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MARCH 2022

Handling the Moment

Ryan Diaz comes in clutch as a utility outfielder

A Republic of Texas Patriot

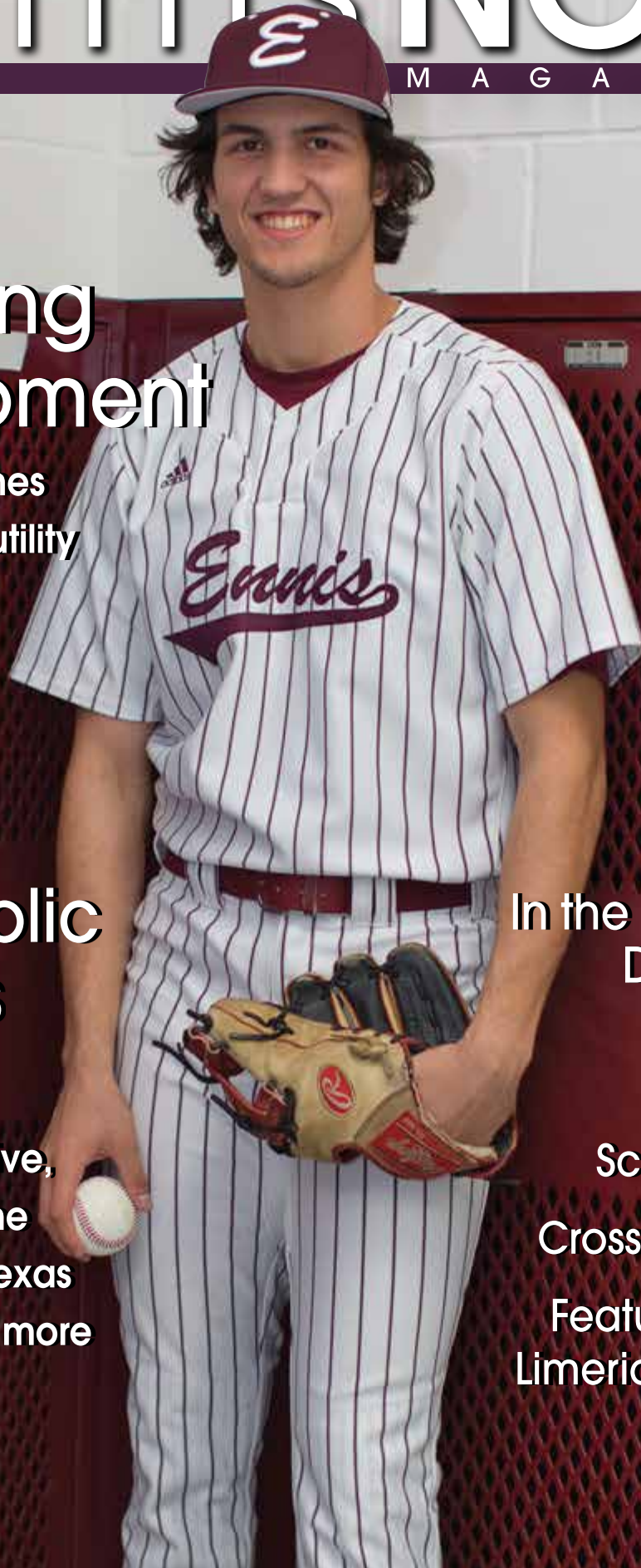
A German native, Adolphus Sterne was an early Texas merchant and more

In the Kitchen With Derek Barton

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ON THE COVER

Ryan Diaz is suited up for another Lions baseball game.

Photo by
Bill Smith.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
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How Texan are you?

We, who call ourselves Texans, have a lot to be proud of. During March we remember some of those things, as we consider Texas Independence Day and the battle cry that recalls the day the mission fell in San Antonio, "Remember the Alamo!" A sketch outline of a Texas map is one of the most recognizable shapes in the world, so I've been told. Just draw a reasonable facsimile of it anywhere in Europe, and the natives there will say, "Texas."

My Grandfather Smith was born in Texas, as were all of his descendants. That includes my children, and my wife got here as soon as she could, at about age 5, I think. She was born in Oklahoma, but is fully naturalized now, so please don't hold it against her.

Another celebration that takes place this month is St. Patrick's Day. While I've never traced my genealogy back that far, from what I remember my parents and grandparents sharing, the Smiths are Scotch-Irish. I understand "Smith" is the most common surname in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and the fifth most common surname in the Republic of Ireland.

So I've got a couple of reasons to celebrate this month, but I'll bet you have a few things in your heritage that you can boast about as well. I know I have some other ancestors who were English and German. One of these days maybe I will look them up. We are all different, and only when we all join together are we complete. That's worth celebrating anytime of the year.

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Ryan Diaz gets his work ethic from his father, and for a senior in high school, he is involved in a lot of activities. He obviously loves everything about baseball, but he has a lot more than sports going for him. He's probably as well rounded as any teenager.

His parents are proud of where Ryan is today, and they are clearly looking forward to seeing where he goes from here. Santos Diaz, Ryan's father, commented, "He took it upon himself to get a job interview at H-E-B. They hired him, and it is a very good company for him to work for. They allow him to work a flexible schedule, and last year during baseball season, he could only work on Sunday, but that was OK."

Ryan's varsity baseball coach, Kellen Monreal, said, "Ryan is a good baseball player, but he is also just a good kid."

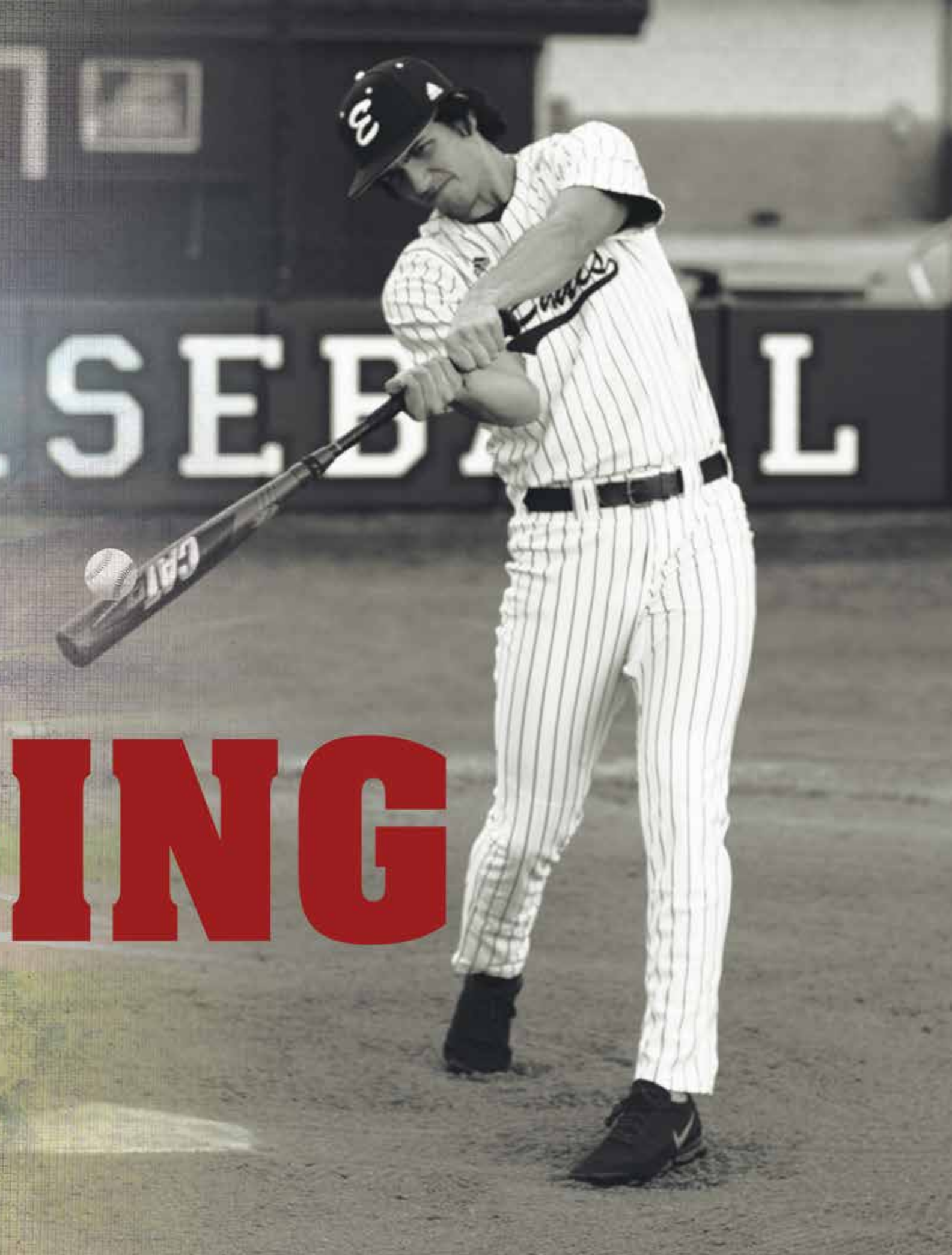
Making much better than average grades helped Ryan qualify to be a member of the National Honor Society, but scholarship is only one of the requirements to join NHS. The other requirements include character, leadership and service. "I participate in our service projects when I have time, and one of our recent projects was helping set up the pumpkin patch exhibit at the Fall Festival downtown. There were a lot of pumpkins. It was pretty heavy work, but the city let us come up with some of our own designs. It was hard, but fun, too," Ryan offered.

Last year, the Ennis High School varsity baseball team went as far as any team had ever advanced in the playoffs, making it to the quarterfinals before being eliminated by rival Corsicana. "Even though we expect to make the playoffs again this year, our first goal is to win the district title," Ryan related. "We entered the playoffs last year as the fourth-place team in our district. Going to quarterfinals last year, we *tied history* with a prior Ennis team that went that far, but Coach Monreal said we will *make history* this year if we finish the regular season as the first-place team in the district."

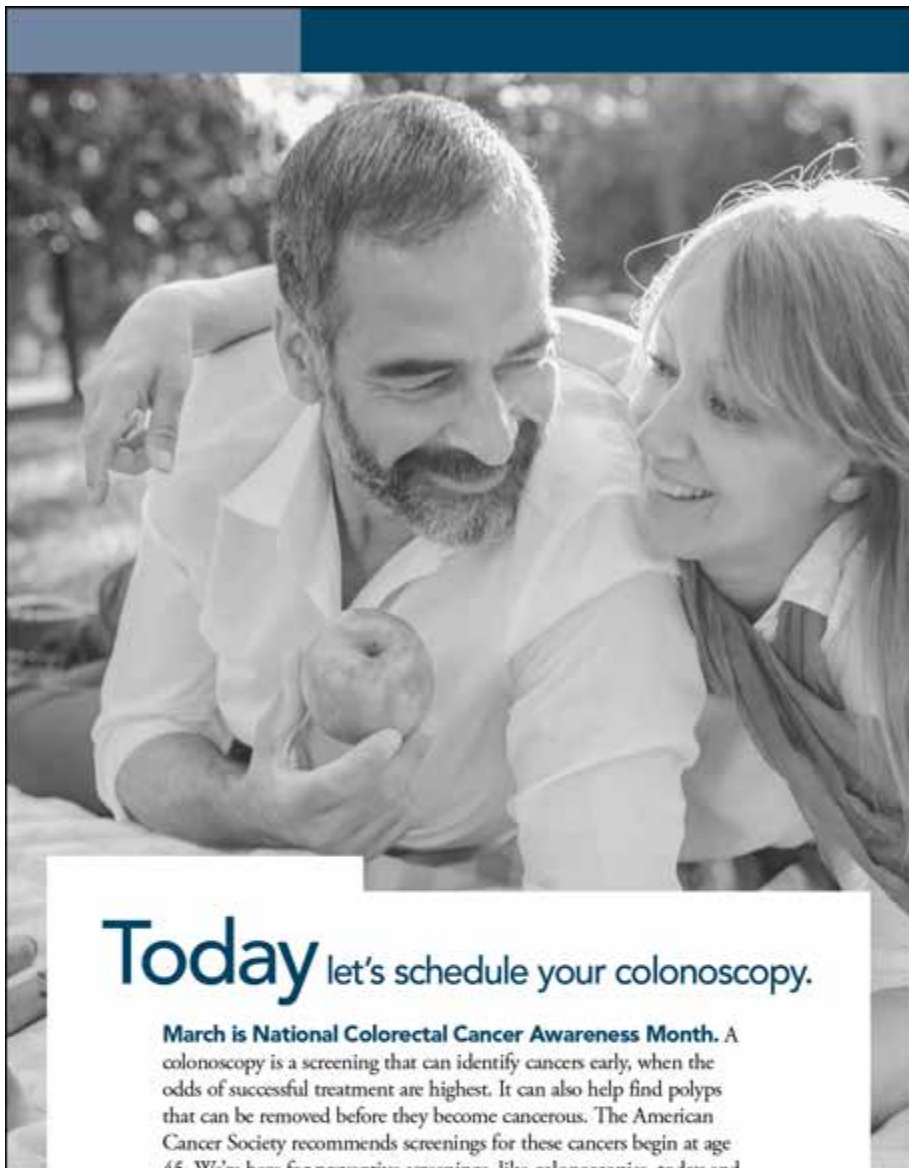
HANDL

THE MOMENT

— By Bill Smith



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Ennis sports fans are enjoying baseball with the local team, perhaps more than ever before. "We actually sold out three straight games last year," Ryan said. "The spectators even brought out the propane tanks. Having a full stadium adds a lot to the game, and it is encouraging for us. At the Texas High game last year, we got down 7-1. The chanting from our dugout and the fans created some momentum, and we came back and won the game.

"The baseball program is growing," he continued. "We are starting to see interest in a junior high program. Last fall I helped with the tryouts for the freshman team. My first year to help with tryouts, there were only nine kids. This time, there were about 20. This is Coach Monreal's fourth year to coach Ennis baseball, so all of the seniors really know what to expect."

Ryan's inspiration is his dad, rather than another baseball player. "I grew up with him tossing the ball around in the backyard. When I played on select teams growing up, there were travel and other expenses. Dad called it an investment. College ball is a goal right now. I have been talking with a couple of schools about scholarships."

There is also a baseball showcase that high school players go to where they are tested to see how they perform before some college coaches. Ryan has participated in a showcase for the past two years. "It is like the football combine," he explained. "They test our speed, the velocity from the bat, broad jump and our throw from the outfield. We run a timed 60 yards, like football players run the 40. My friends were surprised last year that I was the fastest on our team and was one of the top finishers in the 60 at the showcase."

Ryan's favorite player in the majors today is Ronald Acuña Jr. with the





Atlanta Braves. “He plays in the outfield, has lots of energy and is fast,” Ryan described. “My favorite all-time player would be Ken Griffey Jr. He brought ‘swag’ to baseball. I loved his swing.” Santos added that Griffey could bring the swag because he could back it up.

Although baseball is not considered a contact sport, Ryan makes contact with the ball at the plate, sometimes with the bat, other times with an elbow, or perhaps a wrist. Ryan grinned when he said he tends to “get hit” more than “get a hit.” Once he gets on base, he likes to try to steal and find a way to get home. “Last year, we were tied in the second game in the playoffs against North Forney. I took a pitch on the elbow and got on base. I stole second, then Eric Stanley hit a double to left field, and we won the game.” Another shot to the wrist caused Ryan to miss one game last year, but he was able to play in five of the playoff games with a broken wrist. “I tried football in junior high, but I was too injury-prone,” he recalled.

Baseball is one of Ryan’s earliest memories, and he has played ever since he could hold the ball. His Little League experience had him all over the field, including play at short stop and pitcher, but today he is pretty well established as a utility outfielder. “I made second team all-district last year, and another of my goals is to make first team this year,” he related. Santos added that Ryan knows he can’t win by himself — that the team is what’s important.

Ryan did not always start in the games last year, but Coach Monreal put him in during some special times during the games. “Coach Monreal said he puts me in those situations because, he says, ‘You can handle the moment.’” Whether it is excelling in the classroom; working a part-time job; participating in family activities, like attending his sister’s dance recital; or stealing the next base, Ryan can handle the moment. **NOW**

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A REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PATRIOT

— By Virginia Riddle



Born in Germany on April 5, 1801, Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was the oldest son of Emmanuel Sterne, who was an Orthodox Jew, and his wife, Helen, who was a Lutheran. At age 16, Adolphus was working in a passport office when he learned he was going to be conscripted into German military service. He forged his own passport and emigrated to America through New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1817. He found employment in a mercantile and studied law.

Having become a businessman with interests from New Orleans to Nashville, Tennessee, Adolphus made Nacogdoches, Texas, his home around 1824, and upon joining the New Orleans Masonic Lodge in 1826, he became one of the first Masons in Texas. He became friends with Sam Houston through business interests. Despite having taken the required Mexican government's loyalty pledges, Sterne assisted in Nacogdoches' 1826 Fredonian Rebellion by smuggling weapons for the War Dog rebels, a local militia group that was attempting to establish their own republic due to the political and cultural differences between the Anglo-Americans and the Mexicans.

Adolphus was tried for treason by the Mexicans and ordered shot. While his case was reviewed, he was incarcerated in the Stone House, now the Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches. The New Orleans Masonic Lodge interceded, arranging his parole. He was released, agreeing to never take up arms again against the Mexican government.

He helped in the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 but did not take up arms. In violation of the Texas Constitution of 1824, Mexican Colonel José de las Piedras ordered townspeople to surrender all firearms to his 300-plus troops. Instead, residents of Nacogdoches and surrounding towns formed a National Militia. The militia marched to the square where the Mexican army opened fire and hand-to-hand combat began. Sterne instructed the San Augustine Red-Landers how to outflank the Mexicans trying to flee. A peace treaty was signed, and Mexican troops were never again garrisoned in East Texas.

Attempting to raise funds and recruit fighters for the New Orleans Greys, who fought in several battles, including the Alamo, during the Texas Revolution, Adolphus spoke at their first rally. Volunteers filled the Grey's first two companies, and thousands of dollars were donated to support the cause for religious freedom and the establishment of the Republic.

Adolphus supported most of Houston's policies during the Republic's early days, except his Indian policy. Sterne commanded a militia company at the Battle of the Neches in 1839, expelling the Cherokees from East Texas.

Between 1840 and 1847, Adolphus became the Nacogdoches postmaster and a land agent. He served Nacogdoches County as court deputy clerk, associate

justice, justice of the peace, the board of land commissioners' clerk and the commissioner of roads and revenues clerk. In 1847, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served a second term. In 1851, he served in the Texas Senate.

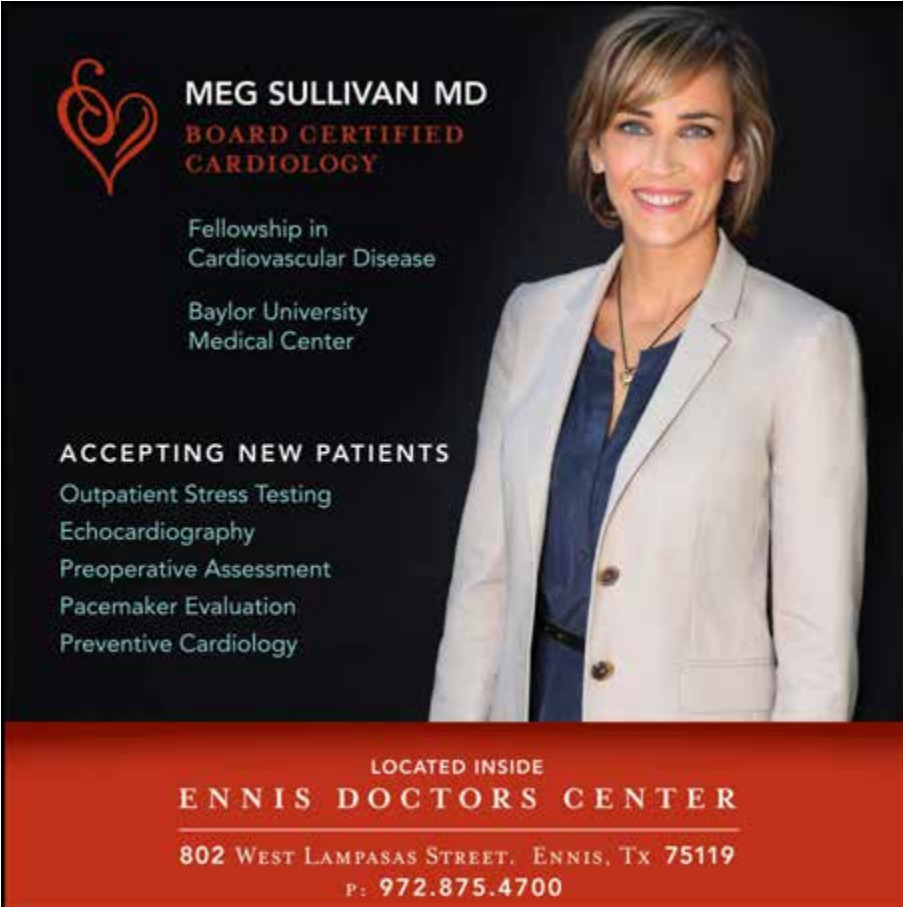
He and his wife, Eva Catherine Rosine Ruff, had seven children. Adolphus enjoyed dancing, occasional drinking and playing games of that era. His published diary, with entries from 1840-1851, chronicles early life in Texas. He owned 16,000-plus acres of land worked by slaves. Self-educated, Adolphus was an interpreter in English, French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Portuguese and Latin.

After passing away on March 27, 1852, in New Orleans while on a business trip, Adolphus was buried there but was later interred in Nacogdoches' Oak Grove Cemetery. His home, built in 1830 at 211 S. Lanana Street in Nacogdoches, is now the Sterne-Hoya House Museum. Sterne, an early colonist, businessman and politician, hosted prominent guests, including Davy Crockett and Sam Houston. Sold to the Hoya family in 1866, the home was donated to the city of Nacogdoches in 1958. The museum and library hold the history of the early days of Texas, including Sam Houston's sword and Adolphus' published diary. **NOW**

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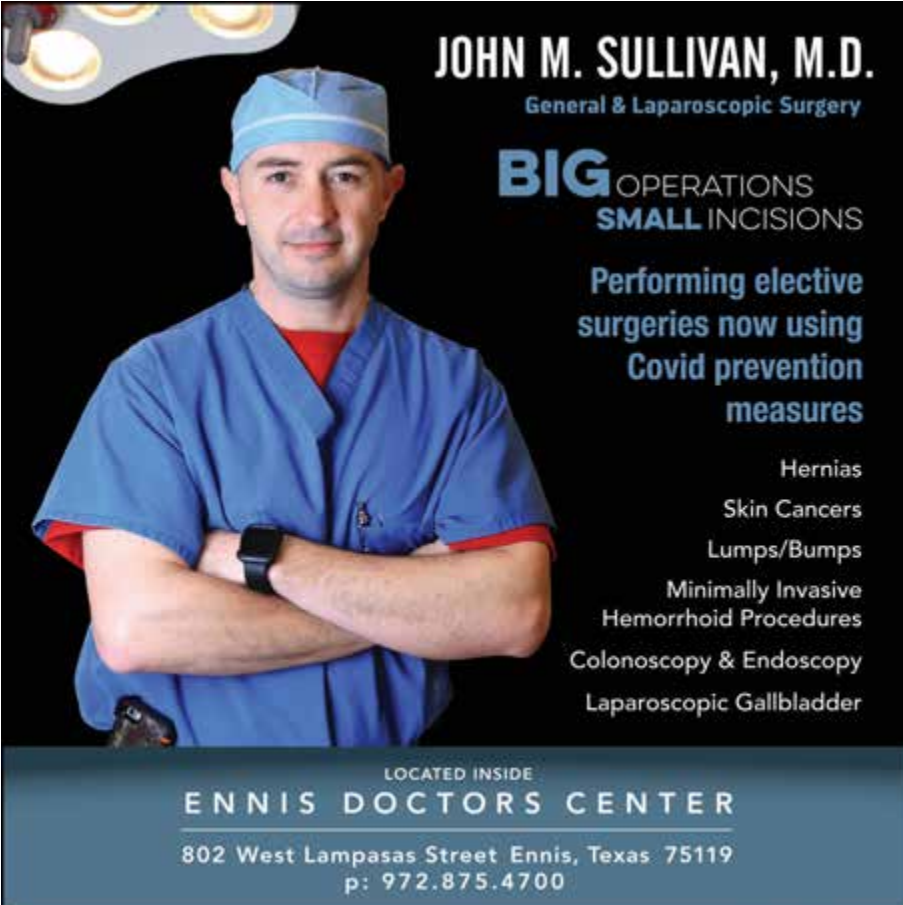
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Zoomed In: Larry and Janét Gilbert

By Bill Smith

Larry and Janét Gilbert recently hosted a number of family and friends for a celebration of Larry's 80th birthday. They both still work every day and would not have it any other way. "I enjoy working and get bored if I stay home too long," Janét said. Larry was born in Ennis and worked for Lone Star Gas for many years, but for the past 35 years, he has been self-employed, owning and operating a backhoe tractor.

Janét was born in Waco but has been in Ennis for many years, working for her father's companies, Lundy Truck Rental and Ennis Agricultural. She has been a personal insurance account manager at Arden Insurance Agency since 1991. Larry and Janét are active in their lodge and their church, and somehow Larry found time to serve as mayor of Bardwell for two separate terms.



Morgan Ruffin has her Wild on Wheels food truck from Fern in the Wild out early in the morning.



Camen and Dewayn Maxwell enjoy a sunny and brisk afternoon with Tinkerbelle and Reeces at the dog park.



Students from the Austin Elementary third grade choir bring a very active program to the Lions Club.



Mellanie Cain cuts the Chamber of Commerce ribbon at her business, Natural Balance Lymphatic Healing.



These EHS Band students recently advanced to area competition. Left to right are Jackson Yoder, Faith Perez and Raahim Khan.



Chamber Administrative Assistant Jennifer Wilson (center) introduces new Chamber President Geoffery Williams to Mark Warde.



Ignacio Aguinaga just finished servicing a winter lawn.

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BusinessNOW

Limerick's Sandwich Junction

— By Bill Smith

Limerick's Sandwich Junction

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With more than 30 years of experience in various positions in the restaurant business, Chris Limerick's entrepreneurial spirit led him to the conclusion that he no longer wanted to work for someone else. "I spent a number of years with Planet Hollywood, then a friend recommended a new steak house that was opening in Southlake, and I was there for over 15

years. I had actually gotten out of the restaurant business and worked as an oil field consultant in New Mexico and West Texas for a while. I was driving home one weekend and decided it was time to put my restaurant experience into my own business," Chris related.

Originally from Pascagoula, Mississippi, a couple of family recipes have been added to the sandwich shop menu. "We have red beans and rice, and we also offer jambalaya that is one of my mother's recipes. While we can change a lot of things to meet the customer requests on our sandwiches, the jambalaya doesn't change. We had a lady ask one time if the jambalaya had onions in it, and when I said it did, she asked if we could take them out. Of course, we couldn't, and when my father heard about it, he said my mother would have replied, 'Absolutely not!'

"Dad is a partner in the business, and he is usually here during lunch until around 2:00 in the afternoon. My other partner is Dan Weinberger, and I have learned so much about this business from him. Most of our menu is from his sandwich

shop, Weinberger's Deli, which is well known in Grapevine. When I decided to open my own restaurant, I was able to meet with Dan at his deli. I asked him if he ever thought about franchising, and he agreed to meet with me so we could discuss it in more detail." Chris further stated, "I trained for six months in Dan's store to learn the deli business. There is a lot more than ham and cheese that goes into making a sandwich. I'd like to think I am as passionate about the business as Dan is."

"Our business is built on our service to our customers."

The menu at Limerick's has 29 sandwiches listed, and Chris pointed out that Weinberger's Deli has 81. However, any sandwich on the menu can be customized to order. "We have 13 different kinds of bread," he explained. "If you would rather not have your 'Stoney' on an onion roll, just let us know. I may ask if you want your meal spicy. It is up to the customer. Just tell me what you like. And even then, if you don't like it, I will replace it."

Chris is very thankful for the crew that works at the sandwich shop. "Mark Dather is my general manager. He drives down from The Colony every day, and he thinks the people in Ennis are amazing. They are just so friendly. I've known Mark for more than 20 years. He is a rock."

"Our business is built on our service to our customers. I want to interact with each table two or three times while they are here — not to interrupt their meal with a long conversation, but just to let them know we really care about them and want them to enjoy the meal, and we want them to come back."

The small-town feel of Ennis really appeals to Chris and his father. "We opened just five days before the Polka Festival last year. The people downtown for the Christmas parade were amazing. There are genuinely nice people here, and it makes our choice of Ennis for our first restaurant even more satisfying." **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

DEREK BARTON

— By Bill Smith

Derek Barton's niece, Lindsey Taylor, said Derek is an excellent chef, grows his own vegetables and is constantly coming up with new recipes. Derek said, "Food is love. My mother, Nancy Dodson, was always cooking something delicious, and the kitchen would be filled with the aroma of love and joy."

"She was a great influence on my love of cooking," he continued. "She always had, and still does have, cookbooks sprawled out on the counter with ink pen and paperclipped notes to each recipe that she has tried to make her own. She welcomed the opportunity to share every step in the process of what she was making."

Derek likes to compete with his neighbor, Thomas Barte, in cooking and recipe skills. Derek quoted the Dalai Lama as having once said, "Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon." **NOW**

BBQ Baked Beans

1/2 cup ketchup
1/2 cup barbecue sauce of your choice
 (I prefer plain Head Country.)
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. yellow mustard
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. pepper

2 28-oz. cans pork and beans
6 slices bacon

1. Combine the ketchup, barbecue sauce, brown sugar, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, garlic powder and pepper. Mix well; set aside.
2. Open each can of beans; pour off all the standing liquid in the top of the can. Discard the liquid. Add the beans to the ketchup mixture. Mix the beans gently until

thoroughly combined. Pour the mixture into a shallow 2-quart baking dish.

3. Cut the bacon into 1/2-inch pieces. Place the pieces of bacon evenly across the top of the beans in a single layer. Bake the beans at 350 F until the bacon is cooked through and is starting to crisp, approximately 1 to 1.5 hours.

Corn Dip

3 cans southwest corn or fiesta corn
6-8 stalks green onions
1/3 cup Hellmann's Mayonnaise
1/2 cup Colby & Monterey Jack cheese,
finely shredded
2-3 tsp. cayenne pepper, to taste

1. Open and completely drain the cans of corn, using a colander.
2. Finely chop the green onions.
3. In a medium bowl, add the drained corn, green onions, mayonnaise, cheese and cayenne pepper. Add more mayonnaise, if needed, until the mixture is creamy. Use more or less cayenne, to taste.
4. Let set in the refrigerator for 6-8 hours or overnight before serving.

Pork Belly Burnt Ends

- 1 4-lb. pork belly, skin off
- 3-5 Tbsp. Meat Church Honey Hog barbecue rub, or rub of your choice
- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 Tbsp. honey
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 3 Tbsp. salted butter, cut into small cubes

1. Start by cutting the belly into 1- to 2-inch cubes.
2. Season generously with the barbecue rub. Cover; place in the refrigerator for 1 hour or up to overnight.
3. Fire up a smoker to 250 F.
4. Place the pork cubes directly on the grates; cook for 2 hours.
5. In a bowl, combine the barbecue sauce, honey and chicken stock. Remove the pork cubes from the smoker; place them into a foil pan large enough for them to lay in a single layer. Pour the liquid mixture over the pork, making sure all cubes are well coated. Sprinkle the butter cubes across the top; cover the pan with foil. Place the pan in the smoker for another 1.5 hours.
6. Remove the foil, stir the cubes to coat once more; cook for another 30 minutes until the coating is sticky and thick.

Reverse Sear Tri-tip With Chimichurri Sauce

Tri-tip:

- 1 3-lb. tri-tip sirloin, choice or prime grade
- Olive oil, to taste
- Kosmo's Q SPG barbecue rub, to taste

Chimichurri Sauce:

- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 4-5 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 cup cilantro, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup parsley, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. oregano, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1. For Tri-tip: Trim the excess or hanging fat off the tri-tip. Lightly rub the steak with olive oil; apply a generous amount of your favorite beef rub.
2. Heat the smoker or oven to 225 F. Cook the tri-tip until the thickest part has an internal temperature of 125 F, approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
3. Remove the tri-tip; let rest for 5 minutes.
4. Place the steak on a very hot grill for approximately 10 minutes per side to sear it.

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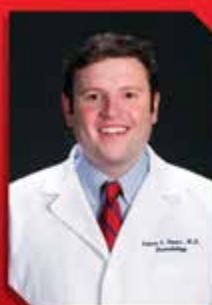
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Reverse Sear Tri-tip With Chimichurri Sauce

Cook until the internal temperature reaches 130-135 F. This will give you a medium-rare finish. Add a couple minutes if you prefer medium-well. *While the tri-tip is in the low-temp smoker, prepare your chimichurri.*

5. For chimichurri: Add all the ingredients into a blender or smoothie mixer; mix until fine.

6. Once the tri-tip is done, let it rest for 10 minutes. Slice across the grain into 1/4-inch

strips. Layer on a serving dish; drizzle the chimichurri down the center of the sliced tri-tip.

Stuffed Jalapeño Dip

8 large jalapeños
1 pkg. bacon
1 pkg. sausage
4 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese

1 Tbsp. Meat Church Honey Hog barbecue rub

1. Grill the jalapeños to char and soften, about 20 minutes at 350 F; turn once. (Core the jalapeños prior to grilling if you prefer them milder.)

2. Cut the bacon strips into 1/2-inch pieces. In a skillet, cook the bacon until halfway done; move it to a paper towel. In the same skillet, add the sausage; brown it until done. Set aside.

3. In a mixing bowl, add the cream cheese, barbecue rub, sausage and jalapeños. Blend/mix until thoroughly incorporated. Add the mixture to a 9x9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle the bacon on top; put into a 350 F oven or grill. Cook until the bacon is done, approximately 25-30 minutes.

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How Does Social Security Fit Into Retirement?

Here's something to think about: You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To meet your income needs for all those years, you'll generally need a sizable amount of retirement assets. How will Social Security fit into the picture?

For most people, Social Security won't be enough to cover the cost of living in retirement. Nonetheless, Social Security benefits are still valuable, so you'll want to do whatever you can to maximize them.

Your first move is to determine when you should start taking Social Security. You can begin collecting benefits when you reach 62 — but should you? If you were to turn 62 this year, your payments would only be about 71 percent of what you'd get if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 66 years and 10 months. ("Full retirement age" varies, depending on when you were born, but for most people today, it will be between 66 and 67.) Every month you wait between now and your full retirement age, your benefits will increase. If you still want to delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8 percent each year, until you're 70, when they "max out." Regardless of when you file, you'll also receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

So, when should you start claiming your benefits? There's no one right answer for

everyone. If you turn 62 and you need the money, your choice might be made for you. But if you have sufficient income from other sources, you're in good health and you have longevity in your family, or you're still working, it might be worthwhile to wait until your full retirement age, or perhaps even longer, to start collecting.

Another key consideration is spousal benefits. If your own full retirement benefit is less than 50 percent of your spouse's full retirement benefit, you would generally be eligible to claim spousal benefits, provided you're at least 62 and your spouse has filed for Social Security benefits.

Survivor benefits are another important consideration. When you pass away, your spouse would be able to receive up to 100 percent of your benefit or his/her own retirement benefit, whichever is higher. Thus, delaying Social Security could not only increase your own benefit, but also the benefit for your surviving spouse.

An additional issue to think about, when planning for how Social Security fits into your retirement, is your earned income. If you're younger than full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$2 you earn above a certain amount, which, in 2021, is \$18,960. During the year you reach full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$3 you earn above a set amount (\$50,520 in 2021). But once you hit the month at which you attain full retirement age, and from that point on, you can keep all of your benefits, no matter how much you earn (although your benefits could still be taxed).

One final point to keep in mind: The more you accumulate in your other retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, the more flexibility you'll have in managing your Social Security benefits. So, throughout your working years, try to contribute as much as you can afford to these plans. **NOW**

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

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After seeing the Caverns of Sonora for the first time, National Speleological Society Co-founder Bill Stephenson said, "Its beauty cannot be exaggerated, even by Texans."

The Caverns of Sonora has a beautiful visitor center, built in 1961. It is a ranch-barn design with a vaulted ceiling and exposed oak beams. Come in and taste the many varieties of authentic homemade fudge. The wonderful gift shop features many geological interests, including gemstones and fossils. The RV park and campground are nestled in the heart of a working ranch with 48 sites complete with drinkable water and electricity. Enjoy panning for gemstones, large and small.

While the caverns draw most visitors, Downtown Sonora has plenty to offer. Learn about one of Sonora's first families, and take a step back in time at the Miers Home Museum, an authentic "Texas frontier homestead." Take a tour of the historic jail built in 1891. The recently restored Sutton County Jail played home to local lawbreakers and outlaws alike. Don't forget about the Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum, where you can learn about Sonora's heritage with ranching exhibits, artifact displays and the gun that brought down the famous outlaw, Will Carver.

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By Donna Garrett
Executive Director Sonora Chamber of Commerce

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.sonorataxas.org.

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MAKING a MUDROOM

— By Angel Morris



The first room you enter in your home is typically a catch-all area for shoes, bags, sports gear and more. While some houses are designed with space for this clutter, other homes are in need of a designated junk drop area. Enter the DIY mudroom.

If you're on a budget and cannot add square footage for your own mudroom, it's still possible to create an organizational space within your home's existing footprint — particularly if your home has a laundry room or small entry off the garage. You can even take a bit of space from the garage itself to keep clutter from landing inside. Here are a few tips to get you started:

USING THE LAUNDRY ROOM

A blank wall in a laundry room is a great space to create locker-type storage for coats, shoes, jackets and more. Building locker-type shelves with storage hooks and a floating bench here makes it easy for the family to get in the habit of dropping items in their designated space when entering your home.

Beneath the floating bench is the perfect place for baskets that can house each family members' items, from schoolbooks during the school year to swim gear in the summer. Or each person can have his or her own laundry basket here. If your laundry room is too small, but your home has a coat closet nearby, removing its door and installing these types of shelves, hooks and a bench inside the closet is another simple storage solution.

USING AN ENTRYWAY

While the same shelving and hooks suggested for the laundry room can also work in an entry, you do not have to rely on built-ins to create a mud space. Consider a bedroom dresser in a new light, by placing it in your entry and designating drawers for every family member. Once everyone becomes accustomed to using the dresser upon entering your home, clutter becomes less of an issue, and the search for those things you need when leaving home is less chaotic.

Atop the dresser is a great place to have designated holders for your keys and the daily mail, as well. A dry erase memo board hung above the dresser can make your mudroom a command central for family schedules and communication, too.

If space allows, a free-standing bench with baskets beneath it creates even more storage. A free-standing hat rack makes an entryway corner the designated jacket spot, or a clothing rack gives an industrial vibe to any entry.

Antique aficionados might find an old armoire to be not only stylish, but also functional as storage space. These often come with both a clothing bar and drawers, providing mudroom functionality without the mudroom feel.

None of these ideas require power tools or handyman skills, and all can be done using items you pick from other areas of your home or even find at yard sales, thrift stores or bargain outlets.

USING THE GARAGE


Perhaps the best mudroom space is that which keeps clutter from even entering your home. The interior wall of your garage is where you'll want to install your built-in lockers, shelving and bench. You may want to lay simple flooring or paint the cement to give a cleaner feel to this space.

Vintage lovers might consider using actual reclaimed school lockers against the wall for family cubbies. Basic wooden or plastic crates are inexpensive storage pieces that can be stacked or mounted to the walls to house anything from shoes to books, to sports balls and gear.

Metal shelves are right at home in a garage but are not just for tool storage. Why not give each family member his or her own shelf on which to create their own storage? Boxes, bins and baskets can all be used however each person sees fit to organize their belongings that need to be available upon leaving the house.

While not necessary, a dressing screen is a simple way to differentiate between your garage mudroom and your parking space if you want to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.


So, if your home wasn't built with a pre-existing mudroom, it doesn't mean you're doomed to a life of entryway clutter. Consider where you can carve out an organizational niche, then put some storage solutions to use. Once storing mudroom gear becomes habit, it just may be your favorite space in the house. **NOW**



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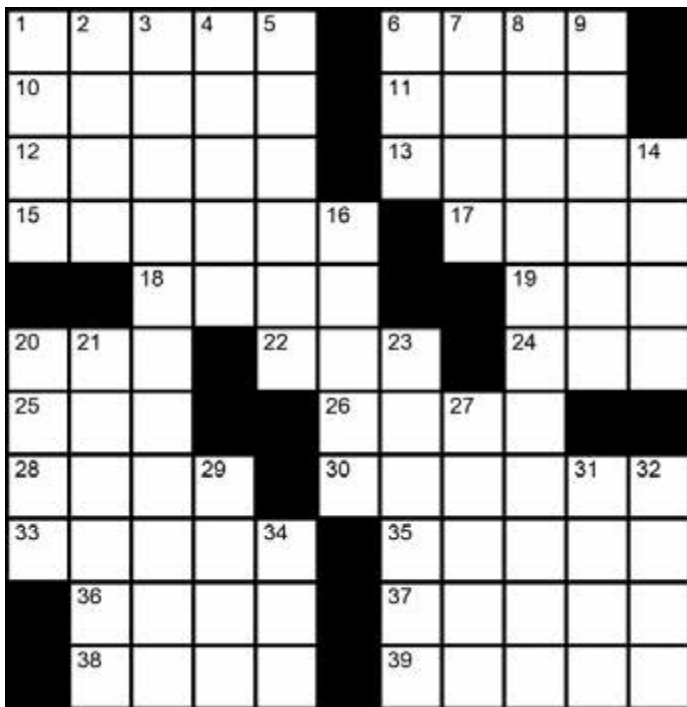
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- 6 Bonny girl
- 10 Case place
- 11 Fairy tale opener
- 12 Rite site
- 13 Like the "sisters" in "Macbeth"
- 15 Flunky
- 17 "... Only Just Begun" (Carpenters hit)
- 18 "Render --- Caesar ..."
- 19 Mint
- 20 Federal public lands agency
- 22 Assist
- 24 Exclamation
- 25 Stick up
- 26 Where the pews are
- 28 Unreturned opening shots
- 30 Evinces disdain
- 33 Challenged
- 35 19th century pianist --- Schumann
- 36 Suggestive grin
- 37 Professional wrestler a k a Jeffrey Sciuillo
- 38 Small whirlpool
- 39 Tapered tucks in dressmaking

Down

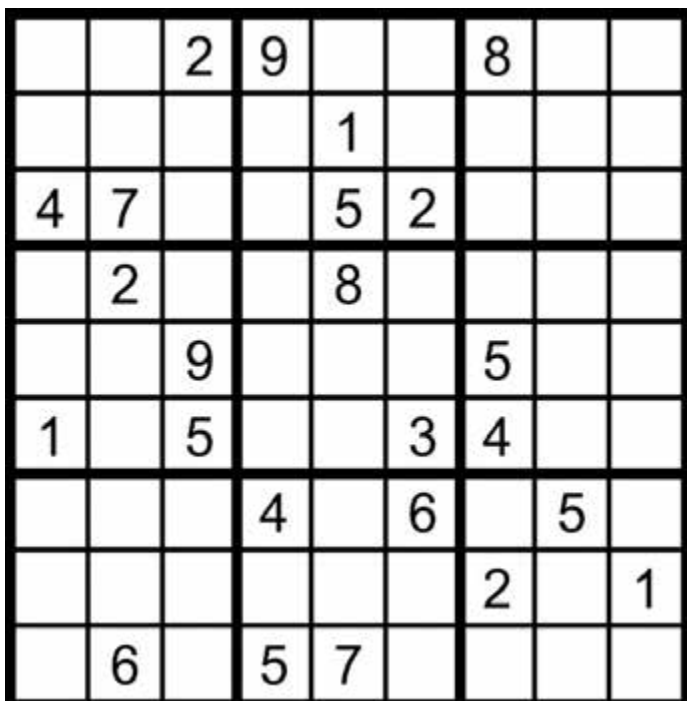
- 1 Con game
- 2 "Anything Goes" composer --- Porter
- 3 Facing a bigger army
- 4 Work out
- 5 Levels of society
- 6 Down in the dumps
- 7 Once again
- 8 Showcase for more analytical students
- 9 Waitron
- 14 Innocent
- 16 Lower part of the abdomen
- 20 Thin nail
- 21 Spot
- 23 Twisted?
- 27 Mexico's Pancho ---
- 29 He/she might fire off a lot of 28
- 31 Brotherhood
- 32 Impertinence
- 34 Teetotal

Solutions on page 36

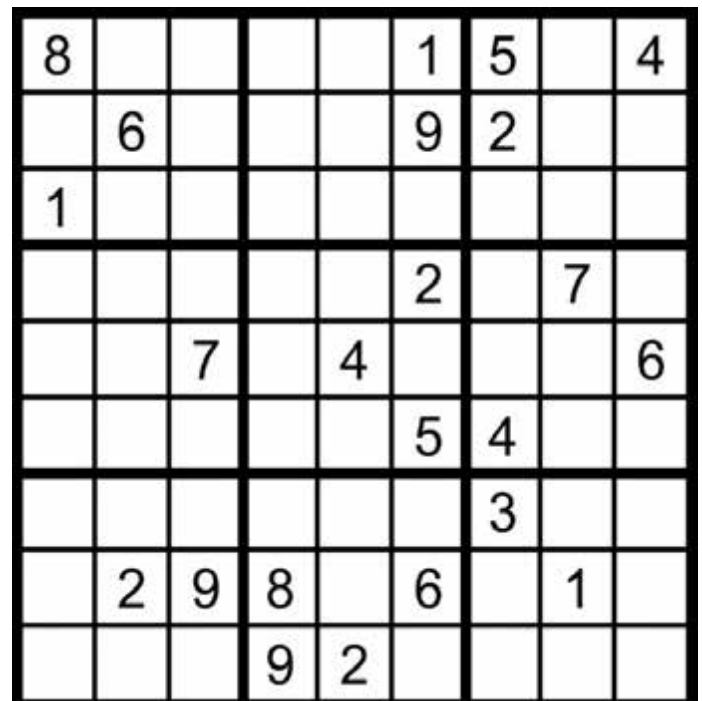
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Solutions on page 36



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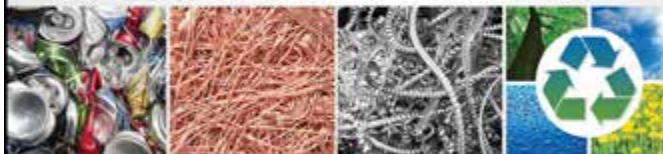
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HAPPY St. Patrick's Day

MARCH

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

3/5

SOKOL Ennis \$10K Giveaway, Annual Building Fund Benefit:

Twenty cash prizes, live music from Brad Ackland, PBR Band, The Barflies and David Slovak & Friends. Doors open: 6:00 p.m.; dinner: 6:00-8:00 p.m.; open bar: 6:00-11:30 p.m.; drawing: 9:00 p.m. \$150 donation includes admission for two, steak dinner, drinks and dance. SOKOL Activity Center, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. fundraising@sokol.com, (972) 875-7959.

3/11 and 3/25

Fish Fry Feast:

Meal includes catfish, fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, beans, dessert and tea. Child plates available. Dine on-site in the dining room or take-out. Clubroom will be open. Market price per plate TBD. 5:00-7:30 p.m., SOKOL Activity Center, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. fundraising@sokol.com, (972) 875-7959.

3/18

Varsity Baseball:

EHS vs. Midlothian. First home game of the season. 7:00 p.m., EHS Baseball Field.

3/21

JV Baseball:

EHS vs. Joshua. 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., EHS Baseball Field.

3/24-3/26

2nd Annual Funny Car Chaos Classic:

The biggest funny car event in the world! For tickets and pricing visit: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/12752/texas-motorplex>. For more details visit: <http://funnycarchaos.com/texas-motorplex.html>. Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287. (972) 878-2641.

Weekend Comedy:

Script by Sam Bobrick is filled with laughter and perceptive looks at aging, marriage and happiness. **Thursday, Friday and Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m. See website for ticket information. Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas Street. (972) 878-7529, www.ennispublictheatre.com.

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

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*Standing: Claudia Adcock, Connie Gaddy,
Rachel Louque and Dana Kindrick
Seated: Evonne Blackwell, CPA
and Phillip Presley, CPA*



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|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 1 | S | C | O | T | S | 6 | L | A | S | 9 |
| 10 | C | O | U | R | T | 11 | O | N | C | E |
| 12 | A | L | T | A | R | 13 | W | E | I | R |
| 15 | M | E | N | I | A | 16 | L | 17 | W | E |
| 18 | U | N | T | O | 19 | N | E | W | | |
| 20 | B | L | M | 22 | A | I | D | 23 | C | R |
| 25 | R | O | B | 26 | N | A | 27 | V | E | |
| 28 | A | C | E | S | 29 | S | N | I | F | F |
| 33 | D | A | R | E | D | 34 | C | L | A | R |
| 36 | L | E | E | R | 37 | E | L | I | A | S |
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Easy

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

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

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