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NOVEMBER 2017

2017 Holiday  
Shopping Guide

## A Place of Healing

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## Happy Times

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Volunteer Spirit

Honesty and Hard Work

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## ON THE COVER



*The bald eagle and the American flag are symbols of freedom.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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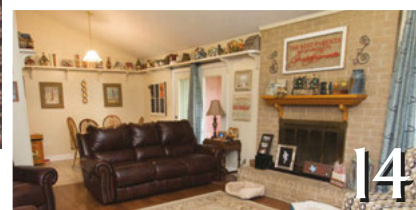
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## Editor's Note

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

This month, I feel like sharing a story of "family bonding" that lasted through my early teens. Moments after jumping off the bus, and eager to start the long four-day weekend, we were instructed to hurry up, take a potty break and get ourselves in the backseat of the family station wagon. My family of five was on our annual journey to Heyworth, Illinois, to share the Thanksgiving holiday with my mom's folks, the True family.


As day turned to night, the sibling connection was unbearable. I tried to sleep, but brothers who served as bookends just kept bothering me. And my mom, God love her life, kept swatting all three of us with the flat side of a yardstick, as if this was going to stop the ruckus between us. I'm sure my dad looked a lot like Clark Griswold as he drove all night to get us to Thanksgiving dinner on time. Looking back now to memories that are beginning to fade, I'd give anything to make that trip one more time — just the five of us. It really was family bonding at its finest.

What trip would you like to take just one more time?

*Sandra*


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# A Place of Healing

— By Derek Jones

*The wind whips the large flags overhead. The Texas sun reflects brightly off the pale stone that makes up the Veterans Memorial in Ennis. The monument, which is part of the larger Ennis Veterans Memorial Park, is patterned in a circle, allowing visitors to move from the memorial commemorating World War I to the memorial commemorating the current War on Terror. Entering the monument elicits a certain amount of awe and respect from its visitors. Larry Fincher, who served in the United States Army and is the chairman for the committee that oversees the memorial, perfectly illustrated the importance of the monument. "People need to remember that there is a price for freedom. Freedom is not free, but it is certainly worth the cost."*







Buddy Markham, who helped oversee the construction of the monument, added, “We can never forget the price which was paid for our freedom.”

Since the ribbon cutting in 2012, committee members and volunteers have been hard at work to ensure the memorial is, and continues to be, a special place of honor for those who served in the military. Buddy was quick to acknowledge who is to be honored by the monument. “This place was created to pay respect to anyone who has served: living, deceased, currently serving, anyone.”

“It doesn’t matter if you saw combat or if you were involved with a war. If you served in any branch, this place is for you,” Larry added.

The desire to honor veterans is illustrated by the inscribed paver bricks, which make up much of the walking surface of the memorial. These bricks can be purchased and inscribed with the name of someone who served. They are then placed within the monument as an act of remembrance. “We have

space for 3,300 stones, and right now, we have about 1,800 that have already been purchased and installed,” Buddy shared.

“Each paver is not only the story of an individual’s sacrifice,” Larry added, “but a family’s sacrifice, as well.”

As far as additions to the monument since it first opened, Larry offered, “The list is endless.”

“This place is completely volunteer-built and -paid for, due to the generosity of the people of Ennis,” Buddy enthusiastically pointed out.

Other than offering a place to remember those who served, the Veterans Memorial Committee, which oversees the monument, has another purpose. “The place is also designed to be a teaching tool,” Larry stated.

“Yes, this place serves as a history lesson,” Buddy agreed.

Walking the perimeter of the memorial, there are sections dedicated to each major conflict since World War I. Paver stones have been placed in these sections remembering those who served, and each section also contains information about







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that war, including important statistics and photos. With a sense of pride in his voice, Buddy added, “We wanted this to be a place where a school could bring classes to learn about veterans, or a parent could walk a child over while visiting the playground or attending a soccer game.” Those serving on the committee have remained true to their vision of creating a place of honor and respect, as well as a place of learning and instruction.

Although the Veterans Memorial is designed to remember the past, Larry and Buddy have their sights set on the future, when it comes to the value the memorial adds to the city of Ennis. Already in the works is a plan to add a monument that will honor all those who were affected by Agent Orange in Vietnam. This project hits close to home for Larry. “Right now, I have a friend dying from bone cancer as a direct result of exposure to Agent Orange,” he said, with pain evident on his face.

Such real-life stories demonstrate why it is important to never forget the price that was paid for freedom. “Adding a section dedicated to those suffering from Agent Orange exposure is important because it will bring awareness to the severity of the problem,” Larry stated, “and there are many today still suffering from its devastating effects.”

Physical additions are not the only plans in the works for the memorial. “Last year, we did not have a Veterans Day Service, due to several complications,” Buddy said. “However,





this year that is going to change. We already have plans to host a Veterans Day service here at the park.”

The group is going to try something different. Instead of holding the service on Saturday, which is the actual date of Veterans Day, they are going to hold the event on November 10, which is the Friday before. “This will allow the Veterans Day Service at the



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Robert Bell, Larry Fincher and Buddy Markham reflect on the price of freedom.

Ennis Veterans Memorial Park to take place without interfering with the Ellis County Veterans Service, which takes place at the Waxahachie Civic Center," Buddy explained.

For this year's event, the committee already has plans for the Ennis ISD to provide a band and choir. "They have also lined up guest speakers, the Color Guard and bag pipes," Larry added. "Plans are still in the works to add more to the line-up."

Larry and Buddy have high expectations for the quality of the event and the turn-out. The people of Ennis have proven to be very patriotic year after year, and they are dedicated to giving when it comes to veterans.

There is a certain contrast, which is hard to miss sitting on one of the benches provided within the memorial. Just outside the stone walls are soccer and football fields, a children's playground, picnic tables and wide-open spaces to play — each serving as a reminder of the freedoms we enjoy and the price that was paid for them.

In the windy, Texas weather, Larry and Buddy work tirelessly spraying and pulling weeds to ensure the Ennis Veterans Memorial serves as a place of respect and honor for generations to come. The work of the Veterans Memorial Committee is important because, as Buddy stated, "This is a place of healing for many who served or lost loved ones." **NOW**



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# Happy Times

— By Carolyn Wills



## At Home With Steve

*With its cream-colored brick exterior and crisp white trim, Steve and Kim Brock's ranch-style home is charming. It's where four little girls grew up and, now, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild always feel welcome. It's a family-loving, dog-pampering, holiday-celebrating home, and like a perfect candid photo that needs no editing, it's a home that simply feels "real."*

Built in the early '70s, it has belonged to the Brocks since 1992. For them, it started as three bedrooms, but by 1995 and, understandably, with four daughters, it was time to add on.





## and Kim Brock

Today, at 1,950 square feet, the house features four bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, breakfast area, laundry nook, formal dining room, living room and Steve's "getaway spot." "I would call it my man cave, but there's really only room for one person," he said with a grin.

Inside, the house is warm, comfortable and filled with wonderful treasures. There's always the possibility of being greeted by the aroma of Kim's made-from-scratch chicken and dumplings and, for sure, the guarantee

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of being greeted by three enthusiastic, adorable dogs. “Kiara is our 13-year-old Corgi mix,” Kim smiled. Sophie is an 8-year-old Yorkie, and the newest addition, Macy, is a Miniature Australian Shepherd puppy.

Life at the Brocks’ home is all about family happenings. From a daughter’s wedding or playing endlessly with Macy in the backyard, to going to and from work each day or to a festive Thanksgiving dinner, simply spending time together is the focus.

The home opens to a tiled entryway with a formal dining room to the left. It’s the place for gatherings and holiday meals. The dining room, with the same light-colored tile flooring as the entry hall,



includes unique built-in cabinets topped with tile on which Kim displays her collection of salt and pepper shakers.

“Once my girls know I like something, it becomes a collection,” she explained.

“Steve and I were on vacation when we first saw the shakers at Cracker Barrel. We bought one, and they quickly became a tradition.” There’s something to be said about a happy collection of salt and pepper shakers, a bright room and a dining table with seating for 10.

Back through the entryway hall, past a big glass container filled with Steve’s vintage marbles, is a large living room with an open view to the breakfast area. The interior wall of the living room slants upward to a tall ceiling, while the opposite wall features a high shelf running the distance on both walls of the breakfast room.



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For most of the year, the extensive shelf is home to another collection. Once, while on a trip to visit relatives in Pennsylvania, Kim spotted a birdhouse. She loved it, bought it and it became the first of many. "Birdhouses preceded the shakers," she said. "We added the shelf for a place to display them." When fall arrives, little owls and squirrels begin to appear on those shelves, and during the holidays, every inch is dedicated to Santas, trees and all things Christmas. "We start decorating for the holidays in September," she said.

The living room features dark wood floors; wood paneling; a beautiful oriental-style rug; leather furniture; a brick wood-burning fireplace; and a 65-inch, flat-screen TV. "We added the wood floors," Kim said. "I think the living room is both of our favorites."

About her design style, Kim describes it as "if I see it and like it and as the mood strikes," but clearly, the emphasis is to honor family. "The side table by the sofa used to hold my mother's Singer sewing machine," she said.

A sparkling clean galley kitchen, with oak cabinets installed in 1995, connects to the breakfast room, formal dining room and small laundry nook. What the kitchen may lack in size is more than made up for in efficiency and heart, as evidenced by many, many family dinners.



The bedrooms are located on either side of a hallway displaying a gallery of family photos. A pretty blue guest bedroom features a shaker-style dresser that once belonged to Steve's grandmother and lamps that came from Kim's grandmother.

The master bedroom, featuring an amazing custom-built, king-size

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headboard fashioned from wood slats mounted on painted wood, is large enough to also accommodate a massive armoire with built-in dresser and a table once belonging to Kim's great-grandmother. A dark brown accent wall contrasts with lighter beige walls in a color called "wool skein." The room includes his-and-her closets and a small master bath.



Another great and much-used feature is the home's huge backyard, with its relatively new fence that is tall enough for a high-jumping puppy. It's the place for Steve to explore his skills at grilling and for endless ball throwing with Macy.

Steve and Kim have been married for 34 years. A native of Ennis, he's worked at GAF Roofing for 38 years. Originally from Pennsylvania, Kim moved to Ennis with her family. Today, she works at Pet Lovers, her daughter's pet care business. The day that Steve and Kim were introduced by a mutual friend in the parking lot of H-E-B was life-changing.

In a family of fun traditions and happy collections, there is something extra-special about Christmas at the Brock house. "Kim was born on Christmas Day," Steve shared. "That's her time, her birthday, so we celebrate it at the same time, yet apart, from Christmas."

That birthday celebration is now a tradition in many forms. "One year, Steve gave me something each day throughout the whole month of December," Kim smiled. "Then one year, for the whole year, there was a gift on the 25th of every month."

"It doesn't take much for her to be happy," Steve grinned. After 34 years of marriage and a home with so much warmth, it's safe to say, these two make each other very happy. **NOW**

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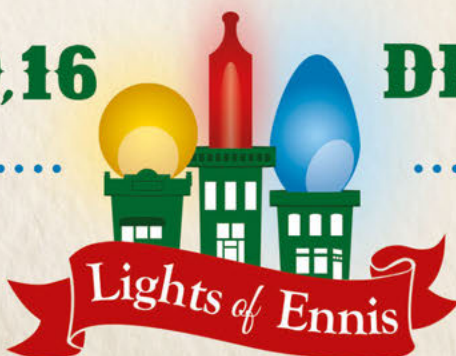
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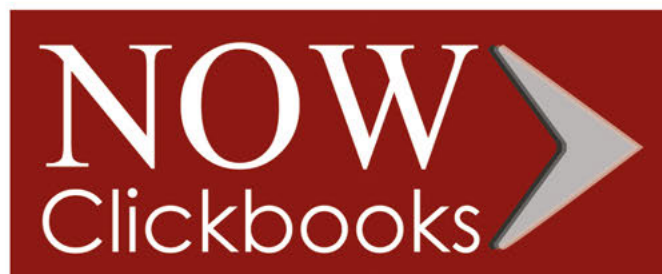
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— By Sandra Strong

# VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

*As the Thanksgiving holiday looms in the future, Greg and Linda Vineyard are looking forward to their 12th year at the helm of First United Methodist Church's Community Thanksgiving Meal. "It all began when a couple in our Sunday school class saw a need," Greg remembered. "They wanted to do something about it." That first year included an intimate number of church members, but as they plan for this year's event, they will be looking to feed no fewer than 450 people, not only congregation members, but also individuals from the Ennis community.*

The climb in number of those who gather for the noon meal has been steady, as has been the number of volunteers it takes each year to pull off an event of this magnitude. Over the years, Greg and Linda have never had any trouble getting volunteers to help, not only with the preparation, but with the serving and distribution of the food, as well. "We've learned how to train volunteers on how to cook large," Linda explained with a smile. "Everyone who signs up to volunteer has a servant's heart. They, like Greg and I, love to see the looks of gratitude on the faces of those who come to share a meal with others from the community."







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**Greg and Linda  
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people and their  
giving spirits  
that shine bigger  
and brighter  
each year.**

The past 12 years have seen the volunteer spirit come from leaders and young members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the National Honor Society, a dedicated group of women from Kaufman, local businesses that require employees to have a certain number of community service hours and church members who still realize the need and are continuing to volunteer annually to see the meal come to fruition. Volunteers can easily find themselves working in many areas — setup, greeters, servers, cooks and cleanup crew. It really does take a dedicated village to feed a village. “The Lord has provided everything we’ve needed every year,” Greg said. “We couldn’t do this without Him.”

The sit-down meal is served in-house on Thanksgiving Day in the church’s Family Life Center from 11:00 a.m. until the noon hour. “No one should be alone on the holidays,” Greg said, as Linda

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nodded in agreement. "It's more than just a meal. It's a time of fellowship with old and new friends."

"The meal works out perfectly for the older couples who find cooking a big holiday meal too much at this stage in their lives," Linda added. "All are welcome to come and share in the bounty." The guest list has included church members and non-church members, as well as homeless individuals. "We serve all nationalities, ethnicities and denominations. It truly is a communitywide event."

Seconds and take-out trays are served from noon to 1:00 p.m. Former Mayor Russell and Nancy Thomas will once again oversee the organization of off-site meal deliveries. Every person on the Meals on Wheels delivery roster receives home-cooked meals, as do homebound church members and those who work the Thanksgiving Day shift at the local hospital emergency room. "They don't get to leave," Greg stated, referring to the doctors, nurses and support staff at Ennis Regional Medical Center, "so we take meals to them."

By the time 2:00 p.m. rolls around, cleanup is complete. The time has come for Greg, Linda and all those who remained for the duration of the event to go home to rest, relax and/or do it all over again with their immediate families in the comfort of their own homes.

The menu for 450-plus people is massive, to say the least. Greg, Linda and the volunteer crew of at least 30 will prepare 16 turkeys, five gallons of gravy, 50 pounds of dressing, 30 pounds of freshly mashed potatoes, 20 large cans

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of cranberry sauce, 10 gallons of green beans, 10 gallons of sweet potatoes, four gallons of macaroni and cheese for the kids, 400 rolls and 40 pies and cakes cut in dessert-size slices. "The flow of food is continuous once we begin the serving process," Greg explained. "It's an assembly-line mentality."

Many people will make donations of pies, cakes and cookies, and the Vineyards refer to these generous donations as "God things." Greg and Linda are amazed at the hearts of the people and their giving spirits that shine bigger and brighter each year, as the event continues to steadily grow in overall attendance. They have so many heartwarming stories to tell. One story involves a full-size van that was overflowing with cases and cases of dinner and dessert plates; napkins; plastic knives, forks and spoons; decorations and cups. "This one donation lasted several years," Linda said.

One year, they needed dinner rolls. "Someone came by the church the same day and asked if we needed rolls," Greg shared with emotion in his voice. "Of course, her donation was greatly appreciated, because you can't have turkey and dressing without dinner rolls."

Each year, as the lights go out in the Family Life Center and Greg, Linda and the crew exit the building to climb into their vehicles, they do so tired but with the satisfaction of a job well done. For Greg, the faces that have come through the line are what touch his heart. For Linda, it's all about the day's conversations. "I so enjoy going from table to table as people are enjoying another Community Thanksgiving Meal," she admitted. "Talking to each of them is what touches my heart." **NOW**

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# HONESTY AND HARD WORK

*The job isn't complete until it's right. — By Sandra Strong*

John Wilkerson, owner of EZ-UP Carports & More, has been working from his “office on wheels” for as long as he’s been in business. “It’s been two years now,” John stated. “I started out thinking this might be a side business, something small to supplement the family’s income.” John soon found out what he was selling was something people in and around Ellis County were buying. “We took off in a big way during our second year,” he added.

Following in his dad’s footsteps, John has always been good with his hands. “When I was much younger, I remember learning so much from my dad, who was a homebuilder during that time,” John remembered. “It made sense to me to build things, too. I just didn’t have any idea how big and how fast EZ-UP Carports & More would grow.”

When the company first started, it was just John. With the rapid increase in business, he has since hired longtime friend, Bryan Skroh, who serves as the company’s superintendent. For both John and Bryan, this carport business has become their livelihood. “In the beginning, I helped when needed,” Bryan admitted. “We may go to separate jobs now, but we’re always working toward growing the business further.”

Their main goal is to make homes look more pleasing to the eye, cosmetically. They do this by offering new, customized carports, patio covers, metal roofs, heavy haul gutters, downspout installations and specialty trim. Each job is constructed and designed to order as John, Bryan and crewmembers, Jake Howard and Sean King, make homes look more complete. “The job isn’t complete until it’s right,” Bryan



## Business **NOW**

said. "When we leave, the customer will be happy with the finished product."

"We are old school," John added. "We measure twice, cut once."

And they try to buy their supplies locally. "We are community-minded, so buying materials at the local level is the thing to do," John explained. "It's one independent business owner helping another independent business owner."

A new job begins with a bid. The bid, when agreed upon, can easily become a quick, one-day assignment, or it can stretch out for several days. John and Bryan have worked with up to three customers in a single day. It's all dependent on the size of each one. "The smaller jobs are usually ones where we are repairing metal roofing, garage doors or gutters," John shared. "Our goal is to please the customer, no matter the size of the job."

**"The job isn't complete until it's right."**

Other jobs may include an apartment complex with 20-30 units or one big, oversized carport to house boats or allow for large family gatherings. Summer is their busy time for new construction, but they find they are quite busy in fall and winter with repair jobs. The goal, as they continue to grow, is to acquire more company trucks and crew members to handle the extra work.

John takes great pride knowing EZ-UP Carports & More's foundation is one built on honesty and hard work. His goal is to always give customers the best deal possible, because word-of-mouth advertising is so important in the competitive business world. "Our prices are lower than most," Bryan stated. "We strive to do the best job on each job. What we do needs to be perfect every time."

"Call us with the size," John said, "and we'll build it before your eyes!" **NOW**



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*Blaze and Briley Williams enjoy watching a movie together while waiting on their mom at Star Nails.*



*Constable Roy Callender puts John Erisman, Ennis Police Chief, in jail during the Ennis Chamber Auction.*



*Ashleigh Orduno and her children, Kennedy, Owen and Olivia, accept their winning tickets from Linda Roberson at Minnie McDowal Park.*



*City Girl, the new office mascot of City Real Estate, is welcomed to her new home by her loving family.*



*EnnisNOW community editor Sandra Strong enjoys Grandparent's Day with Easton McIntosh.*



*Lynn and Debbie Smith enjoy a meal together at Fiesta Grill.*



*Official opening of Minnie McDowal park is held.*



*Ennis NOW's Linda Roberson presents Britteny Webb with the State Fair of Texas tickets she won in the FB drawing.*



*Steve Mensik enjoys a beautiful fall day during a car show held at Getzendaner Park.*



*Rachel and Paul Smith, third-generation Palmer Bulldog alumni, return to enjoy the homecoming game.*



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## What Does Conservative Investing Mean to Older Investors?

If you're a certain age, or getting close to it, you might hear something like this: "Now that you're older, you need to invest more conservatively." But what exactly does this mean?

For starters, it's useful to understand that your investment preferences and needs will indeed change over time. When you're first starting out in your career, and even for a long time afterward, you can afford to invest somewhat aggressively, in stocks and stock-based investments, because you have time to overcome the inevitable short-term market drops. At this stage of your life, your primary concern is growth — you want your portfolio to grow enough to provide you with the resources you'll need to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

But when you finally do retire, and perhaps for a few years before that, your investment focus likely will have shifted from accumulation to preservation. And this certainly makes some sense. Even though you may spend two, or even three, decades in retirement, you actually have many shorter time frames for withdrawing money — that is, selling investments — from your retirement accounts, such as your 401(k) and IRA. In fact, you may be taking withdrawals every month, and you don't want to be forced to sell investments when their price is down. Consequently, you'll want a portfolio that's less susceptible to market downturns. This means that you may need to reduce the percentage of stocks in your investment mix and increase your holdings in investments that have less growth potential but offer greater stability of principal, such as bonds.

If you follow this formula, you will have become a more conservative investor. But this evolution — from aggressive to

conservative — isn't that simple, or at least it shouldn't be. If, as mentioned above, you are retired for two or three decades, you will have to deal with inflation. And even at a relatively mild 3-percent annual inflation rate, your purchasing power will decline by about half in just 25 years. This is a real threat to retirees, who, unlike active employees, can't count on increases in earned income to overcome increasing costs of living.

Given this reality, you will have to find your sources of rising income in your investment portfolio. One possibility: Dividend-paying stocks, some of which have increased their dividends for many years in a row. Still, like all stocks, these dividend payers can lose value from year to year, and they can also reduce, or even eliminate, dividends at any time. In other words, they aren't risk-free — which brings us back to the question of how "conservative" of an investor you can really afford to be when you're retired.

In the final analysis, there's no simple answer. On one hand, you probably shouldn't be as aggressive an investor as you were when you were much younger and still working. On the other hand, if you were to primarily own certificates of deposit and U.S. Treasury securities, you might face the prospect of outliving your money. Ultimately, you'll need to maintain a balanced portfolio that helps you control risk today while providing you with growth opportunities for tomorrow. **NOW**

*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.*

### Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.



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Photos by: Daniela Michelle Photography

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# The Season for Travel

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*The holidays mean parties, family and, for some, travel. If you have not planned a big trip before, there are some things you should keep in mind. If you are in the mood for a long getaway for the holidays, here are some tips to make sure you are ready for your excursion.*

## Picking a Place

- **Making the Best Use of Your Miles.** The first step is figuring out where you want to go and when you want to leave. If you have a credit card with airline miles or points, you need to be sure that you are not trying to leave during blackout dates. Some have many blackout dates. Some have few, and others have none, so you will need to call your cardmember services, or check their website. You may also be able to use your points to reserve rooms at some hotels and resorts. While your flight choices or hotel rooms may have limits, saving money by using your points can be a great way to plan a bigger vacation than you thought possible.

- **Keep Everyone Satisfied.** While it is not possible to make everyone happy, if you are traveling to a destination other than a family member's house, try to find a location with plenty to do. A house on a remote beach is great for some, but if part of the group does not like the feel of the sand on their feet, look into a place like Galveston that has beaches, as well as a historic downtown area and other fun activities.

- **Decide With Help.** With the boom of online services that consolidate hotel rates and flight costs, many people have gotten away from using a travel agent. But, with the sheer volume of options out there, you might consider having an agent help you plan the perfect trip. If your plans include a cruise or other more exotic type of trip, a travel agent could have special offers you cannot get anywhere else. And an agent can be great if you are looking to book travel and accommodations for the extended family.

## Get the House in Order

- **Avoid Leaving a Paper Trail.** Assuming you are taking the chance to enjoy a lengthy trip, there are a few things you should do around the house. Have mail and newspaper services stopped. Anytime you will be gone more than a couple of days, it is a good idea to stop mail and paper delivery, but that is especially true during the holidays, when burglars have a keen eye open for signs of an empty house. You can call or drop by your local post office, but using USPS.com lets you put a hold on your mail with ease online. Most large market newspapers also let you place holds online, but you will have to check if you are getting a small, local publication.

- **Make It Look Lived In.** Aside from limiting mail or newspapers, having your lights variably on and off is a simple way to make it seem like people are home. Timer switches for your exterior lights are cheap and very easy to install. You can even install them on key interior lights to enhance the ruse that you're still at home. If



your yard has winter grass or tends to have weeds that will start looking long during your absence, check into hiring a yard service to keep it looking nice. This also ensures that you will not be overloaded with household chores upon your return. Also, try getting all laundry, dishes and cleaning tasks done before you go. You would hate to ruin the fun you had on vacation by coming back to a house with a long list of to-dos.

• *Find a Helping Hand.* If there is a pool to be skimmed, leaves to be raked or pets to be fed, try finding a trustworthy neighbor to help you out. Offer the same help during their vacation in exchange. Aside from helping with simple chores, having someone check on your place is good in the off chance you have power loss, a leak or some potential catastrophe.

## Time for the Trip

• *Dot Your I's.* Before you hit the road or head for the airport, make sure you have all the various documents and paperwork you will need. Identification for your family and passports, if you are going across borders, and insurance cards are among the things you will want to bring. If you have a detailed itinerary, be sure you have confirmation numbers for each activity. And even though you do not want to think about it before a big trip, it is advised to have an updated will on file in case something unexpected happens.

• *Travel Prepared.* Whether flying or driving, traveling with kids takes a little extra work. For air travel, bring games, toys and snacks to keep your kids occupied and happy. If you are driving, ration the games and snacks you give the kids to keep them from getting bored too quickly. When in doubt, classic car games that you grew up playing, but your kids likely haven't, could be a fun distraction. And be sure to throw in pillows and blankets, so your kids can be as comfortable as possible while they have to sit still for hours on end.

Holiday travel can be more stress than it is worth if you are not ready for all that is involved. But with careful planning and preparation, you can spend a fun-filled holiday vacation, making memories to last a lifetime. **NOW**

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## Legends and Landmarks

*Pieces of the past wait to be explored in Southwestern Oklahoma.*

The beauty of Oklahoma comes in many forms: vast stretches of open plains, soaring mountain ranges and sunsets that set the sky ablaze with color. The state's southwestern corner, known as Great Plains Country, puts that diversity on display. The alluring and rugged terrain makes it an incredible spot for outdoor adventure, while the unique history of the area gives visitors another rich layer to explore.

Among Great Plains Country's best-known features are the granite-capped Wichita Mountains and the 59,020-acre Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The gorgeous refuge offers myriad activities. Visitors will find hiking trails and climbing routes for all skill levels, and the views are breathtaking for those who reach the summits on foot or take a drive to the top of Mount Scott, one of the state's tallest mountains.

Nestled at the entry of the refuge is the 100-year-old resort town of Medicine Park. It is filled with historic buildings housing eclectic shops, art galleries and fantastic bed-and-breakfasts.

Visitors can amble along the scenic trails, fish for trout in the well-stocked creek and enjoy classic comfort food at one of several delicious restaurants — all while soaking in the history of an area that was once a playground for celebrities, politicians and outlaws.

Quartz Mountain Nature Park in Lone Wolf is a hot spot for bird-watching, rock climbing, hiking and fishing. For those wanting overnight accommodations, the rustic cabins and lodge-style rooms at the remote Quartz Mountain Resort, Arts & Conference Center offer stunning views of the Wichita Mountains and Lake Altus-Lugert.

In Carnegie, the Kiowa Tribal Museum features 10 vibrant murals chronicling the history of the Kiowa Tribe, and singing sessions and beadwork classes help introduce visitors to tribal traditions. The Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center in Lawton offers an extensive collection of artifacts, including painted buffalo skulls, intricate beadwork and elaborate war bonnets. The Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko focuses





on the arts and crafts of the Southern Plains Indians, including the Caddo and Delaware nations. Popular summer events include the Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration in Carnegie, the Comanche Nation Homecoming Powwow in Walters and the Wichita Tribal Dance in Anadarko.

Throughout Great Plains Country, the history of conflict between the tribes and the United States government is also preserved. In Cheyenne, is the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, where visitors can take a self-guided tour of the 1 1/2-half mile trail, and the visitor center has exhibits and a film that tells the story of Lt. Col. George A. Custer's 1868 surprise attack on Peace Chief Black Kettle's Southern Cheyenne village. Farther south sits Fort Sill, best known as the home of Apache leader Geronimo during his latter years. Today, the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum offers exhibits on military and Native American history.

Two of the most famous pathways in United States history ran through Great Plains Country: the Chisholm Trail and Route

66. Used to drive cattle from Texas to Kansas in the post-Civil War era, the Chisholm Trail is the stuff of American legend. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan celebrates its rich history. Long after the Chisholm Trail cattle drives, another thoroughfare captured America's imagination. Built in the 1920s, Route 66 took travelers through American small towns across the country. The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton and National Route 66 & Transportation Museum in Elk City showcase the classic cars and vivid neon signs that helped make the route so memorable, while providing interactive exhibits to introduce the road to a new generation.

With its beautiful scenery and colorful history, there's much to see and do in Southwestern Oklahoma. For more information or to plan a trip to Great Plains Country, visit [travelok.com](http://travelok.com). **NOW**

*By Hayley Riggs McGhee. Photos courtesy of Oklahoma Tourism.*



### November 3, 4

Waxahachie Old Fashioned Singing: 7:00 p.m., **Friday**; 3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. For more details, visit [www.WaxaOFS.com](http://www.WaxaOFS.com)

### November 4

Battle Cry 5K: MKT Depot in downtown Waxahachie. The event benefits The Ellis County Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. Call (972) 937-0509 for more information.

### November 10

Navarro Dental Center Stars, Stripes, Smiles: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 1661 W. 2nd Ave., Corsicana. First come, first serve. One day of free dentistry for military Veterans in honor of Veterans Day. For more information, call (903) 872-1661 or visit [NavarroDentalCenter.com](http://NavarroDentalCenter.com).

### November 10 — 12

Waxahachie WWII Weekend & Reenactment: historic downtown Waxahachie. The "big battle" will be at 3:00 p.m., **Saturday**.

### November 11

Ellis County Veterans Appreciation Ceremony: 10:00 a.m., Waxahachie Civic Center.

### November 11

Open Hangar: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Coyote Hangar, Campbell Field, Corsicana Municipal Airport. Free hot dogs and drinks. Bring photos and testimonials of your honored veteran. There will be an airplane ride drawing for the veterans. The event is sponsored by The Coyote Squadron, a unit of the Commemorative Air Force.

Lantern Fest: Texas Motorplex. For more information, visit [www.thelanternfest.com](http://www.thelanternfest.com).

### November 17, 18

5th Annual Festival of Trees – A Home for the Holidays: 5:00-9:00 p.m., **Friday**; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. Event includes a silent auction and lots of fun family activities that include visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County. For more information, call (972) 937-2797 or email [elliscountyhfh@gmail.com](mailto:elliscountyhfh@gmail.com).

### November 18

Rocket Christian Church Craft & Bake Sale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 135 Maple Leaf Dr., Palmer (next to the Rocket Café).

WHS Pre-Christmas Craft Fair:

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., WHS common area.

Admission is \$1. For more information, call (214) 463-5101.

Bark in the Park Fun Day: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Jaycee Park, 2300 Park St. This family-friendly event will offer UKC informative booths, as well as vendors, crafts, bounce houses, food and fun for the whole family. All dogs must be current on all vaccinations and be on a leash with an adult in control of the leash, unless the dog is working. No dogs of flexi-leads will be admitted. To sponsor or for more information, call Jackie Stephenson at (817) 980-0813 or Carlton Myers at (801) 824-5450.

### November 25

Small Business Saturday: historic downtown Ennis. Full details can be found at [www.VisitEnnis.org](http://www.VisitEnnis.org).

### November 27

Christmas at SAGU: 6:30-8:30 p.m., SAGU campus. This annual tradition continues into its ninth year on the first Monday following Thanksgiving. Join SAGU in the lighting of the campus, activities, live music and an opportunity to get photos with Santa. The event is free and open to the public. Call (972) 825-4700 for more information.

### November 28

Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting: 6:30 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

### November 30

Lights of Ennis Parade of Lights and Block Party: historic downtown Ennis.

The event includes a free open house at the Ennis Railroad & Cultural Heritage Museum from 5:00-9:00 p.m., a parade of lights at 7:00 p.m., live dance and musical performances at Minnie McDowal Park. Food trucks and crafts for children are also part of the holiday fun. Call (972) 878-4748 for more details.

### December 1

Waxahachie Senior Center Craft Sale: 8:00 a.m., 122 Park Hills Dr.

### December 1 — 17

*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*: Ennis Public Theatre. For full details, pricing and curtain times, visit [www.ennispublictheatre.com](http://www.ennispublictheatre.com).

### Ongoing:

#### Second Mondays

Parkinson's Support Group: Ennis Regional Medical Center.

#### Third Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group:

6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

#### Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

#### Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at [ccurry\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:ccurry_98@yahoo.com).

#### Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Barb at (214) 463-5064 or email [barb.jacobs19@yahoo.com](mailto:barb.jacobs19@yahoo.com). Reservations are due **Sunday** before the meeting.

#### Thursdays

Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. This is a nondenominational Bible study class. For more information, call Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

#### Fourth Thursdays

MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

#### Second Fridays

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Group: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center.

#### Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com).*





## A Roadmap to Cancer Care: Patient Navigation

Receiving a diagnosis of cancer is a life-changing event. Figuring out what's next comes with its own set of challenges. Traversing the many aspects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment can be daunting.

Helping a patient navigate their cancer journey is an important function of their care team — a team of caring experts each playing an important role in surrounding patients with specialized support. That means a strong focus on communicating with patients and families, managing treatment and side effects and providing guidance in areas not directly related to clinical care.

The navigation function plays a tremendous role in the patient experience. A care team's goal is to ensure that patients and their family members understand their treatment options, know what to expect and help them connect to and take advantage of helpful resources. Managing symptoms, providing emotional support and providing transition into survivorship are also ways a care team helps patients. Patients can take steps to make the most of their partnership with the care team, so the team can better help them navigate the journey.

**Don't shy away from questions.** One of the most important things a patient can do is answer questions honestly and ask questions openly.

- Answering questions fully and honestly will help the care team better understand how the patient is feeling, how they're responding to treatment and what support they may need. While a sign or symptom may not seem like a big deal to a patient, it can be important for the care team to know.

- It's also important for patients to ask questions without fear. What you

don't know can cause fear and stress, so asking questions and addressing concerns directly can improve the patient experience and potentially head off complications.

**Pay attention to how you feel.** Cancer can bring side effects and new symptoms. It's important for patients to pay attention to how they feel and tell their care team.

**Share the journey.** Cancer can impact one's life in countless ways. Emotional pressures, financial challenges and lifestyle changes can be stressful and feel overwhelming. Other times, patients may feel strength and hope, or be inspired to help others or try new things. Through the good times and the difficult times, sharing the journey with family, friends and the care team can be therapeutic and allows patients to feel supported.

When it comes to cancer care, your care team knows they have seen it all, but you haven't. Each patient experiences cancer differently — it's not a one-size-fits-all situation. By providing a patient navigation model that ensures patients have a system of support from trusted experts, your care team is able to create a roadmap to cancer care holistically designed to meet the needs of each person entrusted to their care. **NOW**

*Katrina Emmett, M.D.  
Breast and General Surgeon  
Texas Breast Specialists*





## In the Kitchen With Steve Randle and Rick Hensley

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Avid hunters and longtime NOW Magazines employees, Steve Randle and Rick Hensley, cook a lot in their homes and at their respective camps. At 5 years old, Rick began helping his mom in her kitchen, and then he was happy to man the grill or fire pit once he started hunting in his early 20s in Nacogdoches, Texas. Steve and his three sons have hunted turkey and deer in Comanche and Mills counties for over 30 years. Starting a brisket and a campfire Friday night, their pit and the camp fire smokes all weekend.

The recipes he and Rick share here are so simple, but they earn compliments from their friends and families. “And they’re great,” Rick said, “for sitting around a camp fire on a cool fall evening after you’ve been out hunting.” **NOW**

### Rick’s Cajun Rib Eyes

*Best prepared before you go out for the evening hunt.*

**2 1.25-inch-thick prime or choice rib eyes, bone-in or boneless**

**1 Tbsp. Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning**

**1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Pepper**

**1/2 tsp. onion powder**

**1/2 tsp. garlic powder**

**1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce**

**1 tsp. soy sauce**

**1.** Place the steaks in a 1-gallon Ziploc bag. Sprinkle both sides with dry seasonings; add the sauces.

**2.** Squeeze the air out, and zip the bag closed. Place it in your ice chest for at least 2 hours.

**3.** Let steaks get to room temperature before putting them on the fire.

**4.** For medium rare, and depending on the size of your fire, most steaks will need to cook about 5 or 6 minutes per side

### Rick’s Venison Stew

**2 Tbsp. bacon grease**

**1 Tbsp. olive oil**

**2.5 lbs. venison, cubed**

**1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Salt**

**1 tsp. Lawry’s Seasoned Pepper**

**1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**

**8 cups beef broth**

**12 medium golden potatoes**

**1 tsp. Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning**

**1/2 tsp. garlic powder**

**1/2 tsp. onion powder**

**1 large, sweet 1015 onion**

**4 celery stalks, diced bite-size**

**1 8-oz. bag petite carrots, sliced bite-size**

**1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes, regular or mild**

**1 14.5-oz. can green beans**

**1/2 15.2-oz. can corn (optional)**

**Salt and pepper, to taste**

**1.** In a large stock pot, combine grease and olive oil.

**2.** While it heats, season the cubed venison with salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce.

**3.** Cook over medium-high heat until done. Add the beef broth; cook at a low boil for about 30 minutes, to start tenderizing meat.

**4.** Meanwhile, wash potatoes. Leaving the skin on, cut into medium bite-size pieces. Add to the boiling meat mixture; simmer for another 15 minutes.

**5.** Add remaining seasonings, vegetables and canned goods and fast simmer 20 minutes.

**6.** If desired, use flour or corn starch to thicken it a little.

**7.** Salt and pepper to taste, and enjoy!

### Steve’s Nanner Pud

**5 3/4 cups cold milk**

**2 large boxes instant vanilla pudding mix**

**1 1/2 14-oz. cans Eagle Brand condensed milk**

**1/2 stick butter**

**1/2 box graham cracker crumbs**

**1 1/2 boxes vanilla wafers, reduced fat variety**

**3-4 ripe bananas**

**1 large tub Cool Whip**

**1.** Combine milk with pudding mix. Stir in condensed milk, a little at a time, to avoid clumps; refrigerate.

**2.** Melt butter and mix with graham cracker crumbs. Spread crumbs on bottom of bowl or aluminum pan, saving some for decorations, if desired.

**3.** Put down a layer of wafers and sliced bananas.

**4.** When pudding is firm, fold in the Cool Whip, so the pudding has white streaks all through it. Save some Cool Whip for decoration.

**5.** Pour a little less than half of the pudding mix over the wafers and bananas.

**6.** Repeat the layers and end with all bananas covered, or they will turn brown.

**7.** Stand wafers up all the way around the edge of the bowl.

**8.** Sprinkle with crumbs, and add dollops of Cool Whip.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



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