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M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2022

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Parks Progress

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Keeping Ennis Beautiful

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In the Kitchen With Betty Macalik

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Crossword/Sudoku

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ON THE COVER

*Olivia and Samuel Zmolik
dance in downtown Ennis.*

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
EnnisNOW Editor
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Enjoy what's coming up . . .

May is a month of expectation. Baseball is in full swing (no pun intended), and professional teams are jockeying for position to reach the World Series. Our local Little League and high school teams are just as entertaining, and you don't have to follow them all the way to October to see which team finishes at the top. I've had great fun attending a few college games as well.

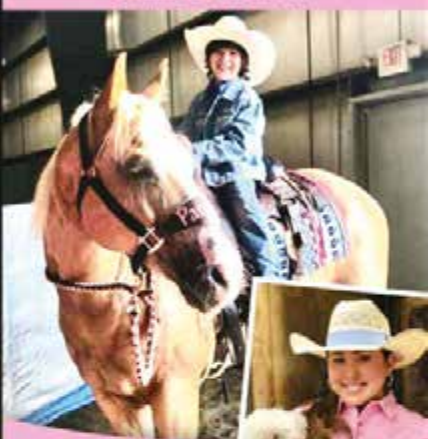
If you are looking for some outdoor activity that does not require joining a team, perhaps tennis is your racquet (yeah, I did that on purpose, pun intended), or maybe just taking a walk or a jog during this most inviting time of year. Not too many years ago, in May I would be working toward peak performance on my bicycle, so I would be ready for the 100-mile Hotter'N Hell ride in Wichita Falls. These days the stationary bike in the spare bedroom is all of the speed I need.

One thing I am looking forward to this year is spending more outdoor time in our local parks. There has been a lot of growth in our local parks during the last few years, and there is more to come. I really like the additions that have been made to the walking trails, some might say the "linear parks."

So, let's get out there and enjoy some sunshine. Go for a walk, have a picnic or take your kids or grandkids out and watch them play at the splash park. Get involved in summer recreation.

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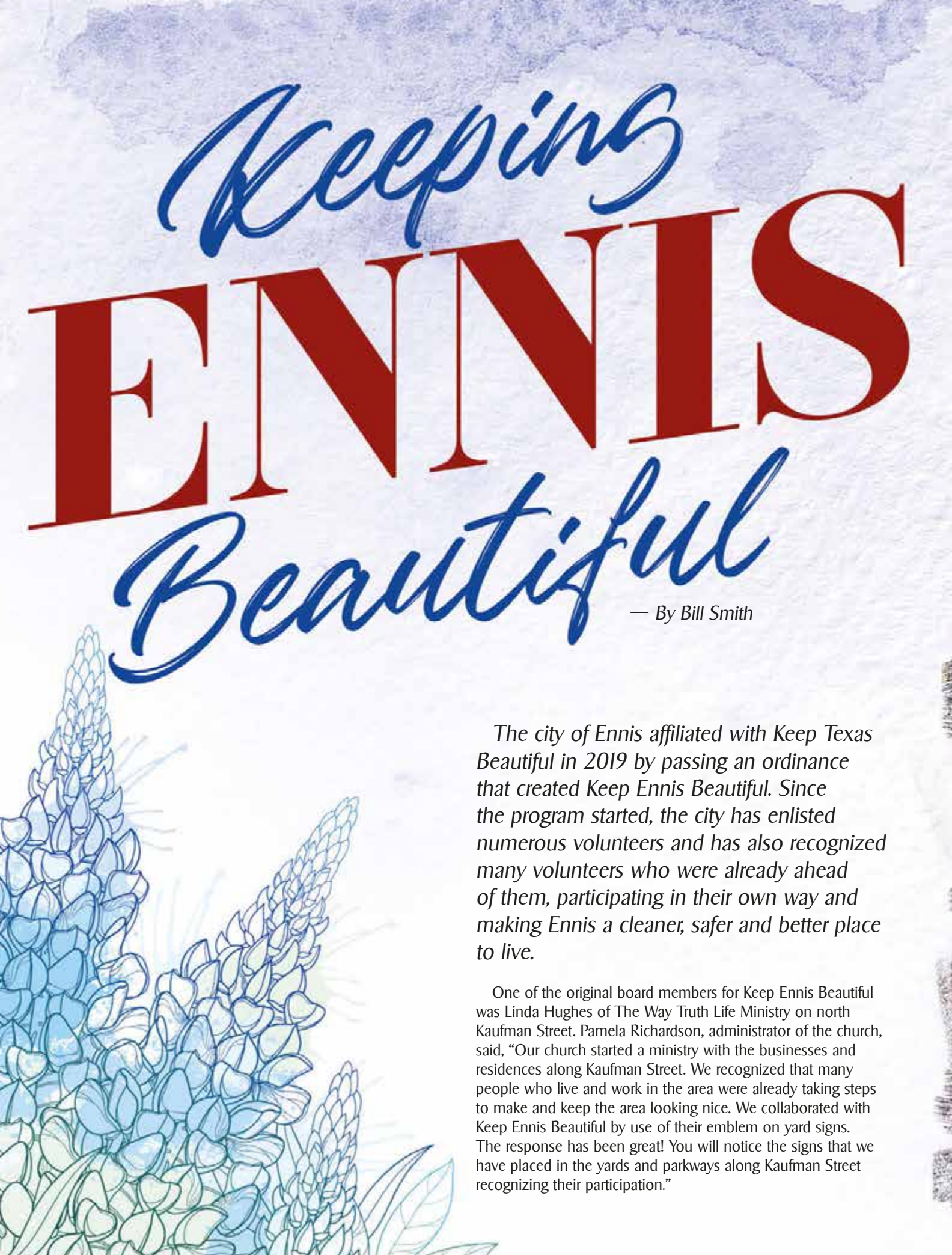
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Keeping **ENNIS** *Beautiful*

— By Bill Smith

The city of Ennis affiliated with Keep Texas Beautiful in 2019 by passing an ordinance that created Keep Ennis Beautiful. Since the program started, the city has enlisted numerous volunteers and has also recognized many volunteers who were already ahead of them, participating in their own way and making Ennis a cleaner, safer and better place to live.

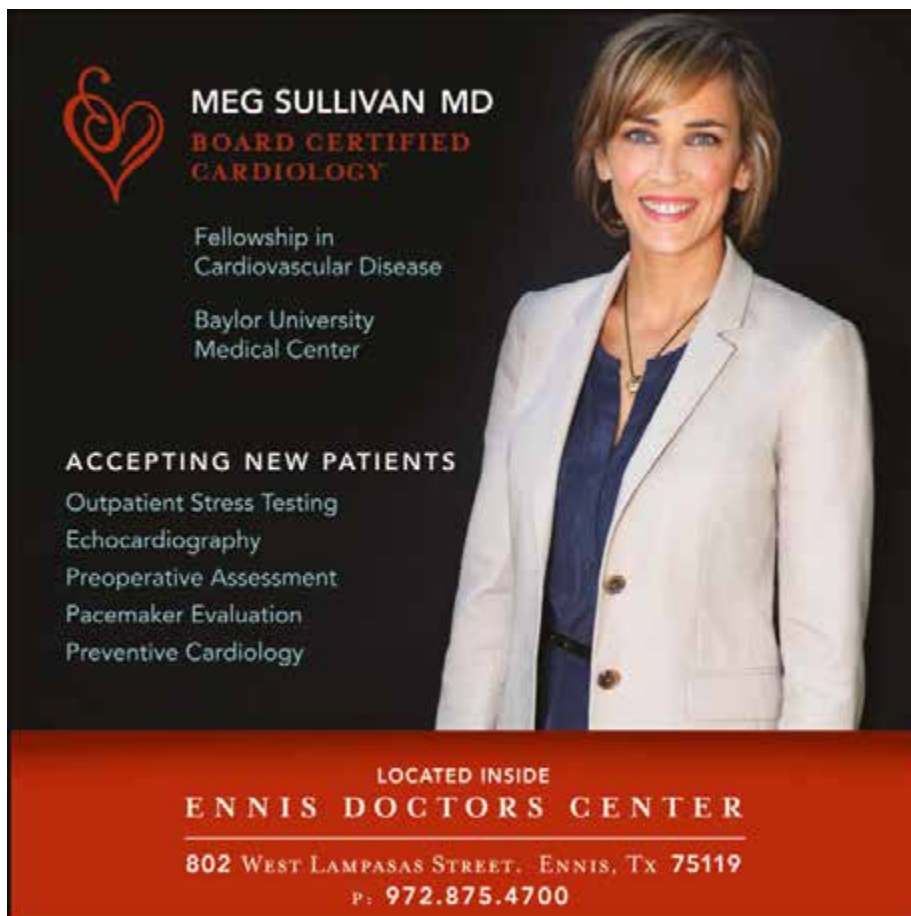
One of the original board members for Keep Ennis Beautiful was Linda Hughes of The Way Truth Life Ministry on north Kaufman Street. Pamela Richardson, administrator of the church, said, "Our church started a ministry with the businesses and residences along Kaufman Street. We recognized that many people who live and work in the area were already taking steps to make and keep the area looking nice. We collaborated with Keep Ennis Beautiful by use of their emblem on yard signs. The response has been great! You will notice the signs that we have placed in the yards and parkways along Kaufman Street recognizing their participation."

Ginger Gonzales is the director of Keep Ennis Beautiful and was instrumental in promoting the ordinance that helped shape the organization. Today, she serves alongside a seven-member board of directors. "The city has done a great job for years cleaning up downtown each night after the festivals. Several years ago, I remarked at the end of the day that it looked like a trash-bomb had exploded, but by morning everything was all picked up. One of the things we are doing is making people more aware of the opportunities they have to do their part to keep our city clean." In addition to the board of directors, there is also a youth advisory committee.

The Keep Ennis Beautiful website landing page says, "A community will only be as beautiful as the people who live in it and love it. Driven by the work and passion of volunteers and the support of our elected officials, city staff, local businesses and individuals, we work to inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify our community." The website also proudly explains that Ennis was a Gold Star Affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful in both 2020 and 2021.

The Way Truth Life Ministry and its members are just a part of the active volunteers who work throughout the year, but because of their location on Kaufman Street, they are in the heart of the Kaufman Development District, which was identified in the city's comprehensive plan as an area needing special attention to realize its full economic potential. The district was created by city





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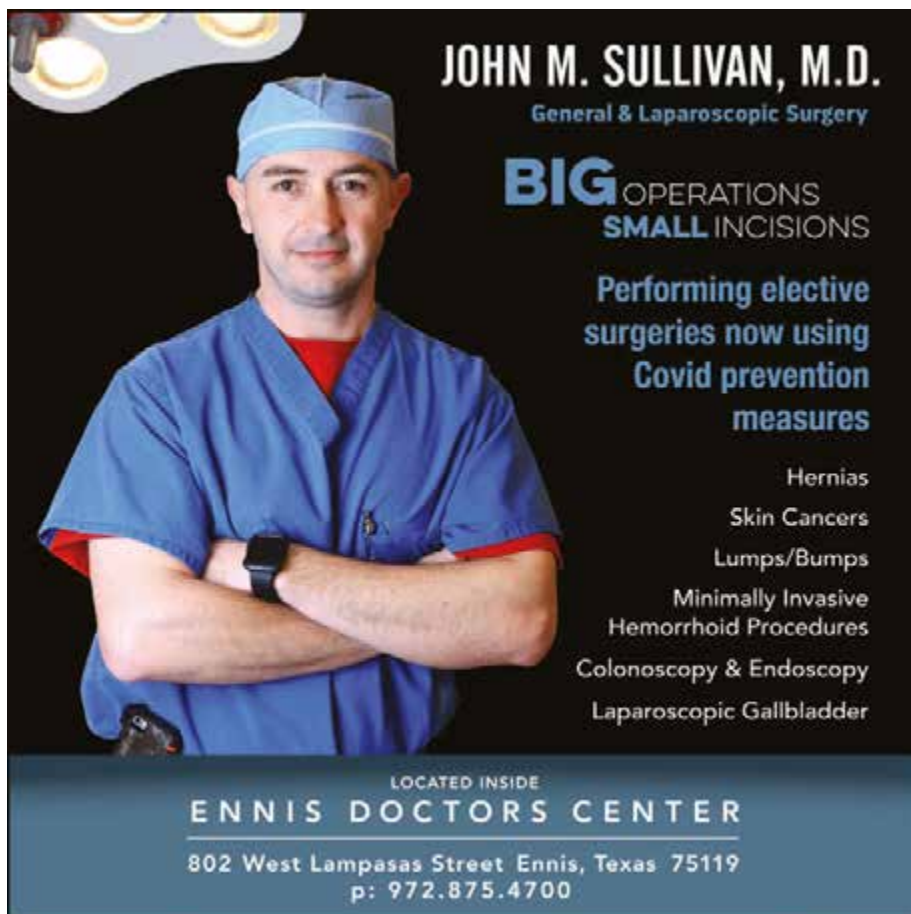
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ordinance in 2016 and has authorized economic development agreements including a Kaufman Facade Grant Program that provides a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$7,500. The church adopted the highway as part of the Texas Department of Transportation program but has gone further in their efforts by getting signed commitments from residents and businesses to keep their frontage free of debris and support one another to preserve property values and ignite social and economic investment in the community.

Pamela mentioned a few of the businesses along Kaufman Street that participate in the effort. Ennis Veterinary Clinic, Burger King, Big E Tire Shop, Cal's Barber Shop, Animal Hospital of Ennis, Family Dollar, Kwick-Pick Grocery, Kevin's Auto Detail Shop and Able's Mini Storage are just a few of the active members. "In 2019, we started knocking on every door from Burger King to Ennis Veterinary Clinic. Like I said, many of them had already been doing what we were going to ask and were happy to sign the commitment, but they have also been happy to be recognized as we place our Keeping Ennis Beautiful sign in front of their property."

Many other volunteers work to keep the city beautiful as well. The Ennis Host Lions Club members can be seen at least monthly gathering trash at Lions Park. Dr. Puckett's office has adopted Kiwanis Park. Camp Gladiator works to keep Rotary Park clean. Foundation of Life Church can be found working at Lake Clark Park, and the list continues with only one park in the city left for adoption, the Ennis Disc Golf Course. Ginger said, "While the city of Ennis Parks and Recreation Department does an outstanding job keeping the Ennis parks clean and maintained, the less time they have to spend picking up trash





gives them more time to create incredible spaces and community programs. We really appreciate the work of all of these employees and volunteers.”

In addition to the work at the parks, volunteers from the EHS National Honor Society may be seen this spring helping to spruce up the downtown area. Of course, the downtown merchants do their part to keep the area attractive for their clients and visitors.

Recent changes in the city’s refuse collection systems have been significant, as everyone in the city now has the blue trash receptacles that can be lifted and emptied mechanically, and by requiring that all trash be in bags, less trash is spilled and blown by the wind. The underground collection system downtown is really state-of-the art and another testimony to the city’s commitment to keeping the town aesthetically pleasing.

Keep Ennis Beautiful emphasizes both local and statewide events. “During the Bluebonnet Market, we enlist volunteers to serve wherever they are in the community by asking them to sign up. We gave them trash pickers, bags and T-shirts for volunteering. We also emphasize the state programs, including Waterways Cleanup in March, Don’t Mess With Texas Trash Off in April, and May is Parks and Trails.”

The commitment of volunteers to this program cannot be recognized enough, but there are also grants and awards available, such as Paint the Town and Love my Lawn. Local merchants participate in these programs that assist property owners. Please visit the Keep Ennis Beautiful website to learn more about these benefits.

Ennis is a beautiful place to visit and live. We can all do our part to keep it that way. There will always be room for more volunteers. **NOW**

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CITY OF ENNIS ROTARY PARK

Parks PROGRESS

— By Bill Smith



Although he was actually born in College Station, Paul Liska considers himself an Ennis native, and he is of the fifth generation of the well-known Liska family. Until a few years ago, he was living here and commuting to Hurst every day. When the chance to become parks director in Ennis presented itself, it was the perfect match. “The opportunity was just right. There was new city leadership, and I was the new city manager’s first hire,” Paul recalled. “About nine months passed between my application and hiring, but it was just because of the transition taking place at city hall.

“I studied sports turf management at Texas A&M. My first job was working at the grass farm between Italy and Avalon. Although I was close to home, the job required a lot of travel. It is much better working here, so I can be home with my family every night.”

The parks in Ennis had begun to grow before Paul came home. He recalled that as a youth, he had played his last year

in Pony League baseball at the new fields at Bluebonnet Park. It was clear when he took the city parks director position that, even though a lot of transition was taking place, much growth was anticipated.

David Casarez joined Paul as recreation manager two years ago after a 20-year career in the U.S. Army, followed by one season working for Texas Rangers Baseball. “I like all kinds of sports,” David offered. “After a time in the infantry, I transitioned to the medical corps in the Army. It gave me more time to spend with recreation. The recreation department was most often a “department of one,” so volunteers were welcome. I had the opportunity to put a lot of activities together, and I had the chance to coach my daughters in the sports they were involved in. I knew I wanted to do something like this when I retired.”

Both men agreed that the progress with parks matches the activity of the city. “We want people to enjoy being active in Ennis. One indication of that is the increase in the length of the walking and jogging paths around Rotary Park and Kiwanis Park,” Paul mentioned.

David referenced some recent programs that exceeded their expectations in the number of participants. “We started the Silver Steppers at Lion’s Park last year just to see if there was any interest. We expected about 10 seniors to participate, but we wound up with 51. It was designed for age 50 and up, but we had some younger members. Of course, we would not turn anyone away,” David said. “Last summer, we also started Ennis KidzFITT for children in K-6th grades. It was at several of the parks, and the goal was to teach some of the proper

components of fitness, such as stretching, exercising and then cooling down properly. It also included completing an obstacle course.”

The Parks and Recreation programs mesh with and support other organizations such as Little League baseball, soccer and football. There is a plan in place partnering with the school district to provide the gymnasium space for the city-sponsored volleyball and basketball leagues. Also, other local fitness buffs joined the city challenge last year to complete a military-style PT test.

David also mentioned the virtual Walk Across Texas Project. He explained, “People sign up to walk ‘virtually’ to a destination. The goal this year was to walk to Luckenbach. There are some distinctly recognizable stops along the way to Luckenbach, such as the suspension bridge in Waco. We had a couple who had completed that distance in their virtual walk, then they drove to Waco and took a selfie of themselves on the bridge. People get engaged and have fun with it.”

Paul said Ennis’ city leadership understands the importance of our parks for making Ennis a well-rounded community. They have committed the resources necessary to fulfill the city’s master plan that was done in 2015, which named parks as a larger priority. “We recently passed a parkland development ordinance, that requires developers to participate in parks construction.” A professionally produced master plan for our parks is currently being created by DTJ Design.

The number of parks projects currently progressing is too large to cover here, but to highlight a few, at Rotary Park there are three new lighted sand volleyball courts, at Roger Maise there are field renovations and ball field lighting, at Bluebonnet a new playground and batting cage complex and at Veterans ongoing field renovations and a screen net to keep balls in the complex.

Watch for signups for city recreation for the summer. Take a drive and see your local parks. Then get out there and enjoy the fresh air! **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Follow the city of Ennis Parks and Recreation Facebook and Instagram pages for more information regarding park programs and updates.

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be constant in prayer." ~ Romans 12:12*

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BusinessNOW

MRG

Construction Services, LLC

— By Bill Smith

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 www.mrgconstructionservices.com
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MRGConstructionServices>
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Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Telephone is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

With more than 23 years of experience in the construction industry, Wes and Hollie Turner opened the office for MRG Construction Services, LLC on Ennis Avenue because they want to have a strong presence in the Ennis community. While Hollie



manages the day-to-day operations in the office, Wes is most often found in the field managing the sales and construction services.

The company website lists a number of services the company offers, and Wes indicated, “We are first and foremost a roofing company. We are able to construct and replace all kinds of roofs, both residential and commercial. We are a preferred contractor for Owens Corning, and we are certified with GAF.”

“We are also proud to be a Roofing Contractors Association of Texas-licensed company. Less than 4 percent of roofing companies in Texas qualify for this license. To be a member requires that we be insured and pass a background check. This is a huge thing for us and for those who trust us with their roofing needs. RCAT also requires that their members have been in business for at least three years, obtain five referrals from within the roofing industry and maintain an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. RCAT has very high standards with our customers in mind.”

Wes and Hollie are originally from Palestine, Texas, and moved to Ellis County in 2010 with their two children, who are in the second and fifth grades. "We want to be part of the community, and we want people to know who we are," Hollie offered. "Being part of the Chamber of Commerce is important to us. We join the booster clubs at the school. We are currently supporting the baseball booster club and will be supporting the football team in the fall."

During the Christmas parade last year, MRG opened their Ennis Avenue office door to the community, offering cookies, koozies and candy canes to their visitors. "We don't know how many people we met that evening, but we gave away 500 koozies, 300 cookies and almost 1,000 candy canes. We want people to feel welcome here, and when they need us, to become our customers."

MRG realizes that sometimes when people need them, it is an emergency situation. "When a roof suffers serious hail damage or is blown off by high winds, we may send as many as 15 guys to get the roof covered and the leaks stopped any time, day or night," Wes explained. "I consider myself an insurance claims specialist. I know something about the benefits included in typical home insurance that may help during times of crises."

Wes also mentioned that MRG replaces standing seam metal roofs, composition roofs, TPO and tar and gravel roofs. "Anything that needs a roof, we can do. When we replace a composition roof, we remove the tar paper and go all the way down to what we call a clean deck. Besides just being a better installation, it gives us the opportunity to inspect the condition of the decking. We also make sure the home attic has proper ventilation, so it can breathe properly."

The showroom at the office on Ennis Avenue includes samples of the products MRG offers. They can also put a picture of a home on a screen and demonstrate what different colors of shingles will look like with the customer's brick and paint.

MRG has a great website and presence on social media, but they really want to get to know the community personally. "Before a big storm comes, we want you to know we are here," Wes emphasized. "Come by our office on Ennis Avenue and let us get to know you." **NOW**

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ADMISSION:

One daily admission includes all participating halls: KJT, SPJST and Sokol.
(Wade Bowen Country Concert admission is additional.)
Tickets available online at www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

Children 12 and under are FREE

Friday, May 27: \$9

Saturday, May 28: \$14

Saturday, May 28: Wade Bowen Country Concert
\$34 / \$29 in Advance

Sunday, May 29: \$11

3-Day: \$30

Downtown Activities: FREE



Historic Downtown Ennis

UPCOMING EVENTS
Spring/Summer 2022

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DOWNTOWN PIVO PAVILION AT THE
NATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL *May 28-29th*

BLUES ON MAIN *June 11-12th*

MAIN STREET MIDWAY *June 22-26th*

FREEDOM FEST
RED WHITE & BIKE PARADE
PARTY IN THE PARK *June 25th*

Download our FREE mobile app, Ennis Y'all and follow us on Facebook facebook.com/ennistx or go to visitennis.org for more information about events and specific dates and times.



THE 2022 CORONA PREMIER NATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE

Sokol (2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis)

SPJST Lodge #25 (1901 E. Ennis Ave., Ennis)

KJT Auditorium (1216 S. Paris St., Ennis)

TIME	EVENT / BAND	PLACE
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022		
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Ennis Czech Boys with Pardubická Muzika	Sokol
9:00 p.m.	King and Queen Dance Contest (sponsored by SPJST Home Office)	Sokol
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022		
10:00 a.m.	Polka Parade	Downtown Ennis
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Czechaholics	KJT Auditorium
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Praha Brothers	Sokol
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Texas Dutchmen with Pardubická Muzika	SPJST Lodge #25
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Texas Sound Check	Downtown Ennis
1:00 p.m.	Kolache Eating Contest (sponsored by KJT Home Office)	Downtown Stage
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Leo Lonnie Orchestra	KJT Auditorium
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Jodie Mikula Orchestra	Sokol
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Dujka Brothers	SPJST Lodge #25
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Street Dance - Happy Players	Downtown Ennis
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Brave Combo	KJT Auditorium
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Moravians	SPJST Lodge #25
9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.	Country Concert - Wade Bowen	Sokol
SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022		
9:00 a.m.	Polka Mass	St John Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	KBEC Polka Party Live Broadcast (10 a.m.- noon): with Leo Lonnie Orchestra	Sokol
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Happy Players	Downtown Ennis
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Pardubická Muzika	KJT Auditorium
1:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Mark Halata & Texavia	Sokol
1:30p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Czech & Then Some / Alex Meixner	KJT Auditorium
9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Brave Combo	KJT Auditorium



Parade in Downtown Ennis

Saturday, May 28, 2022 · Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Floats, bands and colorful costumes will kick-off the downtown festivities. The parade traditionally includes something for visitors of all ages. Enjoy the music of our polka bands riding on decorated floats or the sounds of our award-winning Ennis High School Marching Band.

The Shriners make their annual appearance, as well as celebrities, public officials, motorcycles, horseback riders, clowns, kids and seniors! This giant parade twists through historic downtown Ennis and is sure to please. This year's theme is "Polka Through the Generations."



11th Annual Kolache Eating Contest

Sponsored by KJT Home Office

Saturday, May 28, 2022 · Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

Downtown Stage

Don't miss the annual Kolache Eating Contest! Prizes will be awarded for Men's, Women's, Youth Boy and Youth Girl Individual Champion. Registration Ends: Noon, Friday at the Chamber of Commerce, or noon Saturday at the Downtown Stage.

Dancing Their HERITAGE

— By Bill Smith

When your great-uncle was so well known in the Czech community that everyone knew him by just his first name and middle initial, and he and his wife, Margaret, are known as the originators of the Polka King and Queen Dance Contest at the National Polka Festival in Ennis, the rhythm of the music must become a part of you. Samuel and Olivia Zmolik are a brother-sister duo that continues to celebrate Johnnie I. Krajca's legacy as they swirl effortlessly across dance floors in Ennis and across the state of Texas.

Asked how many Ennis Polka Festivals they have attended, Samuel and Olivia excitedly replied in unison, "All of them!" Their youthful ages belie the exclamation, as the festivals have been celebrated for more than 50 years, and Samuel and Olivia are only 17 and 19 years old. But they have been dancing for about as long as they can remember, and last year they won the title "Polka King and Queen" during the annual contest on Friday evening of the festival.

The dance contest originated in 1987. While Czech costumes are not required to enter the dance contest, the winners are expected to be local ambassadors and wear them for the remainder of the weekend in Ennis. Samuel and Olivia have taken their crowns much further, and have promoted the festival far and wide, wearing their traditional costumes (*krojs*) and dancing polkas, waltzes and line dances across the Lone Star State. Olivia beamed with pride as she mentioned, "My Granny Betty Macalik made the *kroj* that I was wearing when we won the contest, and it includes pieces that were purchased from the Czech Republic by my aunt, Amy Gurley."

"My shirt and vest were also made by Granny," Samuel added. "They make them in different sizes, and we grow into them and pass them around with our uncles, brothers and

cousins. It is fun when we realize we have grown to the point we can wear one that has been handed down."

Samuel and Olivia were both adopted by their parents when they were each 4 days old. "We tell everyone we are three-fourths Czech, even though we are adopted," Samuel stated proudly. He then rolled out a series of Czech words that, while foreign to many of us, would have been understood by many of those who attended the Czech Music Festival in Ennis during February. Olivia said they did not speak Czech in their home, but it was obvious how important their heritage is to both of them.

"We grew up Czech," Samuel offered. "We were both part of the S.P.I.S.T. Youth Club. Besides all the other activities, we decorated a float for the Polka Festival Parade every year while we lived here."

"When we were very young, maybe 4 years old, we would get on the stage with the band and watch people dance," Olivia said.

"We started dancing together at festivals and weddings when we were about 9 or 10 years old," Samuel shared. Johnnie I. encouraged Samuel, saying that one day he would dance in the contest and win. "Johnnie I.'s prediction came true last year when I was 16, the first year I was old enough to enter the contest. We were in the finals. Olivia thought our aunt and uncle, Kimberly and Jerry Petter, would win, but the judges selected us."

The siblings mentioned some of the favorite events they have been able to attend, sometimes together, and sometimes just Samuel, since Olivia started her first year of college at Abilene Christian University. "Westfest is one of our favorites, and we also enjoy St. John's Picnic in Schulenburg, just west of Houston," Samuel continued. "People welcome us wherever we go, and they always ask us to dance." Samuel's smart watch indicated he had danced over 40,000 steps at a recent event. "We like to dance together, and it is pretty easy because we have been doing it for a long time, but we dance with others also. Everyone dances a little differently. We go to some festivals that have more of a German or Polish theme, but much of the music is very similar.

"Wherever we go in Texas, we see many of the same



Photo by
Jina Armstrong Photography.

people, but we meet a lot of new people, also. When we are there in our costumes with the Ennis Polka Festival crowns and sashes, someone may walk up and say they are honored to have us there. It is so cool.”

Olivia is studying chemistry at ACU and has her sights set on eventually going to medical school. Samuel will graduate from high school in Lampasas this year and will be pursuing a degree in global studies in education, also at ACU. Olivia mentioned, “There are not a lot of places to dance polkas around Abilene, so we have to keep coming here and to the other towns that have the halls and festivals.”

Samuel said his favorite type of dance is the waltz, and if he had to pick just one it would be “The Black Gypsy Waltz.” He smiled as he recalled that he shared that with Granny, and she said it had been her mother’s favorite dance. Olivia’s taste turns toward polkas, and she said, “The faster, the better. While it may not really be a ‘polka,’ my favorite song to dance to is ‘Senorita Mas Fina.’ There are a lot of transitions, and some of the bands play it really fast!”

As their year serving as king and queen of the Ennis Polka Festival is drawing to an end, it is clear that being ambassadors for the dance and their heritage is as strong as ever. “I loved meeting all of the new people,” Olivia said.

Samuel agreed. “We’ve loved every second of it!” **NOW**



Photo by Jina Armstrong Photography.

WADE BOWEN COUNTRY CONCERT

Saturday, May 28 · Doors Open 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sokol Hall · 2622 TX-34, Ennis, TX · \$34 / \$29 in advance

Purchase advanced tickets online at www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

Wade Bowen

Twenty years and some 4,000 shows into his career, the name Wade Bowen has become synonymous with Texas country music — and for good reason. An artistic descendant of American icons like Guy Clark, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Robert Earl Keen and more, Bowen is another link in a Texan chain of roots-rock poets stretching back more than 50 years — but his ambition never ended at the state line.

“I will carry that flag proudly,” Bowen says of his Red-Dirt distinction. “But I’ve always said I’m not a ‘Texas artist,’ I’m an artist from Texas, and I think there’s a difference.”

Seen as one of the genre’s finest and most authentic modern voices, Bowen’s approach stays rooted in tradition, but also stands on the creative cutting edge. His focus remains on writing unique songs with a literary quality and shifting his sonic territory to match his life.

Wielding a knack for direct, poetic songwriting that never panders, Bowen matches his gravel-road growl to an organic sound spanning the whole of Texas, tapping both country and rock influences. A dozen albums have shown his sonic diversity — including six studio sets, two live collections, a gospel album and an ongoing series of buddy-country hits with fellow Texan, Randy Rogers.

Along the way, he’s scored hits and accolades based on quality, not quantity, and continues to perform around 200 nationwide shows each year — including multiple appearances on the venerated Grand Ole Opry.





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Sunday – 9:00-11:30 p.m. – KJT Auditorium



Alex Meixner

Sunday – 1:30-8:15 p.m.
KJT Auditorium



Czech and Then Some

Sunday – 1:30-8:15 p.m.
KJT Auditorium



Pardubická Muzika

Friday – 6:00-11:00 p.m. – Sokol
Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – SPJST Lodge #25
Sunday – Noon-1:00 p.m. – KJT Auditorium



Ennis Czech Boys

Friday – 6:00-11:00 p.m.
Sokol



Jodie Mikula Orchestra

Saturday – 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Sokol



Czechaholics

Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
KJT Auditorium



Texas Sound Check

Saturday – Noon-3:30 p.m.
Downtown Ennis



Moravians

Saturday – 8:30 p.m.-midnight
SPJST Lodge #25



Dujka Brothers

Saturday – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
SPJST Lodge #25



Texas Dutchmen

Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
SPJST Lodge #25



The Happy Players

Saturday – 4:00-7:00 p.m. – Downtown Ennis
Sunday – Noon-3:30 p.m. – Downtown Ennis



Mark Halata and Texavia

Sunday – 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Sokol



Leo Lonnie Orchestra

Saturday – 4:00-7:30 p.m. – KJT Auditorium
Sunday – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Sokol



Praha Brothers

Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
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POLKA FESTIVAL

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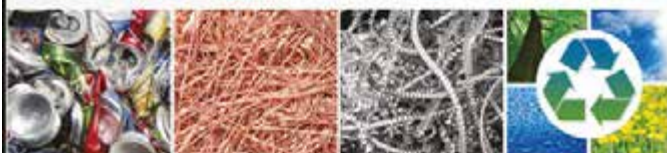


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Polka Prince Troy Glen and Polka Princess Clarissa Alexander with the 2021 King and Queen, Samuel and Olivia Zmolik.

35th King and Queen Dance Contest

Sponsored by SPJST Home Office

Friday, May 27, 2022 · Sokol Hall

Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.

Dance Contest Registration Ends: 8:30 p.m.

Dance Contest Starts: 9:00 p.m.

This year's King and Queen Dance Contest will be like no other! So, dust off your dancing shoes and plan on competing this year. Dance contestants must be 15 years old or older. A Czech costume or "fancy" dancing is not a requirement to compete, but a Czech costume is required for the winners who will participate in the weekend festivities. In addition, contestants age 5 to 10 years are eligible to participate in the Polka Prince and Princess Contest. Contestants must have their parent's or guardian's consent. Winner must have a costume.

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A photograph of Betty Macalik, a woman with short blonde hair, smiling and holding a large glass tray filled with golden-brown kolaches. She is standing in a kitchen with a stainless steel stove and oven behind her.

CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

BETTY MACALIK

— By Amber D. Browne

The Czech heritage of Betty Macalik is apparent in her renditions of coveted recipes inherited from her family. Betty shares these recipes with hungry diners at social gatherings and meetings of Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas (SPJST), at special events and with family and friends.

As a teenager, Betty would often help her mother, Annie Martinek, assemble wedding cakes. She was instrumental in cultivating Betty's passion for cooking and baking. "My most vivid memory is making the seven-minute icing."

During organized classes, Betty teaches others how to make kolache and strudel. "I think it is important to pass down to future generations the "know-how" of how to make these cultural dishes. There is so much more to making them well than just following a recipe." **NOW**

Kolaches

Dough:

2 cups whole milk
2 pkgs. dry yeast, or 2 1-oz. yeast cakes
2 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 cup butter-flavored Crisco
1 Tbsp. salt
1/2 cup sugar
4 large egg yolks
6 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 cup butter, melted
Fruit, cheese or poppyseed filling, to taste

Streusel Topping:

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
3-4 Tbsp., plus 1/4 cup butter, melted
(divided use)

1. For dough: In a small pot, heat the milk to lukewarm, about 100-120 F. Place in a small bowl; add the yeast and sugar. Stir gently until the sugar dissolves. Let stand for 10 minutes until the mixture becomes frothy.

2. In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the Crisco, salt, sugar and egg yolks until well

blended. Stir in the milk/yeast mixture. Begin adding flour a cup at a time; incorporate the flour after each addition. Work the dough until smooth, about 10 minutes. Transfer the dough to a buttered bowl; set to rise in a warm place until doubled, about 20-30 minutes. Punch down; let rise again, about 15 minutes.

3. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Spoon out 1 Tbsp. of dough, form into a ball and place on a greased or parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Repeat, placing dough balls about 2 inches apart. Brush each ball with melted butter; let rise for about 20 minutes. Make an indentation with your fingers; fill with fruit, cheese or poppyseed filling.

4. For streusel topping: In a small bowl, combine together the flour, sugar and 3-4 Tbsp. of melted butter, according to desired consistency. Add the streusel topping to the kolache fillings; allow the dough to rise for 15-20 minutes.

5. Bake for 15 minutes at 375 F, or until golden brown. Remove from oven; brush with the remaining melted butter.

Apple Strudel

4 large eggs
2/3 cup warm water

2/3 cup melted butter
 1/4 cup sugar
 2 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. white vinegar
 4 cups all-purpose flour
 1/4 cup butter, melted
 1 cup plain dried breadcrumbs
 3-4 apples, thinly sliced
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
 Raisins, to taste
 Pecans, to taste
 Coconut, to taste

1. In a large bowl, blend together the eggs, water, 2/3 cup melted butter and the next 3 ingredients. Once combined, add the flour; mix until the dough comes clean away from the sides of the bowl. Divide into 6 balls, butter each ball; place them on a baking sheet in a warm place to rest for 15 minutes. Cover with foil.

2. Lightly flour a cloth. Place a ball of dough onto the cloth; roll out as thinly as possible. Repeat with the other balls of dough. Brush each section of dough with the remaining 1/4 cup melted butter; spread breadcrumbs on the dough; add a layer of apples.

3. In a small bowl, mix together the sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle on top of each layer of apples. Add raisins, pecans and coconut to taste. Fold over the edges and roll like a jelly roll. Place seam down on a buttered piece of foil. Strudel can be frozen at this point or placed on a baking sheet to bake at 350 F for about 1 hour until golden brown. Brush with butter and sprinkle with sugar before serving.

Dumplings

4 1/2 cups self-rising flour
 1/6 cup Crisco oil
 3 large eggs
 2 cups whole milk
 1/4 cup butter, melted

1. Mix together the flour and the next 3 ingredients until well blended. Form the dough into balls about the size of a lemon, about 12 to 15 dumplings. Place in a steamer; butter each ball with the melted butter.

2. Steam for 12 minutes. Take out and butter again; cool before serving.

Glazed Pineapple Cookies

Dough:

1/2 cup Crisco
 1 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
 1 large egg
 1 tsp. vanilla



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1 15-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained (reserve 3 Tbsp. juice)
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda

Glaze:

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 Tbsp. reserved pineapple juice

1. For dough: Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, cream together the Crisco and brown sugar. Add the egg and vanilla; beat well. Stir in the drained, crushed pineapple; add the flour, baking powder and baking soda. Mix well until a dough forms. Spoon about 1 Tbsp. of dough onto a greased or parchment-lined baking sheet. Repeat, placing dough about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 F for about 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

2. For glaze: In a small bowl, stir together the powdered sugar and 2 Tbsp. reserved pineapple juice. Add more juice to create spreadable consistency. Spread glaze onto cooled cookies.

Czechoslovakian Sugar Horns

Dough:

1/2 pt. sour cream

1 .25-oz. pkg. active dry yeast
5 cups all-purpose flour
1 lb. butter, softened
1 large egg
3 large egg yolks

Filling:

3 cups ground nuts
2 1/4 cups sugar (divided use)
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla
Milk, enough to make a paste

1. For dough: In a large pot, warm the sour cream to 100-120 F; sprinkle in the yeast;

stir until the yeast is dissolved. Add the flour, butter, egg and yolks; mix well. Transfer to a bowl; cover and refrigerate overnight.

2. For filling: In a large bowl, mix together the nuts, 2 cups sugar, cinnamon, vanilla and enough milk to make a thick paste.

3. Roll out 1/4 of the pastry at a time to 1/8-inch thickness on a lightly floured surface. Cut into 3-inch circles using a biscuit cutter or a glass. Sprinkle with the remaining sugar; roll into a slightly larger circle. Fill with 1 tsp. of the nut filling; roll into a crescent shape. Place on a greased or parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake at 350 F for about 20 minutes, or until lightly browned.



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Zoomed In: Sandy Roberts

By Bill Smith

Sandy Roberts is a relatively new Ennisite, moving here from Washington state just last August. “I came here to be closer to family,” she said. “I have a niece who lives in Corsicana.”

Sandy is retired from a variety of vocations, including her own ceramic jewelry firm in the 1990s and a time working for the Navy Exchange. “I grew up in a military family, and my husband was in the Navy, as well,” she mentioned. I have visited Texas off and on over the years, mostly visiting family in the Alpine and Big Bend areas.

Since she has been in Ennis, she has been getting to know the community by volunteering at the Welcome Center during Bluebonnet Trails. She also has recently joined the Rotary Club.



Herb Baumgartner teaches Joshua Smith the art of pottery.



Preston Sullivan and C.J. Reynolds sell tickets to the EHS Bass Team's annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser.



Aly Silos flies her kite on a blustery day, along with Sisco and Lowel.



Brittany Session; her daughter, Everlyn; and her mother, Aundrea, enjoy a spring day near downtown.



Kristi and Tommy Copeland are back for a new season at the Bluebonnet Market.



Carolyn Forehand and her granddaughter, Kaitlyn Haack, make crafts at the Ennis Public Library.



Lillian Taylor poses with her friend, Abby Welch, who played Marta in The Sound of Music.



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Known as the gateway city, Denison was founded in 1872 in conjunction with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad and was the entry point of the first non-Texas-based railroad. The historic Katy Depot still stands today and can be reserved for private events and weddings. You can also visit the Red River Railroad Museum one block away at 124 W. Main Street.

Denison is the birthplace of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was the only one of David and Ida Eisenhower's seven children born in Texas. David brought his wife and their two young sons, Arthur and Edgar, from Hope, Kansas, in 1889 to pursue a new life in Texas, working on the railroad. His home has been restored and is open to the public for tours.

The home of T.V. Munson, who saved the French Wine Industry from devastation in the 1800s, Denison is rich with craft beverages that you cannot get at home. Take a stroll through the vineyards at Hidden Hangar Vineyards and Winery. From 1928 until the 1950s, the land the vineyard sits on served as a training airport for "wannabe" pilots and a fuel stop for those traveling between Oklahoma City and Dallas. The tasting room is open Thursday-Sunday from 12:00-6:00 p.m., where you can sip on varietals such as Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Syrah.

For whiskey lovers, Ironroot Republic Distillery is a must. The name "Ironroot" pays tribute to T.V. Munson and the "iron" roots that helped save the French wine industry. The distillery is family-owned and -operated by the Likarish brothers (Robert and Jonathan) along with their mother Marcia, and everything is mashed, fermented, distilled, barrel-aged and bottled on-site in Denison. The spirits are made using high-quality heirloom and non-GMO corn from local farms to capture the authentic flavor of North Texas. The distillery is open for tours every Saturday at noon and 2:00 p.m.

If you like farm-fresh ingredients, check out the Downtown Denison Farmers Market. From farm-fresh eggs, meat, produce and even canned goods, purchase something locally grown and get to know our farmers! You can catch the market Saturdays on the 700 block of Main Street from the beginning of May through October.

After you've hit up the Farmers Market, take a stroll down Main Street, where you will find antique shops, boutiques, breweries, wineries and restaurants. Peruse the public art displays, galleries and studios and even create a masterpiece of your own to take with you. And in the summer, you can enjoy Music On Main, the 10-week free summer concert series on Friday nights.

For the outdoor lovers, Denison is surrounded by picturesque parks, trails and natural beauty. From biking around Waterloo Lake, to camping at Eisenhower State Park or striper fishing on Lake Texoma, you're sure to relax, unplug and unwind. **NOW**

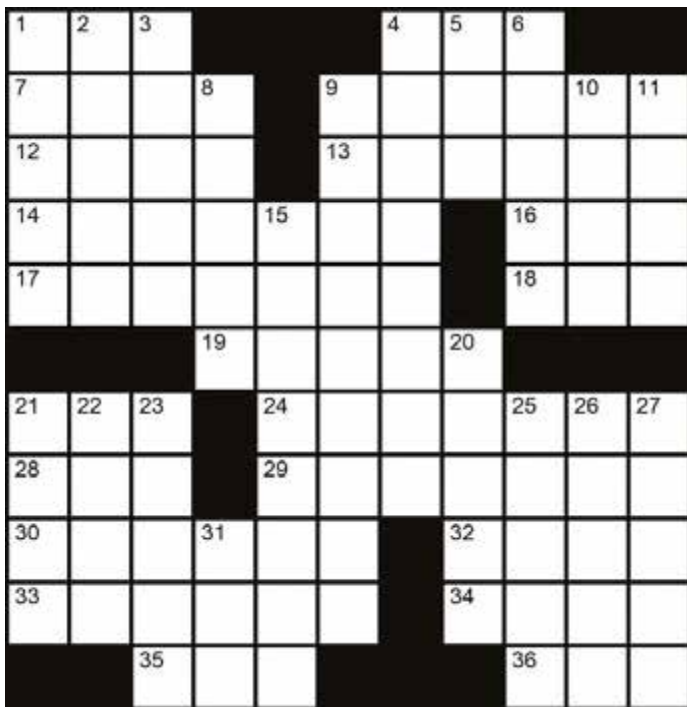
Rebecca Robinson
Marketing & Tourism Coordinator
Denison, Texas
Photos courtesy of the city of Denison, Texas.



ure



Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 "--- in 'Sierra'"
- 4 Turn in a horizontal plane
- 7 European peaks
- 9 Duelist's assistant
- 12 Suffer from the heat
- 13 Wonder Woman's General, Steven -
- 14 This crowd controller's a real weepie
- 16 First of her kind
- 17 Iroquoian word for "beautiful water"
- 18 Scientific truth
- 19 "I --- be sedated" (Ramones)
- 21 Jayhawk state
- 24 Got agitated
- 28 Lawyers' league
- 29 Merry
- 30 Alamo commander
- 32 Travail
- 33 Cat shy about floaters
- 34 Took --- loan
- 35 Tire inflation measure
- 36 Enunciate

Down

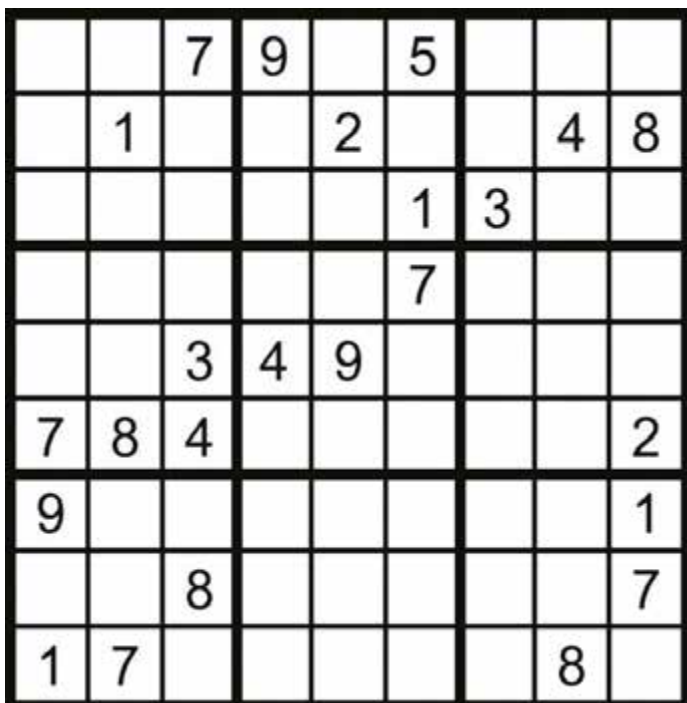
- 1 Looked after
- 2 Unfamiliar
- 3 Bug's last sound
- 4 Public faces
- 5 Poker bullet
- 6 Original
- 8 No-one wants the short one
- 9 Durable type of steel
- 10 Old Chevy model
- 11 Pulled a gun
- 15 Tagger's art
- 20 "I shall not find myself so --- die": (Antony, "Julius Caesar")
- 21 Houston suburb
- 22 Start of an incantation
- 23 Civil rights org. since 1909
- 25 Religious
- 26 Short-lived Argentinian First Lady
- 27 Holdup
- 31 Old tape letters

Solutions on page 52

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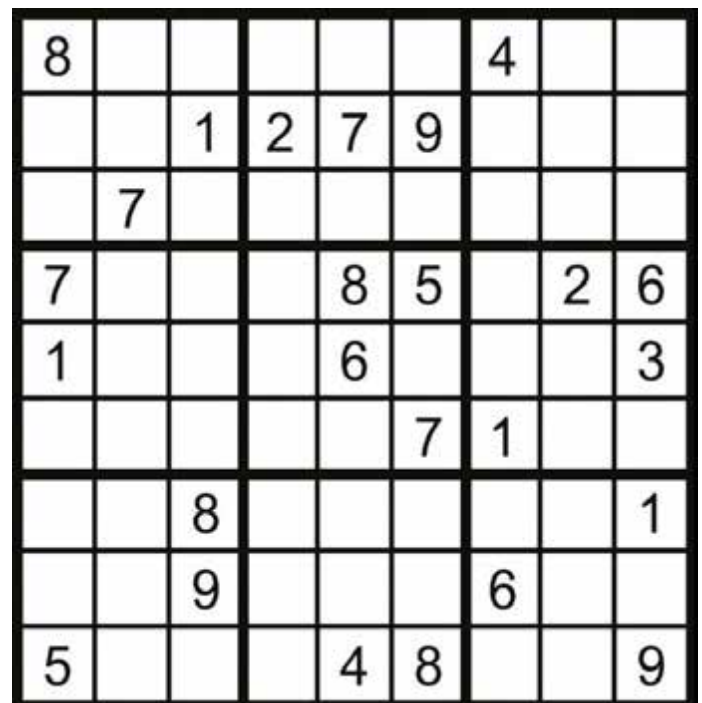
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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Solutions on page 52



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MAY

5/1

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5/5

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5/6

Ennis ISD Education Foundation Fundraiser:

8th annual dinner and auction. 6:00-10:00 p.m., SPJST Lodge, 1901 East Ennis Avenue. www.ennisisd.foundation.org.

5/10

Helping Hands Open House:

Come-and-go event that includes refreshments. Director Corey McCrady will give tours of the facility. 5:00-7:00 p.m., 604 NE Main Street.

5/27-5/29

National Polka Festival:

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5/28

22nd Annual Polkafest Run-Walk/5K/10K:

Presented by the Ennis Rotary Club. The event begins in front of Lonestar Fitness Center, 2405 Yorkstown Drive. Cost: \$0-\$30, depending on age and event. Registration: 5:45-6:45 a.m.; 10K Race: 7:00 a.m.; 1-mile Fun Run/Walk: 7:10 a.m.;

5K Race: 7:30 a.m. Awards: 8:30 a.m.

6/4

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1	S	A	S				4	P	A	N						
7	A	L	P	S			9	S	E	C	O	N	D			
12	W	I	L	T			13	T	R	E	V	O	R			
14	T	E	A	R	G	A	S			16	E	V	E			
17	O	N	T	A	R	I	O			18	L	A	W			
							19	W	A	N	N	A				
21	K	A	N				24	F	L	A	P	P	E	D		
26	A	B	A				29	F	E	S	T	I	V	E		
30	T	R	A	V	I	S				32	T	O	I	L		
33	Y	A	C	H	T	S				34	O	U	T	A		
							35	P	S	I			36	S	A	Y

Easy

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

Medium

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



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