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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2020

Christmas Retreat

At Home With
Jordan and
Ashley Colunga

In the Kitchen With
Amy Hutyra

2020 Holiday
Shopping Guide

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Scavenger Hunt

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ON THE COVER

*Jordan and Ashley Colunga
welcome guests to their
country home.*

Photo by
Bill Smith

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Osteoarthritis, also known as degenerative joint disease, is the most common type of arthritis. In Osteoarthritis, the surface layer of cartilage breaks down and wears away. This allows the bones under the cartilage to rub together resulting in pain, swelling and loss of motion of the joint. Although in some people it progresses quickly, in most individuals joint damage develops gradually over years.

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WHEN WILL I FEEL RESULTS?

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
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There is joy ...

It is often said that happiness is circumstantial, but joy comes from within. I have found this to be true in so many ways, but perhaps this Christmas it will be embraced like no other year. The Ghost of Christmas Past is pale in comparison to Christmas 2020.

Every year has its happiness and sorrow, victories and defeats, and just good times and bad times. I hope this year you have had more of the positive than the negative.

If you and your family have been directly affected by the pandemic, there is a good chance you have experienced some of the bad times. But, at the same time, you may have had atypical happiness as you saw recovery from illness, or your life return to some semblance of "normal" after being quarantined for a time. These circumstances influence our happiness.

But joy! The joy of the Christmas season is upon us! If the Spirit of Christmas resides within you, you understand joy amid sorrow. Christmas will be a lot different for my family this year, and the pandemic had a huge role in the different circumstance. However, we find joy as we consider the origin of Christmas that was foretold long ago, and came to fruition just as it was predicted. "For unto you this day is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!"

The world needs the joy of Christmas this year. Join with others and celebrate Christmas the best way you possibly can. Perhaps you will have to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Those are circumstances. The joy is still there, and it is experienced in the heart.

Embrace the joy!

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons!

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CHRISTMAS

Retreat

— By Bill Smith

Thinking they would move their growing family to a larger home in Dallas, Jordan and Ashley Colunga had listed their home in the Lakewood area of Dallas a few times, with little success. However, once they had the vision of moving back to their hometown so their children could grow up making memories similar to the ones they fondly recall, Ashley said, “It was just meant to be. People were making offers and signing contracts on the hoods of their cars!”

Ashley’s grandfather owns 30 acres just on the outskirts of town, and her mother still lives in the home Ashley was reared in. Jordan and Ashley purchased 1 1/2 acres adjacent to her mother’s home on family land. “Mom said she would like for the grandchildren to have a path to her back door. I thought it would be a place where the grass was trodden down by the children’s feet. The next thing we knew, Mom had put in a crushed granite trail, about 5 feet wide.”

That was about seven years ago. Brox is 9 years old now, and his sister, Lowe, is 6. In the two-story farmhouse’s quaint breakfast nook is a window from which the children, standing on the cushions of the corner bench seat, can see the path to Nana’s that passes by their playground set. Ashley related, “Nana made sure that they know if the garage door is open, she is at home, and they can come over.”

The elevation of the white frame home is inviting as soon as one drives up to the property. When the weather is agreeable, the screen door on the large wraparound front porch welcomes family and friends to the home. Garland with lights trim the doorframe to acknowledge the season. Though the home is built on a concrete slab, the porch was built with space between the slab and the floor, so it will “creak” as if it were pier and beam construction. The porch swing and rocking chairs make the porch just what one would expect from a farm house, certainly a place to sit and visit. Ashley’s seasonal chalk art of snowflakes and pine trees with the phrase *Silent Night, Holy Night* adds to the invitation,



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and other examples of her chalk art are seen throughout the home, as well.

At the end of the broad entry hall the house opens to the expansive kitchen, dining and living areas. The kitchen has white Shaker cabinetry with stainless steel appliances. From the *farmhouse* sign in the breakfast nook to the antique chopping block Ashley acquired locally and the spindle leg table, their design preference is clear. "We also brought some of the design of our prior home with us, as the previous home had the black and white tiles in the kitchen that we recreated in the mud room," she said. On the chopping block is a gingerbread house that was created for the season, a family tradition the kids look forward to creating every year at Christmas.

The white marble-topped kitchen island separates the kitchen from the dining area, where the focal point is the long, wooden table with mismatched chairs that create a welcoming, down-home feel. "We wanted our dining area to be inviting, not overly formal. We take turns in my family hosting Christmas Eve," Ashley offered. The table and sturdy wooden hutch are decorated for the season with wreaths and garland. The white China plates have name cards on tiny wreaths. The one at the head of the table says, *Grandpa*.

The transition from dining area to living area is as simple as taking a few steps away from the table. The warm fireplace has a white wooden mantel, and, of course, the stockings are hung there with care. Adjacent to the fireplace is a cabinet with wicker inlay adorned with the contrast of Nativity and Santa Claus. "The Nativity was purchased from Interior Ideas and is very similar to the one I remember in our home when I was a child." Also, in the living area is a music box with Santa playing the mandolin. "It was mine as a child,"

Ashley recalled. "At Christmas it would be next to my bed, and Mom would wind it up as I went to sleep. It plays 'Here Comes Santa Claus.' It still plays, but the melody is a little slower now."

The family Christmas tree is across the living room, framed by large windows that reveal the pool and patio. On the tree, and on the other trees throughout the home, there are decorations that were purchased locally or handmade by the children.



There is a reading area just in front of one set of windows that showcases more items Ashley has purchased from local Ennis merchants, such as the accent pillow embroidered with *Ennis 75119*. It is a calm area to read and reflect, or perhaps look forward to spring and time with the family outdoors.

The outdoor kitchen and patio get a lot of use. "We spend a lot of time out here when the weather is nice," Ashley commented. "The sign on the back of the outdoor fireplace was copied from a resort Jordan and I like to get away to." The sign says, *Where time stands still*.

Exiting back through the living area and into the main hall, there are further welcoming accents, such as the antique neogothic church pew from Germany that the Colungas acquired from Ennis Auction House. The children's rooms and master suite, each decorated for Christmas, are located downstairs. Upstairs features a guest suite and a huge playroom with windows overlooking the front porch. The wreaths outside the windows are reminders of the season.

The home appears to be just as Ashley and Jordan dreamed it would be. It is a welcoming retreat throughout the year, but especially at Christmas! **NOW**

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— By Bill Smith

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Robert Rupp, the recently appointed CEO of Ennis Regional Medical Center, would be the first to admit that taking on the new position during the middle of a pandemic was less than an ideal situation. “I came here in May from Oklahoma. COVID-19 had not struck before I left my position at a hospital in Grove, Oklahoma, and since masks had not been required in



Oklahoma, my first experience wearing a mask was in Ennis,” he recalled.

In the press release announcing Mr. Rupp’s appointment to the Ennis hospital, Robert Wampler, Mountain Division president of LifePoint Health, parent company of ERMC, described Mr. Rupp as “a dedicated health care leader with a proven track record of helping hospitals navigate changing environments and succeed.” Mr. Rupp indicated that a top priority has been ensuring that the public knows the hospital is clean and safe.

“We actually put a video on social media called *What to Expect* that was a walk-through of the safety measures we have in place and what personal protective equipment patients could expect to see our staff wearing when they come to the hospital,” explained Haley Brown, strategic marketing and communications coordinator for ERMC. In addition, the hospital website has a wealth of information about the health

and safety of the community, including, but certainly not limited to, COVID-19.

"We have so many positive attributes that the Ennis community can recognize. We are the only accredited chest pain facility in the county. Also, we are very proud to have recently received the LifePoint National Quality Leader Award," Mr. Rupp continued. The award program is a structured process for ensuring consistent, high standards of quality and patient safety.

Mr. Rupp indicated that he is anxious to get out in the Ennis community and meet the local citizens. Haley interjected, "Normally, we would have had a big open house to introduce Mr. Rupp as our new CEO. With the pandemic, we have not been able to do that."

"I would like to visit with the service clubs and other leaders in the community," Mr. Rupp added. "Many meetings are being held on Zoom or other virtual meeting platforms today. I have met with hospital board member Mayor Angie Juenemann, as well as City Manager Marty Nelson. In just the past couple of months, I was able to get out and visit with some of our local independent physicians.

"We have recently hired two new hospitalists, the doctors who attend to patients in the hospital. We want the doctors in the community to have the greatest possible confidence in the care and safety their patients will receive when they are referred here."

Looking forward, Mr. Rupp has reviewed the master plan for the city of Ennis and knows the community is poised for growth. While there may be a number of things people look for when moving to a new town, he mentioned that quality schools and quality health care would have to be at the top of the list. "We have made a lot of advances in the hospital over the years, but the real 'low-hanging fruit' for ERMC is basic, reliable and safe health care for everyone in the community," Mr. Rupp said. "We want the most positive relationships possible with the local physicians, so they think of keeping their patients here first, where we know them, and they know us. We are going to focus on the basics and treat patients the way they want to be treated." **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Charlotte and Samantha Johnson

By Bill Smith

On a chilly morning in downtown Ennis, Charlotte and Samantha Johnson waited for their order from the local coffee shop. As lifetime residents of Ennis, Samantha mentioned that they graduated from Ennis High School in 2004 and 2008. Their smiles indicate how happy they were to be here.

"I'm currently working for Fidelity in Waxahachie," Charlotte offered, while Samantha is working from home as a full-time stylist for Stitch Fix. Samantha said, "I love the flexibility of my work. I can make all of my children's functions, and I have finally found that perfect work-life balance for my family!"



Nacho Aguana is ready to care for another fall lawn.



Donna Baumgartener and her grandson, Clay, brave the cold as they shop in Bluebonnet Market.



Ennis 2020 Homecoming Queen Emily Wartsbaugh is escorted by Austin Doherty.



The Goodman Team holds an open house and ribbon cutting.



Lillian and Jackson Taylor are ready for Halloween.



Julia Browning poses with Thelma and Louise at the hay maze.



Jimmy and Ginger Boon drive down Knox Street after some early morning shopping.

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"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" ~ Luke 2: 10-11



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CookingNOW In the Kitchen With AMY HUTYRA

— By Bill Smith

Amy Hutyra is obviously proud of her Czech heritage and the influence it has on her cooking. “I found the love of Czech baking and cooking at a very early age, while listening to my family speak the Czech language,” Amy recalled. “Growing up with Grandmother Steffie Dolezalik and my mother, Georgie Zabochnik, along with neighbor, Frances Patak, we would all get together before Christmastime and bake Rohlik [Czech roll]; strudels; and Knedliky [Czech dumplings for soup and poppyseed].”

Today, her sisters, Debbie Vitovsky and Kari Henderson, join her to try to keep the Christmas baking traditions alive. Amy concluded, “I carry on my family’s deep Czech tradition of baking and cooking, because I feel it’s important to have that connection with my culture.” **NOW**

Christmas Bread (Vánočka)

1 1/4 cups milk
3/4 cup sugar (divided use)
3 tsp. active dry yeast
4 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
Zest of 1 lemon
2 egg yolks
1 stick unsalted butter

1/3 cup raisins
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 egg, for topping
1/4 cup shaved almonds, for topping
1/2 cup powdered sugar, for icing
1/4 cup milk, for icing

1. In a small bowl, warm the milk. Add 1 tsp. of sugar and the yeast. Mix; let proof for 10 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, into a bowl, add flour, remaining sugar, salt and lemon zest; mix together.

3. Add the egg yolks, butter, raisins, cinnamon and yeast mixture. The dough will be sticky. If too sticky, add more flour.

4. While the dough is in the mixing bowl, sprinkle more flour on top; cover with a towel. Let it rise in a warm place for 2 hours.

5. When the dough is completely risen, divide it on a pastry board into 9 long parts. The first layer is weaved from 4 strands. The second layer from 3 strands and the third layer from 2 strands.

6. Lay greased parchment paper on a baking sheet; layer the strands of the vánočka on it.

7. Leave it on the sheet for a while to finish rising. Before putting it in the oven, baste it with a whipped egg and sprinkle with shaved or chopped almonds.

8. Finally, slice the vánočka with skewers at both ends and in the middle to prevent warping of the dough during baking.

9. Bake slowly for about 45 minutes at 350 F.

10. Mix powdered sugar and milk; sprinkle on top for icing.

Apple Strudel (Jablečný štrúdl)

Dough:

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 3 cups sifted flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup warm water
- 1 egg beaten
- 3/4 cup butter, melted

Filling:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 8 cups apples, thinly sliced and peeled (divided use)
- 1/2 cup pecans
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1/4 cup milk, for brushing

Icing:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

1. For dough: Combine the butter into the flour and salt; add water and egg. Stir well.
2. Turn out on a lightly floured board; knead for 5 minutes.
3. Divide the dough into fourths. Cover with a warm bowl; let stand 30 minutes.
4. Roll out one piece at a time into a rectangle shape on the floured board. Brush with melted butter.
5. For filling: Combine sugar and cinnamon.
6. Place 2 cups of apples along one side of the dough, leaving a 4-inch space on the other side.
7. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup of the cinnamon sugar, along with pecans, raisins and coconut.
8. Fold the 4-inch piece of dough over onto the filling. Continue rolling. Seal the edges. Place on a greased pan. Brush top with milk. Repeat with the rest of the dough and filling.
9. Bake at 325 F for 40 minutes, or until golden brown.
10. Icing can be powdered sugar with pecans.

Cream Cheese Buchta

Dough:

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 pkgs. dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups flour

Cream Cheese Filling:

- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tsp. vanilla



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Apple Strudel
(Jablečný štrúdl)

3/4 cup sugar
1/8 tsp. salt

Glaze:
2 cups powdered sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
4 tsp. milk

1. For dough: Heat sour cream over low heat. Stir in sugar, salt and butter; cool to lukewarm.
2. Sprinkle yeast over warm water in a large mixing bowl; stir until yeast is dissolved.

3. Add sour cream mixture, eggs and flour; mix well. Cover lightly; refrigerate overnight.
4. Next day, divide the dough into 4 equal parts. On a floured board, roll out into 12x8-inch rectangles.
5. For filling: In a bowl, mix all ingredients. Makes 2 cups.
6. Spread filling over the dough. Roll like a jelly roll. Pinch ends together. Repeat with remaining dough and filling.
7. Let rise until double in size, about 1 hour. Bake at 350 F for 12-15 minutes.
8. For glaze: In a bowl, add all ingredients; mix together. Add glaze slowly after buchta has cooled.

Grandma Dolezalik's Fruity Christmas Cookies (Marokánky)

Makes about 30 small cookies.

1 cup Land O'Lakes half-and-half
1/3 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/2 cup walnuts or unsalted peanuts
1 1/3 cups fruit cake mix
Baker's Joy Baking Spray
Waxed paper
2 oz. dark chocolate
1 tsp. shortening

1. In a saucepan, whisk together the half-and-half, sugar and flour over medium heat. Bring to a boil while stirring. Make sure it doesn't stick.
2. After 1 1/2 minutes of gentle boiling and thickening, turn off the stove.
3. Add nuts and fruit cake mix; stir together.
4. Heat oven to 260 F
5. Spray a cookie sheet with baking spray.
6. Scoop mixture with a spoon; place it on the cookie sheet. Give enough room, about the space of 2 fingers, between each one.
7. Bake for 45 minutes, give or take 5-7 minutes depending on gas or electric stoves. Let cool for 15 minutes on waxed paper.
8. While cookies are cooling, add dark chocolate and shortening to a small saucepan; cook on medium heat.
9. Get a butter knife and glaze the chocolate on the bottom of the cookie; allow to cool upside down. Flip over when dried.

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Generations of families treasure their Texas State Railroad travel traditions and can continue to build memories during this brand-new decade. Highlighting the classic service and scenic beauty of the Piney Woods excursion experience aboard the Official Railroad of Texas, seasonal special event trains round-out the calendar with opportunities for all ages and interests. Texas State Railroad rolls down the track, from Palestine to Rusk, Texas, generally departing the Palestine depot at 11:00 a.m. While Christmas might be a favorite holiday on the train, any time of the year leaves families and friends with unforgettable experiences.

Springtime is a sensational season at Texas State Railroad. Railroad passengers get a front-row seat to this springtime

show from vantage points along these historic rails when the luminous white and pink dogwood blooms light up the East Texas forest. Passengers can savor the flavors of East Texas with a scrumptious three-course meal and enjoy prime views. The Easter Bunny Express offers departures to visit with the big bunny and hunt for Easter eggs. The educational Maydelle Turntable Runs offer a fun glimpse of historic railroad equipment in April and May.

The Celebration of Steam takes off at the Palestine depot. Vintage “iron horses” are on display to the public at the Palestine depot over Memorial Day Weekend. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see notable steam and diesel engines, showcased for photo opportunities.

From June through August, let Saturday yardwork and laundry wait. Add adventure to your afternoon with a “family-affordable” train adventure.

Farther down the tracks, the train continues to combine great tastes with great trains during Pints in the Pines, Wines in the Pines and something every dad will adore, a Father’s Day train ride. As the year end approaches, Texas State Railroad will again offer enchanting holiday-themed trains, such as the Pumpkin Patch and Polar Express®.

Texas State Railroad’s classic train is the stuff memories are made of. The train’s most historic style of seating is the open-air car with fresh breezes and historic wooden slat benches. For those seeking table service and more decadent



accommodations, the Railroad offers several options to make the adventure extra special. The private charter caboose seats up to eight, with rich, crushed-velvet seating and a private valet. Presidential # 1511 features comfortable living-room style seats, intimate table service, large picture windows and access to a private outdoor-viewing platform. The art-deco inspired Presidential #42 features comfortable couches or two-top tables and chairs, intimate table service and large picture windows. The exclusive glass-top Sky-High Dome car seats up to 66 people and features soft leather seats with convenient tables and an unobstructed birds-eye view that rail fans treasure. Family-friendly First Class features comfortable upholstered benches with tabletops for four.

Become immersed in the romance of train travel, linking two charming towns, Palestine and Rusk, which both have history worth exploring while you're there. Texas State Railroad is a destination hotspot that will traverse you along the historic iron rails of Texas, surrounded by beautiful pine and mixed oak forests. No wonder it's called the Official State Railroad of Texas. Its horsepower won't give you saddle sores. **NOW**

By Teresa Propeck, VP Passenger Services. Photo Credit: Aaron McCreight and Becky Whisenant.

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.texasstaterailroad.net.



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Mini MASTER

— By Angel Morris

Salt dough ornaments are one of the things some adults remember making with their grandmothers as children. Even though these ornaments only required three ingredients and little skill, they thought they were creating masterpieces. Since the activity can still be recalled decades later, perhaps they really were!

If you're looking for a relatively easy DIY to enjoy with your children or grandchildren this holiday, salt dough ornaments may be the solution. Here are 10 steps to making mini masterpieces, and lifelong memories, from flour, salt and water.

Supplies:

Cutting board
Rolling pin
Cookie cutters
Drinking straw
Cookie sheet
Acrylic paint
Paint brushes
Ribbon

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup water (divided use)

STEP 1: Preheat the oven to 150-170 F (If your oven runs hot, go for the lower temperature, as higher temperatures decrease the chances of your dough remaining flat.)

STEP 2: Combine the flour, salt and 1/2 cup of water in a bowl. Blend the ingredients by hand. Blend in the remaining water, kneading until well combined. More water may be added, little by little, to eliminate any stickiness and achieve a smooth dough.

STEP 3: Cover a cutting board with flour. Knead the dough ball atop it.

STEP 4: Roll out the dough with a rolling pin to about 1/4-inch thickness.

STEP 5: Firmly cut shapes out of the dough with cookie cutters. Once you've cut out as many shapes as you can from the flattened dough, carefully remove all of the excess dough. You can reform another ball with the remaining dough, roll it out again and cut more shapes, repeating until all dough has been used.

STEP 6: Use the drinking straw to poke a hole through the top of every shape, so you can tie a ribbon through it for hanging on the tree.

STEP 7: Gently transfer cut-out shapes from the cutting board to the cookie sheet. Bake for about 3 hours.

STEP 8: Remove the ornaments from the oven when they feel solid to the touch, but before they begin to turn brown. Allow them to cool for at least 1 hour.

STEP 9: Paint the cooled ornaments however you like! You may want to choose a color palette in advance, so they all match — whether that's pastels, rainbow brights or traditional Christmas

colors. You can also add texture to the ornaments with craft supplies, such as glitter, sequins, beads or even buttons.

STEP 10: Loop a ribbon through the pre-cut hole atop each ornament, tying a knot so the ornament may be securely hung on tree branches. These cut-outs can also be used as gift tags or even serve as gifts themselves.

Shapes like candy canes, pine trees and stars are holiday classics, while snowflakes, hearts and alphabet initials can hang around the house throughout winter. Maybe you let the kids select themes, like animals or nature, choosing your cookie cutters accordingly in advance.

However simple or involved you want to make the experience, salt dough ornaments are a fun family activity for any age or skill level. If you'd like, you can have each little artist sign and date them on the back with a paint pen or permanent marker, so your family masterpieces commemorate this moment and memory for all time. **NOW**

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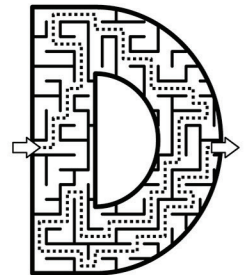
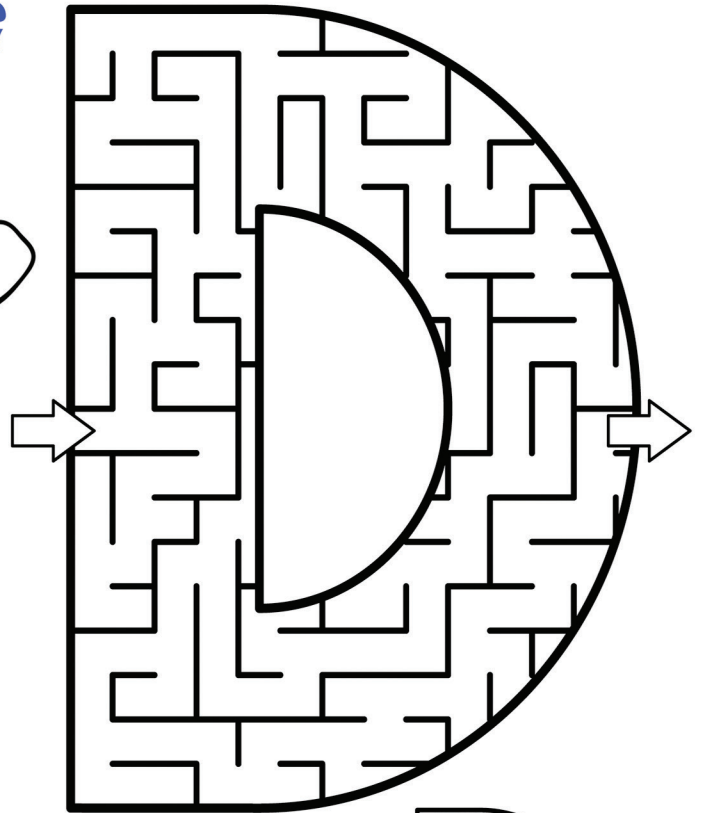
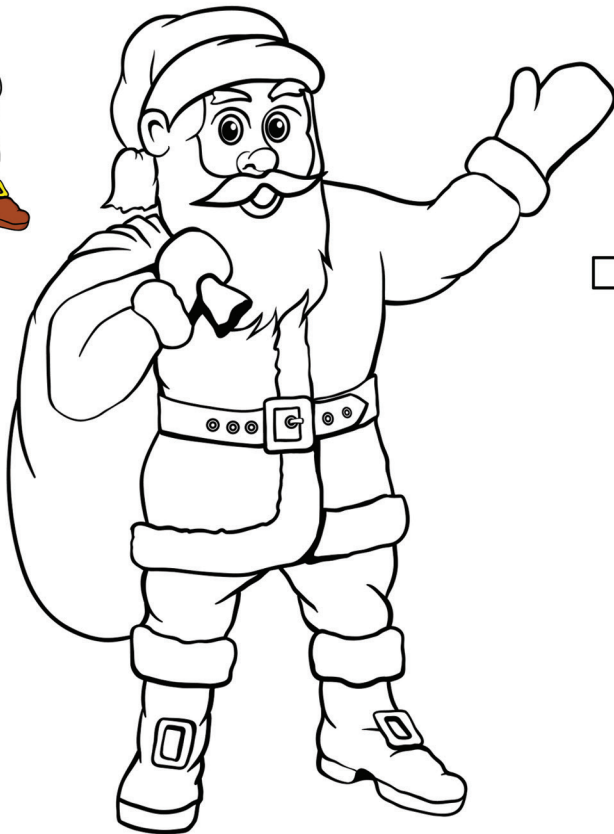
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PIECES

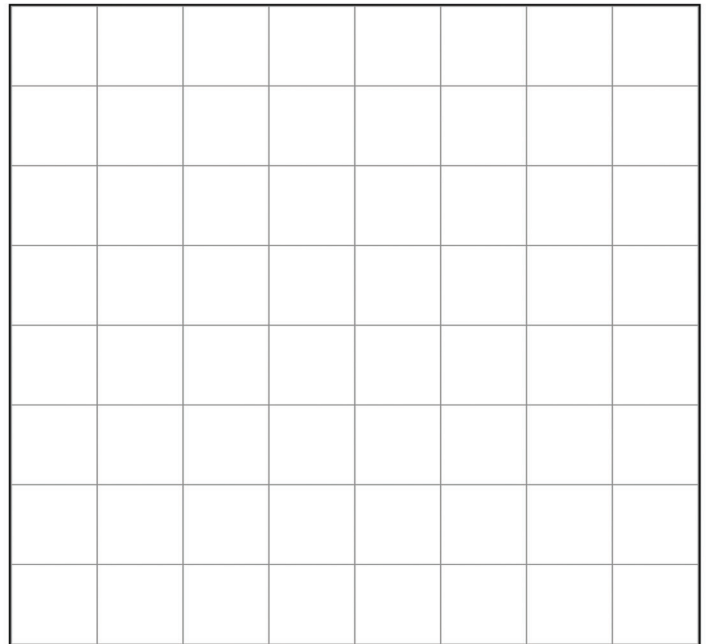
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COLORING
BOOK



Copy the picture





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Investment Lessons from 2020

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020? Here are some to consider:

- *The markets look ahead.* Here's something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

- *Opportunities will always exist for investors.* Although the coronavirus

seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress — and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

- *Patience and discipline can pay dividends.* As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon — investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year — so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond. **NOW**

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



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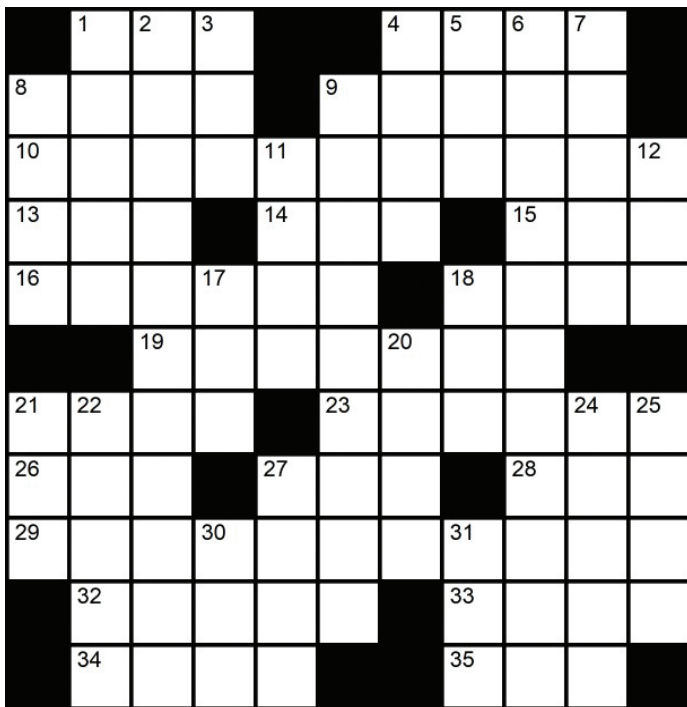
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Across

- 1 National economic yardstick
- 4 Islamic sect
- 8 E.g. King Cole's fiddlers
- 9 Greet the judge
- 10 County whose most populous city is Yonkers
- 13 Nose bag grain
- 14 CD- ---
- 15 Mischievous person
- 16 Intoxicated state
- 18 Long hard walk
- 19 Palindromic competition vehicle
- 21 First Pauline and now Jeanne Phillips
- 23 Discharge
- 26 Fur scarf
- 27 Ill. neighbor
- 28 Go right, to a horse
- 29 Focus
- 32 Rifle accessory
- 33 Working tirelessly
- 34 Campsite accommodation
- 35 "---- rather go naked than wear fur" (slogan)

Down

- 1 Dandy!
- 2 Hullabaloo
- 3 Poker chips
- 4 Part of a wineglass
- 5 Owns
- 6 Pump
- 7 "25" album singer
- 8 "Terrible" time for tots
- 9 Water's edge
- 11 Foam clog
- 12 Murder victim of 6/6/68
- 17 Fork over
- 18 "I Tawt I Taw a Puddy --- "
- 20 "--- bon!"
- 21 "General Hospital" network
- 22 Encouragement
- 24 Stinking to high heaven
- 25 Stocking fillers?
- 27 Exuded
- 30 Swindle
- 31 Untrained

Solutions on page 44

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 44

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Merry Christmas

DECEMBER

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

12/3

Christmas Bluebonnet Market:

All of your favorite crafters and boutique-type vendors will be back for a special evening market. 5:00-9:00 p.m., North Dallas Street in Downtown Ennis.

Ennis High School Winter Choir Concert:

7:00-8:30 p.m., Ennis High School Auditorium.

12/4-12/5

Downtown Sip, Shop & Stroll:

Come enjoy some sips, bites

and special deals with our wonderful downtown merchants. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Ennis.

12/5

Lucky CC Car Show and Toy Drive:

Bring an unwrapped gift, and come to Historic Downtown Ennis to enjoy cool cars, food and live music. Registration fee: \$10, plus an unwrapped gift. To register for the car show, contact Chubby at (469) 774-5692.

Cookies With Mrs. Claus:

Bring the kids to enjoy a magical

Christmas experience with Mrs. Claus! Details coming soon. 201 NW Main Street. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

12/8

Ladies Varsity Basketball:

Ennis Lions vs. North Mesquite. 7:30 p.m., Ennis High School Main Gym.

12/12

Convoy Showdown Truck & Car Show:

Texas Motorplex, 7500 U.S.-287. For more information, visit www.texasmotorplex.com or call (972) 878-2641.

12/26

Trey Gilleland & The Downbeat Band:

Enjoy a great night of country music and big juicy steaks, as Nashville recording artist Trey Gilleland & The Downbeat Band take the stage to play all your favorites. \$5 cover at the door, plus cost of meal. Ruston Cattle Company, 3701 N. I-45 Hwy.

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



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Fido for the Family

— By Amber D. Browne



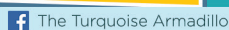
For most couples with little ones, a pet is a necessity. Dogs provide hours of playtime for children, teach responsibility and offer unconditional love and companionship. But which dog breeds are best for children? The answer varies for each family depending on multiple factors including yard space, allergies and the child's age, among other things.

Soon-to-be dog owners with large, enclosed yards could choose more energetic breeds, since the dog has plenty of outdoor room for exercise. According to the American Kennel Club, the Labrador Retriever is friendly and active, and as America's most popular breed, fits well with families. The Golden Retriever is obedient and devoted to its owner. Because of its patience, the breed does well with young children. The Beagle is also known to be great with children. The breed enjoys companionship, and its playful demeanor will provide hours of entertainment.

Apartment renters or homeowners with limited yard space could decide to add a smaller breed to the family. Small- to medium-sized breeds include the Bulldog, which is a patient pup, and the Bull Terrier. The Bull Terrier can be mischievous, but was bred to be a companion dog and is good with older children. Another popular breed for families is the Poodle. With multiple sizes available, a miniature Poodle might be an option for families living in an apartment.

Because it is hypoallergenic, the Poodle is one breed better fit for families suffering with allergies. Another breed for allergy sufferers is the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, which has a happy disposition and is a devoted companion. Depending on the age of the child, parents must decide if a puppy or mature dog would be the perfect fit for the family. Puppies need to be trained, but the dog will grow and mature along with the child. An older dog will most likely have some training and can provide several years of companionship for an older child. As the child ages, he or she can take on more responsibilities when caring for the pup. Younger children can help brush, feed and water the dog. Older children can walk the dog or even bake fresh puppy treats in the kitchen.

Whether parents decide to purchase or adopt the pup, they must do their research. Most adoption or rescue agencies know the breed or have an idea of the breeds if the animal is mixed. Whatever the case, families should look for a calm and friendly temperament, how the breed might interact with other pets, research possible health problems and determine if the dog will incur grooming expenses. Although adding a furry family member to the pack is a big responsibility, the memories made with children and adults alike are unforgettable. **NOW**



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

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