

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE • 10 YEARS

EnnisNOW

M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2014

It Takes a Christmas Village

At Home With
Judy and Mary Santos

A Unified City

The Greater Ennis
United Way encourages
citizens to give back

SPECIAL SECTION:
2014 Holiday
Shopping
Guide

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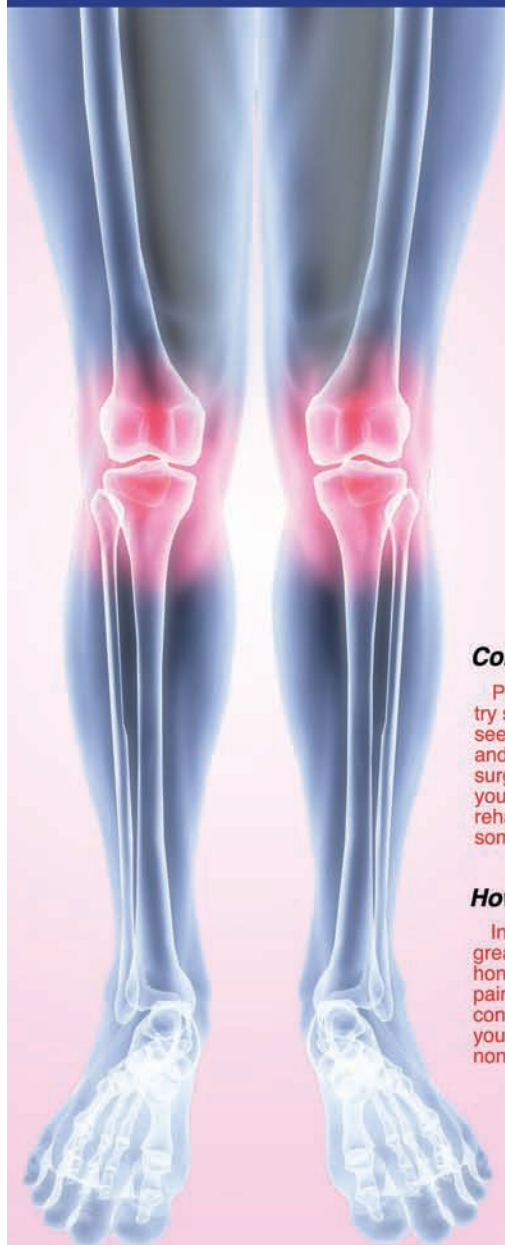
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ON THE COVER



Christmas sparkles indoors and out for Mary and Judy Santos.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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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

Lights, they are a-twinkling ...

Thanks to the ever-growing influence of the Lights of Ennis program, the city has achieved such postcard-prettiness during the Christmas holidays that it alone inspires seasonal cheer. The beauty of the simple white illumination, outlining roofs and facades everywhere, has in fact come to define yuletide in the Bluebonnet City. From downtown's historic edifices to residences small and large across town, the elegant, soft lights sparkle and inspire.

For almost the entire life of the program, *EnnisNOW* has done its part to promote it. In fact, the magazine turns 10 years old this month. NOW Magazines, as a publishing group, observed its tenth anniversary in March but December signifies a decade for *EnnisNOW*. And what a perfect time to celebrate this special milestone.

Ten years of entertaining feature stories, great photos and delicious recipes have been made possible by our dedicated readers and advertisers. Thank you Ennis!

Randy

Randy Bigham
EnnisNOW Editor
 randy.bigham@nowmagazines.com

P.S. The publisher and staff at NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

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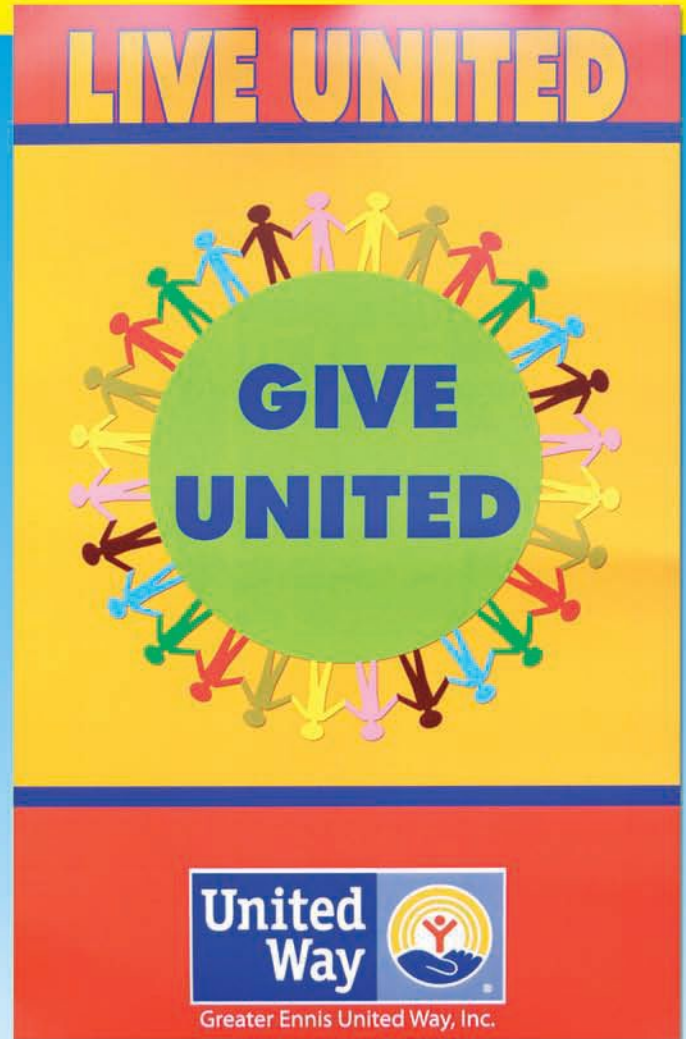
AUNIF

— By Callie Revell



Cathie Morales is a born and reared Ennisite. After graduating from Ennis High in 1975, she and her sweetheart, Trent, married, and he attended Texas A&M University. Soon, they moved back to Ennis, where they brought up their children, Kyle and Calleigh. Cathie currently serves as president of Prosperity Bank in Ennis and knows there is no place she'd rather be. "There's just nothing like this small town and the caring people," Cathie said. "It's great having those relationships. It's a big family."

Because Cathie loves Ennis, she enjoys giving back to the community by volunteering her time with a number of organizations. "I've been on quite a few boards for several years," Cathie said, mentioning her current work for A-CROSS and the Golden Circle Activity Center. "And I've worked with the United Way for 13 years." Cathie has devoted her efforts



to the Greater Ennis United Way, because she believes in its cause. "The United Way is my passion," Cathie admitted. "I like to serve. I like to help people. I love being on the United Way board, because we can make such a difference." Her duties as president include overseeing meetings, helping organize annual campaigns and networking with volunteers.

The Greater Ennis United Way provides funds to local organizations that have a positive impact on citizens' welfare. "United Way's official mission is to improve the quality of life of all people by responding to priority health and human service

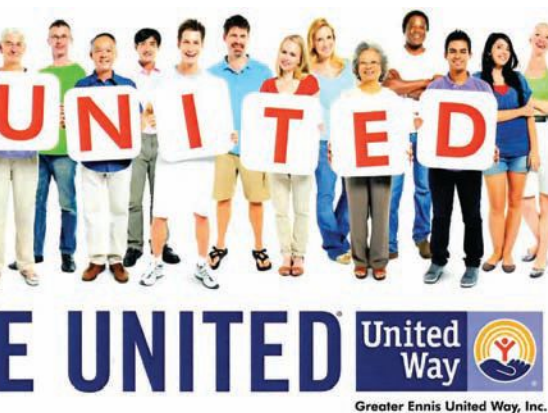
IED City

needs,” Cathie said. “And we do that by gathering and distributing resources in an efficient and accountable manner.” Ennis didn’t always have its own United Way, being originally under the umbrella of the United Way of Dallas. By becoming the Greater Ennis United Way, all efforts are now focused on the local community. “That was really exciting to me,” Cathie added. “I think that encourages people to want to give, because their money stays here.”

Every year, the United Way raises funds through an annual campaign. “We start every August with the kick-off,” she pointed out. “We go to different businesses where we talk about the United Way, what we do, and who we help. We are fortunate to have a lot of industry here, so we have volunteers that present our program to the employees of these companies. The employees have a pledge card, and they make monthly donations from their paychecks. That’s how we raise the majority of our money.”

Cathie is always touched by the willingness to give, particularly by those who can’t give much. “Some people don’t make a lot of money, but they still want to contribute,” Cathie explained. “A lot of them have personally benefited





Sandy Anderson, Jesse DeLeon and board members Frank Bartolic, Dr. Bill Kinzie and Julie Pierce enjoy a friendly competition to help meet the annual goal.

After the campaign wraps up in late December and early January, the United Way distributes the funds raised. "We have an allocation committee that goes through an interviewing process with each agency every year," Cathie expounded. "The agencies have a request and, depending on how much money we raise, the committee reviews the budget and disperses it." Money raised through United Way helps provide temporary housing, after-school programs, counseling, elder citizen care, health services and child welfare throughout the Ennis area. Twelve agencies in all receive funds each year from the United Way. They include: the American Red Cross, the Boys & Girls Club, the Gingerbread House, A-CROSS, Candy Cane Corner, Impact Ennis, Hope Clinic, Friends of the Ennis Public Library, the Girl Scouts, the Golden Circle, Helping Hands and Meals-on-Wheels.

Organizers insist that donating to the United Way is a great way to directly affect the community. "All money stays in Ennis or Ellis County," Cathie confirmed. "Agencies come in and give us a presentation about how much money they need and why. You can hear their stories, and it's really uplifting."

Cathie encourages citizens to donate to the United Way as well as to the individual organizations. "Every agency gets a portion of the campaign funds," she said. "However, they are all responsible for raising money on their own as well."

Another way to help the United Way is through volunteering. "I want to give

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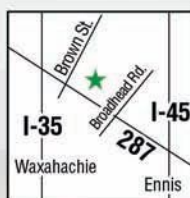
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**“It’s our duty
as citizens to
help others.”**

back to the community I’ve lived in and that has blessed me, and to help others the way I was helped,” Cathie said. “It’s our duty as citizens to help others. Once people experience that, it changes them, especially when they see people who have been helped move on to bigger and better things.”

For 2014 and years to come, Cathie and Tre have high expectations for the mission of the Greater Ennis United Way. “Our community is second to none,” Cathie smiled. “We are the most giving community, by far, because we all stick together, and we take care of our own. I’m very proud of the United Way and what we’ve accomplished over the years.” **NOW**

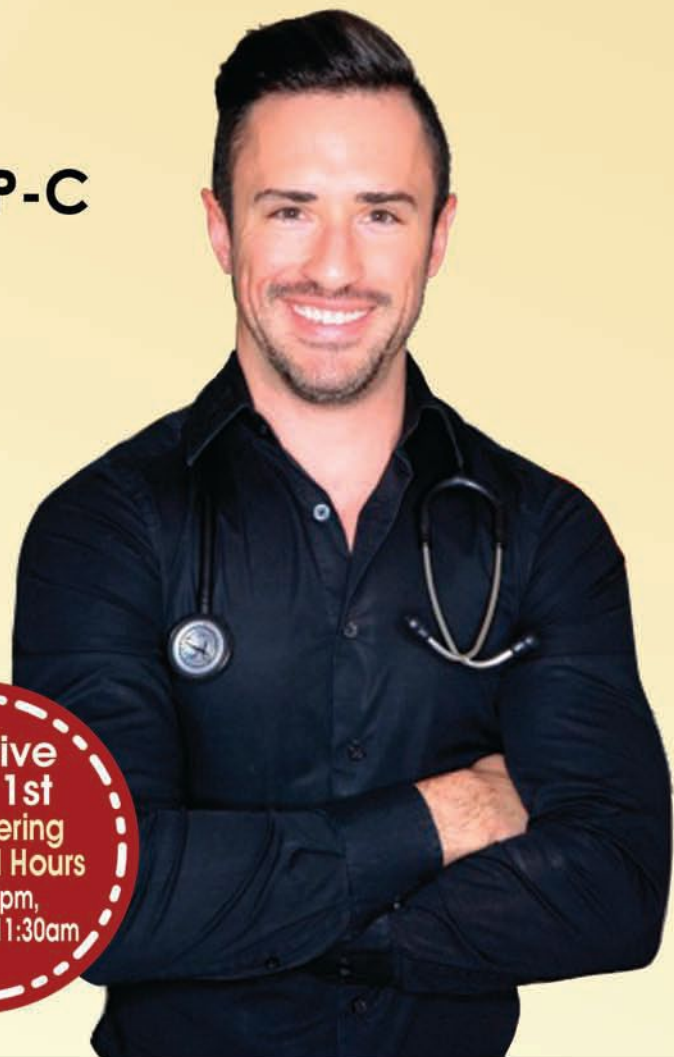
Editor’s Note: For more information on how you can donate, visit www.ennisunitedway.org.

Welcome

Chance Turner, RN, MSN, FNP-C

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Chance Turner recently joined Ellis County Medical Associates as a Family Nurse Practitioner providing primary care. He is accepting new patients of all ages. Chance's previous experience providing critical care and tending to ICU patients gives him excellent skills dealing with disease management and acute illness treatment. Chance was born and raised in Texas and graduated from Texas Tech, receiving highest honors and a 4.0 GPA when earning his Masters of Science in Nursing. He has a special interest in aesthetic and cosmetic treatments and can provide a variety of services in the med spa. Ennis Doctors Center welcomes Chance to our practice, and to Ennis.



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It Takes a Christmas Village

— By Randy Bigham



Thanks to the Lights of Ennis, graceful rows of white, glimmering orbs sum up Ennis in a holiday heartbeat. For over a decade, the program spearheaded by Harriett Adams has signified Yuletide spirit from downtown to the farthest reaches of the city.

But at least one local homeowner has been making the most of masses of twinkling lights to spread Christmas cheer for almost 40 years. Judy Santos prefers multicolored ones, which have blazed their brilliance into the imaginations of generations of local children. Those lights, and the scenes they reveal, have also repeatedly won recognition for Judy's lawn display as the Lights of Ennis' Yard

of the Season. As recently as last year, the lakeside home Judy shares with her mother, Mary, received that coveted award. "It's an honor," Judy said. "It means people love the decorations as much as I do, and that makes it all worth it!"

Even the name of the proud creator of this winter smorgasbord has a Christmas ring to it, and Judy embraces the correlation. "A young girl, who is now all



At Home With Judy Mary & Santos

grown up, used to love having her parents drive her by to see the decorations,” recalled Judy, an American Airlines representative since 1981. “And when the girl learned my last name, she told her mother, ‘I believe there’s a connection between Santos and Santa!’”

Judy is keeping any possible kinship to old Saint Nick a secret for now, but that she’s his foremost local advocate is clear by the lighted displays that enhance her front lawn. They take the form of a Christmas village, peopled by snowmen (and their ladies), toy soldiers standing guard and a pair of candy cane-wielding elves. And presiding over this happy hamlet, Santa Claus and his adored Rudolph prepare for their midnight ascent with a sleigh-load of gifts for all.

“I enjoy it when parents drive by with their kids,” Judy admitted. “They’ve been doing it forever, it seems, and their reactions are what inspire me to keep up the decorating.”

But it started off in a small way. “Near the front porch, I put out a free-standing candy cane one year — I think it was



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1976 — and my brother-in-law, David Puckett, suggested I light it.” She did, and the experiment ignited a desire to expand the Christmas theme. Finally, with construction skills inherited from her grandfather, who built her family’s home, Judy set out to create a little holiday utopia on the front lawn. Judy’s mother helped with planning and details, and her late father, Louis Santos, was a big supporter of the idea after it became a hit. “He finally came around to it,” Judy laughed, “mainly because he enjoyed people thinking he did the decorations!”

Although a devout Catholic, Judy chooses to make no biblical references

in her captivating wonderland, instead concentrating on the children’s entertainment aspect of Christmas. “I want everyone to be able to enjoy it,” she explained.

And they do. The display grows and changes yearly, as Judy retires some items and adds others. Scattered

across the sloping lawn that faces Lake Clark, are assorted gingerbread characters, a gingerbread cottage and three caroling Victorian figures. Elsewhere, there’s a pair of mom and pop snowmen with a baby in tow, all scarfed and hatted to fight wintry breezes. But a tall, wooden Santa, outlined in red, white and green lights, remains the focal point of this holiday fantasy come to life. He stands, waving a hearty welcome from the center of the yard, surrounded by a grove of mini Christmas trees, a sleigh packed with glittering gifts, and an alert Rudolph scouting the way.

Santa’s workshop is all aglow nearby,

its windows thrown open, depicting elves hard at work, making the presents that will surprise young ones near and far. The elves glimpsed there are named Daniel and Jeremy, after Judy’s nephews.

Tucked behind the main vignette are a couple of teddy bears, all lit up, one of them riding a pony, tricked out in holiday gear. And nearest the driveway is





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a kids' "choo-choo" train — what would Christmas be without one? — each piece made by Judy's talented hand and strung with lights. It's called the Alexys-Taylor Express, named for some of her favorite fans. With mistletoe as trim and peppermints for wheels, this magical conveyance is rushing a carload of wrapping paper to last-minute gift-givers. The façade of the Santos home itself is decorated with giant illuminated wreaths and bells as well as a pair of candy canes that frame the front windows.

Inside the house, the enchantment of Christmas continues. The living area, dining room, kitchen and one of the home's three bedrooms each echo the season with well-placed decorations. In the living room, a chair and sofa are made cozy with holiday-themed pillows, some



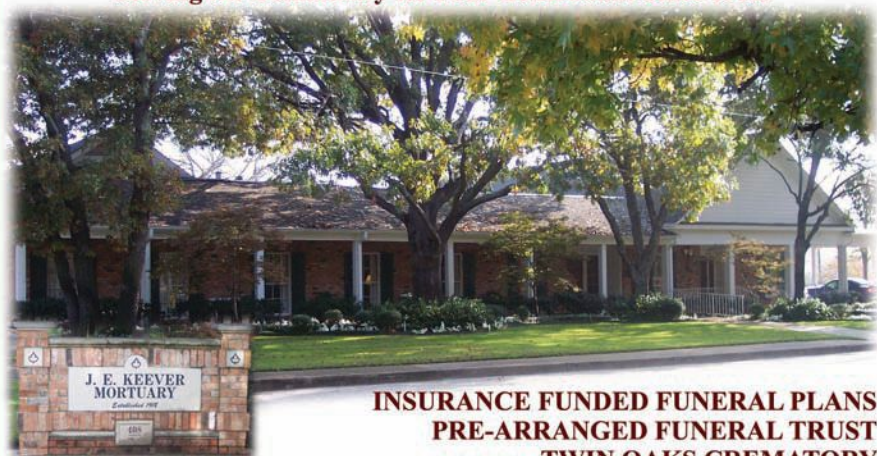
embroidered, others brightly printed. Along one wall, hung with landscape paintings by Judy's sister, Sandra Puckett, stuffed dolls perch on the back of an armchair and a snowman in a comfy sweater squats near the television. And standing sentinel in a corner is a giant, beautifully dressed Christmas tree, its bow-tied top almost reaching the ceiling.

The adjoining dining room holds a



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delightful seasonal exhibit — a veritable cornucopia of toy soldiers of every size and uniform. Each one stands to attention atop a mirrored dressing table, brought in from one of the bedrooms for optimal display. While clutching batons and swords — as if to challenge any Scrooge that might dare enter — the soldiers (and at least one pirate) sport whiskers and curling mustaches. After admiring the reflection of the Christmas tree in the glass, the eye is drawn to an



Eastern European St. Nicholas. Attired in a ceremonial robe of gold-flecked crimson and green, the jolly gent poses triumphantly amid his battalion of colorful guards.

In one of the bedrooms, just off the center hallway, another mesmerizing scene, right out of a storybook, unfolds. The lucky viewer takes in a large-scale, snowy village, positioned on a corner table. Lit from within, houses, shops and a church cast shadows on the miniature inhabitants of this Christmas dreamscape.

For Judy, the interior and exterior of her home express more than her artistic flair. It's a journey back to childhood for her, recapturing the wide-eyed thrill of Christmastime she shared with her sister. "We always loved this time of the year," Judy said. "Mom and Dad made it so wonderful for us. So, I guess, it's my way of giving a little of that to others. And, you know, when families drive by to see the decorations, and I hear the kids getting excited, they're giving a gift to me, too!" **NOW**

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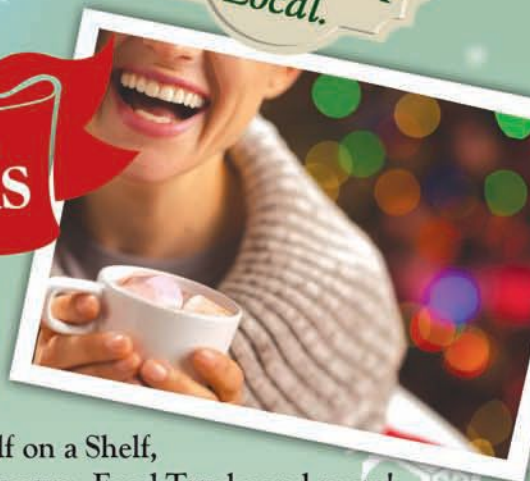
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FAITHFUL *Friends*

— By Callie Revell

In Ennis there's a place for everyone at every stage of life. Perhaps no group appreciates this more than Mature Adult Christians, popularly known as the MACs, a group of senior adults ages 55 and older who meet monthly for food, fellowship and entertainment. The organization provides a special outlet for those who sometimes feel isolated or have difficulty connecting with peers in a positive environment. According to Jim Collins, president of the MACs, the group fills a distinct need in the senior community of Ennis. "We support each other," Jim said. "Anytime someone has a problem or needs help, he or she can talk to anyone who's been coming to MACs, and they'll see what they can do. It's really a neat thing to see."



The MACs began as an outreach of Tabernacle Baptist Church nearly 30 years ago but welcomes all to its get-togethers. "MACs was started in our church in 1985," said June Moody, a longstanding member. According to June, the group has evolved over the years to suit the needs and interests of participants. "We used to travel a lot and had some really nice trips, like to Branson or Graceland," June explained. "We don't do that as much anymore due to rising travel costs." Instead, the group is now more locally focused, encouraging camaraderie between seniors

"We take care of each other."



in Ennis and in the surrounding area. "Basically, the fellowship that comes with getting together is the best part of it," June added.

The MACs meet on the fourth Thursday evening of every month, except during holidays when they meet on the second Thursday instead. Each meeting involves food and entertainment. Decorations are arranged by volunteers and usually correspond with holidays or another seasonal theme for each month. "Everyone has to sign in on a numbered sign-in sheet," Jim pointed out. "If your number is drawn, you get a \$10 gift card to Braum's. We also determine who gets to go first in the food line by drawing numbers. We start at 6:00 p.m. sharp. I open it, and then someone gives prayer." Spiritual support is one of the main purposes of the MACs. "We always have a list of people who need prayer," Jim shared.

The MACs enjoy sharing meals together. The meal is potluck style with members providing main dishes and desserts. "The fellowship is just precious, and we always have delicious food," said longtime member Betty McCord. "We've got a lot of great cooks around here. You can't go anywhere and get a \$3 dinner that's as good as what we have each month."

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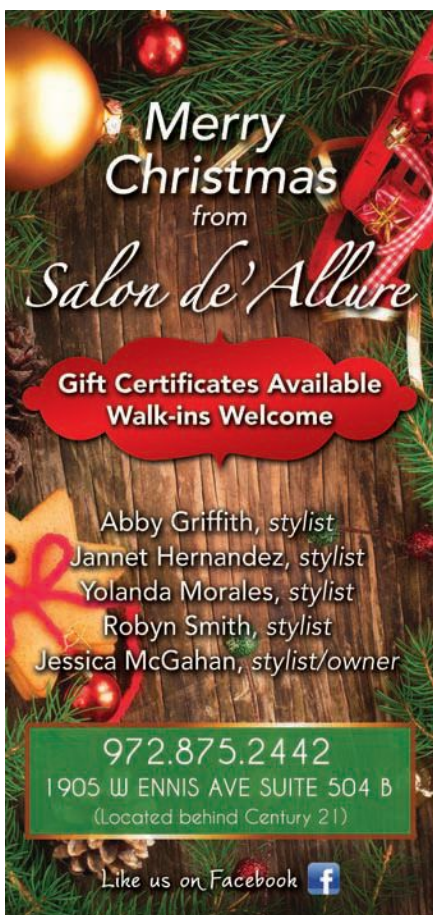
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Jim agreed. "Some like to come and get dessert first. We never have leftovers!" However, the MACs aren't just about great food. As soon as members finish eating, a 10- to 15-minute business meeting takes place, followed by prayers. After that, a 45-minute program begins, presented by a special guest, who either addresses the group on a specific subject or performs musical entertainment.

The program provides the main feature for the MACs and usually involves a motivational speaker, a singer or other talented individual or group. "Older people enjoy things just like younger people do," Mary Helen Smith, another faithful member, said. "Maybe it's a different kind of entertainment, but we've had some great programs." Guests over the years have included a senator's wife, a quartet from Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a veterinarian, the city marshal and even a Miss Texas. Though both nationally known and local performers and speakers are featured, they all have something in common. "We don't get involved in church doctrine, but the programs we have are always inspirational," Mary Helen continued. "They're programs I don't think would offend anyone, because they're good, clean fun. Everyone, regardless of religion — or even if they're not affiliated with a church at all — is welcome to come."

The importance of the MACs is evident. "I used to be the pastor here many years ago, and I have seldom gone to one of these meetings that I wasn't inspired by the fellowship and friendship," Dick Moody said. "I never went away wishing I'd stayed home." To Dick, one of the greatest ways the group impacts its members is through the relationships that are formed. "I've

always delighted in the friendships," he added. "The fellowship is automatic. It's something we don't have to work on." New friendships are formed every month at meetings, and old friendships are reaffirmed. "It's a joy just to be present and see people you love that you don't normally get to see," Dick observed.

"I feel like I've been able to get acquainted with people I didn't know before," Mary Helen concurred. She explained how vital it is for seniors to have a peer group that accepts them and provides loving support. "It gives



them a sense of belonging, having a place in the church," she maintained. "I think it's also been used as a means to find out if someone has a need, and people have risen to the occasion." Emotional and spiritual support is important to any group, but it is especially critical to seniors who experience loss more frequently.

"Attendance has been fairly consistent over the years, but I'm afraid a lot of our visits nowadays take place in rest homes and hospitals," Jim shared. For

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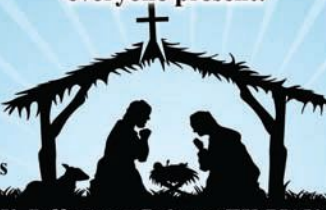
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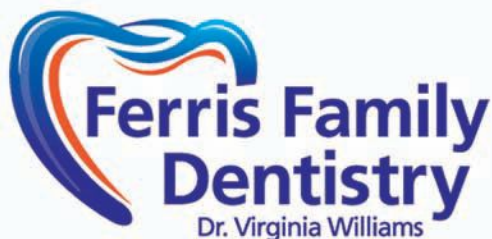
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him, that makes a group like the MACs even more important to the social and spiritual well-being of members. In a busy world, it can be difficult for some to find time to seek out support. "We go and visit when people are sick, and the MACs is sometimes their only chance to sit, talk and be with each other," Jim related. MACs members span the decades and encompass entire lifetimes of experiences. "We have some members who are 100 years old all the way down to 55," Jim informed. Focused on mutual encouragement, friendship and acceptance, members each have their own wisdom to share and stories to tell. Together, they lighten each other's burdens and alleviate grief.

For Jim and the rest of the MACs, two goals are clear. First, they strive to impact their community in a positive way, reaching out to those who may be hurting or feeling alone. Second, they have a clear agenda focused on love and faithfulness. "We're a mission for the city, but we're also a ministry in and of ourselves," Jim concluded. "We take care of each other." **NOW**



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Kwik Kar Lube & Tune owners Ray and Dawn Dikun (in black) are proud of their business' reputation for top customer service. They are joined here by their stellar team as well as by their children, Miles (center), and Sasha (atop van).

Fast and Friendly

Kwik Kar combines big city know-how with small-town pride.

— By Randy Bigham

Kwik Kar Lube & Tune in Ennis is under new ownership, but the high quality maintenance and repair locals have come to expect hasn't changed a bit. In fact, it's Raymond and Dawn Dikun's goal to continue the legacy of fine service and efficiency started by former owners Joe and Elsie Slovak.

"Joe and Elsie built a great business here," Ray pointed out. "It's a model of top customer service. The customer base is loyal, and we're building on that with new customers all the time."

It was almost in the cards for the Dikuns to take over from the Slovaks. Just before Kwik Kar changed hands last April, Ray and Dawn discovered they already had a connection to their predecessors. "Their granddaughter was a classmate of our daughter at St. Joseph's," Dawn recalled. "So it was kind of meant to be."

The experience of coming into a new town to run a business

with an established reputation might have been daunting, but any worries were soon dispelled. "It can be a tough crowd for newbies," Ray observed, "but we haven't found that to be the case here at all. Everyone we've met in Ennis has been awesome."

While new to Ennis, Ray and Dawn are seasoned professionals with impressive backgrounds. Living now just outside Red Oak, the pair is well traveled, having once called Canada, even Italy, home. Originally from Indiana, Dawn is a social worker, though she hasn't served in the field recently, being busy rearing kids — Miles, age 11, and Sasha, 8. But her training and lively personality stand her in good stead in her dealings with customers. "And I love Texas," she confirmed. "I've never lived in such a nice, warm climate!"

Ray is equally personable, and with a résumé second to none. By degree a mechanical engineer, he graduated from the

University of South Florida, afterward serving Motorola for 15 years as director of engineering for product development. In 1999 he joined Mobile Devices, Inc. and moved to Chicago where he met Dawn. She joined Ray when Mobile sent him to Italy to start a product design center at Turin. There they were married, and their son was also born there. After four years, the family returned to Chicago where they lived until Ray joined Blackberry in Canada as executive vice president of product development. It was there that the family welcomed their daughter.

When Blackberry began to ebb, Ray sought out new opportunities in Texas, which eventually led him to Kwik Kar Industries, and he hasn't regretted the move. "I'm still a consultant for Blackberry, but Dawn and I are dedicated full time to Kwik Kar," he explained. "We worked with Joe and Elsie for a

"The customer base is loyal, and we're building on that with new customers all the time."

month-and-a-half, learning the ropes and meeting our customers."

Today, the business that was founded in 2000 shows every sign of continued success. "We are here," Ray enthused. "And we're here to help. We have a great crew. Actually, we couldn't ask for a better bunch of guys."

"And our guys are honest and dependable," Dawn added. "They're not going to sell customers things they don't need or recommend unnecessary services to make a buck."

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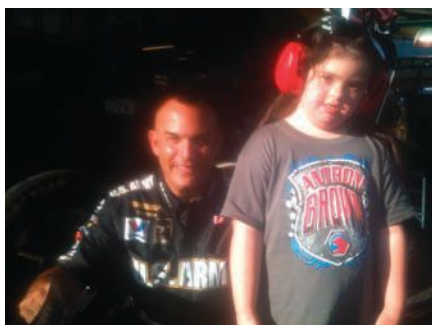




Amputee veteran Cody Jones and his family are welcomed to Ennis at a Memorial Park ceremony.



Bud and Melinda Benner smile after tying the knot.



Lexie Owen meets NHRA top fuel driver Tony Schumacher.



Kaylee Wester and Roszlyn Binford prepare to show off their twirling skills.



EHS and Ennis Ford join forces to give away a new car to the student with perfect attendance.



Tim, John, Frank and Joe Zambrano celebrate their mother, Angelita's, 99th birthday.



Betty Glaspy and Mary Cavendar of Interior Ideas, along with Shirley Thomas of Thymes, host a Halloween Ladies Night Out.



Kids enjoy a choo-choo train ride in downtown Ennis.



At Autumn Days in Ennis Fall Fest, pony rides are a hit with kids.

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Could You Afford to Live to 100?

Here's an interesting statistic: Over the past three decades, the centenarian population in the United States has grown about 66 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of course, this doesn't necessarily mean that you have a good chance of living to 100, but the possibility may not be as remote as it once was. In any case, if you do plan to retire in your mid-60s, and you are in good health, you may well have two, or even three, decades ahead of you. To enjoy this time to the fullest — and to help prevent the possibility of outliving your financial resources — you will need to invest for income and growth throughout your retirement years.

As a retiree, how much income do you need from your investments? There's no one right percentage for everyone. Furthermore, you shouldn't have to rely solely on your investment portfolio, because you may have other sources — such as Social Security and potentially your employer-sponsored retirement plan — from which to draw income. Nonetheless, your investments can play a big role in providing you with the income you'll need during retirement.

Many retirees depend on fixed-rate investments for a good portion of their retirement income, so it's a real challenge when interest rates are low, as they have been for the past several years. Consequently, when you retire, you'll certainly need to be aware of the interest-rate environment and the income you can expect from these investments. Longer-term, fixed-rate vehicles may be tempting, as they typically offer higher rates than shorter-term ones, but these longer-term investments may have more price fluctuation and inflation risk than shorter-term investments. Ultimately, you'll likely need a balance between short-, intermediate- and long-term,

fixed-income investments to provide for a portion of your income in retirement.

While it's important to invest for income, you can't ignore the need for growth — because you won't want to lose purchasing power to inflation. As you know, we've experienced quite mild inflation recently. But over time, even a low rate of inflation can seriously erode your purchasing power. To illustrate: If your current monthly costs are \$3,000, they will be about \$4,000 in 10 years with only a 3-percent annual inflation rate. And in 25 years at that same rate, your monthly costs will have more than doubled, to about \$6,200. To help protect yourself against inflation risk, you should consider having at least some investments that offer growth potential, rather than only owning fixed-income vehicles. And some investment vehicles, such as dividend-paying stocks, can offer both growth potential and current income. In fact, some stocks have paid, and even increased, their dividends for many years in a row, giving you not just income, but rising income. (Keep in mind, though, that companies are not obligated to pay dividends, and can reduce or discontinue them at any time.)

To determine the right mix of growth and income vehicles for your individual needs, consult with a financial advisor who is familiar with your retirement plans, your risk tolerance and your family situation. And it may be a good idea to plan for a very long retirement. You may not live to be 100, but it would be a good feeling to know that you could afford to do so. **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 HOLIDAYS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

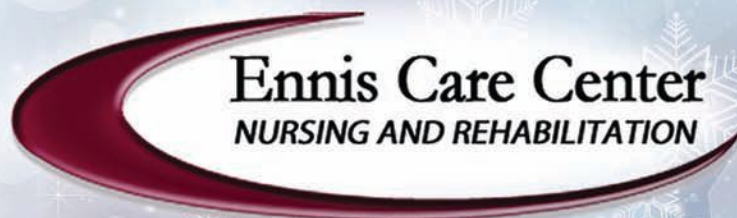


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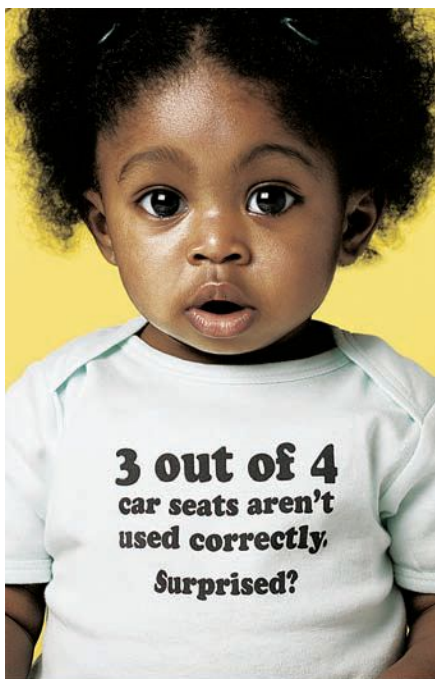
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I give Ennis Care Center an A+ in all departments! I would like to say a special thank you to Beatrice and Shirley in nursing, Griffin in therapy and all the dietary staff – your food is very good! The therapist and nurses at ECC took the time to explain things in a way that I could understand. They know what they are doing and how to get results. I have been to Ennis Care Center in the past and will come back in a heartbeat. I highly recommend ECC for anyone needing care.

~ E. Patak - Length of stay: 49 days

For more information, please visit our website at enniscarecenter.com, call us at **972-875-9051** or stop by anytime at **1200 South Hall Street, Ennis, TX 75119.**



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Ebola — Beyond the Hype

Pick up any newspaper today and you will see story after story about Ebola and the looming threat that it poses to our welfare. People have a general hysteria that this might become the next “Black Death” that killed as many as half of the European population in the mid 14th century. With the recent death of a patient with Ebola in Dallas and the subsequent infection of two health care workers, fear about this deadly disease dominates the news. While concern about its spread is warranted, perspective is also needed.

There have been exactly three people who have become ill from Ebola in this country as of this writing. That represents a very small percentage of our population of 317 million people. While mistakes were made in the handling of the first case at a Dallas hospital, one must realize that this illness had never been seen before in this country. Ebola likely was not seriously considered at the time of his presentation to the emergency department. While health care workers were subsequently aware of his diagnosis and took reasonable precautions, they still got infected. It is a sobering reminder for all health care workers that the care of medical illness confers a certain risk. Nevertheless, the delivery of health care is a privilege and trust that more than justifies those very real concerns.


So, what can be known about Ebola? It was first observed in the Sudan in 1976. It is a viral infection that commonly becomes symptomatic between two and 21 days after infection. Commonly, it produces the nonspecific symptoms of fever, sore throat, headache and muscle pain. This may be followed by diarrhea, vomiting and a nonspecific rash. To be sure, these

early symptoms sound like any other viral illness, for which it is commonly mistaken in regions unfamiliar with this disease. Liver and kidney function may decline in more advanced cases. Internal and external bleeding may also occur in these circumstances. Worldwide the current mortality rate is about 50 percent.

Ebola is spread through body fluids and is therefore more difficult to transmit than those illnesses spread by respiratory means. For perspective, the common flu is a frequently cited example of a virus transmitted through the respiratory tract. While only about 10,000 people have died from Ebola since 1976, the CDC reports that the common flu infects 30 million Americans each year with 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths. Still people fail to protect themselves with a simple flu shot. Maybe today would be a good day to get that flu shot!

Of course, this begs the question: Why can't a vaccine be developed to battle Ebola? Efforts are underway to develop such a vaccine but research funding is limited. We have a vaccine for the flu, because pharmaceutical companies can see clear financial incentive to fight the common flu. The same cannot be said for a disease that is largely limited to the African continent. **NOW**

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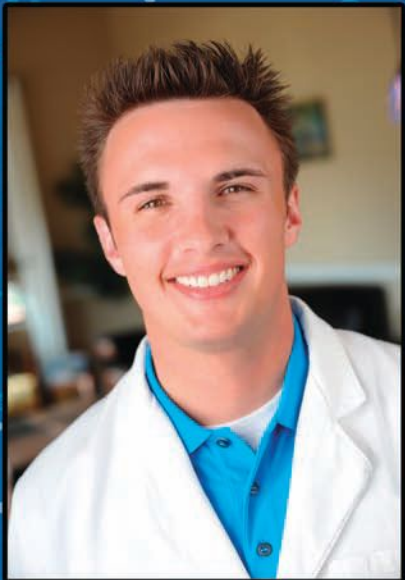
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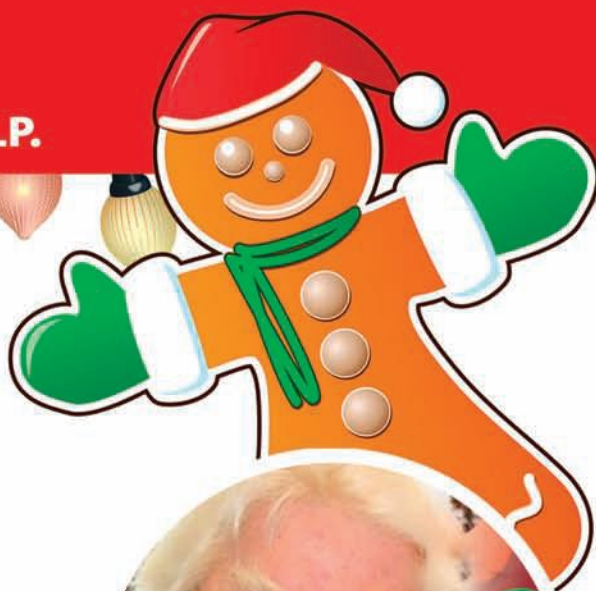
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Coat Drive: Century 21, 1905 W. Ennis Ave. Ste. 201. Linnea Johnson and Century 21 are sponsoring a winter coat drive for Helping Hands of Ennis. For more information or to drop off coats, call Linnea at (972) 878-5867 or (214) 801-6108.

Helping Hands has updated its needs list for the holiday season to include canned corn and other vegetables as well as spaghetti sauce. The community is asked to deliver items to 604 N.E. Main.

December 2

Kids Club — Holiday Decorating with Friends: 4:00-5:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Class is open to kindergartners through sixth graders.

December 4

Christmas Parade of Lights and Lights of

Ennis Block Party: 7:00 p.m., downtown. Holiday-themed floats, spotlighting local businesses, schools and individuals, compete for top placement in best entry contest. Celebration will include the official lighting of downtown decorations and three 30-foot tall Christmas trees. Sponsored by Ennis Chamber of Commerce and the Lights of Ennis Committee. For more information, visit www.visitennis.org or call (972) 878-4748.

December 5 — 7, 12— 14

Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Performances are repeated every 30 minutes. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer by Margot Price Brandt: **Fridays** and **Saturdays**, 7:00 p.m., **Saturday** and **Sunday** matinees, 2:30 p.m., Ennis Public Theatre, 2705-C N. Kaufman St. This inspiring holiday classic promises to send audiences headlong into the Christmas spirit. For tickets or more information, visit www.ennispublictheatre.com or call (972) 878-7529.

December 5 — 21

Where's Santa? By Bill Rhoten: **Fridays** and

Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., **Sunday December 21 matinee**, 2:30 p.m., 505 N.W. Main St. From the author of the popular *My Favorite Christmas* comes another hilarious take off on the holiday season. For tickets or more information, visit www.theaterocks.com or call (972) 878-5126.

December 6, 7, 13, 14

Waxahachie Candlelight Home Tour: 2:00-8:00 p.m. Visitors are treated to seven unique homes dressed in their holiday best during this two-weekend event. To purchase tickets, visit www.downtownwaxahachie.com or www.waxahachiecvb.com.

December 27

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., Old Bristol Schoolhouse, Union Hill and Church St., Bristol. Concert features local musicians and is sponsored by the Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, call Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

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

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In the Kitchen With Carolyn Greer

— *By Randy Bigham*

Carolyn Greer grew up in Ennis, learning to cook from her mother, Marie Bishop. “I didn’t do much cooking until I married,” Carolyn admitted. “And I sure called Mom frequently for recipes and tips!” Carolyn’s specialties are down-home favorites, and she loves preparing special birthday feasts for family members.

Although she relies on many recipes handed down from her mother (her Pink Salad is a Thanksgiving staple), she enjoys finding new ones on Facebook and Pinterest. Carolyn admits to evolving as a cook through trial and error. An early attempt at gravy resulted in a “gravy ball.”

“But I’ve improved,” Carolyn laughed. “Witness the fact that my husband weighed 135 pounds when we married, and now, 43 years later, he weighs — well, a little more!” **NOW**

Chicken Fried Steak and Gravy

1 lb. round steak, sliced 1/4-inch thick
Oil in desired amount for frying
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 to 3/4 cup flour
3 eggs, beaten

Gravy:

1/2 cup oil
1/2 cup flour
2 to 3 cups milk
Salt and pepper, to taste
Worcestershire sauce, to taste
1/4 cup water

1. Cut steak into serving-sized pieces. If not tenderized, pound on both sides with a meat mallet.
2. In a large frying pan, heat oil (about 1/2-inch deep) over medium-high heat.
3. While oil is heating, season steak, dredge

in flour, dip in beaten eggs, then coat with flour again.

4. Gently place meat in hot oil and fry on both sides until brown. Remove from pan and place on paper towels to remove excess oil.
5. *For gravy:* Use the oil left in the pan after frying the steak. Add flour and stir; let brown well.
6. Add milk, stirring constantly with a whisk. Add salt, pepper and sauce; stir over medium heat until gravy reaches desired consistency.
7. Add water to give a silky texture. Serve with chicken fried steak.

Easy Lasagna

1 lb. extra-lean ground beef
1 28- or 32-oz. jar spaghetti sauce of choice
1 1/2 cups water
2 cups ricotta or small curd cottage cheese
3 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
2 eggs

1/4 cup chopped parsley, fresh or dried
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. salt
8 oz. regular or wheat lasagna, uncooked

1. Brown and drain beef. Add spaghetti sauce and water; simmer about 10 minutes.
2. In a bowl, combine remaining ingredients, except lasagna, to make cheese filling.
3. Pour about 1 cup of sauce mixture on the bottom of a large baking dish. Layer 3 pieces of uncooked lasagna over sauce; cover with about 1 1/2 cups of the sauce.
4. Spread half of the cheese filling over sauce. Repeat layers of lasagna, sauce, and cheese filling; top with a layer of lasagna and the remaining sauce.
5. Cover with foil and bake at 350 F for 50-60 minutes. Remove foil and bake about 10 minutes longer. Allow to stand about 10 minutes before cutting. Lasagna will expand to fill empty spaces.

Pink Salad

1 20-oz. can fruit cocktail, drained
1 5-oz. jar maraschino cherries, drained, reserving small amount of juice
1 cup miniature marshmallows
1 15-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup sliced bananas
2 Tbsp. Miracle Whip
3 Tbsp. sour cream
1 cup Cool Whip

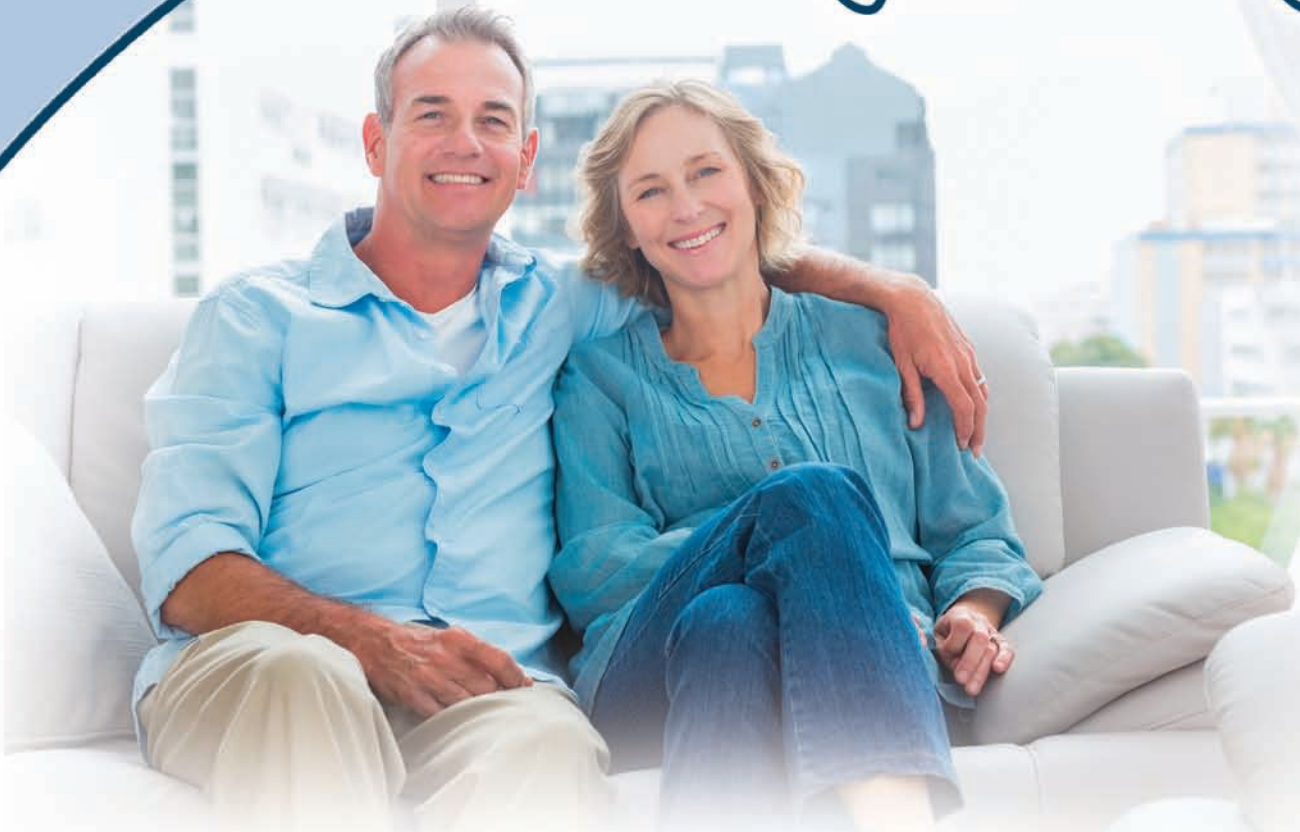
1. Mix fruit ingredients together.
2. Fold in remaining ingredients, adding reserved cherry juice to make salad pink; chill before serving.

Banana Pudding

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
1 14-oz. can condensed milk
1 5-oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding
3 cups cold milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 8-oz. container Cool Whip
1/2 of 12-oz. pkg. vanilla wafers
4 bananas, sliced

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with mixer until fluffy.
2. Beat in condensed milk, pudding mix, milk and vanilla until smooth; fold in half of Cool Whip.
3. Line the bottom of a 9x13-inch dish with wafers; arrange bananas evenly over wafers.
4. Spread pudding mixture on top of bananas; top with remaining Cool Whip and crushed wafer crumbs; refrigerate.

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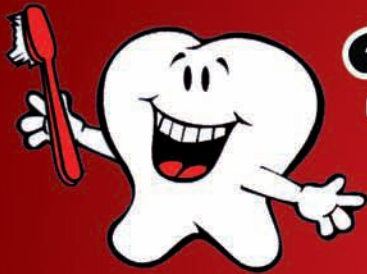


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Dr. Gunjan Dhir BDS, MS & Associates

Payment Plan Available

Accepting Medicaid
& CHIPS and All PPO Insurances
Walk-ins &
Same-day Emergencies

*Sample prices only. Actual prices may vary based on the dental condition of the patient.