Singing Ennis' Song

> Jason Gadberry grows the EISD choir program

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Jessica Correa, REALTOR®

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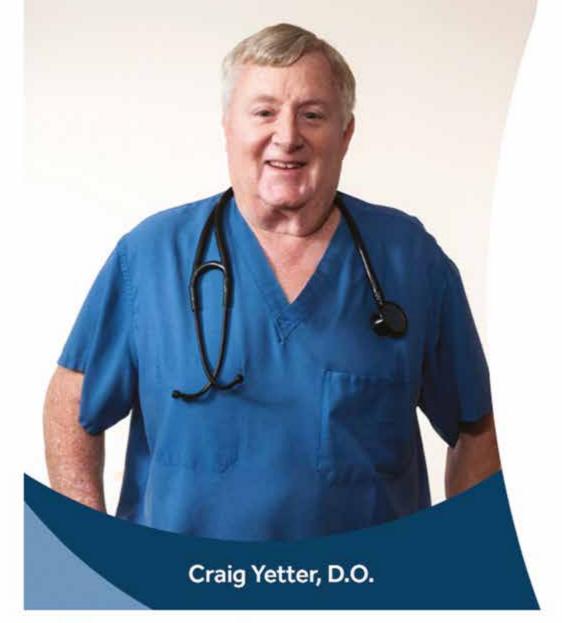
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ON THE COVER



Jason Gadberry fulfills his ambition as he directs Ennis choirs.

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GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla Artists, Jerri Akers . Kristin Bato Martha Macias . Anthony Sarmienta

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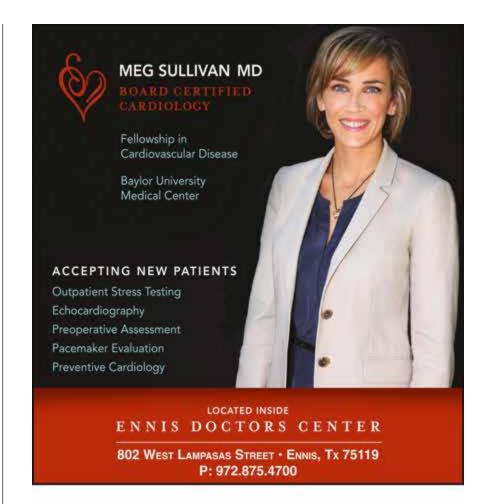
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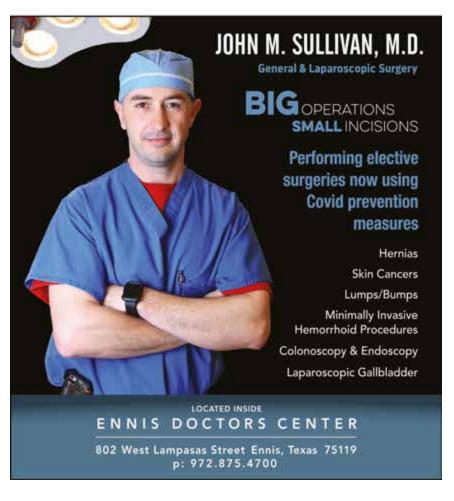
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Billing Manager, Angela Mixon

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 875-3299 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.







EDITOR'S NOTE

Time travel ...

If you could get in a shiny DeLorean with a fully fueled flux capacitor driven by either Marty McFly or Dr. Emmett Brown, where would you go? Perhaps a better question might be, to what year would you go?

Your choices would be as far as your imagination could take you. The movie was called *Back to the Future*, but it also includes trips back to the past. If time travel were really a possibility, would you travel back in time to see what Ennis was like during the time of the early settlers, or perhaps forward to see if your distant descendants are flying to work on other planets?

The novel 1984 by George Orwell was written in 1949 and was, in my opinion, a dark and pessimistic look forward. 2001: A Space Odyssey is a movie from 1968, just a year before we put a man on the moon. If you are familiar with both of these, would you venture that one contains more truth than the other?

Looking back is obviously easier than forecasting the future. We can read history, and I think each generation recalls their youth as a simpler time. George Burns was an actor, singer and comedian whose life spanned more than 100 years. In 1980, when he was 84 years old, he recorded *I Wish I Was Eighteen Again*. For some reason, maybe because I know there are a lot more years behind me than are ahead of me, George's song resonates with me.

If there is any place you dream of going or any time you want to forecast or recall, it is probably living in either fact or fiction in a book. Go visit our local library. I'm sure you will find where, or when, you want to be.

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SINGLE SMITH

Jason Gadberry says he is "from Oklahoma" even though he was born in England. "Dad was in the military and stationed at RAF Lakenheath when I was born. We were only there for a couple of years before moving back to the States, so I really don't have a memory of it." His father grew up in Ennis, and his grandmother and other relatives still live here. Judging by the way Jason speaks of the Ennis community today, it sounds like he is going to be here for a long time.

"We were in Norman while I was growing up, and the Norman public schools had great fine arts programs. I have always loved music, as far back as the second grade," he remembered. "My brother tried the band for a while but did not stay in it. Dad thought I would probably do the same thing, so I turned to voice.

"I was heavily influenced to pursue a music career by our high school choir director, Tony Gonzales. He really sparked my passion and pushed me to audition for the advanced choirs. As a result, I was in the All-State Choir for three years and also in the National Honor Choir. I envisioned myself eventually becoming a high school choir director," he shared.

Jason admitted that it may be uncommon for students to choose their future career as young as he did and then successfully stay on that path, but he gives his students the same advice he took, "Follow your passion. I know that their interests may change in the future, but mine never did. I love what I do and can't see myself doing anything else."

There was a good foundation for the choir program in place when Jason came to Ennis four years ago, but it has grown significantly since then. There were about 40 students in the choir in seventh through 12th grades. The choral program now has about 180 students. "Students have an inherent desire to be a part of something greater than themselves, and it is important for them to be part of a positive group. We have about an 85 percent retention rate with students who join the program," Jason related.

"I have a 'famous' nickname, 'The Candyman.' I offer candy to students in exchange for about a 45-second choir audition. They see that as a pretty good deal," he said with a smile.







Jason's undergraduate degree in music education was completed at Missouri State University. "I never had any dream while I was pursuing my degree other than being a high school choir director. Music education is time consuming, but worth the effort. For instance, music theory might require five classroom hours per week, but was considered a one credit hour course. I also took private voice lessons while I was there."

It was also in Missouri that Jason had his first teaching job, and he smiled as he recalled meeting his wife, Amanda, there on a blind date that was set up by the school secretary. "We had the opportunity to go to Italy to teach English at a summer camp. We actually got engaged in Rome! We married in Missouri in 2015, and we went back to Norman for me to pursue my master's degree in conducting at The University of Oklahoma. We came to Texas and taught in Mesquite, but we were living in Ennis at my grandmother's house at the time. Our first child was born at OU Medical Center seven days before we moved to Texas, and our second child was born after we started working here. Amanda teaches special education at Bowie Elementary now, and our daughter, Kennedy, is at Bowie, while our daughter, Haddie, will start pre-K next year.



"I would be remiss if I did not mention how important my family's support is. Amanda is a 'choir widow,' doing everything behind the scenes to take care of the kids and make sure I am ready for our choir performances. I certainly don't do this job in a vacuum.

"Another great contributor to our success has been our collaborative accompanist, Janet Thomas. She keeps telling me she is retired, but, thankfully,



she keeps coming back for us. I also have to mention how supportive other teachers and the EISD administration have been. When we started, we were getting 3 and 4 ratings at UIL contests. and now we are getting 1's. Our varsity choir achieved sweepstakes by getting all 1's. We took six choirs to sweepstakes, and four of them received the highest possible score. The other two were rated 'excellent,' which is the second highest score. Students want to be part of something good. They want to be held to a high standard and be successful. We are continuing to improve. The Super Bowl of choir is to sing at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention. That would be a goal to work toward."

The EISD choirs have been seen performing downtown for the past couple of years. Jason recalled, "That came out of COVID. We could not have concerts indoors during that time, so Amanda said I should talk to the city about performing downtown. Becky McCarty was excited about it as soon as we mentioned it. We will have our fall concert again this October in historic downtown Ennis. The Bluebonnet Market vendors ask us if we are on the schedule because they enjoy the performances, and it draws more visitors downtown. The winter concert will be in December at the EHS Auditorium.

"Another way we get out into the community is caroling at nursing homes during the Christmas season. The kids love seeing the joy in people's faces as we sing."

Jason is looking forward to many more years in Ennis. "Ennis is our little slice of 'Hallmark," he opined. "Mesquite is a nice town, but there is an intangible quality to Ennis. It is a great place to raise a family. We love it here." NOW





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Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 (Vote at any vote center polling location in Ellis County)



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Jessica Correa began her real estate career in 2018 and has spent the majority of her career with real estate broker Rendon Realty. Shortly after joining Rendon Realty, she and her sister, Amira Choi started Lion Realty Group together, and they have helped many families reach their real estate goals. "Before I ventured into real estate, I worked in a

doctor's office," she mentioned. "I loved the patients that I worked with, but the clinic hours really cut into my time with my family. Real estate hours have proven to be more flexible, and Rendon Realty has been a Godsend for me," she said. "They have great resources and helped me tremendously with the success of my business." Rendon Realty's website affirms that they are built on family values, as well as their belief in working with honor, integrity and high ethical standards. Jessica continued, "From my initial interview with them until this day, I feel like family with Rendon Realty."

Another part of Jessica's career that she is proud of is serving as a mentor for other real estate agents who are just coming into the business. "I guide them and teach them everything I know about the business. They are as excited about real estate as I was when I started.

"To be a great agent requires that we put the buyers' and sellers' interests before our own. The real estate business has changed a lot since 2020, including inflation and changes in interest rates. These changes have affected what it takes for buyers to qualify for mortgages, as well as the availability

of homes on the market. We do all we can to help the client acquire the home they want."

The majority of Jessica's clients come from referrals from prior happy clients. "I never worry about where my next client is going to come from. I pray about every transaction, and I believe God makes things work out, so we find the perfect home. Families appreciate what I do. I work hard to educate them and lead them through the buying process. I teach them what to look for in the home as a first-time buyer. I will point out how to look for issues, such as foundation problems, and even after the deal is closed, I stay in touch with them. I will explain things like filing for their homestead exemption, which can save them a lot of money in the future." Another thing Jessica offers is free market analysis reports if a client is just curious about what they might sell their home for, or if they need it to protest their property taxes.

"To be a great agent requires that we put the buyers' and sellers' interests before our own."

lessica works from her home, and that has worked out well for her and for her clients. "I can do almost everything 'virtually' from my home office. Clients can text, call or email me anytime. We also have Zoom meetings when we need to. I post videos on Facebook, TikTok, Instagram and LinkedIn. For clients who want to meet in person, we can meet at a coffee shop near them, or wherever it is convenient. My marketing territory is Ellis County and the surrounding counties.

"Though interest rates are not ideal, prices have started to come down quite a bit and with not many buyers shopping the market, there is room to negotiate seller concessions when purchasing a home," Jessica concluded. "Also, builders may offer low rates to buy new and first-time homebuyer programs to assist with down payments." NOW







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Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

Even though we are in the heat of the summer, campuses are being shined, staff members are getting rooms ready, and the excitement of the upcoming school year is in the air. We look forward to seeing all our students on the first day and setting a positive tone for a great 2024-2025 school year.

With the support of parents and the community, Ennis ISD provides a safe environment that allows students to focus on academic and extracurricular success. Our goal is to ensure each one of our students is not only taught the academic curriculum but also the qualities of character that will assist them in reaching their full potential at every stage of their lives. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or campus principal.

Welcome to the new school year.

We Are Ennis!

Jay Tullos
Superintendent of Schools

WWW.ENNIS.K12.TX.US 🛛 🗗 🔘 🕞









Peachjar:

In listening to our families and in an effort to be more environmentally friendly and fiscally responsible, Ennis ISD will no longer regularly distribute paper "take home" flyers on any of our campuses. Instead, the district will work with campuses and organizations to distribute materials electronically via Peachjar.

Approved flyers containing information about events in and around Ennis ISD will be posted online to the Peachjar system and you will be notified via email that new flyers are available to view. You can choose to either save the flyer or print it. Regardless of what action you choose, the flyer will remain available to you electronically on Peachjar until the set expiration date. No more missing information because a flyer was lost or got stuck in the bottom of a student backpack. Peachjar will be accessible on the district website homepage and through the EISD mobile app.

Mobile App:

EISD encourages the use of our free mobile app. This powerful communication tool provides easy access to campus and district information including calendars, lunch menus, sports schedules, notifications, social media, and more. Users can customize the app by subscribing to the campuses of their choice to receive specific news and notifications. Users can also choose to receive push notifications to quickly get news and updates about school closures, emergencies, events and more. The free app is available for download on iPhones, iPads, and Android devices. Simply search "Ennis ISD" in the Apple Store or Google Play.

You can find

Q Ennis ISD

in the app store.

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Enrollment and Registration:

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Enrollment for new students and registration for returning students for the 2024-2025 school year is available online. If your student is new to Ennis ISD, you will need to create a Family Access Account, then follow the step-by-step process of online enrollment. This information is on our website homepage under "Families". Current Ennis ISD families will access registration in the same place. Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment is not available online and will have to be done in person at Crockett or Carver ECC. Please contact your campus for more details regarding Pre-K/ Kindergarten enrollment.

What is Skyward Family Access? Family Access gives parents access to real-time data about their student's grades, attendance, assignments, and more. Alerts can be set to individual preferences and information is easily accessed using the Family Access login. If you already have a Family Access Account, you are able to add incoming students to your existing account.

For assistance with Family Access, please email FamilyAccess@ennis.k12.tx.us or call 972.872.7000.





















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October 14 - District Holiday

July 23-26 -	New Employee Orientation
July 29-31 -	Staff Development Day

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February 17 - Presidents' Day

FEBRUARY

November 25-29	Thanksgiving	Break
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December	19 - Student/Staff Early Release
December	20-31 - Winter Break

January 6 - Staff Development Day January 20 - MLK Day

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March 10-14 - Spring Break March 17 - Staff Development Day

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May 20-21 - Staff Development Day

May 26 - Memorial Day

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- **District Holiday**
- Staff Development Day
- First Day of School
- **Early Release**
- Bad Weather/PD
- Grading Period Ends/Begins

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Around Town



Phillip and Vicki Bierhalter celebrate

Phillip's 80th birthday.

Zoomed In: By Bill Smith Sheila Motley and Thor Jordan

Sheila Motley proudly stated that she has lived in Ennis "all my life" and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. She said, "You know that shirt that was printed for the Polka Festival this year that had all of the Czech names on it? That is my family. I am kin to Trojaceks, Martineks, Skrivanek, Honzas, Marusaks, and I can keep naming them!"

Thor Jordan said he is from all over but has claimed Ennis as home for 13 years. Thor said he came to Ennis "because that's where Sheila was!" He works as a carpenter, rancher and jack-of-all-trades.

They spent the day downtown celebrating the Fourth of July weekend. Their grandchildren, Issabella and Eric, were visiting with them for a few days.



Ollie and George Kerr cool off at the splash park.



A good crowd attends one of the city's Summer In the Park programs.



Magician Mike Corry has kids raising their hands at Mornings at Minnie.



Olivia and Sophia Butler are ready for the Red, White and Bike parade.



Rhonda Smith and her granddaughter, Atalie, display jewelry at their Bluebonnet Market booth.



Children enjoy crafts at Make it at the Market.

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Savanna Fisher recognizes that gathering family around a good meal at the table keeps them close. "Eating is a tradition for my family. I remember my Pawpaw eating breakfast and, before finishing that meal, asking what we were having for lunch or dinner. I enjoy giving everyone a good reason for us to get together and do what we enjoy!'

Social media is a source for many of her recipes. "My rule is always to follow the recipe as written the first time I make it, then I can tweak it and change it up as needed."

Savannah is excited about a recent career change. After her degree in communications from Texas A&M University and working in that field for a while, she just completed a new degree and began a new career as a registered nurse. Now

No-Bake Chocolate Eclair Cake

Filling:

3 cups milk

2 3.4-oz. boxes instant vanilla pudding 1 3/4 cups heavy whipping cream I box graham crackers

Topping:

1/3 cup cocoa powder

1/4 cup milk 1 cup sugar 1/2 cup butter I tsp. vanilla extract

1. For filling: In a large bowl, add the milk and vanilla pudding; stir until thickened.

2. In a medium bowl, beat the whipping cream on medium-high speed for approximately 4 minutes or until it turns

into whipped cream.

- 3. Once the pudding mixture has set, stir the whipping cream mixture into the pudding mixture until well combined.
- 4. In a 9x13-inch dish, cover the entire bottom with a layer of graham crackers (approximately 1 full sleeve).
- 5. Add half of the pudding mixture over the bottom graham cracker layer. Use a spatula to spread it evenly over the graham crackers.
- 6. Repeat with another layer of graham crackers, topped with the remainder of the pudding mixture.
- 7. Add a final layer of graham crackers on the top.
- **8.** For topping: In a small pot, add the cocoa powder, milk and sugar; bring to a full rolling boil. Boil for 1 minute, stirring constantly.
- **9.** Remove the pot from the heat; let cool for I minute while continuing to stir.
- 10. Add the butter and vanilla, stirring until the butter is melted and it forms a smooth chocolate glaze.
- 11. Immediately pour over the top layer of graham crackers. It will spread on its own, but tilt the dish as needed so that the entire top is covered.

12. Refrigerate for 8 hours, or overnight (preferred).

Honey Garlic Meatballs

Meatballs:

2 to 2 1/2 lbs. ground beef 2 eggs 1 cup panko breadcrumbs

1/2 cup milk

2 Tbsp. minced garlic Pepper, to taste

Salt, to taste

Onion powder, to taste Garlic powder, to taste

Sauce:

1/2 cup ketchup

1/2 cup low-sodium soy sauce

1/3 cup honey

2 Tbsp. minced garlic

1. For meatballs: Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Add all the meatball ingredients to a bowl; mix together well.

3. Shape the meatballs; place them on a baking sheet. (You should have approximately 24 meatballs.) Cook for 35-40 minutes.

4. For sauce: While the meatballs are cooking, combine all the sauce ingredients in a saucepan; mix well.

5. Let simmer for several minutes, allowing to thicken.

6. After removing meatballs from the oven, pour the sauce on top of them and enjoy!

No Churn Banana Pudding Ice Cream

2 yellow bananas (not ripe)

1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk, minus 1/3 cup (for a total of 11 oz.)

Good pinch of kosher salt

I tsp. vanilla bean paste (or vanilla extract)

I drop yellow gel food coloring (optional)

1 8-oz. container Cool Whip, thawed

2 cups vanilla wafers, plus more for topping

I. In a food processor, blitz the bananas until smooth.

2. Add in the sweetened condensed milk, salt and vanilla bean paste/extract; blend until smooth. Blend in a drop of yellow food coloring, if desired.

3. Pour the mixture into a bowl; scoop in about half of the Cool Whip. Fold to combine.

4. Add in the remaining Cool Whip, along with the vanilla wafers. Roughly crush them in your hands as you drop them in.

5. Gently fold together, allowing some ribbons of Cool Whip throughout.



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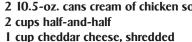
- **6.** Pour the mixture into a 9-inch pie dish; top with more vanilla wafers.
- **7.** Cover in plastic wrap; chill overnight.
- **8.** The next day, allow to thaw for about 10 minutes, then scoop and serve!

Loaded Potato Soup

2 large or 3 medium russet potatoes 1/2 onion. diced

Olive oil or butter, for sauteing

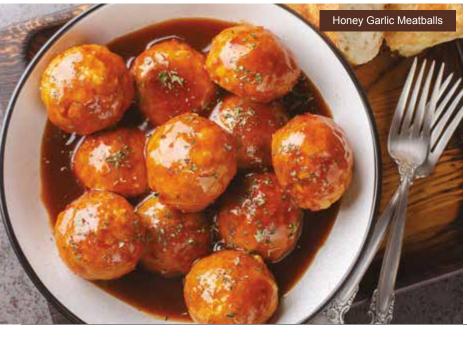
- 2 10.5-oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- (divided use)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic
- 1 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt Bacon bits, to taste (for topping)



- **1.** Dice the potatoes; boil until tender. 2. While the potatoes are boiling, sauté the
- onions in the olive oil or butter; set aside.

Shredded cheese, to taste (for topping)

- 3. Add the cream of chicken soup, half-andhalf, 1/2 cup shredded cheese, onions and seasonings to a Crock-Pot; mix together.
- **4.** Add the potatoes. Stir the Crock-Pot contents together; cook on high for 2-3 hours.
- 5. Just before serving, add the remaining 1/2 cup of cheese and the sour cream/ Greek yogurt to the Crock-Pot; stir.
- 6. Serve with bacon bits and shredded cheese, to taste.



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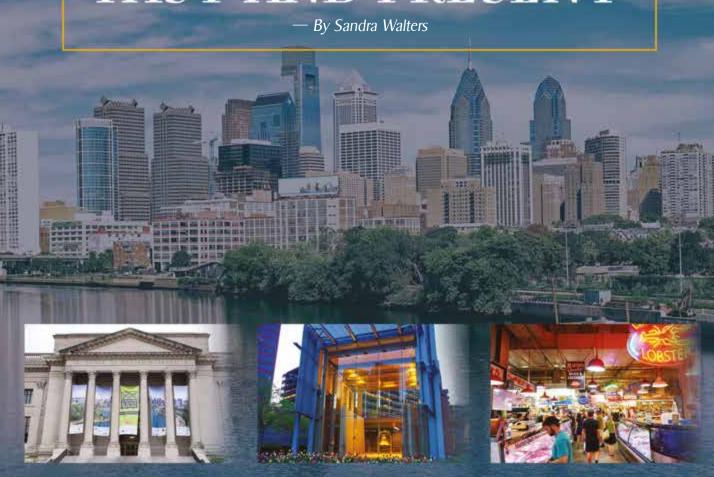
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Call to make your appointment & receive a **FREE Acoustic** Wave Treatment. Philadelphia is the birthplace of American independence. This city is where history, culture and a vibrant urban atmosphere reside. From iconic landmarks to diverse neighborhoods, a trip to Philadelphia offers a rich tapestry of experiences for travelers. Let us explore some of the must-visit sites that make Philadelphia a unique destination.

This journey comes alive at the Independence National Historical Park, which includes a variety of historic sites. Inside Independence Hall, the guest may stand in the place where The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed. Next, marvel at the Liberty Bell, an enduring symbol of freedom, displayed in the Liberty Bell Center. This park provides a venture into America's early history. As you walk to the President's Hall, you will find the contradiction of freedom as the narrative, while slavery is depicted outside before entering the building where George Washington and John Adams once lived during their presidencies. Surrounding the area, there are gardens and numerous classic historic structures, adding to the fascination of the location.

As the tour continues, art lovers will find The Franklin Institute and Philadelphia Museum of Art to be paradises. The Franklin Institute ignites a person's curiosity by combining education with entertainment while allowing tourists to engage with interactive exhibits, explore Fels Planetarium and enjoy hands-on science and technology. In the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a vast collection spans centuries and cultures recreating stories many have read or may learn soon. This museum offers a visual treat for visitors, not just a building only reflecting the past. The museum highlights current items and things in history. Remember to run up the famous "Rocky Steps" to see the stunning view of the city skyline as you take pictures and record your discoveries.





Now that you have exercised and created an appetite, visit the Reading Terminal Market for a taste of Philadelphia's diverse culinary scene. Arrive early since parking can be challenging in the heart of downtown Philadelphia. The bustling food market, established in 1893, features a wide array of vendors offering everything from traditional Philly cheesesteaks, Amish, Dutch and Pennsylvanian food to international cuisine. It is a perfect spot to satisfy your taste buds and experience the city's culinary diversity.

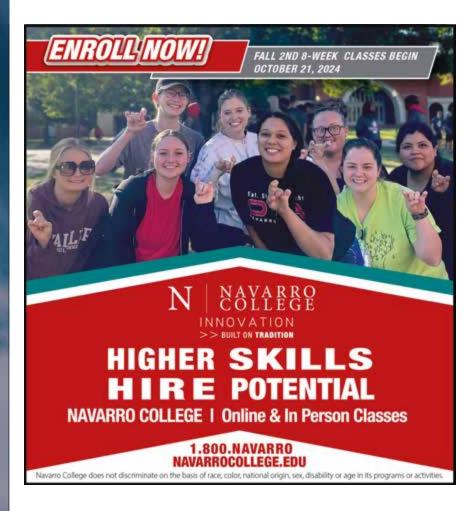
As you conclude, enjoy unique places like the city hall, prison turned into a museum, zoo and Boathouse Row. The dominating cityscape features Philadelphia City Hall, which is an architectural masterpiece. Take a guided tour to learn the history and experience the grandeur of the iconic building. Allow your thoughts to run wild as you gaze at the statue of William Penn atop the tower while appreciating the panoramic views of the city. Then, take a step back in time at the Eastern State Penitentiary, a former prison turned museum. Tours reveal the history of this imposing structure and its notorious inmates, while capturing the criminal justice systems' past. However, for a family-friendly adventure, visit the Philadelphia Zoo, America's first zoo. Encounter various animals from majestic big cats to playful primates. The zoo combines entertainment with education, making it an ideal destination for visitors of all ages. Finally, stroll along Boathouse Row by the Schuylkill River. The historic boathouses are beautifully illuminated at night, creating a picturesque backdrop. It is a tranquil spot to unwind and admire Philadelphia's natural beauty.

Philadelphia beckons travelers with a blend of history, art and culinary delights. Whether you are exploring the birthplace of American democracy or immersing yourself in the city's vibrant cultural scene, this city offers a memorable experience for every visitor. Plan your trip, embrace the spirit of brotherly love and discover the charm of the city. NOW

Sources:

I. nps.gov.

2. nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit/ benjaminfranklinmuseum.htm. 3. youtube.com/watch?v=EZozuJQZ7Q0.





Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
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Across

- 1 Dance movement
- 5 Galley drudge
- 10 Libya neighbor 11 "Stranger
- Things' actress ---Ryder
- 13 Constraining
- 15 Ingested
- 16 Seek to know
- 17 --- bono (who profits?)
- 18 French aperitif
- 20 Football Hall of Famer, *Old Indestructible* Mel ---
- 21 They built Machu Picchu
- 23 Honshu seaport hit by earthquake in 1995

Down

round his Axis

31 Dart board

section

drunken ---

(Johnny Cash)

disorganized

dancers rely

dressed for

Hayes ...

33 On which

for their

clothes

36 They're

dinner

38 Equivocate

39 Consecrated

37 Above

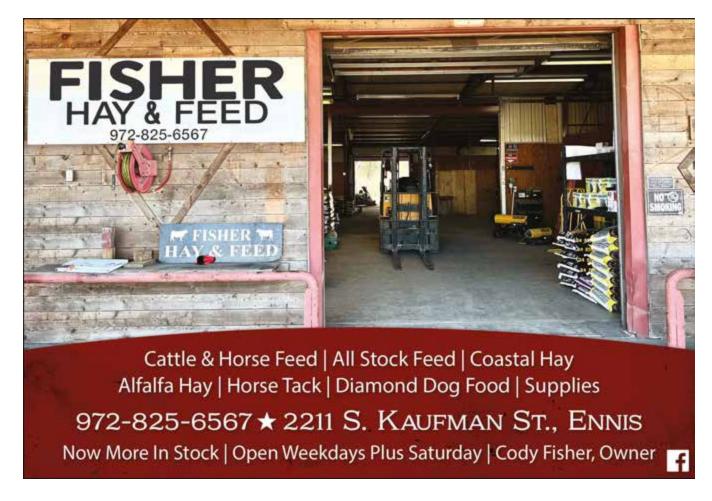
32 "Call him

- 26 For a while, 1 Fragment part of the 2 8th letter of the world revolved Greek
- alphabet 30 Stock market 3 Relaxes launch
 - 4 San Fran setting
 - 5 Food renowned for its holes
 - 6 Attack a popsicle
 - 7 Hill dweller
 - 8 Express
 - 9 Boredom 12 Opposed, in
 - Dogpatch 14 Drops from the
 - sky 19 Railroad track element
 - 20 Atomic bomber. briefly?

- 22 Opera set in Memphis
- 23 Young goats
- 24 Kosciusko's most famous daughter?
- 25 Gas law pioneer Robert
- 27 Remain stationary at sea
- 28 Elderly Harry Potter owl
- 29 Hoarse
- 31 Edifice, briefly
- 34 Scoundrel
- 35 Pass

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Sudoku Puzzle

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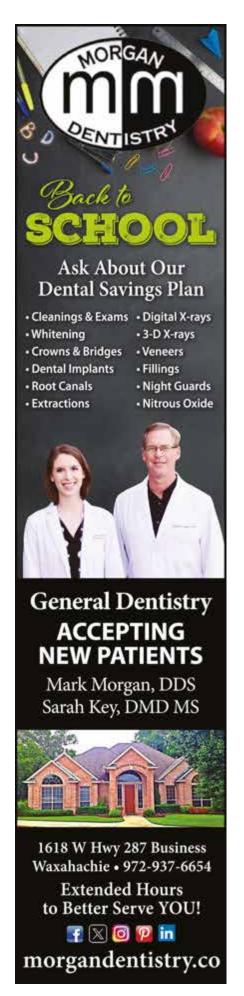


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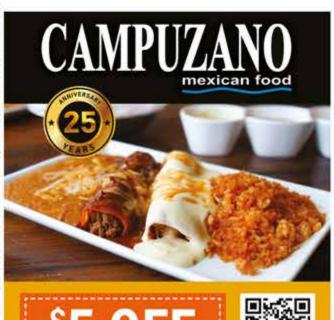
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One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

- Virginia Woolf







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Twelve Angry Men:

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8/16-8/25

Elvis Has Left the Building:

It's December 20, 1970, and Elvis Presley has disappeared. No one, not even his wily manager, "The Colonel," knows of his whereabouts. But the Colonel is all shook

up because he has racked up a secret debt — and with the King himself missing, the only way to pay it off is to find an Elvis impersonator within 24 hours. Hijinks ensue as the Colonel takes desperate measures to replace a man who is irreplaceable, all while keeping the prying eyes of a nosy reporter at bay and figuring out what happened to the real Elvis. For tickets and showtimes, visit ennispublictheatre.com. Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas St. (972) 878-7529, info@

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ennispublictheatre.com.

Blues on Main:

Blues on Main: Come join us for an evening filled with smooth tunes and soulful blues in Downtown Ennis. Get ready to groove to the melodies of Bnois King Band featuring Texas Slim, Jay B and the Zydeco Posse and Larry Lampkin. Comedian Edwin Douglas will rock the house with laughter on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday Gospel Brunch. Hosted by Unity in the Community of Ennis and the Ennis Main Street. Food and merchandise vendors and a family-friendly Kid's Zone. (972) 878-4748 or visit https:// visitennis.org/bluesonmain.htm.

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

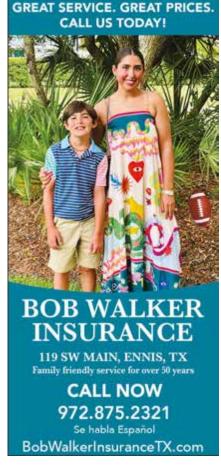


















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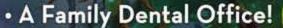
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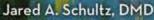


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