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APRIL 2015

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Publisher, Connie Poirier

General Manager, Rick Hensley

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker

Ennis Editor, Sandra Strong

Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay

Writers, Jeff Irish . Larry A. Jinks

Callie Revell . Virginia Riddle

Carolyn Wills

Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla

Artists, Kristin Bato . Julie Carpenter

Morgan Christensen . Martha Macias

Brande Morgan . Shannon Pfaff

Felipe Ruiz

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose

Photographer, Amy Ramirez

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives,

Linda Roberson . Teresa Banks

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ON THE COVER



A variety of fresh vegetables awaits shoppers at Ennis Farmers Market.

Photography by Amy Ramirez.

CONTENTS

April 2015 • Volume 12, Issue 4



8 To Market to Market

Becky McCarty is proud of the shopping and activity that is filling our downtown streets.

14 An Adventure Together

At Home With Lorenzo and Matilda Williams.

26 One Step at a Time

At Relay for Life, people in Ennis work together to fight cancer.



32 BusinessNOW

34 Around TownNOW

36 FinanceNOW

38 HealthNOW

44 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Happy Spring!

April promises to bring new growth as trees bud out, lawns go from dirty brown to brilliant green, and flowers start to bloom in landscapes all around the city. Even though new growth prompts change, these changes prove to be good when looking at the overall picture. This first full month of spring is bringing change to my life and the life of *EnnisNOW* as a door reopens, allowing me to return to serve once again as the community editor of your hometown magazine.

Returning certainly brings back many good memories of people I've met and lifelong friends I've made along the way. As I return to the city where my children, grandchildren and spiritual family reside, I'm hopeful the changes ahead will be ones filled with opportunity and success. I look forward to hearing from you as my new "re-journey" begins.

Sandra

Sandra Strong
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To Market to Market

— By Virginia Riddle

Freshly picked organic tomatoes, free range eggs, homemade jellies, baked goods and grass-fed beef are just some of the many items local farmers and craftsmen will offer to area residents at the Ennis Farmers Market, which opens for a second season on April 4. The market events enjoyed each Saturday last year averaged over 500 visitors and will return in an even more expanded format with new surprises to come. "We are going to improve the shopper's experience this season by telling our story. Many of our farmers sell organic and non-GMO (genetically modified organisms) produce and practice sustainable living. And our heritage farmers have been farming and ranching this land around Ennis for more than 100 years. That's a story we need to tell," Becky McCarty, recently hired Ennis Main Street Coordinator and last year's farmers market director, stated. "By opening during the bluebonnet season this year, we hope to provide visitors to Ennis an opportunity to learn about our community. The returning farmers couldn't be more excited about that opportunity."





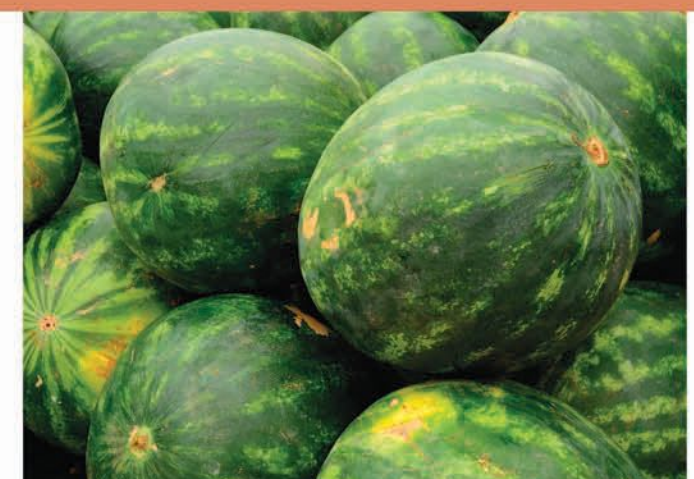
The market, located at West Knox and North Dallas streets, is surrounded by the stately, historical downtown buildings that still echo the train whistles and sounds of metal meeting metal as railcars pass by on the busy tracks. “Ennis was built on agriculture and the railroad. It’s a cool experience to shop the market and hear the train rumble by, just like the old days,” Becky, an Ennis native, recounted.

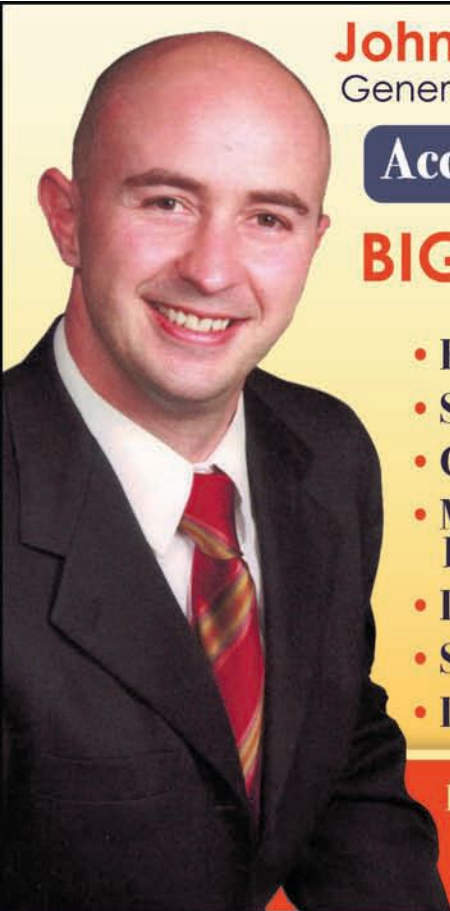
“It’s really an authentic farmers market,” Becky said. “The goal of hosting a market is to offer a venue for local producers. I feel if we are true to that, we will continue to be successful. But enhancing the venue by offering the very popular Make it at the Market, live music, cooking demos and other events just makes shopping more fun.” The Make it at the Market booth, offering free children’s art projects, will be back. The very popular Red, White and Bike Parade, celebrating the Fourth of July, will again invite families to decorate their bikes and ride around the Historical District streets. “Families were so excited and full of patriotism and love of community last year,” Becky observed.

The market featured about 70 farmers and cottage food vendors, though not all had a booth each Saturday. “The level of support and enthusiasm for the market was great! We were so successful, with many of the farmers selling out before the market would close,” Becky remembered.

The market runs about a 70-30 percent ratio of farming to handcrafting vendors. The 10-foot by 10-foot booths are available free of charge with electricity to vendors on a first

“We have great vendors who really work together by helping and even promoting each other.” The market will run for seven months extending through Halloween.





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come, first served basis each Saturday. “We have an online vendor application that must be filled out and approved,” Becky said. “We have great vendors who really work together by helping and even promoting each other.” With such success during last year’s market, some of the farming vendors have invested



in greenhouses, so they can offer even greater variety of produce this year. The market will run for seven months, extending through Halloween.

Once again, the market will honor Lillie Betik Crowley, an Ennis native





who was Mrs. State Fair of Texas, with many blue ribbons and Best-of-Show wins during her many years of showing at the fair. "Lillie was a pioneer. She maintained a garden to feed her large family and hosted cooking shows long before they became popular. She was a real ambassador for Ennis and its Czech heritage," Becky remembered.

The idea of having a market was the brainchild of the Greater Ennis Development Alliance, which was concerned with the revitalization of downtown Ennis. Becky found herself free to volunteer with the group, following the devastating Ennis tornado which forced her to close Puddin's Café, which she owned with her daughter, Morgan McCarty. Morgan now puts her hospitality degree to good use at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Becky's banking experience was also instrumental in getting the market started last year. "I did marketing, scheduled events, kept data such as sales trends, worked with the




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vendors and coordinated volunteers,” she stated. Becky will still be around for this year’s market even though the GEDA has now evolved into the Main Street program, with Becky as its coordinator. “It is so exciting now, since there is a real sense of renewal and interest in revitalizing downtown,” Becky added.

A tab on the VisitEnnis.org website and the market’s Facebook page are great sources of current information on the market. Becky posts market photos on Instagram and uses print media and the “Dallas Metro Section” to publicize the weekly event. The market is a Texas Certified Farmers Market and participates in Go Texan.

The children’s activities brought the most joy to Becky last year. “The kids looked forward to the free activities and crafts offered at Make it at the Market,” she recalled. Make it at the Market will be back, since volunteer groups really liked working with the kids. “We had the Girl Scouts and Infopac, along with many other groups that were great.

“I remember when all the downtown shops were full. I would ride my bike downtown and pick up money from my mom, who worked for Ennis State Bank at the time, and go shopping for a slice of pizza or piece of candy. I would visit my paw paw, who was sure to be occupying a booth and having coffee at Hesser Drug,” Becky shared. “I want to be a part of bringing that back to Ennis, but in a new, updated way that fits our time. I love the renewed sense of pride and community I am seeing. But most importantly, I love Ennis so much and can’t imagine a better life for myself; my husband, Klyne; and children, Morgan and Parker.” **NOW**



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AN ADVENTURE TOGETHER

— By Callie Revell

The story of how Lorenzo and Matilda Williams ended up building their home in Ennis dates all the way back to 1997, and the beginning was not a happy one. Matilda had lost her previous husband to an unexpected heart attack, and she was running a ministry for others who had lost their spouses in the same way. She eventually met Lorenzo, who had lost his wife to a heart attack and was having a difficult time. He turned to Matilda for support.





At Home With Lorenzo and Matilda Williams

Since he was a truck driver, it was hard to find stability moving from place to place. "A lot of times, he would call from the road," Matilda remembered. "You know how grief can just come over you, so we would talk and pray together." After a year, they became good friends, but Matilda was wary of taking the next step. "Sometimes when you try a relationship and it doesn't work, you can lose that, and he was a true friend to me," she said. "We made a pact to stay friends if it didn't work." The marriage is most definitely working. They've been together for 16 years now.

At first, they lived in Mesquite, but they eventually needed to move to be closer to Lorenzo's job in Palestine. Lorenzo is originally from Avalon, but Matilda is from Louisiana, so she wasn't as familiar with the area. Wanting to



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remain close to a big city, she became nervous when Lorenzo started looking farther and farther south. "We were looking for a piece of land, and I told him, 'Look, we're either going to stop here, or we're going all the way to Houston!'" Matilda remembered. Soon, they settled in Ennis as a happy medium. Matilda now works as a director at the private school she co-founded, New Way Leadership Academy, and Lorenzo still drives trucks for Wal-Mart.



They found a piece of land outside of Ennis that was a perfect location for their new home. "I knew we didn't want to live in the city, so that's why we kept looking in the outskirts," Matilda said, adding that they like to have their space. "No one will be able to build behind us. When you look out, you can see the land going back out of sight. I'm a city girl, but I just want to look out and see the land." Their neighbors have horses and cattle, but Lorenzo and Matilda have encountered other animals, too. "Every time you turn around, you'll see armadillos walking around and raccoons out on the deck,"

Matilda said. "We have a little pond out back, so we get frogs, turtles, snakes and everything! I'd never seen this many animals until we moved out here. This is truly the wild."

Lorenzo and Matilda built their home in 2002. They designed everything themselves, including several unique features Matilda specifically requested. The house is a single-story with an open floorplan. "I didn't want anything upstairs," she said. "We're getting older, so I didn't want to climb anything." Matilda paid attention to every detail, and they ended up mixing and matching all of



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her ideas into one cohesive structure. “I looked at different magazines and found things I thought would work, so that’s how I ended up designing it the way that I did.”

The living room is Matilda and Lorenzo’s favorite room in the house, and Matilda left the large back windows without curtains so she could enjoy the view. “I made it so I knew I would be able to look at everything around us,” Matilda said. “I don’t like to be enclosed.”

Lorenzo appreciates the view so much that he designed the windows on the back of the house with this in mind. He has always enjoyed small-town life, so he loves the expansive countryside behind his house. One particular memory took place on their back deck. “One day, we were sitting out there, and we heard something,” Lorenzo said. “We looked up and just so happened to see the space shuttle flying across the sky!”

Another key room in the home is the kitchen, which features a decorative brick wall housing the stove and oven, giving the room an Italian feel. “I wanted to bring the outside in, so I brought some of the brick inside,” Matilda said. “It was something different. I didn’t want the traditional.” Her kitchen is decorated with her collection of ceramic rooster figurines. She loves using her kitchen to feed her friends and family. “With his family and my family, we switch out holidays and do a lot of entertaining,” she added. “I’m from Louisiana, so I love cooking, and he loves eating. I love being in my kitchen.”

Lorenzo likes the front office, which doubles as a music room where he can enjoy his extensive collection of albums and records. “I love to sit in there and listen,” Lorenzo said. “I’ve got thousands



of them.” According to Matilda, the room is usually in a state of organized chaos and is where she gets most of her work done. The home also includes a guest bedroom and bathroom, a formal living room and a spacious master bedroom and bath.

Although Lorenzo and Matilda love their home, they don’t spend as much time there as most would think. “We love traveling and meeting people,” Matilda said. “We get a kick out of just being around each other.” After taking several trips abroad, the couple decided to turn their attention back to the U.S. “We always fly over America to see what’s abroad, but I knew we must be flying over some beautiful places,” Matilda said. “That’s why we decided that every other year we would take a drive instead of a flight. We’ve been trying to make it to every state in the United States, and we only have five states left.” Their road trips have included visits to Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore.

The decor in Lorenzo and Matilda’s home reflects their love of traveling. “I’m always bringing something back when we go somewhere,” Matilda said, pointing out a vase from Italy and a mask from Venice. The shelves in the living room display a white ceramic chicken from Germany and her collection of European pitchers. She has started adding American pieces to her collection, too, including a vase from Yellowstone National Park. “They just remind me of the memories from traveling,” she said.

Although Lorenzo and Matilda have traveled the world together, they are always thankful to return to their beautiful house. They know it will always be there to welcome them back no matter how far they roam. **NOW**



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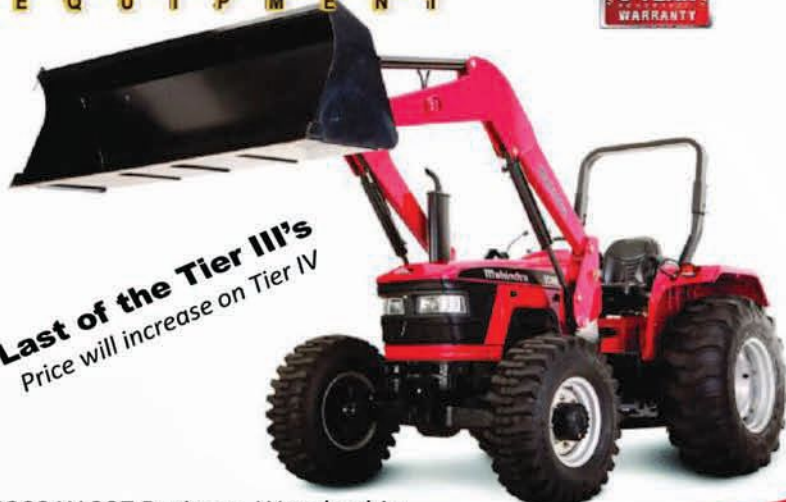
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One Step at a Time

— By Callie Revell

As the sun sets on May 2, a group will begin a walk together around Veterans Memorial Park. Some are in elementary school. Others are retired. However, they all have one thing in common: They are cancer survivors. Their purple shirts will set them apart from others at the event, but all gathered there will be united under the fight against cancer.

Joel Hernandez is the marketing chair for Ennis Relay for Life, an annual volunteer-based fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. "Relay for Life honors survivors and caregivers, remembers those lost to the disease and fights for a world with more birthdays," Joel said. For nearly 30 years, communities across the nation and around the world have hosted their own Relay for Life events to raise money to combat cancer. Ennis is active in the fight. "People put teams together to fundraise throughout the year with things like bake sales and car washes," Joel said. "These funds bring the American Cancer Society one step closer to its goal of helping people stay well by helping them get well — by finding cures and fighting back."

After a year of fundraising, all the teams gather together to celebrate and raise awareness at the relay. There's a track set up, anywhere between an eighth of a mile to a quarter of a mile in length, and the teams set

Lexi Rendon (right) shares a special moment with her mother, Dena Rendon, at last year's Ennis Relay for Life.

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up sites around the track where they have different tents. The relay part comes in because the whole point is to have one person from your team on the track at all times. The team members pass a "spirit stick" to each other when completing a leg of the relay.

The event has evolved over the years to better suit the needs of Ennis. In the past, the committee has hosted an all-night relay from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Traditionally, Relay for Life is an all-night event that symbolizes the strength and endurance required to fight cancer. However, the event this year will last six hours and will be held in the evening, instead. "We are trying to move away from an exclusive event just for members of the teams and move toward a family-friendly community event where people can just come out and have a good time," Joel said. "The idea behind the change is to retain the symbolism within the traditional ceremonies in an event that will help us meet our fundraising goals. So, we've been testing different platforms to see which one will bring the most community involvement."

Joel has been involved with Relay for Life for over six years. He started out as part of a fundraising team. "It was something we did every year," he said. Since then, he has become even more passionate about the cause. "I lost my grandfather to cancer. My grandmother is currently a two-time survivor of cancer. I've had numerous friends and extended family members who have been affected by it," Joel said. "I agree with the cause, and I think it's a really neat event."

The event involves much more than just walking around in circles. There are several ceremonies that take place

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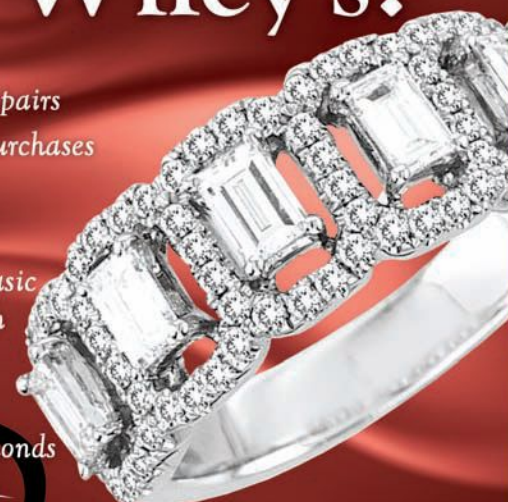
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throughout the evening to honor those who have lost their lives fighting cancer and those who are still fighting. "I like the event so much, because you see people there who have all gone through the same ordeal," Joel said. "Cancer is so stigmatized, and at times, people don't want to talk about it. But once it's out in the open, everyone embraces it and accepts it. I have seen Relay give people a moment of peace."

One of his favorite moments is the Luminaria Ceremony. Those who attend Relay for Life can purchase luminarias, paper sacks with a tea light inside they can decorate in memory or in honor of someone they know who is facing or has faced cancer. "When it gets dark, they turn out all the lights, and the only light is from the luminaria bags," Joel said. "The bags are all decorated by family members and friends who purchased them." Joel




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Joel Hernandez (far right) and the Ennis Relay for Life committee encourage citizens to come together to fight cancer.

usually purchases a luminaria for his grandfather who lost his battle with cancer. "It's nice walking around the track and seeing a bag with his name."

Lexi Rendon, a 16-year-old sophomore at Ennis High School, has been connected to Relay for Life for nearly her entire life. "When I was 6 weeks old, I was diagnosed with bilateral-retinoblastoma, which is a form of pediatric eye cancer," Lexi said. "I did treatment and chemotherapy. I lost my eye and some vision in the other eye, but I'm still here, and that's great. When I was younger and in treatment, Relay for Life provided a bunch of support."

Relay for Life continues to have a positive impact on Lexi. "It helps me get my story out there," she said. "My cancer is pretty rare. It's not leukemia or something else you normally hear about. I just want to make sure people are aware



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of it and know what signs to look for in anyone else who might develop it. Also, we need funding and a cure, and this is a great way to do it." Lexi keeps a positive outlook on life throughout all of her struggles. "I feel so blessed to be here and wake up every day, because if I had been diagnosed any later than I had, I could've died. I feel like God planned everything to the exact second. I feel like I have a purpose for being here and every day is a chance to live out that purpose and see where my life will take me."

Lexi encourages everyone in Ennis to get involved with Relay for Life. "Every donation is appreciated, large or small," she said. "Even though there wasn't a cure when I was going through it, it's great to know that maybe several years down the road, someone will have a cure and others won't have to go through what I went through."

Watching citizens of Ennis come together to fight cancer makes Joel proud to call Ennis home. "We especially want to thank the committee, team captains, participants and sponsors who help make this event happen," Joel said. According to Joel, Ennis as a whole can benefit from Relay for Life. "Nearly everyone is affected by cancer or is close to someone who is affected," he said. "It's important to fundraise, and it's nice to do it in a way that brings the community together. We really do want to invite everybody to come out and support the event." **NOW**

Editor's Note: Relay for Life will take place from 6:00 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, May 2, at Veterans Memorial Park.



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mounts and memory cards are available online and in the Ennis store.

When Henry opened Ennis' Cricket Wireless in August 2014, he began offering his wide range of experience in phone technology gained from years of experience working for Samsung in Dallas. "I know a lot about phones, but I wanted to start my own business," Henry said. He graduated from a university in his native South Korea and came with his parents 17 years ago to the United States. Henry has also earned a master's degree from The University of Texas at Dallas. He loves to spend time with his wife, two children and his parents. "I love to play catch with my little boy," Henry said.

"Seeing people satisfied with the service they are paying for has become my real joy."

"Cricket Wireless and the Ennis location seemed like a good business opportunity, since the company is built on great customer service for reasonable prices," Henry said. Still within its first year of business, the Ennis store has already been a success. "No other Cricket Wireless location has ever made as many sales as we did within our first month of business," Henry said proudly. "We are ranked No. 1 in daily sales, often."

With a booth at the Chamber's 2014 fall festival, Henry and his employees began a tradition of service in the community. Customers are greeted enthusiastically by employees Dezeray Cruz, Marlia Gonzalez and Hector Zamaripa, who are bilingual. Marlia and Hector each have walls in the store on which their original chalk art announces store specials and greetings. A kids' play area keeps children busy with markers, while their parents get service from this able team. "I really like meeting customers every day," Hector said.

"Seeing people satisfied with the service they are paying for has become my real joy," Henry said. "Our first year is going great!" **NOW**



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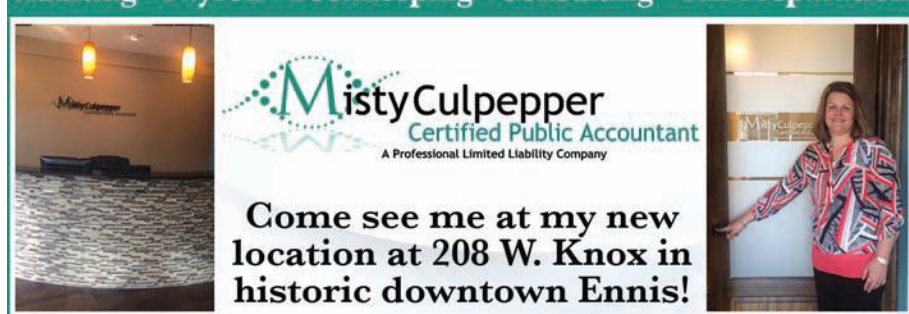
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An independent Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board has approved the study.

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Are You Following a Tax-smart Investment Strategy?

We're getting closer to April 15: Tax Filing Day. And while there may not be much you can do to change your results for the 2014 tax year, you can certainly look closely at your tax returns to find areas you might be able to improve next year — and one such area is your investment portfolio.

Of course, you may also find opportunities in other places. Could you have taken more deductions? Could you have moved some of your debts into a tax-deductible loan, such as a home equity loan or line of credit? You'll want to consult with your tax advisor to determine areas of potential savings.

However, you may be able to brighten your tax picture by making some tax-smart investment moves, such as the following:

Resist the urge to trade frequently. It can be costly to constantly buy and sell investments. In addition to the commissions you may incur, and the possibility that such excessive trading can impede a consistent investment strategy, you could rack up a sizable tax bill. If you sell an asset that you've held for a year or less, any profit you earn is considered a short-term capital gain, which is taxed at the same rate as your ordinary income. So, for example, if you bought Investment ABC for \$1,000 on January 5, 2014, and you sold it for \$1,250 on December 31, 2014, you'd be taxed on your \$250 gain. If you are in the 28-percent tax bracket, you'd owe \$70 in taxes. But if you had waited until January 6, 2015, and you sold your investment for the same \$250 gain, you'd pay the more favorable long-term capital gains tax rate of 15 percent, which translates into \$37.50 in taxes — just over half of what you'd owe at the short-term rate. If you habitually sell investments after owning them less than a year, the taxes can really add up, so try to be a "buy-and-hold" investor.

Increase your 401(k) contributions. If you aren't already participating in your 401(k) or similar plan, start now. And if you are contributing, boost your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You typically put pretax dollars in your 401(k), so the more you add, the lower your annual taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow tax deferred.

Max out on your IRA. Depending on your income level, you may be able to deduct some, or all, of your contributions to your traditional IRA, and these deductible contributions can lower your taxable income. Plus, your investment can grow tax deferred. (Keep in mind, though, that taxes will be due upon withdrawal, and any withdrawals made before you reach 59 1/2 are subject to a 10-percent IRS penalty.)

If you contribute to a Roth IRA, your contributions are never deductible and won't lower your taxable income, but your earnings are distributed tax free, provided you've had your account at least five years and you are older than 59 1/2. In 2015, you can contribute \$5,500 to your IRA, plus an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you are 50 or older, and it's almost always a good idea to max out your contributions each year. By following a buy-and-hold investment strategy and using those tax-advantaged accounts available to you, you may be able to help yourself — at tax time and beyond. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.

Retirement May Be Far Off,

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You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2014 IRA contribution before the April 15 deadline. By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it's easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA and begin receiving the face-to-face guidance you deserve.

To learn more about the advantages of an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.



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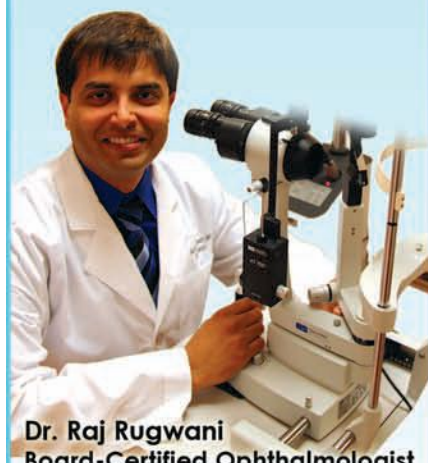
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It's Allergy Time Again

Indeed the arrival of spring has been heralded by longer days, budding flowers and warming temperatures. Finally those dreary cold, wet and sometimes icy days of winter are behind us, and we all look forward to time outdoors. But that poses another problem for millions of Americans. The condition known as allergic rhinitis, and sometimes referred to as seasonal allergies, is now here with a vengeance. How can we best address this annual burden?

Perhaps the first thing to consider is to anticipate the problem. By knowing when symptoms are likely to arise, preventive measures may be taken to avoid more severe problems. People who have spring allergies are commonly allergic to the spring pollens whereas those with fall allergies are often sensitive to ragweed. Many physicians can do in-office testing to identify which agents (otherwise called allergens) one might be sensitive to. With that information in hand, a specific treatment regimen can be proposed to avert more advanced symptoms.

As the problems of runny nose, itchy and watery eyes are the most common symptoms, the dominant pathology is inflammation of the upper airway passages. The body's mediators of this inflammation include histamine and leukotrienes, and the most common treatment involves blocking these agents through the use of antihistamines and montelukast (Singulair). Traditional antihistamines such as Benadryl remain very effective but are often associated with drowsiness and dry mouth. Newer antihistamines, such as Zyrtec, Allegra and Claritin, are far more popular today as they tend to be better tolerated. Singulair is a popular product for use in both asthma and

allergic rhinitis although many have suggested that it is not as effective on eye allergies as it is on nasal symptoms.

If symptoms of severe runny nose, watery eyes and sneezing are well-established, several days of treatment may be required prior to improvement. This is particularly true for Singulair. Hence, the aforementioned daily treatment before and throughout the allergy season is suggested. Antihistamines and Singulair are often used together for added benefit.

Over the past 20 years, nasal steroids have been increasingly used to treat seasonal allergies. This is particularly true since Nasacort is now available over-the-counter. While chronic use of oral steroids is not recommended for allergic rhinitis, nasal steroids are not absorbed in sufficient quantities to impose any long-term effects. Like the oral agents previously mentioned, the nasal steroids are most effective if begun before the allergy season is fully established. Combination therapy with antihistamines, Singulair and nasal steroids together are often used in refractory cases.

Even so, some are not fully controlled with any or all of these agents. In that case, the use of so-called "allergy shots" may be just the ticket to lasting relief. These shots have become much more "user friendly" in recent years and may avoid some of the side-effects of taking long-term medications. These shots can often be administered by the patient in his/her own home with little discomfort and lasting relief. So, here's to your most allergy-free spring yet! **NOW**

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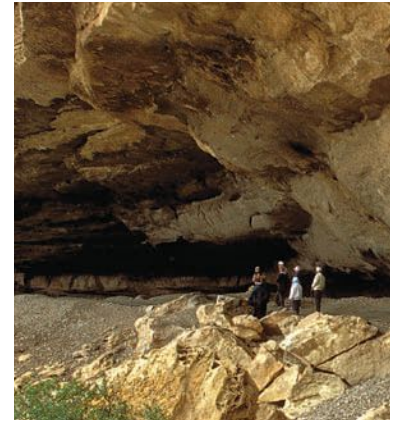
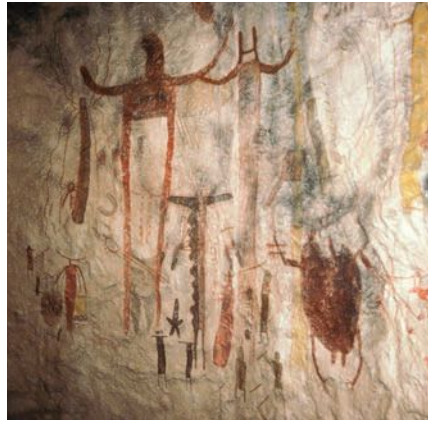
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Ancient Southern Rock Seminole Canyon State Park — Worth the Trip

Literally thousands of years before it was designated a state park and historic site by the citizenry of Texas, the rugged limestone hills, flowing waters of the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers and wildlife-laden thorn scrub outside of present day Del Rio were a popular gathering place. In fact, this region remains one of the few places where factual documentation of prehistoric settlement is preserved, providing evidence testifying to their lives. Ancient peoples created mural-like paintings on the arching rock walls of this near desert-like canyon country, producing some of North America's most renowned examples of Native American pictographs and preserving one of the continent's oldest cave dwellings.

The first human settlers here date back at least 12,000 years to the Pleistocene ice age, when prehistoric mankind hunted large game with stone-tipped spears across a lush landscape. But rapid climate change made for a new environment and a culture that likely struggled to scratch out survival. By approximately 5,000 B.C., the landscape resembled much of what can be seen today.

These inhabitants settled in the dry, lofty caverns, and despite their subsistence-level struggles, managed to paint remarkable pictographs that can be found in the park's Fate Bell Shelter, as well as other rock shelters throughout the Lower Pecos River region. These paintings have a distinct style that can only be found in portions of the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devils River areas, all located in Southwest Texas. More than 200 pictograph sites are known to exist and range from smaller, single

paintings to caves with panels of art hundreds of feet long. Although numerous figures or motifs are repeated in various locations, the exact meaning of these paintings is unknown.

Seminole Canyon first opened to the public as a state park in 1980, and is named in honor of the U.S. Army's Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, garrisoned at Fort Clark, who protected the West Texas frontier from marauding Apache and Comanche bands between 1872 and 1914. These scouts were known for exceptional cunning and toughness, and it was deemed a befitting tribute to have a park bearing their namesake.

Seminole Canyon State Park is 2,172 acres with miles of hike and bike trails and 46 campsites, including 23 sites with water and electricity hookups compatible for RVs. The park also has restrooms with showers, a visitor center and state park store. Because of the sensitive nature of the park's rock art history, hikes into areas with rock art are only accessible through guided interpretive hikes with park staff and volunteers. Seminole Canyon State Park is worth the trip when you and your family need a respite from modern life. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, contact Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site staff at (432) 292-4464 or visit www.texasstateparks.org.

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April 1 — 30

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails: Come drive over 40 miles of bluebonnet trails, sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club. For more information, visit www.visitennis.org.

Dallas YMCA at Ennis Little League registration: Register now for T-ball, baseball and softball. Season start date is **May 5**. For more information, visit www.ymcadallas.org/locations/waxahachie/programs/sports/ennis/.

April 3

Garrett Rural Volunteer Fire Department's 13th Annual Good Friday Fish Fry: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 S. I-45. Live and silent auctions. Cost is \$10 for an adult to-go plate; \$6 for kids.

April 4

Citywide Easter Egg Hunt: 9:30 a.m.-noon, Ennis Veterans Memorial Park, 2301 Ennis Pkwy. For more information, call (214) 549-5878.

April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

Scarborough Renaissance Festival: For more information, call (972) 938-3247 or visit www.srfestival.com.

April 4 — October 31

Ennis Farmers Market.

April 6 — 11

Ellis County Youth Expo: Ellis County Expo Center.

April 9

Waxahachie Symphony Orchestra presents SAGU Jazz Band: 7:00-9:00 p.m., SAGU Performance Hall. Visit www.waxahachiesymphony.com for more information.

April 11

Lifestyle Business, Health & Wellness Expo: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln. For more information, call (972) 937-2392 or visit www.waxahachiechamber.com.

April 18, 19

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival: Enjoy two days of arts and crafts, bluebonnet souvenirs, children's activities, exciting live music and scenic country rides taking in all the beautiful wildflowers with a Bluebonnet Trails map. Free admission.

Kachina Prairie Wildflower Walk: **Saturday**, 11:00 a.m.; **Sunday**, 2:00 p.m., Kachina Prairie Park, W. Baldrige St., Ennis. Wildflower walks will begin at the park

entrance and will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

April 19

2015 Antique American Independent Automobile Show: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., N. Main St. W. (between Belknap and Baylor Streets in downtown Ennis). The event will feature cars and trucks manufactured by extinct corporations from days gone by, i.e. Packard, Kaiser, Graham, Nash, Hupmobile, Hudson, Studebaker and more.

April 24, 25

A Retreat for Women: **Friday**, 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 3:00 p.m., Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center, 5128 FM 66, Waxahachie. For more information, email moreretreat@lakeviewcamp.net. To purchase tickets, visit www.lakeviewcamp.net/more.

May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25

Scarborough Renaissance Festival: For more information, call (972) 938-3247 or visit www.srfestival.com.

May 16

The Kinsloe House "Floriade" Garden Tour: 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., The Kinsloe House, 618 W. Third Ave., Corsicana. Tour five residential gardens and a historic home. Tickets are \$25. Boxed lunches are also available by reservation for \$8.50 at The Kinsloe House. Call (903) 874-5791 or (903) 654-0239 for more information.

Bristol Volunteer Fire Department Dinner & Dance: 5:30-11:00 p.m., 100 S. Old Walnut at the Firehouse in Bristol. The event will include live and silent auctions and a bounce house for the children. A barbecue dinner will be served from 5:30-7:00 p.m. \$10 adults, \$6 children. Live music by Ira Bradford & Bustin' Loose.

May 29, 30

Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project presents "Heaven's Front Porch": **Friday**, 8:00 p.m., **Saturday**, 3:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, visit www.waxaofs.com.

Ongoing:

Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meetings:

7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org.

Fourth Mondays

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

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meetings: 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.

Third Tuesdays

Veterans Networking Group meetings: 5:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Hwy 287 Bypass and 77. Call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 for more information.

Skyblazers of Waxahachie R/C Club meetings: 7:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, downtown Waxahachie.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meetings: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Kay at (972) 935-2054 or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 for reservations.

Thursdays

Chess for Kids: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue.

Second Thursdays

Mom's Connected meetings: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861 for more information.

Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

Sundays

GriefShare meetings: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary Youth Inc. room. For more information, call (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

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



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In the Kitchen With Kristy Stephens

— *By Sandra Strong*

Knowing the ingredients that go into her meals and being able to pronounce those ingredients means a great deal to Kristy Stephens. In 2011, Kristy began a weight-loss journey that led to a 140-pound reduction in her weight. “A large part of my weight loss came from preparing meals at home, often from scratch,” Kristy admitted. “No more carbonated drinks or fast-foods. I want to stay healthy, and I want my guys to learn to eat healthy, too.”

Her knowledge of cooking came from the hands-on method. “I learned from watching my grandparents, my mother and my father,” she explained. “As I have gotten older, I’m learning to experiment with recipes from cooking shows. I don’t mind tweaking a recipe to make it my own.” **NOW**

Apple Pie Bites

- 1 small Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and cut into 8 1/2-inch slices**
- 3 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 1 8-oz. can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls**
- 1/3 cup brown sugar, packed**
- Apple pie spice, to taste**

- 1.** Heat oven to 375 F. Line a cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper. Set aside.
- 2.** In a small bowl, toss apple slices in melted butter. Set aside. Separate rolls into 8 triangles.
- 3.** In a small bowl, mix brown sugar, apple spice and remaining butter. Spread mixture evenly on each triangle piece. Top each triangle with an apple slice. Starting at short side of triangle, wrap dough around apple.

Place on cookie sheet and brush with melted butter.

- 4.** Bake 10-12 minutes or until crescents are deep golden brown and apples are softened. Cool 5 minutes before serving.

Lambert’s “Thrown” Rolls

- 1/4 cup plus 1 tsp. sugar (divided use)**
- 1 1/4-oz. pkg. dry active yeast**
- 1/4 cup tepid water (105-110 degrees)**
- 1 cup warm milk**
- 1/4 lb. butter, melted**
- 1 egg, beaten (room temperature)**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 4 cups all-purpose flour**

- 1.** Combine 1 tsp. sugar and yeast in water. Allow to stand 5-10 minutes until yeast begins to foam.

2. Thoroughly mix milk, butter, remaining sugar, egg and salt in a large bowl. Stir the yeast mixture with 3 1/2 cups of flour, adding a bit more if necessary to make a soft, pliable dough. Turn dough out onto a floured board. Let rest while you clean and butter the bowl.

3. Knead dough gently 4-5 minutes, adding flour, if necessary, until dough is smooth and silky. Return dough to bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until dough doubles in size. (On average, about 1 1/2-hour)

4. Butter a 12-cup muffin pan. Punch down dough. Pinch off pieces about 1 1/2-inches in diameter (enough to fill 1/2 of the muffin cup). Roll into smooth spheres. Place two pieces in each prepared muffin cup. It will be a tight fit. Cover dough loosely with plastic wrap for 45 minutes. Bake rolls in preheated 350 F oven for 20-25 minutes, or until light brown. Serve as soon as they are cool enough to eat.

Monkey Bread

Shortening or cooking spray, as needed

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 tsp. cinnamon

2 16.3-oz. cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits

1/2 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)

1/2 cup raisins (optional)

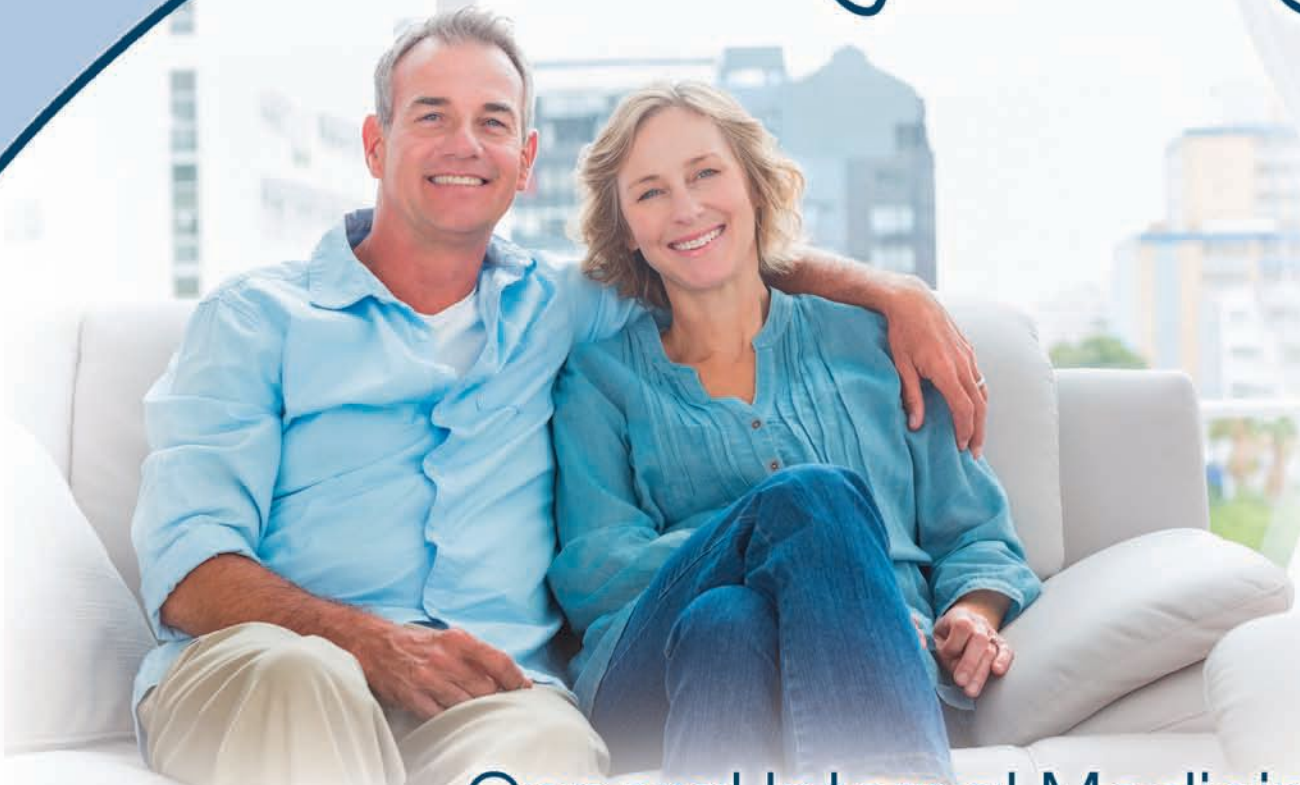
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed

3/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

- 1.** Heat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a 12-cup fluted tube pan with shortening or cooking spray. In a large, plastic food storage bag, mix granulated sugar and cinnamon.
- 2.** Separate dough into 16 biscuits. Cut each biscuit into 4 quarters. Drop biscuit pieces in sugar/cinnamon bag. Shake until well-coated. Remove from bag and arrange pieces in the tube pan, adding walnuts and raisins randomly among the biscuit pieces.
- 3.** In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and butter. Pour over biscuit pieces. Bake 28-32 minutes, or until golden brown and no longer doughy in the center. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Turn upside down onto serving plate. Pull apart and serve warm.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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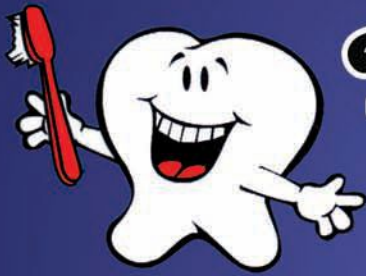


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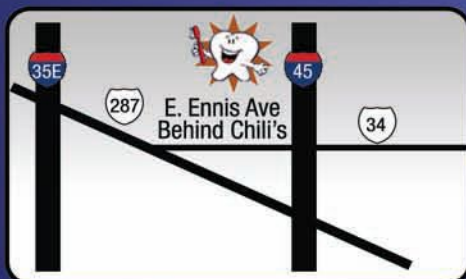
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