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APRIL 2024

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ON THE COVER



Ennis Baseball prepares for the new season.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Time flies ...

The Byrds released “Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)” in 1965 after the excerpt from Ecclesiastes was put to music by Pete Seeger in 1959. The cover by The Byrds became a worldwide hit. According to www.genius.com, the song was adapted entirely, except for the last line, from Scripture.

After five years with *EnnisNOW*, it is just hard to believe I have been at this desk for that long! You continue to send me story ideas, either about yourself, a friend, a family member or just someone you have heard of. So many of the stories you suggest make it to print, and it is a joy for me to help share the background of your hobbies, travels, lifestyles and recipes with the community.

Speaking of your recipes, our “In the Kitchen With (Insert *your* name here)” is one of our most popular features. We gather the information for the feature almost entirely by email, put the recipes in our format, let the subject review them, and then take a couple of pictures. If you are interested in sharing your recipes, or if you know someone who might be, just get in touch with me using the contact information under my photo on the left.

I continue to enjoy all that is involved in the interviews, writing and photography for *EnnisNOW*. Solomon wrote (and The Byrds also recorded) that there is “a time to every purpose under heaven.” These past five years have been that season for me, and with your help and God’s grace, the season will continue. I can’t thank you enough for your contributions.

... when you are having fun!



Bill

Bill Smith
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Enthusiasm for Little League Baseball and Softball in Ennis is contagious. The excitement of the current leadership in the leagues is nothing new, as it stems from the generations that poured themselves into youngsters at least as far back as the 1950s.

Jon Gentry's grandfather, Charles Gentry's, name is synonymous with Ennis Baseball, and his aunt, Kathleen Gentry Fox, can recall attending games when she was a very young child. "As best I can remember, Dad, Robert Muirhead and perhaps five other men purchased the land at the end of Denton Street, across from the old high school football field, for the first Little League teams to play on," Kathleen said. She proudly provided a picture of Charles throwing out the first pitch at a game when he was much older. Later, a group of baseball diamonds were built near Sam Houston Elementary, and the Pony League field was named in honor of Charles. Kathleen also provided a photo of her brother, Roger, Jon's father, probably around age 12, at the plate and taking a mighty swing.

Today Jon and his friends, Trevor Wilhoite and Austin Armstrong, are involved in leading the current leagues, and they share fond memories, as they either played on the same teams or on competing teams throughout their youth. "We played from the first T-ball leagues until we aged out of what was then known as Pony League," Trevor related. "The kids who played in my generation were often coached by their fathers, just as our fathers were coached by our grandfathers. Now, we are involved as volunteers either as board members or coaches or as umpires or working in the concession stand."

Jon's first year in T-shirt league was 1997, playing for the Blue Jays, but later he and Trevor were on the same team, the Gold Sox. "We were turning double plays as 7- and 8-year-olds. We won first place that year," he recalled with a wry smile. Austin was on the Gray Sox, one of the teams they beat on the way to the championship.

BASEBALL

— By Bill Smith

Legacy



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One of the traditions that had slipped away before the current leadership team was in place was awarding a free snow cone to a kid who retrieved a foul ball that might otherwise have been lost in the tall grass and mesquite trees that grew just beyond the bleachers at the old field on Denton Street. The tradition has been reinstated, though there is not much chance of a ball being lost in the fields at Bluebonnet Park, where games are played today, due to the well-maintained landscape. But the kids who are not participating in the current game on the field still smile when they get the free snow cone!

Jon, Trevor and Austin constantly mentioned others who have been involved in Little League over the years and the continuity that is generational. Trevor said, "Pete Monreal was president of the league in 1992. He continues to umpire games, and his son, Kellan, is the head baseball coach at EHS. Dusty Boggan played and is an umpire today. Tony Armstrong coached Austin 'all the way up.' Mary Oats is a scorekeeper, and her kids play in the league. Jon coached softball, and we have a team picture with my daughter, Eleanor, and his daughter, Olivia, on the team he coached."



Ryan Cohen is another friend of Ennis Little League who could not contain his praise for the concessions that Ennis Little League offers. "I have been to a lot of parks in Texas, and Ennis is hands-down the best!" he exclaimed. Everyone agreed, saying leagues from other towns have made the same comments when they come to Ennis for tournaments. Jon added that he had cooked literally thousands of hot dogs during tournaments. Trevor pointed out that Norma and Lupe Martinez are still working the concession stands today, and he can recall them working the concessions at the Sam Houston fields many years ago.

For the past couple of years, the leagues have held the big Trick or Treat

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at the Park event. It provides a safe place for the children of Ennis to trick-or-treat, and last year, over 20 local merchants participated by sponsoring a booth. The league also provides concessions during the event.

The goal of the Ennis Baseball Association is to provide recreational youth baseball for the children of Ennis, and the leadership makes it clear that it is all about the kids. "We have scholarships available for kids if they need them to play. If a kid wants to play, we will make it happen. There is an application to complete, and we are really happy that we were able to give 113 scholarships last year," Trevor indicated. "We believe we are helping with player development for future EHS players.

"There are select teams and kids can play travel ball if they want to, but we really try to provide opportunities for them to play against great competition here," Trevor continued. "We have tournaments that have over 70 teams here on a weekend. Our last tournament had 86 teams. Another thing we did recently was affiliate with the Texas Teenage Baseball/Softball Association. One of the attractive things about that affiliation is it allows some of our teams to go into playoff games at the end of the season, possibly even going to the state tournament."

The league is growing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was down to fewer than 400 kids. "Last year, we had over 700, and we hope to see another 20 percent increase this year, but 1,000 kids playing ball would be a great milestone to reach," Trevor envisioned. "We have an opening ceremony at the start of the season with all of the kids on the field in their uniforms. The bigger, the better!"

Ennis Little League Baseball and Softball has been around for a long time now, and the legacy continues. Play ball! **NOW**

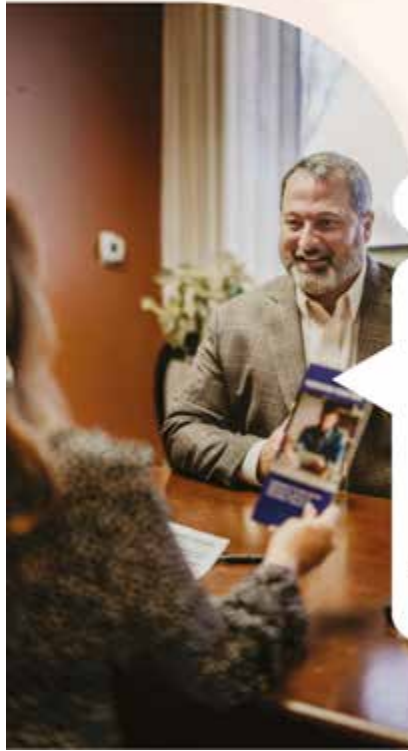


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FOR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens of Ennis,

We are excited to extend our enthusiastic support and endorsement for Bill Honza as the next Mayor of Ennis. Bill's dedication to our community has been evident throughout his tenure on the City Commission for Ward 5 since 2016.

Under his support and leadership, Ennis has experienced remarkable growth and progress. Bill's proactive approach has helped to attract major businesses like Buc-ee's and Freshpet and he has voted time and again to approve tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements.

Bill's unwavering support for our police and fire departments is commendable. He has consistently advocated for resources and funding, ensuring the safety and security of our residents. Additionally, his focus on enhancing our quality of life is evident in his efforts to upgrade our parks, including the upcoming construction of the Tim Gauna Discovery Park and our future aquatic center.

Beyond his role on the commission, Bill's involvement in various civic organizations showcases his dedication to the prosperity of Ennis. As Vice-President of the Main Street Board and Executive Director of the EISD Education Foundation, he has demonstrated his commitment to community development and educational excellence.

Furthermore, Bill and his family's extensive volunteer work, including their active participation in city festivals and community events, underscores their deep-rooted commitment to Ennis. His wife, Cindy, is a long-time educator with Ennis ISD and currently serves as Principal at Crockett ECC. They are both tireless champions of our school district.

As we reflect on the positive changes and growth in our city, we take comfort in knowing that Bill Honza has been an integral part of our success story. With his proven leadership, experience, and unwavering dedication, we are confident that Bill will continue to serve Ennis with excellence as Mayor. We proudly endorse him for this crucial role and urge our fellow citizens to join us in supporting Bill Honza for Mayor.

With warm regards,

Mayor Angie Juenemann

Jake Holland, Mayor Pro Tem

Rowdy Pruitt, City Commissioner Ward 1

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— By Bill Smith



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Cynthia Dry is the chief nursing officer at Ennis Regional Medical Center, and as one visits with her, it is clear there is no place she would rather be. “While I have only been in this position for six months, I had been with Kindred Healthcare, one of the two prior companies that merged to form ScionHealth, for six years. ERM was formerly a part of LifePoint, the company that merged with Kindred to form ScionHealth. I loved working with Kindred, and when this

position became available in Ennis, I was happy to take it,” Cynthia said.

Originally from San Antonio, Cynthia completed her undergraduate work at The University of Texas at San Antonio before beginning to work in microbiology and pathology at a hospital there. She learned of a family nurse practitioner program at Syracuse University that would provide the opportunity for her to complete her graduate degree, so she moved to New York for a while. She recalled, “When I moved up there, I didn’t even own a winter coat!”

After completing her master’s thesis, she quickly returned to Texas and spent eight years in the northern Metroplex before moving to ERM. “This hospital is dedicated to serving the Ennis community,” she continued. “We work closely with the school district to provide vaccines and physicals. The city is a partner with us, and we work closely with City Manager Marty Nelson and have an established relationship with the city employees and their insurance coverage.”

In December 2023, the hospital announced its new partnership with Integrative Emergency Service (IES).

The announcement included, “Our commitment to community trust is at the forefront of this partnership, and we believe that together with IES, we can define exceptional patient care in our community.”

Cynthia continued, “While the hospital has its own quality matrix that they review with their service partners, IES also has their own matrix that they are happy to share with the hospital. We believe this created a better continuity of care, and it is a very ‘hands-on’ approach to health care.

They partner with us in their education component, which frankly, we were not expecting. They do a lot of training with their physicians and nurse practitioners, and they have invited all of the local physicians to participate with them. We also want our ER patients to be able to obtain their follow-up care with local physicians. We can help the patient schedule those appointments.”

ScionHealth expects local hospital leaders to be involved in the community, and ERMC is often represented at local events. It has also been a major sponsor of activities in the community. The hospital hosts blood drives, and the ERMC website describes Friends of ERMC as “a long-established membership club for those aged 55 and over that gives its members access to a variety of benefits such as educational seminars, fitness and wellness opportunities, social gatherings and health screenings.” Cynthia added, “Our employees understand how important community involvement is, and they just do it.”

The list of services offered by the hospital is long, and includes cardiac rehabilitation, digestive health, digital mammography, orthopedics and sports medicine, radiology, stroke care and surgical services, in addition to the services previously mentioned. Cynthia noted that the hospital recently welcomed a new general surgeon, Dr. Abdul Shakoob Badr.

Cynthia related that the search is underway for the new hospital administrator. Local physicians and city leaders are involved in the interview process and meeting the potential candidates. She emphasized how much the community needs ERMC and how much it wants to partner with all of the Ennis community. **NOW**

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- Virginia Woolf

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SCAN ME



Zoomed In: Reyna and Laura Howard

By Bill Smith

The Howard family moved from California to Ennis about 5 years ago, and they love being here. “My husband retired, and we were looking for a slower pace than we had in California. Ennis has been a pleasant place to live,” Laura offered. “I am a life-skills paraprofessional with the school district. We bring some of our special needs students to work here at Bluebonnet Spirit Shop.

Reyna is a senior at EHS and works part time at the shop but is really looking forward to her next step beyond high school. “I will be playing softball at a junior college in Kansas next year,” she related. “I haven’t decided on a major, but my favorite subjects are science and history.”



Kacie Tiner prepares greenery for a wedding at Thistle + Sage Floral.



Aaron and Kamisha Woods attend the Chamber of Commerce Mardi Gras fundraiser.



EHS students Mckinzie Orduno, Wyatt Mitschke and Ethan Padillo are VASE state qualifiers for their art projects.



Shaun Fones prepares another great burger at Tom’s Food Market.



Hadley Ann Todisco celebrates her first week with parents, Dalas and Hanna Todisco.



EHS Choir Director Jason Gadbery and four of his students bring the Lions Club program.



Lasherria Brooks watches as Lynnashia Brooks signs to play college basketball at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

LISA WALKER

— By Bill Smith

Lisa Walker loves her collection of cookbooks, but admitted, “I learned to cook from my mother and grandmothers. They were all wonderful cooks. My late husband was my inspiration and biggest fan. He loved my cooking and never missed a chance to compliment me and ask for seconds!”

“I have had my share of kitchen disasters over the years, but the biggest one was when I tried a healthy recipe for homemade zucchini-crust pizza. It was terrible, and my family never let me live it down!”

In the kitchen while teaching her children and grandchildren to cook is a place where memories are made for Lisa. “I love teaching them to cook, and several of them share my love of cooking. Passing down old family recipes and the stories that go with them is always fun!” **NOW**

internal temperature reaches 150 F

3. Remove from the oven; let the meat rest for 20-30 minutes.

4. While the meat is resting, add the remaining ingredients to a large slow cooker.

5. Once the meat has cooled, slice it against the grain into paper-thin slices. I use an electric meat slicer, but an electric knife will also work. Add the sliced meat to the slow cooker; set the temperature to low and the timer for 6-8 hours.

6. Serve on lightly toasted baguettes or Bolillo rolls, with a small cup of au jus on the side for dipping. Add giardiniera pickled vegetables on top, if desired.

Big Al's Chicago-Style Italian Beef

1 Tbsp. salt
 1 Tbsp. pepper
 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
 1 Tbsp. onion powder
 1 5-lb. bottom round roast
 8 cups Better Than Bouillon Roasted Beef Base
 5 Tbsp. Italian seasoning

1/2 16-oz. jar whole Greek pepperoncini peppers including the juice, or more to taste
 Baguettes or Bolillo rolls
 Giardiniera pickled vegetables, to taste (optional)

1. Mix the salt, pepper, garlic powder and onion powder; rub the mixture onto the roast.
2. Place the roast in a roasting pan; cover it loosely with foil. Bake at 325 F until the

Oklahoma Brown Candy

As with all homemade candies, best results are achieved on very low humidity days.

1/2 cup butter, plus enough to butter a baking pan
 6 cups white sugar (divided use)
 2 cups heavy cream
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 4 cups walnuts, roughly chopped

1. Butter a 9x13-inch baking pan; set aside.
2. Combine 4 cups sugar and the cream in a large, heavy-bottomed pan; set aside.
3. Pour the remaining 2 cups of sugar into a large, heavy skillet (I use a cast-iron skillet.) Over medium heat, stirring constantly, begin melting the sugar.
4. Begin heating the sugar and cream mixture over low heat, stirring occasionally.
5. Continue cooking and stirring the sugar in the skillet until completely melted and a rich, caramel color. Be careful not to let it get too dark or it will taste bitter.
6. Pour the melted sugar very slowly, in a thin stream, into the simmering sugar/cream mixture, stirring constantly and quickly. Two cooks are better than one for this step.
7. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, but do not scrape the sides of the pan. Let the temperature reach 248 F on a candy thermometer, or until a small amount of syrup dropped into very cold water forms a ball that holds its shape but is still very sticky when pressed with your fingers.
8. Remove from the heat; stir in the baking soda. (The mixture will foam).
9. Drop the butter into the foaming mixture; let it cool without stirring for 30 minutes.
10. Stir in the vanilla with a wooden spoon; continue to stir vigorously until the mixture loses its gloss, 10 to 15 minutes.
11. Fold in the walnuts; quickly turn the candy into the prepared 9x13-inch dish.
12. Let cool; cut into 1-inch pieces. Store at room temperature in a tightly closed container. A perfect batch will be melt-in-your mouth creamy and have a deep, rich caramel flavor.

Patsy's Pecan Tassies

Piecrust:

- 8 oz. Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese, softened**
1 cup butter, cold and cut into cubes
2 cups all-purpose flour
Water (if needed)

Pie Filling:

- 3 eggs**
1 cup Dark Karo Corn Syrup
1 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups pecans, finely chopped
Nonstick cooking spray

1. For crust: In a food processor, mix the cream cheese and butter.
2. Add the flour, a little at a time, pulsing after each addition. If the dough is too crumbly, add a tiny bit of water.
3. When the dough has come together, wrap it in plastic wrap and chill while making the pie filling.
4. For filling: Preheat the oven to 350 F.
5. Whisk the eggs together; add the corn

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syrup, sugar, melted butter and vanilla. Mix well; stir in the pecans.

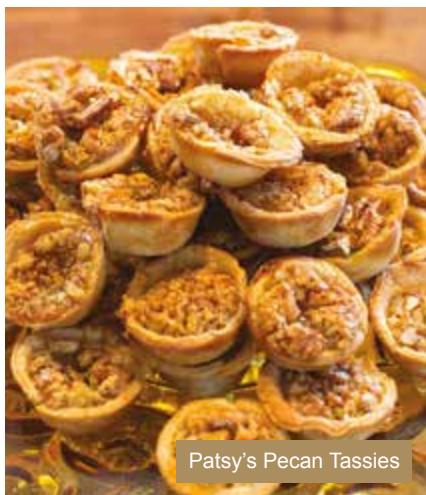
6. Spray a 24-cup mini-muffin pan with nonstick spray.

7. Roll out the dough on a floured surface; use a small, round cookie cutter to cut out circles that are a little larger than the muffin pan cups.

8. Press a circle of dough down into each muffin cup. (Dough should reach the top of the muffin cup.)

9. Using a small cookie scoop, add pie filling to each cup. Be careful not to overfill.

10. Bake at 350 F for 12-13 minutes. They are done when the crust is golden brown.



Patsy's Pecan Tassies

Grandma Walker's Pepper Steak

3 lbs. stew meat

2 green bell peppers, chopped into bite-size pieces

1 #3 can (51 oz.) stewed tomatoes

1 #3 can (51 oz.) tomato sauce

3 cups beef broth

2 tsp. salt

2 tsp. garlic powder

2 Tbsp. onion powder

1. Lightly brown the stew meat; drain the excess fat.

2. Add the remaining ingredients; cook over medium heat until the meat is very tender.

3. Serve over mashed potatoes or rice.

Nana's Chicken Salad

I enjoy this as a dip with Fritos, but it is also great for sandwiches.

1 whole chicken, boiled

2 ribs celery

1 large apple, peeled

1/2 cup pecans

1 tsp. salt

1/2 cup Miracle Whip, or more to taste

1. Remove the skin and bones from the chicken. Run the meat through a meat grinder (or use a food processor, pulsing until it is of a "ground" consistency.)

2. Chop the celery, apple and pecans extra fine.

3. Mix together; add the salt and Miracle Whip, using just enough to allow the ingredients to hold together.

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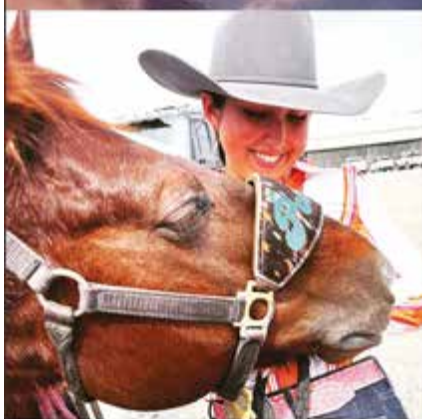
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Hurricane Ian brought winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and a storm surge of about 14 feet in September 2022. The damage to Fort Myers Beach, Florida, was devastating, but just 100 days after the storm, news anchors were reporting that the community was “bouncing back.” A more recent news interview with Sanibel Mayor Richard Johnson indicated that recovery is taking place, as evidenced by the bridges that have been rebuilt, but there is still a long way to go. While there is a tremendous challenge ahead, the climate beckons visitors, and other attractions and beaches in the area continue to draw vacationers to southwest Florida.

The Fort Myers area has been known for its shelling for many years, and while some beaches may remain closed, there are other beaches in the area that offer much of the same experience. Tigertail Beach on Marco Island is about an hour away and offers white sand with shelling, bird-watching and great sunsets.

A trip to Fort Myers would not be complete without a visit to the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. The two great inventors and innovators of the late 19th and early 20th centuries had vacation homes in Fort Myers, and they are

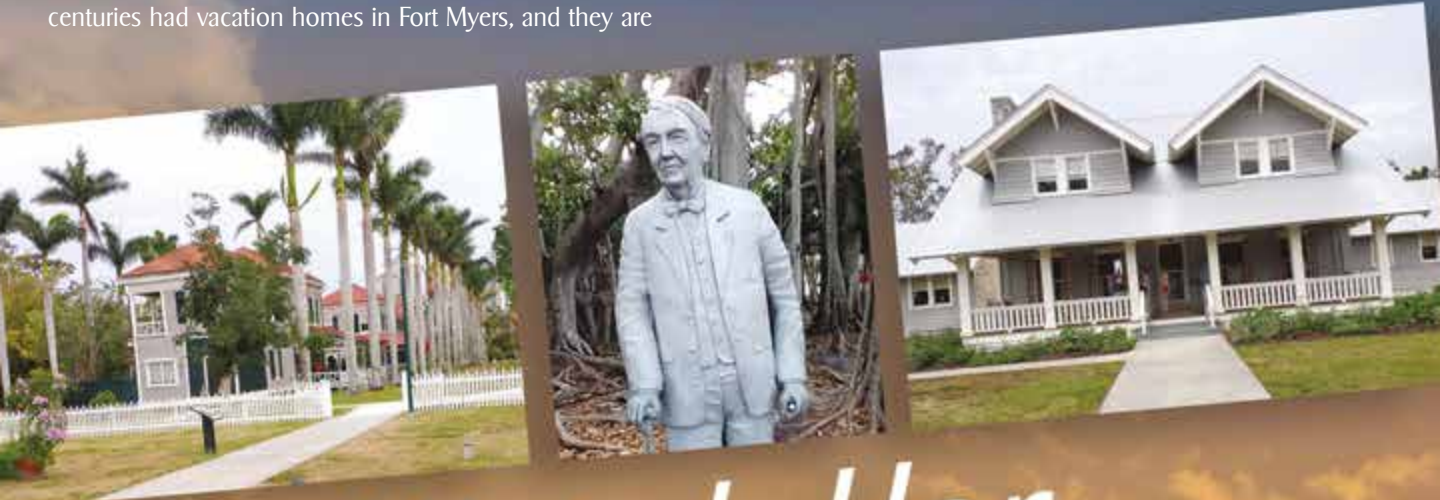
well worth the time and tickets to view and explore.

When Edison traveled to Florida in search of a place with warmer weather than his northeastern home offered in the winter of 1885, the population of Fort Myers was about 350 citizens. (A recent census reported 95,949, but the county population is over 820,000.) He purchased 13 acres for \$2,750 and drew plans for his winter home, including guest and servant quarters, a laboratory and extensive gardens. Edison named the home Seminole Lodge and was visited by friends Henry Ford and Herbert Hoover, as well as many other well-known names of the period.

Ford and Edison’s friendship began with Ford working for Edison at the Detroit Edison Illuminating Company in the 1890s. Ford visited Seminole Lodge in 1914, and a couple of years later, he purchased the estate adjacent to Edison’s. The Ford estate was known as Mangoes and still includes a citrus orchard. The estate’s website indicates that Ford made it a point to visit his winter home on one significant day each year — February 11th — Edison’s birthday.

Both of the estates have large, comfortable rooms with huge porches. You can just imagine these great men and their families enjoying their time on the front porch watching a few of Ford’s Model T and Model A vehicles pattering down a dirt road in front of the estates.

Just across that road, which is now a nicely paved two-lane street, is the site of the museums that display the prolific work of these brilliant men. Examples of Edison’s many inventions are displayed throughout the museum, as well as perfectly restored Ford automobiles dating back to the Model T. The grounds are complete with larger-than-life statues of the men, and Edison’s laboratories and darkroom are replicated in the museum.



*Watch Her
Bounce Ba*

If one is interested in the flora and fauna that is native to southern Florida, a visit to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve offers an interpretive center, as well as guided or self-guided tours. A boardwalk of over 1 mile circles through the slough, giving visitors the opportunity to view Otter Pond, Gator Lake and Wood Duck Pond. While these ponds are prominent with landing areas that allow visitors to pause and view the plants and wildlife, stay alert along the boardwalk, as the slough is teeming with a variety of native creatures.

There is no doubt that Fort Myers and its beautiful beaches are building back from the destruction left by the hurricane. Southwest Florida is still a worthy vacation destination and has a lot to offer the savvy traveler. **NOW**

Sources:

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— By Bill Smith

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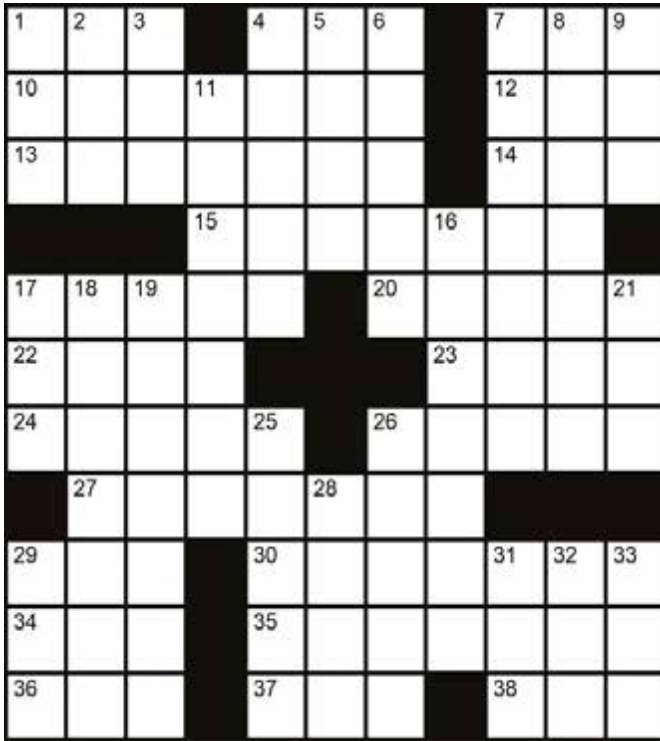
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- 7 Prior night
- 10 William Faulkner novelette
- 12 Stat!
- 13 Souvenir
- 14 Be recumbent
- 15 Like the Baal Shem Tov
- 17 Challenger
- 20 "The Stepford Wives" author
- 22 Sch. of higher learning
- 23 Noted car collector
- 24 Art supporter?
- 26 Sudden pains
- 27 Flippant fellow
- 29 Automated performer of computer tasks
- 30 Way in
- 34 Indignation
- 35 Cared to restyle style
- 36 Uneven?
- 37 Scale divs.
- 38 In fourth grade, perhaps

Down

- 1 Now, in textspeak
- 2 Yonder lass
- 3 Drape edge
- 4 Kidney-related
- 5 Mares and does eat them
- 6 Grill
- 7 Animate
- 8 Adjusting an organ
- 9 Animal you heard on the farm
- 11 Conducts oneself
- 16 Depressing word on an arrival board
- 17 Road in Reims
- 18 Briefly
- 19 Called upon
- 21 Figures
- 25 OK with the cops
- 26 Strokes on the green
- 28 Attire
- 29 Short life story
- 31 Moisten
- 32 Very skilled person
- 33 Hither and ---

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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Consider Family Meeting to Discuss Estate Plans

At some point, you'll want to share your estate plans with your loved ones — and the first step in this process may be to hold a family meeting. The best time to hold this meeting is when you're still in good mental and physical shape, and the enactment of your estate plans may well be years away. But what topics should you cover?

Consider these main areas:

· *Your wishes — and those of your family.* Use this meeting to introduce your estate plans and, in a basic sense, what you hope to accomplish with them — leave money to your family, support charitable groups and so on. You'll want to emphasize that you want to be equitable in what you leave behind, but there may be issues that affect this decision, such as disparities in income between grown children or an allowance for a special-needs child. But you'll also want to listen to what your family members want — and you might be surprised at what they tell you. Consider this: More than 80 percent of the millennial generation would rather know their parents are financially secure throughout their retirement, even if this means that their parents will pass on less money to them, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study.

· *Estate planning documents.* At the time of your family meeting, you may or may not have already created your estate planning documents, but in either case, this would be a good time to discuss them. These documents may include a will, a living trust, financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney and possibly other

arrangements. At a minimum, you'd like to give a general overview of what these documents mean, but at an initial family meeting, you don't necessarily have to get too detailed. For example, you might not want to talk about specific inheritances. This is also an opportunity to inform your loved ones of the professionals involved in your estate plans, such as your attorney and your tax advisor.

· *Roles of everyone involved.* Not only does a comprehensive estate plan involve moving parts, such as the necessary documents, but it also includes actual human beings who may need to take on different roles. You will need an executor for your will and, if you have a living trust, you'll need a trustee. Even if you choose to serve as the initial trustee, you'll still need to identify one or more successor trustees to take your place if you become incapacitated, or upon your death. Plus, you'll need to name people to act as your power of attorney for health care and finances. Choosing the right people for these roles involves thought and sensitivity. Obviously, you want individuals who are competent and reliable, but you also need to be aware that some family members could feel slighted if others are assigned roles they feel they could do. By being aware of these possible conflicts, you can be better prepared to address them.

Here's one more suggestion: Let your family know that this initial meeting doesn't mean the end of communications about your estate plans. Encourage your loved ones to contact you with questions whenever they want. You may need to hold additional family meetings in the future, but by laying the initial groundwork, you will have taken a big first step in establishing the legacy you'd like to leave. **NOW**

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Hello, Spring

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.

APRIL

4/1-4/30

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails:

Join thousands of visitors and enjoy over 40 miles of trails. Every spring volunteers will drive all of the roads and report where the bluebonnets are blooming, so maps will be available for visitors. For more information, see bluebonnettrail.org or visitennis.org.

4/4

Ennis Retired School Personnel Meeting:

Program will be about city transportation for seniors. 11:00 a.m. in the Ennis ISD board room. Lunch after the meeting at Daniel's Restaurant in Ennis. For more information, email EnnisRSPA@gmail.com.

4/4-4/8

Camp Cosmico:

This event includes drag races, a lantern festival and an eclipse festival. Tickets are available for single or multiple events. The Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287. Call (972) 878-2641 or visit www.texasmotorplex.com for event and ticket information.

4/8

Downtown Solar Eclipse Watch Party:

Enjoy live music, food trucks, kids' activities and totality!

10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Visit eclipseoverennis.com for more information on viewing sites and when the various stages of the eclipse will begin and end.

Ennis Chamber of Commerce Solar Eclipse Watch Party:

Food trucks and entertainment. Various prices. KJT #35, 1216 S. Paris St. Options available for parking spots, tent camping and RV camping. Visit www.ennis-chamber.com for more details or email jennifer@ennis-chamber.com.

4/12-4/28

The Secret Garden:

Performances on **Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, 4/28: 2:30 p.m.**, Theatre Rocks!, 505 NW Main St. For tickets, visit <https://www.theatrerocks.com>.

4/13

Relay for Life of Ellis County:

Participant, survivor and team registration open at www.relayforlife.org/ennistx. 4:00 p.m.-midnight, Ennis Veterans Memorial Park, 2301 Ennis Pkwy. Contact Angela Jones at ajones@polyguard.com or relayforlifeofennistx@yahoo.com for more information.

4/19

Bling Bang Bash Designer

Bag Bingo & Gun Raffle:

Join CASA of Ellis County and the Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center for our 4th annual event. Note that guests must be at least 21 years old to participate in bingo games. Catered dinner and drinks, silent and live auctions and more. Admission: \$100. 6:00 p.m., SOKOL Hall, 1622 TX-34. For more details, visit <https://2024BBB.givesmart.com>.

4/19-4/21

Bluebonnet Trails Festival:

Enjoy live music, arts and crafts vendors, tasty food and drinks and kids' activities on the streets of downtown Ennis. Adults: \$5; children under 12: free. **Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**; **Sunday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.** Purchase tickets at the gate only.

4/26-4/28 and 5/2-5/4:

The Curious Savage:

Recommended for ages 13 plus. Mrs. Savage is sent to a sanatorium by her stepchildren. 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday, 4/28: 2:30 p.m.**, Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas Street. For tickets, visit <https://ennispublictheatre.com>.

Tuesdays

Rotary Club of Ennis Meeting:

Lunch, club business and

program. Noon, First United Methodist Church, 300 N. Sherman St.

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge #369 Meeting:

7:00 p.m., 209 North Dallas St.

First Thursdays

Sip, Shop & Stroll:

Come enjoy some sips, bites and special deals with our wonderful downtown merchants. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Ennis. Call the Ennis Welcome Center at (972) 878-4748 for more information.

Saturdays

Ennis Bluebonnet Market:

Come see the variety of fresh produce, handcrafted items and unique products from area farmers, craftsmen, artists and specialty vendors. 8:00 a.m.-noon, downtown on North Dallas Street. For more information, visit <https://ennistx.com/choose-ennis/farmers-market>.

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

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