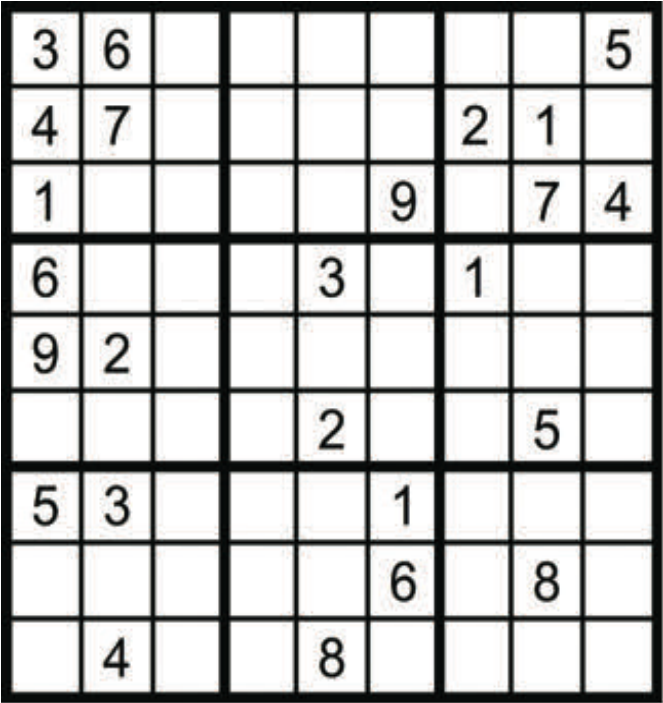
32 Down source
- 33 "But, --- was ambitious, I slew him" (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")

35 Key to oblivion?

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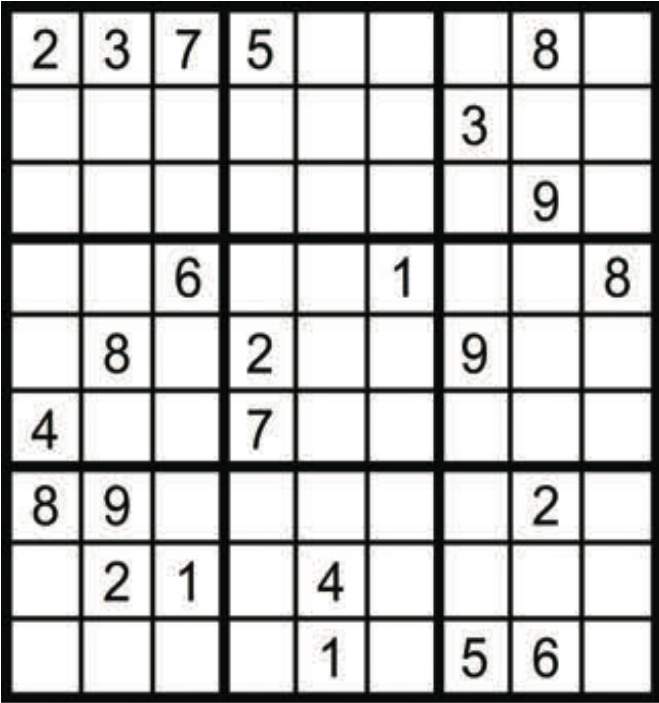
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium




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- Ephesians 2:4-5



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FEBRUARY

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2/10-2/26

Fireflies:

Play by Matthew Barber, directed by Bill Rhoten. A retired schoolteacher, set in her routines and highly respected in her community, lives a quiet life alone in tiny Groverdel, Texas ... until a hole in her roof draws the attention of a smooth-talking drifter. Theatre Rocks! 505 NW Main Street. Call (972) 878-5126 or visit www.theatrerocks.com for tickets and showtimes.

2/11

Beads and Bling: It's a Mardi Gras Thing Masquerade Party:

Hosted by the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. \$80 for individual tickets. 6:00-10:00 p.m., SPIST Lodge #25, 1901 E. Ennis Ave. For information, contact Jennifer Wilson at (972) 878-2625 or jennifer@ennis-chamber.com.

Dancing With the Ellis County Stars:

Benefits TBCH foster care and adoptions. \$5/vote. 6:00 p.m., 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie.

2/16-2/26

I Love You, You're Perfect:

A musical about love in all its many stages. The longest running off-Broadway revue in history has been updated for the realities of 21st century relationships. Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas Street. Call

(972) 878-7529 or visit www.ennispublictheatre.com for tickets and showtimes.

2/17

Polka Pre-Party:

Featuring Legion Oaks Polka Band. No cover charge. Burgers and fries available for purchase.

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2/18

Ennis Czech Music Festival:

Come join the Czech Polka Bands of Ennis at the 16th annual event. The festival features a family atmosphere filled with great music, dancing, food, a kid zone and much more! 1:00-10:30 p.m., Sokol Hall, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. For more information, contact ennisczechmusic@yahoo.com.

2/19

Live Music by J.D. Cobb:

2:00-4:00 p.m., Sugar Ridge Winery and Bistro, 353 Sugar Ridge Road.

2/25-2/26

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3/25

22nd Lawn & Garden Expo:

Hosted by the Ellis County Master Gardeners. Keynote speakers from Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg and LBJ Wildflower Center in Austin. Free tickets available from our sponsors in early March. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie. For details, visit <https://ecmga.com/> or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ECMG>.

Tuesdays

Men's Brown Bag Bible Study:

Bring your Bible and a sack lunch and join other men of the community for a brief time of Bible study during the noon hour. Noon-1:00 p.m., Baylor Baptist Church, 210 N. Preston St. (Use the Knox Street entrance.) For more information, call (972) 875-2521.

Rotary Club of Ennis Meeting:

Lunch, club business and program. Noon, The Vine at 119, 119 South Dallas Street.

Wednesdays

Ennis Host Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Road. Please call Bob Taylor at (972) 875-3546 or email bretco3546@gmail.com if you plan to attend so your lunch can be ordered.

Thursdays

Cornhole:

The event is run by South Dallas Cornhole Region and is open to anyone. Please follow South Dallas Cornhole for all their event schedules. Sign up before 7:00 p.m., SPIST Lodge, 1901 E. Ennis Avenue. (972) 875-8381.

Saturdays

Genealogy Help With Pat Kemper, The Family History Detective:

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St., Waxahachie. (972) 937-2671.

Fourth Saturdays

The Bristol Opry:

Open mic. Admission is free and donations are accepted. Concessions available for purchase. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Old Bristol School, 100 Church Street, Bristol. For more information, call (972) 351-2043.

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

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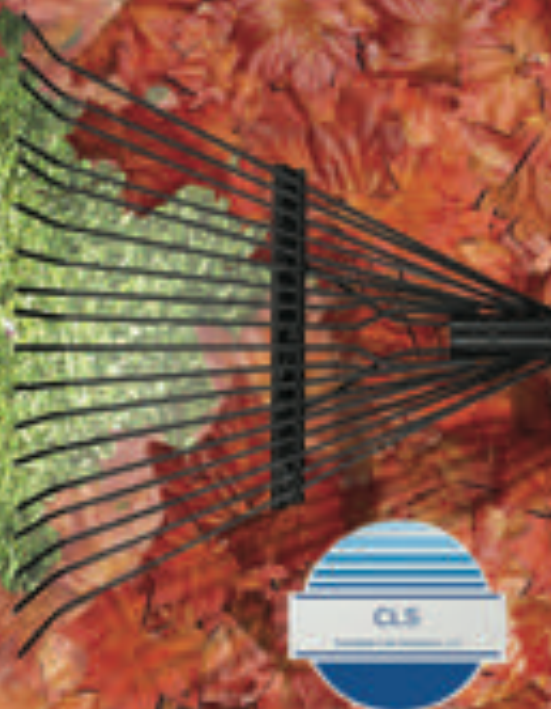
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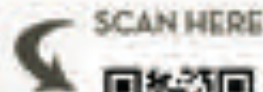
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