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JULY 2025

Diving In

A Ukrainian native lands in Ennis

In the Kitchen With Teresa Jones

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Featured Business: Point Broadband



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Memories of summer ...

It's summer in Ennis! July is right in the middle of it, and if you like to enjoy the bright sunshine and heat, you are in the right place. I'm following the progress of Timothy Gauna Park just south of downtown where the old community center building was razed during the spring. That relatively obscure block will soon be a significant addition to our city's parks.

Family and friends around my age can recall a number of parties and dances being held at the community center. I have a vague memory of attending a birthday party there as a child. It seems like we played "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Kids today don't know what they missed!

A fond memory that is much clearer is of attending about four Lions Club meetings there when I was honored as Lion Cub of the Month when I was in high school. Our principal was a member of the club, and I would miss a few minutes of class as I rode to the meeting

and back with Mr. Jones. It is one of the reasons that I am a member of the Lions Club today.

During the summer of 1971, I worked as a lifeguard at the swimming pool that was adjacent to the community center. It was a great job for a kid in high school. As I recall, it paid \$1.00 per hour and all of the concessions I could eat.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the city does with the makeover of this park. It is sure to be a place which, in another 50 or so years from now, some local citizens will recall with fond memories.

Let's get outside and enjoy it!

Bill

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ON THE COVER



Krystyna Domyshlinets prepares for another skydive at the Ennis Airport.

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DIVING IN

— By Angel Morris



A challenging journey from Ukraine landed Krystyna Domyshlinets in Ennis, where she has fallen in love with the Lone Star State. “Before coming here, I imagined Texas as a dry, desert-like place. In reality, it is lush, full of greenery and has many beautiful landscapes,” she described. “Of course, the weather in Texas is very different from that in Ukraine — Ukraine is much colder — but I still love it here.”

In her native country, Krystyna had vocational education as a passenger train conductor, train assembler and dispatcher. Later, she studied choreography at university. “In my hometown, I worked as a personal trainer at a gym and was also a dance coach for a dance ensemble,” she recalled. “Since childhood, I have been passionate about dance, and movement has always been a central part of my life. I believe movement is life!”

Five years ago, Krystyna was introduced to a new movement. “I had gifted my friend a tandem skydive. Exactly a month later, she returned the favor and gifted me a jump. That experience made me realize that one day, I wanted to start skydiving on my own.

“The feeling of your first jump compared to your 200th is completely different,” she continued. “On my first jump, I experienced sensations I had never felt before — it was as if every cell in my body had shrunk and then suddenly expanded. I felt like I had become part of the universe itself.”

It was connections in the skydiving community that eventually led Krystyna to Ennis. The organization iSkydive America is a group of certified instructors who oversee novice tandem jumps and then lead those who are interested to more advanced training. “iSkydive company; my hometown, Chernihiv; and my loved ones have all played significant roles in my story,” Krystyna acknowledged.

“Leaving my hometown of Chernihiv, Ukraine, due to the war was extremely difficult. It was a terrifying time, and leaving my home while my parents and friends chose to stay behind was emotionally challenging.” Krystyna noted. “After arriving in the U.S., I worked with iSkydive as a packer. I later trained to become a senior rigger and earned my license. Currently, I perform aircraft manifest and parachute rigging work.”

Krystyna’s first U.S. destination was San Diego. “I was fortunate to have friends at iSkydive, which allowed me to travel across the country. My next stop was Florida, followed by New York; Washington, D.C.; and then, exactly a year ago, I arrived in Ennis.”

Here, Krystyna continued skydiving. “Skydiving gives me an indescribable rush — something that cannot be put into words, only felt. I especially love the surge of energy and the incredible mood boost following every jump.”

Like all skydivers, Krystyna takes preparation very seriously. “I meticulously check my parachute system, ensure that all devices are functioning correctly and follow all safety protocols. Every skydiver also double-checks their partner’s equipment to make sure everything is in order. These safety checks are repeated multiple times — before boarding, in the aircraft and just before the jump.”

Krystyna said she and fellow iSkydive employees take care of one another — and guests who come for jumps — as family. "In skydiving, I don't just facilitate an experience, I guide people through a life-changing moment. Seeing the transformation in someone's eyes when fear turns into exhilaration is something that words can't fully capture," she shared. "Knowing that I played a part in that journey, that I helped someone push beyond their limits and embrace the thrill of life, is an honor."

"One surprising thing about skydiving is that the scariest part is not the jump itself — it's the moment before you exit the plane. Once you step out, the fear disappears, and you're left with an incredible feeling of freedom."

Contrary to popular belief, Krystyna said skydiving is about more than the adrenaline rush. "It actually requires a great deal of discipline, technical skill and mental focus," she noted. "The biggest challenge I faced was learning to focus on a single task. I have a very vivid imagination, often creating all sorts of dramatic scenarios in my head. Skydiving taught me how to concentrate entirely on

the present, a skill that has significantly helped me in my daily life."

Krystyna counts her involvement in skydiving among her greatest accomplishments. "I take immense pride in knowing that my presence, my actions and my dedication can bring comfort and confidence to those around me," she admitted. "My greatest achievement — in skydiving and in life — is the ability to create an environment where people feel safe, empowered and truly alive."

Beyond skydiving, Krystyna calls her greatest success knowing that those who cross her path feel valued. "If I can contribute to someone's happiness or growth then I have achieved something meaningful."

Krystyna is inspired by the idea of "creating a world where war and cruelty no longer exist. I believe that kindness is the most powerful force we have, and my ultimate goal is to make this world a place of compassion and understanding," she said.

"I refuse to accept suffering and conflict as inevitable. I dream of a world where people uplift each other, where unity replaces division and where love prevails



over hatred. Every day, in every action, I strive to be a part of this change — to bring light where there is darkness, to offer hope where there is despair."

Krystyna also pursues photography and the beauty industry. "Capturing people in ways they've never seen themselves before, creating unique and artistic images" is interesting to her.

She is thankful for the opportunity to introduce people to the exhilaration of skydiving and her mission of peace here in the States. "I absolutely love Texas and Ennis! The weather, the people — everything here feels warm and welcoming," she praised. "The people in Texas are some of the kindest, most genuine individuals I have ever met." **NOW**

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marketing coordinator, said. "As a local Ennis area provider, we deliver fast, dependable internet alongside world-class customer service. We value our customers deeply and focus on building lasting relationships through transparency, responsiveness and a customer-first mindset."

Headquartered in Opelika, Alabama, and founded in 2017, Point Broadband services small-town USA and rural areas in 10 states. Currently, with plans to extend coverage, Point Broadband serves the Northeast Texas counties of Ellis, Collin, Henderson, Hunt, Van Zandt and Rockwall. The business employs approximately 50 people working in customer service, sales and technical roles.

Point Broadband is a member of Chambers of Commerce in Ennis, Wills Point, Canton and Royce City. "We've been the recipient of the Reader's Choice for Best Internet Award in Van Zandt County," Allison stated. "We strive to always live up to our motto, 'Living Life on Point,' which means never missing a moment of connectivity."

Business customers can take advantage of full-speed internet connections, cloud platforms, phone systems, Wi-Fi and internet tools. "We provide free business evaluations," Allison added.

"Working at an internet company is exciting because you're at the heart of innovation and connection," Allison continued. "Every day brings the chance to reach people in new ways and make a real difference in how reliable internet transforms how people work, learn and live. It's fast-paced, creative and rewarding to be part of something that keeps communities connected and the world moving forward. There's always something new to learn or improve, which keeps things fresh and motivating."

Constant change, however, provides a challenge in this business. "There's a lot of competition, so it's challenging to stay ahead with changes in technology," Allison shared. "Reliability is key. We have to always stay innovative and customer focused."

Allison, a native of Kaufman, Texas, earned an associate degree in business. "I have a strong foundation in marketing, management and how businesses operate," she explained. "I've gained hands-on experience working closely with my aunt's party planning business, which taught me the real-life side of event coordination, customer service and creative problem solving. I genuinely love people and love meeting customers at events, creating fun experiences and bringing energy into everything I do. Marketing lets me mix creativity, connection and a good time."

Married to a military veteran, Jonah Lassiter, who was a communications specialist, the couple has a daughter, son and dog, Jiggy. "I love to hang out with family and travel. I've been to Mexico and 15 states." She enjoys crafting and being creative.

"There's something special about small-town charm, and I love that Ennis is also somewhat historic," Allison shared. She enjoys shopping at Ennis' local shops, dining at local restaurants and Ennis' friendly faces and strong sense of community. She concluded, "Places like Ennis make us all feel connected, and I truly enjoy being part of this business and the Ennis community." **NOW**



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Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy. But have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

- **Pay yourself first.** If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.

- **Invest appropriately.** Your investment decisions should be guided by your retirement goals, along with how long you have before you need the money and how comfortable you are with different levels of investment risk. If you deviate from these guideposts — for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk — you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you

and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.

- **Avoid financial "potholes."** The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt — the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

- **Give yourself some wiggle room.** If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans — perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer — you may be able to earn a different, but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display — but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life.

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

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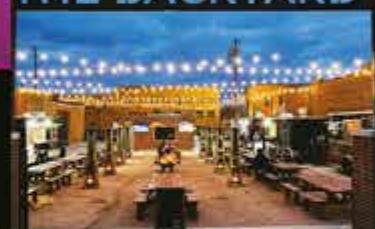
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By Bill Smith

Zoomed In:

Brittney Rivera and Laurie Zapata

Brittney Rivera and Laurie Zapata work together at Ennis Regional Medical Center in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department. Brittney is the exercise physiologist and has been in the field for four years, and she joined Ennis Regional in January. "I learned while I was in high school that my father was prone to heart disease," she recalled. "He had a heart attack in his 40s, and I knew I wanted to study some kind of medicine in college." Brittney is married with one child, and they are expecting their second child in November.

Laurie has been a patient care technician since 2017 and joined Ennis Regional in December 2024. She enjoys taking care of people in the hospital and encouraging the cardiac rehab patients. She is the single mother of two children and added that she also has two grandchildren.



Jackie and Lynn Webster enjoy Saturday shopping at the Bluebonnet Market.



D'Lynn Davis assists visitors at the Ennis Welcome Center.



Zoe Jones and Brandi Foster enroll ages 4-12 in Ennis PeeWee Cheer.



Ken Hackney reads EnnisNOW as he waits for the Ennis Masonic Lodge to open.

NOW



Kevin and Stacey Goodman celebrate Stacey's completion of the Rotary Run.



Mother Goose and friends entertain kids at Mornings at Minnie.



Sandra Patterson and Storm spend time at the Puppy Park.

The logo for Griffin Land Surveying, featuring a stylized griffin head and the text "GRIFFIN" in large, bold, sans-serif letters, with "LAND SURVEYING" in smaller letters below it.

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The logo for Budget Blinds, featuring a stylized "B" icon and the text "BUDGET BLINDS" in large, bold, sans-serif letters, with "SHUTTERS - SHADES - MOTORIZATION - AND MORE" in smaller letters below it. To the right is the American flag and the text "Proud to be American".A photograph of a family of six standing in a field of tall grass. From left to right: a woman in a brown vest, a baby in a stroller, a young girl in a yellow shirt, a man in a black jacket, a young boy in a grey shirt, and a young girl in a pink dress.

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CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH TERESA JONES

— By Bill Smith



Teresa Jones is proud of her Spanish heritage and West Texas background. "I remember wonderful times of family and friends gathering around large cast-iron pots preparing these wonderful meals!" she exclaimed.

One of her favorite dishes was Asado. "Asado originates from the Spanish language and is defined by the slow-cooking method on a grill or open flame, yielding peak tenderness," she said. "This recipe has been passed down through generations in our family. It is a staple dish in West Texas and lower New Mexico, representing both the cooking technique and the social gathering surrounding it. My childhood memories feature family events where men, adorned in cowboy boots and hats, readied the fire, employing seasoned mesquite and heating a large cast-iron cauldron pot over an open flame." **NOW**

Asado

This entree is like Texas beef chili, except it calls for pork and different herbs and seasonings.

Sauce:

12-14 New Mexico chili pods (If not available, chili pods can be substituted with Ancho Chilies.)

8-10 garlic cloves

3 Tbsp. crushed oregano

1 tsp. ground cumin

2-3 cups chicken broth (divided use)

Salt, to taste

1 tsp. black pepper

Meat:

3 lbs. pork butt, cut in 1/2-inch cubes

Salt, to taste

Black pepper, to taste

2-3 Tbsp. oil or lard

2 bay leaves

1. For sauce: Remove the stems (and seeds if you want milder heat) from the chilies. Rinse under cold water.

2. Place them in a medium pot; cover them with water. Bring to a boil, then reduce to low heat; simmer, uncovered, for 20-30 minutes.

3. Remove the chilies. Drain well; put them in a blender.

4. Add the garlic, oregano, cumin, 1 cup of chicken broth salt and black pepper. Puree the sauce into a smooth velvety consistency. The sauce may be strained prior to mixing.

5. For meat: Season with salt and black pepper (keep in mind that pork is naturally salty).

6. Heat a deep, large cast-iron pan or pot

over medium-high heat. Add the oil or lard; swirl to coat.

7. Add the pork; stir occasionally, allowing the meat to sear or brown for about 10 or 15 minutes. (Do not overcook.)

8. Remove the excess grease from the pan; add the pureed sauce. Stir the mixture; let it come to a slight boil.

9. As the sauce thickens, add chicken broth, a little at a time, to achieve a thick slurry consistency.

10. Adjust the heat to low, add the bay leaves. Cover; simmer for 90 minutes. Stir occasionally.

11. Simmer slowly, allowing the meat to become tender and the sauce to reduce to a gravy consistency. If too thin, add a slurry to thicken, and simmer for about 20 minutes. Don't be afraid to use the garlic quantity, as it helps mellow the chili's strong, earthy flavor and spice level.

Cilantro Lime Rice

2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 1/2 cups jasmine rice

1 minced garlic clove

2 1/4 cups chicken broth (low sodium)

Zest of 1 lime

1 tsp. sea salt

1 cup cilantro, chopped

3-4 Tbsp. squeezed lime juice

1. Heat the oil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat.

2. Add the rice, stirring occasionally, until the rice starts to lightly brown.

3. Add the garlic; stir for 1 minute. Add the broth, zest and sea salt.

4. Bring to a boil; turn the heat to low. Cover; simmer for 10-15 minutes.

5. Remove from heat; let stand for 15 minutes, then fluff. Lightly stir in the cilantro and lime juice; toss together.



Email us at

bill.smith@nowmagazines.com



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.

7/1

Wildlife on the Move:

A special event for Kids Summer Reading Program at Ennis Public Library. Come see reptiles! Free. 10:00-11:00 a.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. For more information, call (972) 875-5360.

7/1-7/7

Quilters Guild of Ellis County Quilt Display:

A cozy touch of creativity has arrived in Downtown Ennis! The Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County has filled the Welcome Center with a stunning quilt display. Swing by and take in the detail, color and craftsmanship of these beautiful handmade

quilts! Free. **Monday-Friday:** 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Ennis Welcome Center, 201 NW Main St. www.elliscountyquilters.com.

7/2

Awesome Animal Experience:

For our Pre-K Summer Reading Program at Ennis Public Library. Come see live animals! Free. 10:00-11:00 a.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. For more information, call (972) 875-5360.

7/3

Gregg Kazam Magic Show:

Part of Kids Summer Reading

Program. Join us for some magical fun. Free. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. For more information, call (972) 875-5360.

7/25-7/27

Texas Motorplex Bracket Series:

Bracket racing returns for the best local and regional racers competing for big money. 7500 W. Hwy. 287. For more information, contact support@texasmotorplex.com. (972) 878-2641.

7/28-7/30

Vacation Bible School:

Kingdom Kids presents True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild

World. For kids 3 years old and potty trained through completed 6th grade. Register by following the link on our Facebook page. 6:00-8:30 p.m., Foundation of Life Church, 2003 E. Ennis Ave. Please contact Norma Rasco or Mayra Chicas if you have any questions at kidmin@folcennis.com or Mayra@folcennis.com.

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

SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER!



Ashlee Smith, winner of \$50 cash with daughters Abigail and Jaelle, said "I've played several times and happy to finally win! I'm very excited to get my next issue."

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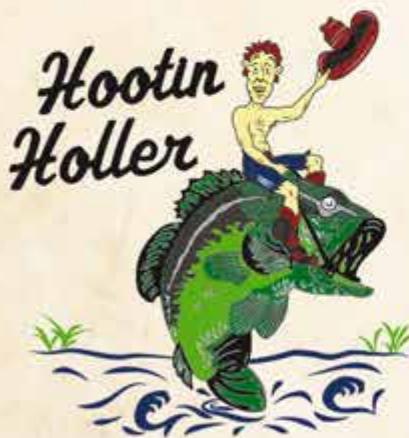
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