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Stewart share a heart for
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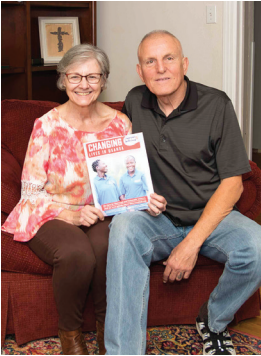
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Phyllis and Cooper Stewart display their Uganda missions magazine.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
EnnisNOW Editor
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I'm still here ...

Well time certainly flies. I have been at this editor's desk for four years now, and I must admit, it seems like just yesterday that I wrote my first editor's note. To say it has been a joy would be an understatement. I have met so many wonderful fellow Ennisites, and I have also had a chance to visit with many old friends and acquaintances to get to know them better.

Some interviews have been easy, as our subject easily described what makes what they do interesting to our readers. Others may require a little more prodding on my part, but after the interview is over, there is always a story to tell. And more often than not, the most difficult part is deciding what can stay in the feature and what has to be left aside in order to keep the word count within the space allotted in our magazine.

You have been so gracious to open your lives up to our readers. The response to your stories has been so positive, and I know your friends and families have enjoyed reading about you and sharing a piece of your stories. Whether your story has been a main feature, cooking feature or a business feature, know that your stories are what make *EnnisNOW* the popular magazine that it is.

If you have an idea for a feature, whether it be about you or a family member or friend, please send an email, call me or just stop me in town somewhere.

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Uganda is a nation in the heart of Africa, still wild in many respects, but at the same time friendly and beautiful. There are snow-capped mountain peaks and the massive Lake Victoria, which meets with the source of the Nile River. Cooper and Phyllis Stewart have visited the country several times, and have seen the beauty, but they have also seen the poverty and daily needs of widows and orphans in the remote areas of Uganda.

"I first learned about Uganda while attending GriefShare in 2014 after the loss of my husband in 2013," Phyllis said. "I was invited to a Bible study at the home of Paul and Aleta Penfold, and at one of the meetings, I met Pastor Paul Gidudu, who was visiting from Uganda. He spoke about some rural church congregations who have built church walls but needed help with the roofs to complete their buildings. I thought I could help them. Pastor Gidudu and I continued to stay in touch as I raised money for the roof of the church I adopted."

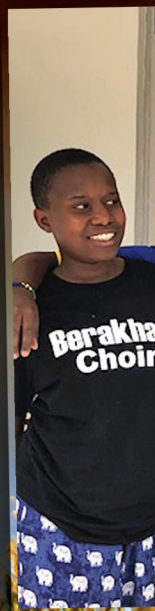
Not long after that, Phyllis met her future husband, Cooper. "Phyllis started talking to me about Paul Gidudu and the work in Uganda," Cooper recalled. "I met Paul Penfold at a Chamber of Commerce event, and he told me about a trip that he had taken to Uganda with Glenn Hejny and Damascus Road Fellowship. We visited Damascus Road and Paul Gidudu was there. They mentioned they were planning another trip to Uganda."

Phyllis interjected, "Someone at the church asked, 'Why don't y'all go?' And Cooper said, 'Let's go!' Later Cooper almost backed out. The trip cost about \$3,500 for each of us, and Cooper said I could go, and we could donate the other \$3,500. Pastor Gidudu told Cooper that he did not want his money, he wanted his heart, and, 'I won't get your heart unless you go.'"

The first two trips to Uganda that Cooper and Phyllis took were for pastors' conferences. The orphanages came later. Cooper related, "Pastor Gidudu grew up on the streets, so he had a real heart for children. On our third trip, he had built a very humble facility for about 50 children."

"We started doing Bible studies there in 2015. The orphanage was started in 2016, and a lot of people will remember that we were able to bring the youth choir from Uganda to Ennis in 2018," Phyllis mentioned. The choir sang at several venues around town, making people aware of the work being done in Uganda. "Our next trip over there was in November 2019. During that two weeks, we really saw the hunger that was there." As her voice broke, Phyllis continued, "We saw widows and children who were hungry and did not know when they would get food. We traveled with a pastor coordinator and visited six villages and three or four homes at each location."

Cooper explained that Uganda is in the middle of Africa and is called "The Pearl of Africa." The climate is pleasant, 65-85 degrees year-around, and it rains every two or three days. The land is fertile, and families grow their own food. "Where we go, there are no jobs. A family may have just enough land to support themselves, but there are a lot of orphans that are taken in because the parents die young. When two or three more orphans join another family, there is not enough land to support the additional need. There are not jobs in the area for acquiring money to purchase food, so they barter with their small crops for other supplies they need."



Heart of Africa

— By Bill Smith





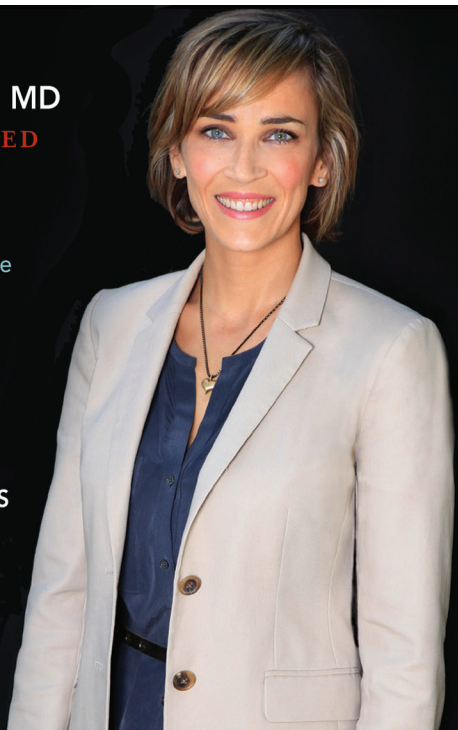
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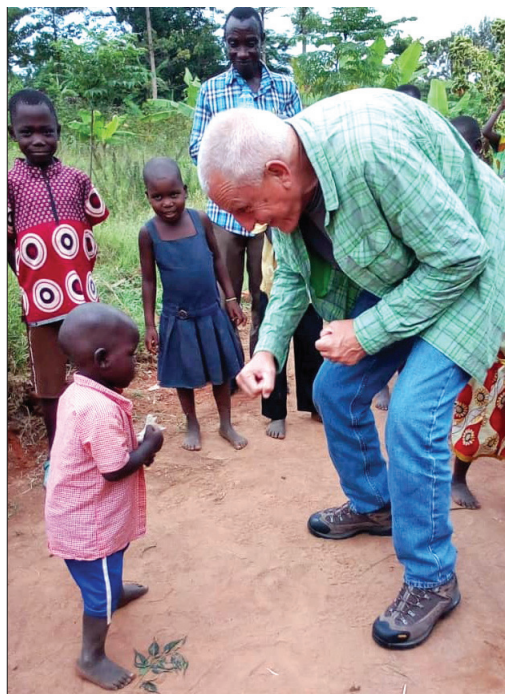
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Pastor Gidudu's ministry extends beyond the orphanage. Phyllis explained, "Men are being educated about how to take responsibility for their family's well-being. Pastor Gidudu started 'Dad's University' to teach the biblical principles of being dads and heads of their households." She also talked about the Bible studies she has conducted with the young girls about marriage and the analogy of the Church to the family.

Phyllis gave some specific examples of young girls who had benefited from the ministry. "The culture in Uganda allows a man to take a young girl away from her family. Lydia sustained severe injuries as a baby when her home caught on fire. Today, she lives in the teen center at the orphanage. Lydia says she was saved 'from the pit of hell.' Rachel's family stated it was time to be sold into marriage at age 12. She was able to come to the United States with the choir in 2018."

Ministries in Uganda continue to expand, and people flock to attend Pastor Gidudu's meetings at the orphanage. He recently hosted a marriage conference, expecting about 125 couples to attend. There were almost 500 couples at the event. Many had to travel remarkable distances to get there, and very few people have cars. There are some public taxis available, and some of them are motorcycles. The ministry had to find a place for all of the people to sleep, so

they rented mattresses for them.


Travel to Uganda requires about 24 hours, and when Cooper and Phyllis go, they stay two weeks. “We stay in a guest house that is just down the road from the orphanage,” Phyllis said. “A typical day begins with breakfast, then we travel in a van to one of the villages. There will be a Bible study or church service, and we learn about who is there and what their needs are. They will cook lunch for us, maybe at the pastor’s home.”

Cooper interjected, “It is an all-day deal. The travel time is one to three hours. After lunch we will meet with the congregation together, then the women will go to classes with Phyllis, and the men will go with me. We’ll usually get back to the guest house by 7:00 or 8:00 in the evening.”



After humble beginnings with about 50 children, today as many as 1,200 may attend. They feed all the children and present them with a small gift. “The meal would typically be bread, a banana and a boiled egg,” Phyllis explained. “Sometimes, we run out of bananas and eggs, and all we can give them is bread. They are excited to get the bread. Some may walk from three or four miles away. The only bickering we see is their challenge about who gets to sit on the front row!” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, visit www.gidudu.org or contact Cooper or Phyllis at cooperbstewart@gmail.com or phylliskh@sbcglobal.net.




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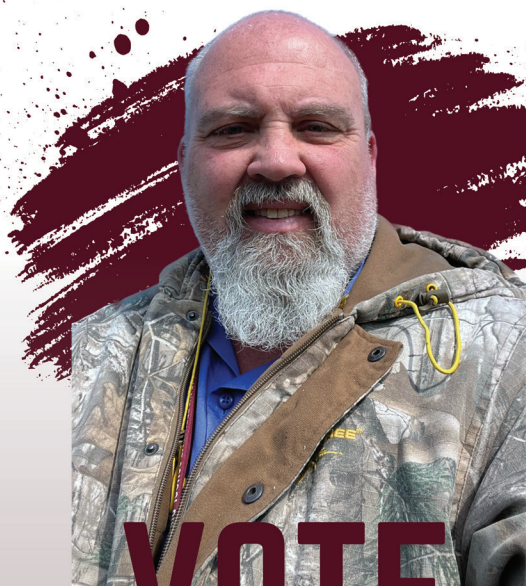


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— By Bill Smith

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Client relationships are obviously very important to Vanessa Zmolik and Guild Mortgage Company. She and her team put a lot of emphasis on the service they offer to their valued clients. “I still see clients from many years ago,” she said. “Some of them still have their original loans, but for many, they have sold that first home and bought another,



perhaps several times over. We want them to continue to come to us.”

Many loan originators or mortgage lenders sell their loans soon after closing. Guild is an actual mortgage lender, and they service more than \$60 billion in loans. It is an advantage to the borrower to deal directly with the mortgage lender. While buyers look at interest rates, there are other things to consider in a lender. “Some lenders will not offer a recast of your mortgage loan. Recasting is when you make a large lump-sum payment toward the principal balance of your loan. Guild will, and then they will re-amortize your mortgage with the new lower balance based on your current note rate and remaining term. We allow this one time on a conventional loan,” Vanessa explained. “Another thing we will do is a partial release of your property. If you want to sell off an acre that is part of the loan collateral, we will order an updated appraisal upon receipt of new surveys and release that acre if it still qualifies with the new retained acreage. Another important thing we offer is removal of the private mortgage insurance (PMI) after the property appreciates for conventional

loans only. It may take 10 to 12 years for the loan to be paid down by 20 percent for removal of the mortgage insurance, but we will do it sooner if the value of the property has adequately appreciated and it is requested to be removed by the customer.

“People do business with people they trust,” Vanessa continued. “When a client needs customer service, such as an inquiry about their payment status or an insurance check endorsement, they can call our local office for assistance.

“Our staff works hard to make sure we get all of the necessary information to close your loan on time. Staci Fincher, our sales manager, has been with us for many years, and frankly, I would cry if she left! We have other great mortgage originators, as well, including Laura Mitchell, Latisha Perez, J.R. Rudd and Steven Barnard.”

“Our staff works hard to make sure we get all of the necessary information to close your loan on time.”

In addition to the service to the clients and the great client relationships of which Guild can boast, another thing that Vanessa indicates sets them apart from others is their philosophy of giving back to the communities they serve. Locally, Vanessa said they also believe, “The more you give, the more you receive. We support CASA, the Angel Trees at Christmas and veterans. You probably saw our involvement with the Ellis County Veterans Day event last fall. Just a few years ago, we were very active in building a home for a local disabled veteran.”

Vanessa was quick to mention the relationship of her local Guild office with Broker/Owner Wayne Norcross at City Real Estate and the real estate agents in his office. “We would not be where we are today without that relationship. We also work closely with them on charity events, such as CASA and veterans.

“I can’t put enough emphasis on the benefits to our customers of owning their home versus renting. History speaks for itself in the appreciation of real estate values over time,” Vanessa added. “Now is a great time to begin your relationship with Guild Mortgage Company.” **NOW**



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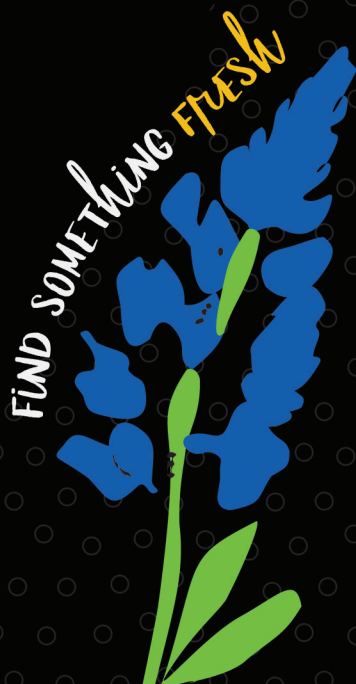
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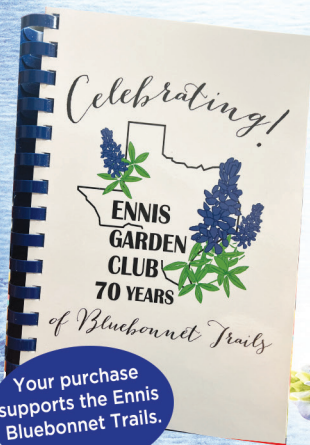
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Zoomed In: Gina Rokas

By Bill Smith

After serving more than 20 years with the city of Ennis as director of tourism, Gina Rokas decided to retire and spend some time with her family and do some traveling. “I have loved meeting people from all over the world as they have come to events in Ennis,” she said.

“I have also enjoyed attending the events together with my family. We are of Czech heritage also, and I have had a great time during the Polka Festival with my sister, Diane, and my mom, Jeanette.”

Gina has seen the growth in tourism in Ennis over the years. “A spring photo of the early bluebonnets can go viral, and people start calling,” she reflected. “Ennis has a lot to offer our guests when they come to visit.”



Timothy O'Brien is happy to prepare barbecue from the food truck downtown.



Jayden and Bryson Hall enjoy the spring-like weather at Lions Park.



Stephanie Brewer and Gail Tally enjoy the afternoon sun at The Backyard.



David Lovelace helps Evanee Rodriguez with her Lions Club Eye Exam as Bill Blackmon observes.



Vicki and Sharon Fisher enjoy an evening at Theatre Rocks!



Ladies from Baylor Baptist Church attend the joint Ladies Conference at Anthony Drive Baptist Church.



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In the Kitchen With

MORGAN RUFFIN

— By Bill Smith

Morgan Ruffin recalls walking to her memaw's house after school in the fifth grade, and if she wasn't playing outside, "I would always watch *Great Chefs Great Cities* on PBS. I fell in love with the beautiful things they made, and they made it look so easy!"

She was also influenced by her great-grandma, Marion Fern Seymore, or "Bom Bom." "She would cook with me, and one of my fondest memories was playing restaurant in her home after a long day together. I would write the menu on yellow legal paper, then make Bom Bom and Grandpa Jerry go outside and pretend they were coming in to eat."

Because of her love for these experiences, Morgan studied hospitality management in college. She has worked in restaurants and hotels ever since. **NOW**

Fern in the Wild Family House Salad

4 slices thick sourdough bread, for croutons
2/3 cup olive oil (divided use)
Fresh cracked pepper, to taste
1/4 cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed
1/2 red onion, sliced thin or shaved
1 large ripe avocado, cubed or sliced

1 English cucumber, cubed
1 head romaine lettuce
1 pint cherry tomatoes
Garlic salt, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Cube the sourdough bread; toss it with 1/3 cup olive oil and pepper. Spread evenly over a baking sheet; bake for 10 minutes.
3. Toss in the pan; bake another 2-3 minutes until crispy. Store in an airtight

container until ready to use.

4. Use a nice wooden bowl to build the salad. I think it makes the salad dressing creamier! Add the lemon juice to the bottom of the bowl. Add a few turns of cracked pepper.

5. Slowly drizzle in the remaining olive oil until you see the dressing turn thick and light yellow.

6. Add the red onions, avocados and cucumbers to the bottom; toss to coat. This allows the red onion to soak up some of that dressing and the citrus will keep the avocado from turning brown.

7. Layer the lettuce over the top; add the cherry tomatoes. Add enough garlic salt to coat the top. If omitting the garlic salt, add a pinch of kosher salt to the bowl.

8. You can store it in the refrigerator up to 2 hours until ready to serve. When ready to serve, add the croutons; toss lightly with tongs or salad claws and serve!

Breakfast Quiche

1 lb. spicy breakfast sausage
1/2 cup green onions, chopped

(divide the green and white parts)

- 6 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups half-and-half
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Fresh cracked pepper, to taste
- 1 1/2 cups Tillamook sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (divided use)
- Fresh sage, finely chopped
- Pie dough (store bought or homemade single crust)

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a medium nonstick skillet on medium-high heat, fully cook the breakfast sausage with the whites of the green onions. Set aside.
2. Crack the eggs into a measuring bowl. Use a fork to scramble the yolks. Measure the eggs; add enough half-and-half to equal 3 cups of mixture. Add salt and pepper. Whisk to combine.
3. Add the green parts of the green onions, half of the cheese and the breakfast sausage.
4. Add egg mixture and sage to the crust until almost filled. Add the remaining cheese.
5. Bake for 50-60 minutes until the center has a very small jiggle. Cover the top with foil if it is getting too brown.
6. Remove from the oven; let set for 20 minutes untouched. Can be refrigerated for up to a week.

Bom Bom's Banana Pudding

- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 1 3.9-oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 cups heavy cream, whipped
- 36 vanilla wafers
- 3 medium bananas, sliced and dipped in lemon juice

1. Whisk the sweetened condensed milk and water in a large bowl.
2. Add the pudding mix; whisk 2 minutes or until well blended. Chill 5 minutes.
3. Fold in the whipped cream.
4. Spoon 1 cup of the pudding mixture into a 2 1/2-qt. glass serving bowl.
5. Top with 1/3 each of the vanilla wafers, bananas and remaining pudding. Repeat layering twice, ending with pudding mixture.
6. Chill thoroughly. Garnish as desired.

Homemade Red Sauce

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 yellow onion, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. fresh garlic, finely chopped
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 1 cup red wine (Pinot Noir or Cabernet)
- 2 28-oz. cans San Marzano Crushed Tomatoes
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Pepper, freshly cracked, to taste



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Fern in the Wild
Family House Salad

- 1 cup fresh basil**
- 1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar**

1. In a heavy bottom Dutch oven set over medium heat, add the olive oil and yellow onion. Cook 3-5 minutes until translucent.
2. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes; sauté for 1 minute until fragrant.
3. Add the red wine; turn the heat up to medium-high. Let it reduce down by half,

stirring occasionally.

4. Turn the heat back down to medium; add the crushed tomatoes, thyme, bay leaf, salt and pepper. Simmer, covered, for 35 minutes, stirring frequently so you do not scorch the bottom.

5. Chop the fresh basil at the last minute; stir into the pot along with the red wine vinegar.

6. Add additional salt and pepper, if needed; serve.

Homemade Sausage

- 2 lbs. bulk ground pork**
- 2 Tbsp. onion, grated**
- 2 Tbsp. light brown sugar, packed**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. sage, freshly minced**
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes**
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme**
- 1/2 tsp. paprika**
- 2 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**

- 1.** Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl.
- 2.** Test a small patty for flavor and seasoning. Adjust salt and pepper, if needed.
- 3.** Weigh out 2-oz. balls; press the balls between parchment paper.
- 4.** Freeze flat in plastic bags.

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SUNRISE TO SUNSET BEAUTY

— By Virginia Riddle

Sit back, open the windows, take in sea breezes and feel the calm as the bustle of Miami gives way to slower traffic in keeping with “island time” on U.S. Highway 1, also known as the Overseas Highway. Surrounded mostly by water, the highway’s multiple bridges provide the only access by land to the Florida Keys, a tropical archipelago comprised of almost 1,700 islands. Southernmost is Key West with its interesting history, architecture and laid-back reputation.

Early European explorers found the Gulf Stream tides challenging, and there were many shipwrecks. Native American tribes fought one another over the bounty. Conquistadores found the tribes’ bones, naming the southern-most key *Cayo Hueso* (ky’o-way’so) or “island of bones.” Bahamian settlers who followed changed the Spanish name to Key West. By the early 1800s, this prominent point, located nearer to Cuba than Miami, was a booming seafaring port town. The U.S. gained the Florida territory in 1821 and located a strategic naval base at Key West, making it the largest and wealthiest town in the territory. With many hiding places in the channels and shallows, piracy flourished, despite the navy’s presence. Henry Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway Extension connected the keys to the mainland in 1912, bringing tourists and industry to the city. The opening

of U.S. 1 in 1944 brought more tourism, with all forms of recreation and accommodations, entertainment, shopping, dining and historical places to visit.

Days begin with magnificent sunrises over the eastern shore and end with the Mallory Square Dock Sunset Celebration. Plenty of sunshine most days makes Key West delightful for those who enjoy the outdoors. Bahia Honda State Park offers a natural beach, winding roads through mangrove thickets, campsites and charter boat excursions. The park’s tarpon fishing is popular with anglers. Picnic along the rocky beach surrounded by soaring pines or go snorkeling in the clear, deep water at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park. Clarence Higgs Memorial Beach Park, the Waldorf Astoria Casa Marina Resort’s neighbor, features a kids’ playground. And don’t forget to visit the White Street Pier.

At the West Martello Tower is a Civil War fort that overlooks the African Refugee Cemetery. Slaves who were rescued by the U.S. Navy from ships near Cuba, but who had become ill due to unsanitary conditions and died, were buried there in unmarked graves. The cemetery and tower are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Don’t miss the city’s famous key lime pie, margaritas, fresh seafood, Bahamian conch fritters and Cuban *ropa vieja*. Dress in “Keys-casual” — sandals, colorful shirts and shorts and a sunhat — even at upscale restaurants. After a relaxed meal with libations, work off the calories while skydiving, bicycling, golfing or participating in various water sports.

Sailboats and catamarans can be chartered for sunset cruises or bird-watching. Take the Yankee Fleet Ferry to Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas National Park for an eco-historical tour of this former Civil War-era prison.

A stroll down Duval Street and cross streets in the Historic





District takes visitors from the Key West Aquarium, a charming WPA project, to other major attractions. A visit by John J. Audubon to Key West is celebrated at the Audubon House and Tropical Gardens, where engravings created by Audubon on that visit are displayed. The Harry S. Truman Little White House was that president's favorite place for R&R. It's still used by his successors and other notable dignitaries.

Eco-interests are piqued through a visit to the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory and the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden. Bibliophiles will enjoy the romance and lore of the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, where 40-50 of his polydactyl (six-toed) cats' progeny live. Hemingway finished *A Farewell to Arms* and wrote about Key West in *To Have and Have Not* while living here with his wife, Pauline.

Southernmost Point Buoy is a last-photo-destination must. Few folks are true "Conchs" (conks), Key West natives, but everyone can enjoy "island time" in Key West. **NOW**

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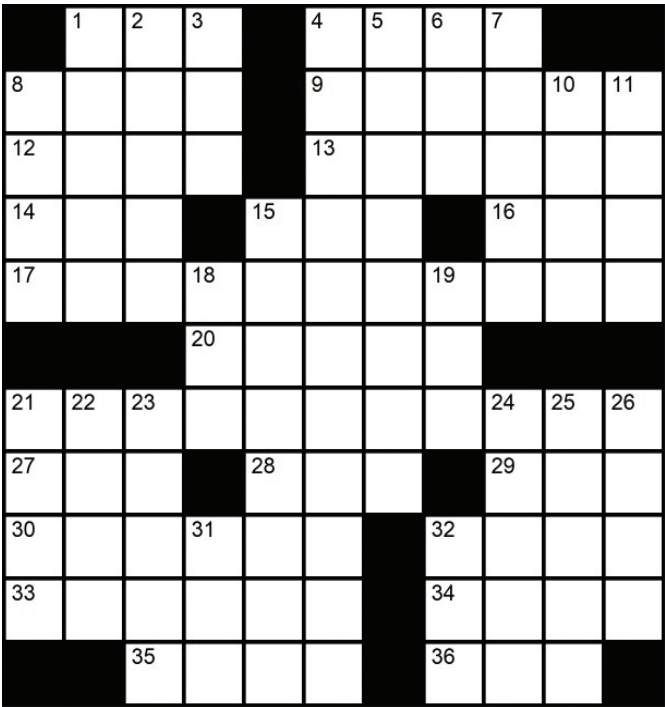
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- 1 Encountered
- 4 "Whoops!"
- 8 "Triumphal March" opera
- 9 Just out
- 12 Eldest "Brady Bunch" son
- 13 W E B Griffin's "--- Arms"
- 14 Bill producer
- 15 Mail-order option
- 16 Home for some rats
- 17 Star tenor has son cut up
- 20 Pageant host
- 21 Kind of large book
- 27 At a great distance
- 28 M L B long balls
- 29 Far from strict
- 30 Singled out
- 32 Charge per unit
- 33 Surgical seam
- 34 Government financial stability agency
- 35 Careful attention
- 36 Range of knowledge

Down

- 1 Merriment
- 2 Fluid buildup
- 3 Label
- 4 Insouciant
- 5 Telemarketers' equipment
- 6 Wise one
- 7 "And what have we here?"
- 8 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's ---" (Rolling Stones)
- 10 Central Asian "land"
- 11 Soliloquy starter in "Hamlet"
- 15 Summoning command
- 18 Little zebra
- 19 Common cargo for old-time clippers
- 21 Banned aerosol propellants
- 22 "From Here to Eternity" island
- 23 Mad dog's mouthful
- 24 Bit of grass
- 25 Tacitus' tongue
- 26 Office big cheese
- 31 Not Johnny Cash's favorite name for a son

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TYRONE HOOD - OWNER • TARA HOOD - OWNER • DANNY HILTON - APPLIANCE MANAGER

Introduction: Tyrone and Tara Hood are proud to introduce Danny Hilton as the new manager over Hood's Appliance Division. Danny was the owner/operator of the nearby Corsicana Sears Hometown Store located on West 7th Avenue for 12 years. Sears announced bankruptcy nationwide on 12/12/22 and closed all Sears Stores nationwide at 11:59 p.m. on 02/12/23.

Danny: As the former owner of the Corsicana Sears Hometown Store, I was recognized many times by Sears as a premier dealer and large volume dealer. I have met and helped many customers over the years from individuals needing one appliance to large bulk buyers with numerous properties. Many of my customers have become great friends and are like family. I am very proud to move my business to Hood A/C, Furniture and Appliances.

Hood's Background: Tyrone and Tara opened Hood's Service Company installing and maintaining both commercial and residential HVAC units in November of 2015 at their initial location on Oak Street.

In January 2022, they opened their new appliance store at 1503 MLK BLVD (7th Avenue between Business I-45 and I-45), Corsicana.

In addition, in March of 2022, they opened their U-HAUL business adjacent to the appliance store with the rental paperwork completed inside the appliance store.

Their spirit of entrepreneurship, combined with my in-depth knowledge of the major brand appliances and my strong customer base, is allowing us to move forward with their vision to expand the appliance facility to accommodate our planned future appliance assortments and back stock levels tailored for what my experience has shown most customer's need and want at price points they expect!

Appliance Availability: Our availability of all brands of appliances is much better at Hood's. Instead of receiving one appliance truck a week from the distribution center (DDC) in Garland, if we don't have what a specific customer needs in our lineup, we can go pick them up in Hutchins just north of



Ennis the same day we need them, as opposed to waiting a couple of weeks like I used to.

In addition, since we plan to floor only the most popular appliance assortment of each brand we carry, we will be able to have “TAKE IT HOME TODAY” appliances in boxes in our storeroom.

The BEST of the BEST: Because of my 12-year history of handling, selling and arranging service for most appliances in each major brand, I have an accurate knowledge of most of the appliances’ failure tendencies. Although anything man-made can break, at Hood’s Appliance we will only be flooring and selling those select appliances that our customers should get great operation from and achieve the value proposition they deserve!

Stable Methods, Processes and Procedures: Because Tyrone, Tara and I will be determining all of our internal processes and procedures, the way Hood interfaces with customers and provides service and assistance to them will always be fair and consistent.

One Stop Shopping: Tyrone and his repairmen will service and repair everything we sell, which provides our customers with one-stop shopping, “The Buck Begins and Ends With Hood.”

No Credit Required: The Hoods have set up several excellent companies that our customers will find quick and easy to work with to finance appliance purchases when they prefer not to use a check, credit card or cash.

Hood Master Service Agreements: The Hoods have established a Master Service Agreement at a great price that goes above and beyond the manufacturer’s one-year service warranty. It provides the benefits of:

- Mechanical and electrical failures
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 - Up to \$300 in food loss reimbursement
 - Up to \$50 laundry credit
 - No lemon benefits
 - Power surge protection
 - Functional component coverage
 - Transferable protection and may be eligible for renewal
- The Hood Master Service Agreement can be purchased for two, three or five years and provides peace of mind when an appliance does fail!

Greatly expanded geographic scope for selling, delivering, installing and repairing appliances: For 12 years, I sold, delivered and installed across an expanded territory much larger than most Sears Dealers. At the time of the bankruptcy filing, I was still consistently delivering nearly 75 miles in every direction from Corsicana. At Hood’s we are going to expand to service most of the same territory based on the type and quantity of the appliances purchased.

Improved Communication: To provide better phone service and make it easier for my previous customers to call us, I forwarded the two business lines I had at Sears to the Hood Service Company Lines to be used as the Hood Appliance service lines. The numbers are 903-872-0887 and 903-872-0886 respectively.

The existing Hood Service Company Business Lines are 903-602-5108 and 903-602-5156 respectively.

As part of our planned expansion, we are installing new phone equipment that will allow all calls to be answered by all phones up to 200 feet from the building. We ask that everyone bear with us a few weeks while the phone equipment and call patterns are upgraded.

Finally, Tyrone, Tara and I want to thank everyone for your patronage at both locations in the past and look forward to serving everyone from Hood’s Appliance Store in the future!



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CORSICANA, TX



Hello, Spring

APRIL

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.

4/1-4/30

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails:
Enjoy over 40 miles of trails. Volunteers will drive all of the roads and report where the bluebonnets are blooming so maps will be available for visitors. Print maps at bluebonnettrail.org or visitennis.org. Check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ennis-Tx-Bluebonnet-Trails/215158041843785> or call (972) 878-4748 option 1 for a bloom status.

4/7

Easter Bunny Pictures:
The Easter Bunny is coming to ESB! One 6x6 picture is printed on-site. Digital copies can be sent

via email. Free! 1:00-3:00 p.m., Ennis State Bank/Trinity Capital Bank of Texas, 815 West Ennis Avenue. Contact Erica, marketing director, at eozy@ennisstatebank.com or call (972) 330-8508.

4/8

The Big Showdown:
Texas Motorplex, 7500 US-287. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for event information and tickets.

4/14-4/16

Bluebonnet Festival:
Enjoy live music, arts and crafts vendors, tasty food and drinks and kids' activities on the streets of downtown Ennis. Fireworks Friday and Saturday evening! \$5 for

adults; children under 12 are free. Purchase at gate only.

4/21

Bling, Bang, Bash Designer Bag Bingo and Gun Raffle:
CASA of Ellis County and Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center fundraiser. 6:00-9:00 p.m., SOKOL Hall, 2622 TX-34, Ennis.

4/29

Lifeway Women's Simulcast Event:
Join us for a women's conference with the theme, Pursuing Christ Together in Truth. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. \$15. Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.; conference: 8:00 a.m.-2:30

p.m., Baylor Baptist Church, 210 N. Preston Street. Register at <https://tithely/event-registration/#/6856491>. For more information, call Vicki at (972) 875-2521.

Ellis County Homeless Coalition Walkathon:
Fundraiser featuring food trucks, live music and family fun. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St., Waxahachie. Email info@elliscountyhomeless.com for more details.

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



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Joshua 18:8 Deuteronomy 19:14



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EnnisNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden
chocolate eggs

in 5 different ads in this issue
(not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers
and specific ads where
they are found, plus your
phone number, by April
15th. To ensure your
Scavenger Hunt answers
go in the drawing, you
must use the

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scavenger.enn@nowmagazines.com

..... **WIN!**

\$50 Cash Prize

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Winner must pick up prize
within 30 days of drawing.

Green hat was found
on pages 3, 4, 9, 11, 26

March winner is:
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