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MARCH 2023

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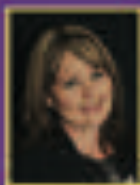
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ON THE COVER



Brett Butler is always ready for opening night at Ennis Public Theatre.

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Bill

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Beware the Ides of March ...

I once chose March to begin painting our home. It took the whole month because I was able to use the wind as an excuse to take the day off from painting for much of the month. My brother, who lives in Amarillo, laughed at the idea of it being too windy to paint. He said if one did not paint in the wind in Amarillo, the wood on all the homes would be bare.

Playing golf in the wind was a different story. My father played a lot of golf at Lakeside Country Club (just a memory today), and I recall saying, as he was getting his clubs ready for play, "Dad, isn't it too windy to play today? Won't the wind make it more difficult?" He responded that, when you play the same golf course almost every day (which he did), the course almost becomes monotonous. The wind changes things up. Whereas on a still day, he might typically approach the 9th green with an 8-iron, the wind might make him select either a 6-iron or a pitching wedge, based on the direction of the wind.

I followed Dad's footsteps and also played a lot of golf at Lakeside and later Ennis Country Club. The wind made it more interesting for me, just as it had for my father.

Bert from *Mary Poppins* said, "Winds in the east, mist coming in, / Like somethin' is brewin' and bout to begin. / Can't put me finger on what lies in store, / But I fear what's to happen all happened before."

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DOORDASH

GIRL IN THE MOVIES

— By Bill Smith



Brett Butler once dreamed of becoming the United States Secretary of Agriculture, but that dream was just an example of what she referred to as “always dreaming big.” Looking back on her childhood in rural Navarro County through her educational experiences in high school and college, she certainly prepared to accomplish what she dreams.

“I know I was influenced by a documentary I watched about Dolly Parton,” Brett recalled. “She said, ‘I just want to be famous.’ Somehow that resonated with me. I knew I wanted to be big and important, but in a way that helps other people and makes them happy.”

Growing up showing animals at all of the major livestock shows in Texas and 33 other states, Brett’s experience in FFA had her winning awards not only for the animals she raised, but also as a public speaker. “I started giving speeches when I was 7 years old, and by age 9 I was winning state competitions,” she continued. “My first acting audition was for our seventh-grade school play, and the acting bug got me. I participated in one-act plays through junior high and high school, but it was not my complete focus. I was also playing volleyball and tennis, besides traveling all over the country with my parents showing cattle. We stayed very busy, always on the go. It seems like everywhere we went, we were pulling an animal trailer.”

Brett’s undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University is in agriculture communications and journalism. “I had a lot of FFA scholarships, and they required studies in agriculture. While I was at A&M I wrote for *The Battalion*. They were publishing a regular column of music reviews, and I suggested a column for film reviews. It was fun getting to go to the movies and then write about them. My favorite column was on the academy awards. I ran a story with my predictions for who would win the various Oscars, and my predictions were 85 percent correct!”

Agriculture could certainly have been Brett’s ultimate career. While at A&M, she was still participating in FFA, and after she made a presentation at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, she was offered a job with Cargill, one of the major agriculture firms in the world. “I give my parents a lot of credit for the success I had with FFA. Dad always had me extremely well prepared for any speech or interview,” she mentioned.

There were opportunities at A&M for Brett to participate in theater, and as a sophomore, she was cast in the final scene of *Beauty and the Beast*. The part of the beast/prince was played by her eventual husband, R.W. Schmidt. They were married just a couple of years after meeting on stage.

As a college junior, Brett concluded that her future would not continue to revolve around speaking about cows and tractors.



She still had the resources to pursue her master's degree and chose Texas Woman's University to study drama. "TWU was everything I expected it to be, and, at the same time, nothing like I expected it to be," she mused. "I still don't know why they let me in. All of the other students had majored in theater for their undergraduate degrees. I learned so many new things there about stage management, lighting, makeup, acting, directing and cultural travel. I played in my first musical there, *Miss Nelson is Missing!*"

After completing her graduate classes, all Brett lacked was her thesis, and while she had not really planned on a teaching career, she was hired at her former high school in Frost to teach theater and biology. "It gave me not only the opportunity to work on my thesis, but also the subject. My thesis was about organizing a trip for students to go to New York City and enjoy the Broadway shows, art and all that New York could offer during a five-day trip with teenagers.



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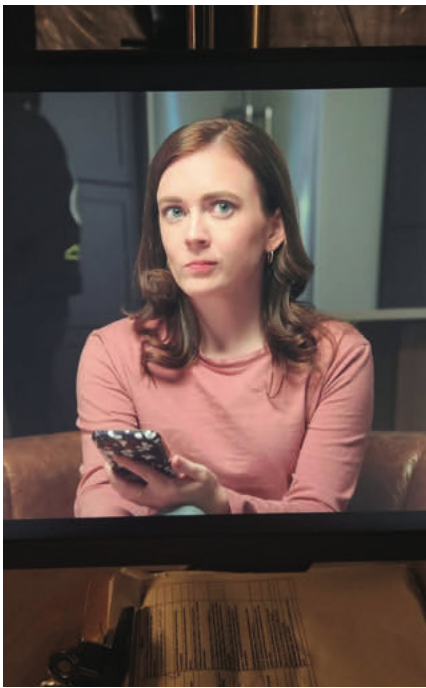
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“Our son, James, was born while we were in Frost. Our daughter, Emilia, was born in Ennis. I went to work part time for Collins Catholic School in Corsicana. It was a wonderful place to work and let me spend a lot of time with my children.”

In March 2020, Brett took a group to California to see the sights. “As soon as I saw the Hollywood sign, I knew I had to pursue acting in a big way. I said I did not know how I was going to do it, but it had a profound impact on me. We went to Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, and I wanted to steal John Wayne’s footprints like Lucy did! We were right next to the Dolby Theater where the Academy Awards are presented. I knew I had to set my sights on winning one someday.”

Brett started working with Ennis Public Theatre as community outreach coordinator in January 2022 and loves it. “In February 2022, we were working on props for *The Sound of Music*. I was making bouquets that the children would hold in one of the scenes, and I just stopped and realized, *I’m working*



in the theater! I remember thinking then that it brought me back to life. I enjoy it so much because it is what I’m meant to do.”

In addition to her local work, her acting career has really taken off. She

credits Julie Mitchell and Markus Baldwin, the artistic directors at Ennis Public Theatre, for letting her “pick their brain” about things like how to get an agent and how to get a demo reel on YouTube. Brett’s recent work has included a number of commercials, a role in the TV sitcom *House Arrest*, the movie *Lake Lavon* (available on Christian Channel and Tubi), and releasing her own album *Pretty Girl Era*, which is available on iTunes and Spotify.

A couple of Brett’s inspirations have been Audrey Hepburn and Lucille Ball, and she also mentioned that she got her love of movies from her grandad, who passed away in 2014. She said that Dolly Parton’s song “Girl in the Movies” is her mantra. Be looking for her there, and soon! **NOW**

Editor’s Note: View Brett’s demo reel at <https://youtu.be/YgaHR6CIgPM>.



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Zoomed In:

By Bill Smith

Jordan Koscielniak and Angela Peña

Jordan Koscielniak and Angela Peña are relatively new, friendly faces that greet customers gladly at Tom's Food Market. Angela said she has been working there since October, and Jordan has been working with the store owners for about a year.

"I am married with two teenage daughters," Angela said proudly. "I have lived in Ennis for about 25 years."

Jordan has also lived in Ennis for about 25 years, and while some might assume his last name has Czech heritage, he pointed out that he is of Polish descent. "I played basketball at Ennis High School, and now I am at Navarro college. I want to be a basketball coach in the future."



Dewey Larochelle presents a certificate of appreciation to Rex Carey at the recent NARFE meeting.



Richard Green displays his laser engraving.



Tim and Sheila Cox enjoy the opening of Freddy's.



Trevor Wilhoite with the Ennis Baseball Association speaks to a lunch group at the Ennis Chamber's SWAP Networking event.



Ennis twins, Brayden and Cayden Isbell, enjoy another year at the Fort Worth Stock Show.



Rhonda Smith and Lee Ann Markham complete a sale at The Village Vendor Mall.



Friends of the Ennis Public Library present a program to the Ennis Lions Club.

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— By Bill Smith

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Hours: Sunday Worship Time: 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Pastor Michael Howard and his wife, Carol, will be celebrating 18 years of ministry at The Cowboy Church of Ennis this year, and it is obvious from their enthusiasm that there is no place they would rather be. “This is the ministry God called us to after serving in a church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, for about five years,” Michael explained. “The



Cowboy Church is different from the traditional churches we grew up in and served with before coming here, but we do what is most important here, and that is teaching the Word.”

The Howards’ lives are dedicated to serving the Lord through the church, and their family is involved in ministries locally as well as in other communities. “We have six children, three of them in Texas and three in Oklahoma,” Michael said. “We are also blessed with 15 grandchildren, and we are expecting number 16.” Our daughter, Hannah, and her husband, Hugh, serve here with us as ministers to students. We are very proud of all of them, and they are all active in their church homes.”

Carol pointed out that they are able to get all of the children together twice a year, once at Christmas in Ennis and another at Lake Brownwood. “When they come to Ennis, we rent travel trailers, and everyone gathers around our home in the country near Chatfield,” she said with a smile.

When The Cowboy Church started in Ennis, they did not have the property to build on, so they met at the Boys & Girls Club. “Tom Ruane was with the Baptist General

Convention of Texas and fell in love with The Cowboy Church movement,” Michael explained. “Tom passed away recently after serving in student ministry for many years. He started the church here, as well as two other churches in the area. When we came to Ennis, this was just one of three Cowboy Churches in Texas. Now there are about 12 within 35 miles.”

“We have a place for everyone to get involved in ministry in our church.”

Worship services at The Cowboy Church begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, but there are several other times each week when there are Bible studies and times of fellowship. Carol mentioned the homeschool co-op that meets at the church twice per month. “This is a ministry of some of the ladies of our church. They started with just two moms and their children. Now, they have about 40 children coming,” she said. “One time they used the time with the children to teach life safety. They set up stop signs and crosswalks in the building for the children to learn about. They use other crafts to teach lessons with also. They recently studied the American presidents, and the children wrote papers and dressed in costumes to present speeches. There are Bible studies for men and women on other weeknights. The church hosts a women’s conference every year, and last year 180 women from across the community attended as well as those who came from far and wide to stay in the Ennis motels.”

The church decor was crafted by the members, and the stage in the worship center resembles a bunkhouse. An old wagon wheel represents how the church is the hub, and ministries of the church that reach out to others are represented by the spokes.

Michael continued, “We have a place for everyone to get involved in ministry in our church. Everything we do is to accurately present the Word of God. We begin every service with the song “Back Home Again,” and that is the way we want people to feel when they are here.” **NOW**

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CookingNOW In the Kitchen With CARLOS AGUILAR

— By Bill Smith

Carlos Aguilar and his wife like to travel, and while she is looking for historic sites for them to visit, he enjoys finding the best and most authentic restaurants. “I find new recipes when we are traveling,” Carlos offered. “The trick is paying attention to the common themes in cuisines around the world. One of my favorite things to do is Mediterranean-flavored rotisserie chicken. Then, I turn any leftovers into an American chicken sandwich or a quesadilla.”

Originally from El Salvador, Carlos came here when he was 18. “I love hosting people and cooking for my family and friends. I especially enjoy getting creative when there are a lot of people here.” **NOW**

Pupusas

This should make 16-18 pupusas.

Pupusa Revuelta Mixture:

1/2 lb. carnitas (from a Hispanic store;
it's essentially pulled pork)

1/2 can crushed tomatoes

1/2 onion

1/2 to 1 lb. melty cheese (Jalisco or
menonita work well), grated

2 bags refried beans (preferably
Natura's brand red beans, but you
can substitute with black beans)

Masa Flour Dough:

About 2 cups masa flour
(white corn flour)

Pinch salt

About 2 cups water

1. For pupusa mixture: Add the carnitas, crushed tomatoes and half of an onion to a blender; blend it into a watery paste.

2. Proceed to reduce the mixture in a pan on low to medium heat until a thick paste is formed.

3. Combine this paste with the cheese and beans (to taste) to make assembly super easy. It should all form

a thick paste. The cheese will melt inside the pupusa, so do not be worried if you think that it feels too thick.

4. For masa flour dough: Some masa flours are going to have specific instructions, but in general, you want 50 percent hydration on the dough (about 50 percent flour and 50 percent water), sometimes more. Combine the flour and water so the end result is a dough that looks like playdough. (When you press it, it should not crack. This is very important, but it should also not be wet enough that it sticks to your fingers.

5. Pupusa assembly: Make a ball with the masa dough, about 1- to 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

6. With both thumbs, push the middle of the ball to start making a “bowl” shape.

7. Add the meat, bean and cheese paste into the bowl.

8. Hold the ball with your left hand and start closing the dough bowl with the right hand until you can close the mixture inside the ball.

9. Flatten the ball, being careful to not squeeze the mixture out, by rotating the ball as you “clap” your hands lightly. (There are YouTube videos showing how to make the clapping motion.)

10. Cook the pupusas in a skillet, flipping every

couple of minutes until the dough is cooked and you are starting to see brown spots on the dough. It is OK if some of the cheese melts out.

11. Serve with curtido.

Salvadorean Curtido

- 1/2 cabbage
- 1/2 onion
- 2 carrots
- White vinegar, to taste
- Water, as needed
- Salt, to taste
- Hispanic oregano, to taste
- Jalapeño, to taste (optional)

1. Julienne the cabbage and onion into very thin slices.
2. Grate the carrots.
3. Mix 2 parts white vinegar to 1 part water; add salt and vegetables; boil for 2-3 minutes. The cabbage should still be crunchy. Season to taste.
4. Put the curtido in a large glass container; let the vegetables pickle for a few hours. (Can be saved for years.)


Salmon Ceviche

Serves 2-3 people.

- 8-12 large Persian limes
- 1/2 red onion
- 3/4 to 1 lb. salmon
- 1 large avocado
- 1/8 small habanero pepper, finely diced (or to taste, as it is really spicy)
- Crackers or fried plantains

1. Juice the limes.
2. Julienne the onion into super thin slices; add them to a large bowl. Add the lime juice to cover them. Let the onions rest in the juice as you do the next step.
3. Skin and cut the salmon into 1/2x1 1/2-inch cubes; place the salmon in the bowl; mix with the onions.
4. Cube the avocado into 1/4-inch pieces; add to the bowl, mixing thoroughly.
5. Add the habanero to give it a bit of a kick. *Note: The most I have ever used was 1/2 of a small habanero. The sweetness of the lime juice helps balance out the heat.*
6. Let sit for 5-10 minutes; enjoy with crackers or fried plantains.
7. *Note: It may be strange to eat fish that has not been cooked with heat, but the lime and the habanero kill any bacteria, so it is perfectly safe to eat.*


To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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Joshua 18:8

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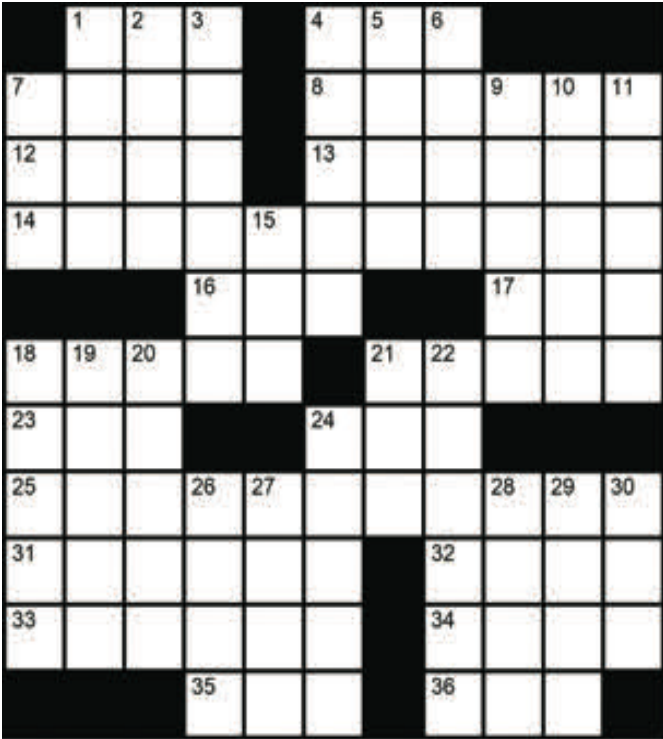
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Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

- Across**

 - 1 L runners
 - 4 Viper
 - 7 "Chinatown" film genre
 - 8 Hits it off
 - 12 All time
 - 13 Auto garage service
 - 14 Concept in economic theory
 - 16 --- Harburg, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" lyricist
 - 17 Maxim
 - 18 Enjoy with relish
 - 21 Consumers
 - 23 "Halt! --- fire!"
- Down**

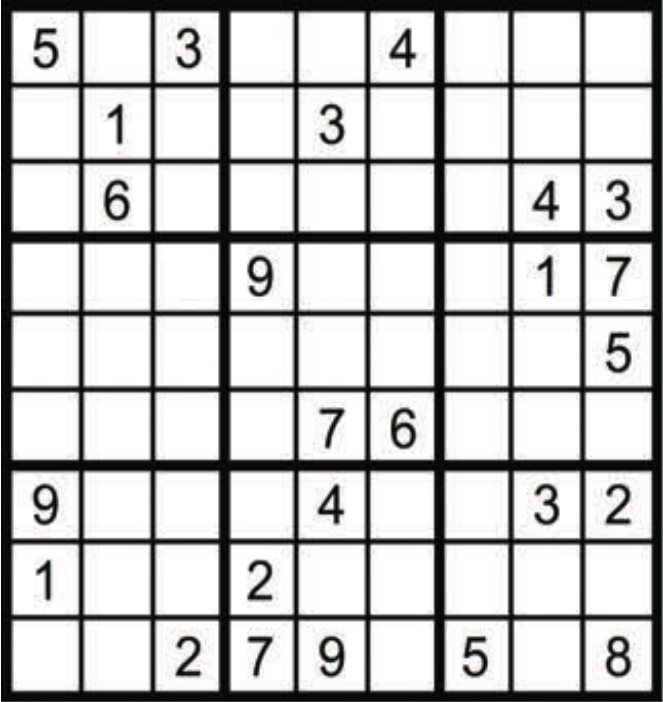
 - 24 Powdery residue
 - 25 British Fox News contributor and Trump supporter
 - 31 Skilled with
 - 32 Supercelebrity
 - 33 Work hard battering rivets
 - 34 Temperate
 - 35 Sailor
 - 36 Shareable computer file
- Down**

 - 1 Sheltered inlet
 - 2 Cake layer
 - 3 Gully
 - 4 Be a brat
 - 5 Run-down part of a city
 - 6 Engine knock
 - 7 --- Percé (Northwest Native American)
 - 9 Discontinue
 - 10 "Harold & --- go to White Castle" (2004 movie)
 - 11 Ejects forcefully
 - 15 Respectful form of address
 - 18 Vocal music
 - 19 Very funny
 - 20 Forceful exertion
 - 21 Where you are now, probably
 - 22 Bubba Gump offering
 - 24 Hunting
 - 26 Prepare for publication
 - 27 Kind of lamp
 - 28 Sour
 - 29 "A good walk spoiled" (Mark Twain)
 - 30 Conclusion

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.

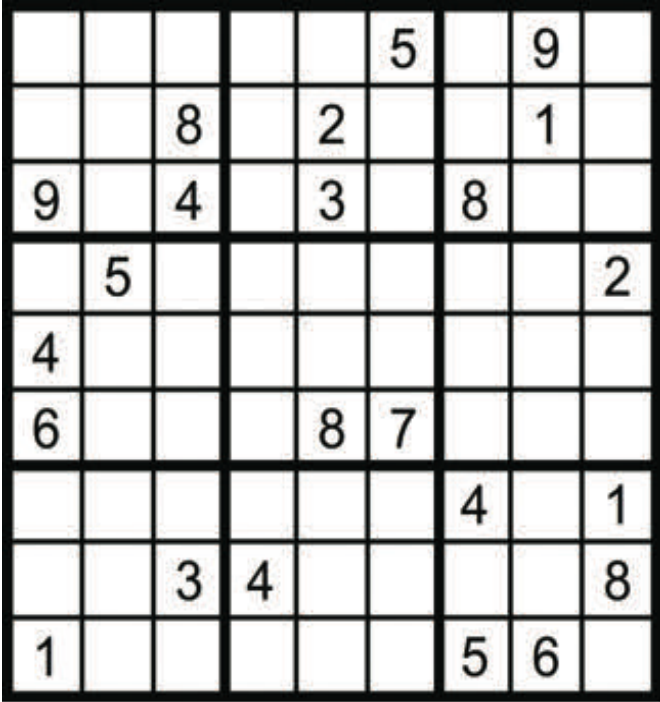
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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Happy

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MARCH

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3/4

SOKOL Ennis 10K Giveaway:

Annual building fund benefit. This year's theme is "James Bond Casino Royale." 20 cash prizes, including the \$10,000.00 1st prize! Ticket admits two and includes steak dinner, drinks and dance. \$150 donation. Doors open: 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and open bar. Drawing: 9:00 p.m., SOKOL Hall, 2622 East Hwy. 34. For tickets and general information, call the SOKOL clubroom at (972) 875-7959 or email fundraising@sokolennis.com.

3/10-3/11

SOKOL Ennis Spring Market:

Friday: 4:00-9:00 p.m.; Saturday:

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.,
2622 East Hwy. 34.

3/13

Ennis Varsity Softball:

Lions vs. Lancaster. 2:00 p.m., EHS Softball Field. Tickets available online at <https://gofan.co/app/school/TX16066>.

3/14

Snack Food Taste Test:

Spring break activity for teens in sixth-12th grades. Join us as we will be guessing popcorn brands, root beer brands and Oreo flavors along with Lays potato chip flavors. Put your taste buds to the test. Free. 2:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 500 W. Ennis Avenue. For

more information, call
(972) 875-5360.

Ennis Varsity Baseball:

Lions vs. Red Oak. 7:00 p.m., EHS Baseball Field. Tickets available online at <https://gofan.co/app/school/TX16066>.

3/25

22nd Annual Lawn and Garden Expo:

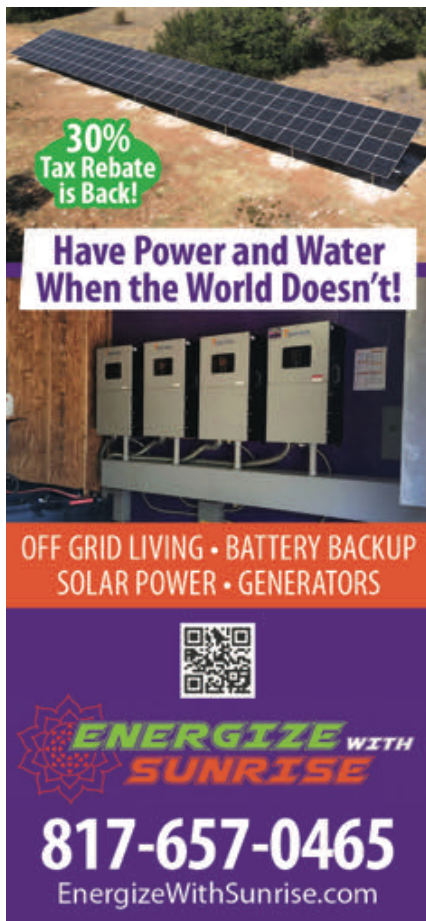
Hosted by the Ellis County Master Gardeners. Free tickets will be available from sponsors in early March. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 200 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie. Visit www.ecmga.com or www.facebook.com/ECMG for ticket locations.

3/28

Ennis Realtor and Economic Development Update:

Networking, hors d'oeuvres and updates from the Ennis Economic Development and Marketing team and the Ennis ISD Superintendent. Learn about Ennis' 14 percent projected housing growth, new retail, master plan projects and more. 4:30-7:00 p.m., Ennis Welcome Center, 201 NW Main St.


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



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If you are diabetic, and especially if you are also age 60 or older, odds are that your nerve damage has been caused directly by your diabetes — although many younger diabetics also have nerve damage from this potentially deadly disease.

But many OTHER people with these symptoms — pain, burning, and tingling — are NOT diabetic, yet also suffer from nerve damage.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the many diseases and conditions that can destroy the nerves in your extremities and limbs include:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| ✓ Alcoholism | ✓ Repetitive motions such as typing | ✓ Chemotherapy |
| ✓ Autoimmune diseases | ✓ Bone marrow disorders | ✓ Tumors |
| ✓ Vitamin deficiencies | ✓ Certain prescription medications | ✓ Infections |
| ✓ Liver disease | ✓ Falls, sports injuries, and other trauma | ✓ Kidney disease |
| ✓ Underactive thyroid | ✓ Wearing a cast or using crutches | |



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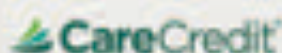
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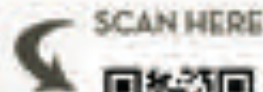
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