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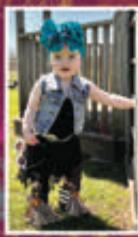


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#### ON THE COVER



Kaillan Honza works toward a promising future.

Photo by Bill Smith.

Publisher, Connie Poirier General Manager, Rick Hensley

#### **EDITORIAL**

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# Tonja Barnebee CPA, PC

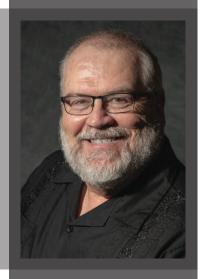
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## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Back to the routine ...

Remember when school started in September? It is hard to believe it starts so early in August these days. We tend to say that Labor Day is the official end of summer. Vacation travel is over (gas prices go down?) and we get on with the more mundane parts of our lives.

My wife and I teach kids in Sunday School, and we're always asking them about the week that they experienced just before we get together. Just like I did when I was their age, they look forward to school dismissing in May, but they also look forward, with a new anticipation, to the resumption of school in the fall. In my memories, regardless of how much fun summer was, there were friends I had not seen since that last class, and I always looked forward to being back at school.

Back in the dark ages (when I was in school), we usually had two weeks of twoa-day football practices before school began. It was fun, at least part of it, but it was a lot of work, also. There was a popular musical group back in that day called Blood, Sweat & Tears. I'm pretty sure they took their name from two-a-days and some practice fields known as "Kunya." If you are too young to remember Kunya, ask an Ennis baby boomer.

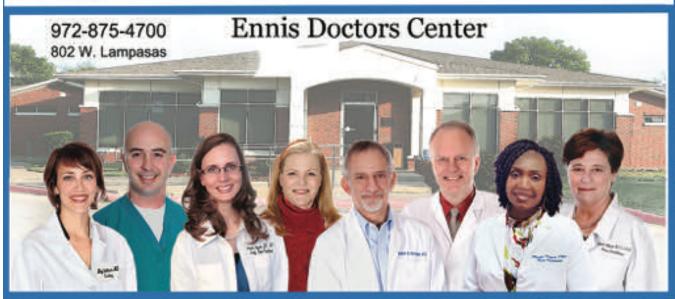
Let's get out and support the Ennis Lions this fall. That means all of the youth, whether they are in a football uniform, a band uniform, in a gym, on a diamond, on stage or in a classroom.

They are back at work, along with the rest of us.



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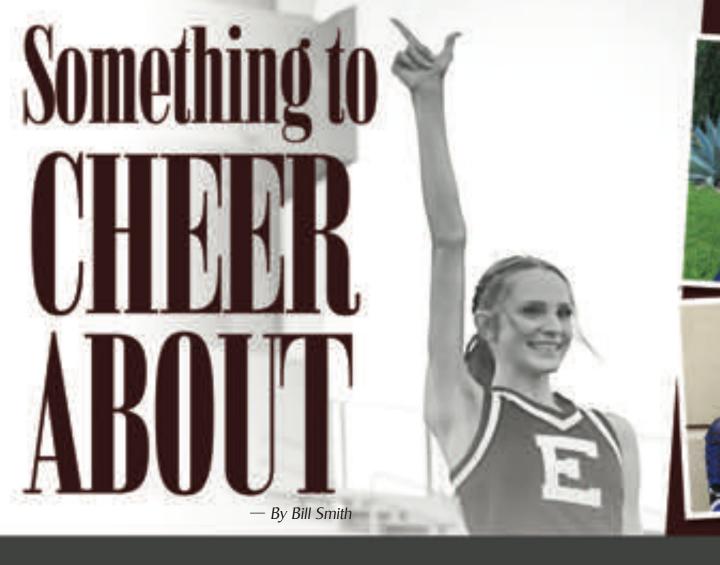


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Kaillan Honza has a thirst for education that extends beyond the classroom. "I enjoy learning about new things," she explained. "My plans after high school include something in the medical field. I'm considering nursing with possibly specializing in pediatrics and working in a hospital in the neonatal intensive care unit." Last year she had the opportunity to go through some hospital rotations, and it helped her further refine some of her goals.

As she enters her senior year of high school, she is also completing college level courses, and hopes to obtain her associate degree at the same time as her high school diploma. Lynn Mangus is Kaillan's dual credit instructor at both EHS and Navarro College for algebra and statistics. Lynn wrote, "Kaillan is amazing in the classroom. She is a perfectionist in her math class. Others come to her for help. She is very quiet, yet a natural leader. I thoroughly enjoyed having her in class!"

Currently ranked first in her class, Kaillan has set a goal to complete her high school education as valedictorian. It was not a goal she had set for herself when she entered high school as a freshman, but as class rankings were published during her freshman year, she found herself in the top 10. "I was surprised, but I thought it was pretty cool, too," she said. "I decided then that I wanted to do well, but I was surprised when I reached first place. Since that came out, I decided to make it a goal to finish as valedictorian. My friends keep me accountable. My parents are very supportive, but they do not put any pressure on me."

Another of Kaillan's instructors has had her in class twice, first in the seventh grade as her pre-AP English teacher, and again just last year as her AP English teacher. Melissa Johnson described Kaillan as an incredible student. "Kaillan seems to have a lot of respect for learning, as everything she does is important in some way. She may not see the immediate need for a certain concept, but she understands that in the big picture, each concept relates to a future skill or proficiency," Melissa said. "One gets the sense that she has very specific short- and long-term goals and understands the necessity of giving every effort to make each target, whether it's cheer, school, college or her future career."

Kaillan has been involved with cheer since she was in the second grade. "I guess it really started in Ennis with Go Dance, learning gymnastics and tumbling, at age 4. I started cheer in the second grade at DCI gym in Corsicana," she revealed. "My



parents have driven me back and forth down there so many times over the years. We have also been many miles to competitions, including Florida, Oklahoma, Louisiana and most recently, Dallas with the high school cheerleaders."

In junior high, Kaillan was named All-American Cheerleader. In 2018, her team won first place in the National Cheerleaders Association. COVID had an effect on events for a while, so some of them were done virtually. In 2021, they went to the Summit Championships in Orlando, Florida. There were 70 teams in the final round, and Kaillan's team finished in fifth place. There were ties for second and fourth, so the team actually had the third highest score.

Kaillan's cheer coaches for many years were Jaime and Rylea Skinner. Of her they wrote, "Kaillan was an exceptional athlete. She excelled in many ways, but always did so quietly. Kaillan made sure that her actions



spoke way louder than her words did. Although she was a quiet athlete, her hard work never went unnoticed. Kaillan's dedication and commitment to her team and cheerleading gym was unmatched. Her responsibility both inside and outside of all-star cheerleading was something her teammates always admired her for. Kaillan's work ethic was very apparent, even at a young age. We always knew she would do big things in life. We are beyond proud of her and all she has accomplished thus far, and we cannot wait to see what all she does in the years to come!"

Kaillan competed with DCI until the end of her sophomore year, and now all her energy is poured into EHS cheer. "I still have a lot of friends from Corsicana and Mildred that I met through DCI," she shared. "I have bonded with many other cheerleaders and coaches from those years. But now, high school cheer is a lot of fun. My favorite thing is traveling to football games with the other cheerleaders. We enjoy listening to music on our

bus, and then interacting with the game, leading cheers and running along the sidelines."

This summer, Kaillan and the EHS cheerleaders attended cheer camp at SMU in Dallas. She commented, "My last EHS Varsity NCA Cheer Camp was unforgettable. We were able to form strong bonds and skills that will strengthen our teamwork and aid in our success in our upcoming football and competition season. We built a solid foundation that we will be able to grow on, to be our best at the UIL State Competition in December."

If she was not busy enough, Kaillan also participates in service projects with the National Honor Society. She has been involved as a Lone Star Ambassador at the Texas Motorplex, with Give a Kid a Chance and with activities at her church. Kaillan enjoys her Czech heritage in Ennis and the time she has with her immediate and extended family here. Her English teacher, Melissa, left this final comment, "As an English teacher, I get a special view of student lives through



the window of class essays. Kaillan has written about her family in several essays. It's clear that she loves her family so much."

College is just around the corner, and Kaillan envisions a future at either Texas Christian University or Texas Tech. Let's cheer her on! NOW

Photos courtesy of Sharon Honza.



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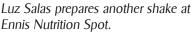
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# **Around Town**





Leah and Ernie Martinek bring the program to the Ennis Noon Lions.

## Zoomed In:

# Danielle and D.J. Good

D.J. Good and his mother, Danielle, are enjoying all that Ennis has to offer since moving here a couple of years ago from Long Island, New York. Danielle's husband, Stephen, was not available for the picture, as he was working at the post office.

"We love the freedom of Texas," Danielle said with a smile. "It is so wideopen here compared to New York. Ennis has so much to enjoy, just like the Perot Museum truck being downtown today. We love the community festivals and everything about Texas in general."

Danielle teaches Elementary Reading Intervention at Rice Elementary School. D.J. will be in the sixth grade next year. "Science is my favorite subject," he added, as he continued to work on his project at the Perot truck.



Rotary Scholarship recipients Johana Contreras, Alexis Dodson and Zachary Colvin attend a meeting with Rotary Club members Jessica Diaz and Marcie Schanfish.



Johnnie Hudgens and Pastor Christopher Bradford hand out water and Gospel Tracts at their church.

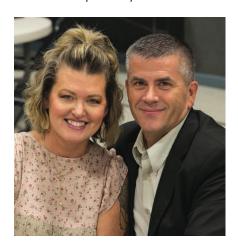
By Bill Smith



Cathy and Ken Budjenska entertain at Sugar Ridge Winery.



Lizeth Tavira works at the Ennis Bluebonnet Spirit Shop.



Pastor Chet and Tia Hensley celebrate 10 years at Baylor Baptist Church.





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# City Real Estate En Español

- By Bill Smith

City Real Estate En Español 102 W. Ennis Avenue Cell/Office: (469) 658-5506 amelia.valdez@yahoo.com www.ameliavaldezrealestate.com

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Weekend hours by appointment only.

Though City Real Estate En Español was just formed as a new branch office in 2019, the experience behind the office goes back many years, and the dream of the bilingual office stems from a deep love for community. Amelia Valdez speaks often of her love for Ennis, and she has built her real estate career here.

Amelia's first real estate experience was with her family's development business, but after a downturn in 2008, she decided to pursue becoming a real estate agent. She was expecting to reach clients that she could help because she is bilingual. "Then, in 2019, I had a discussion with Wayne Norcross, the broker-owner at City Real Estate, about the evolving changes in the real estate market. I decided to open a branch office and provide an opportunity for other aspiring Latino agents.

"City Real Estate En Español gives me the opportunity to assist clients in many ways, and it also gives me a sense of community in our historic downtown to extend services to whoever may need them," she continued. "My staff includes lake Martinez, who has been with me since 2012. We have added several agents since then, including Christina Klinck Gilman, Estefanie Gutierrez, Jace Brewer and Pris Nunez. I have a scholarship program to help those aspiring to be real

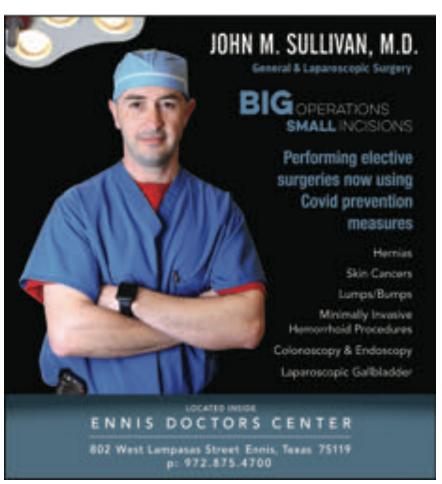
estate agents, and we currently have two gentlemen in that program."

Having been born and reared in Ennis, Amelia loves the city and has a dedicated referral clientele. She is dedicated to helping people make Ennis their forever home. "I have experience in most all real estate transactions, but I keep myself up to date in residential, lease management, farm and ranch, unimproved property and commercial properties," she said. Her successful career seems to speak for itself. In 2011. she was recognized as one of the top 250 Latino agents in the United States and continued to be on that list for years — most recently in 2022. This allowed her and some of her team to go to San Diego, where they were able to hear keynote speakers like Lin-Manuel Miranda, Gloria Estefan, Luis Guzmán and even President Obama. "Being included in that conference made me so excited for what could be here in Ellis County," she admitted.

Amelia has earned real estate designations including ABR, CRS and GRI, and she obtained her Real Estate Broker License in 2013. She is also president of the Ennis Main Street Board, president of The Lights of Ennis Board, a member of the United Way of Ennis Board and very dedicated to what is going on at the Boys & Girls Club of Ennis.

"My love of Ennis is not just about providing services. It is about relationships, and it is about involvement with the clients. I am getting ready to educate our community on the Hispanic Wealth Project. This program shares financial and educational information to the Hispanic communities in America. I am very passionate about educating the Hispanic culture on their home ownership and business start-up options and that it doesn't have to be something they cannot obtain. I also feel that I bridge the gap for all cultures and facilitate relationships with everyone in our community. If you come to City Real Estate En Español, you can be assured that you will be attended to by our experienced agents. We can communicate and translate the process of a real estate transaction and get all of your questions and concerns addressed and answered." NOW





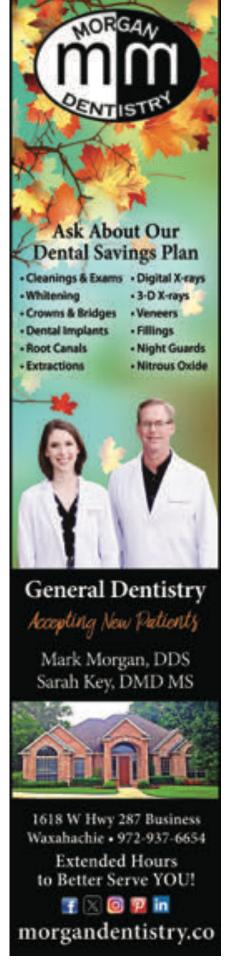














Ashley Woldt enjoys cooking and baking not only because she likes to eat delicious food, but because it brings her family together. "I wasn't really into baking or cooking growing up, but as I became a mom, I wanted to explore different and new things that tested my skills," she said. "Whether it's the kids and me or the extended family for the holidays, I love being in the kitchen.

"Although I can knock a blueberry lemon cobbler out of the park, I still sometimes burn the bottoms of the biscuits! My son, Eli, will say, 'It's OK! Look, I can just eat the tops!' My daughter, Eva, loves to be in the kitchen with me because that's where most of the fun is!"

#### **Apple Nachos**

- 3 Fuji apples
- 1/4 cup peanut butter, smooth
- 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- I handful chocolate chips
- **I.** Slice the apples; arrange the apple slices on a plate.
- **2.** Melt the peanut butter and semi-sweet chocolate in separate pans until they have a liquid consistency.
- **3.** Drizzle the melted peanut butter over the apple slices with a spoon. Do the same with the melted semi-sweet chocolate.
- **4.** Sprinkle a handful of chocolate chips over the plate as a topping.
- **5.** Serve immediately.

#### Frosted Lemonade Drink

1 cup lemonade of your choice 2 cups vanilla ice cream Sliced lemons for garnish

- **1.** In a blender, add the lemonade, then the ice cream. If your blender has an ice cream button, use that. If not, blend on low speed for about 15 seconds, then on medium for 30 seconds.
- 2. Garnish with sliced lemons.

#### **Lemon Blueberry Dump Cake**

Tastes just like a homemade cobbler. No mixing or additional bowls needed for this dump cake with blueberries.

#### Nonstick cooking spray

- 1 21-oz. can blueberry pie filling
- 3 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, unthawed (divided use)
- 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 15.25-oz. box lemon cake mix (A gluten-free lemon cake mix works great, too!)
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, melted
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- **2.** Spray a 9x13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray.

- **3.** Pour in the can of blueberry pie filling; spread evenly.
- **4.** Add 2 cups of blueberries. Sprinkle the sugar and lemon zest over the blueberries.
- **5.** Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the blueberries.
- **6.** Drizzle the melted butter evenly over the dry cake. Add the remaining cup of blueberries on top of the cake.
- **7.** Bake for 45-48 minutes, or until golden yellow.
- **8.** Allow the cake to sit for 10 minutes before serving. Serve warm or cold with ice cream, if desired.

#### **Hocus Pocus Bites**

Butter, melted, to taste Marshmallows, to taste Cinnamon, to taste Sugar, to taste Crescent rolls, to taste

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- 2. Melt the butter. Take the desired number of marshmallows, and roll them in the melted butter.
- **3.** Roll the marshmallows in cinnamon and sugar.
- **4.** Wrap the marshmallow in crescent rolls.
- **5.** Cook for 12 minutes. Let them cool slightly; enjoy.

#### Easy-Peasy Spinach Artichoke Dip

2 14-oz. cans quartered artichoke hearts
1 cup fresh or 3/4 of a 13.5-oz. can leaf spinach (Both are equally delicious.)
12 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
1 Tbsp. minced garlic
1/4 cup sour cream
Salt, to taste (optional)

- **1.** In a medium saucepan, add both cans of artichoke hearts and the spinach. Heat for 2 to 3 minutes.
- **2.** Add the cheese; stir until it is all mixed together.
- **3.** When the cheese is almost completely melted, add the garlic, sour cream and salt, if using.
- **4.** Serve with tortilla chips; enjoy.





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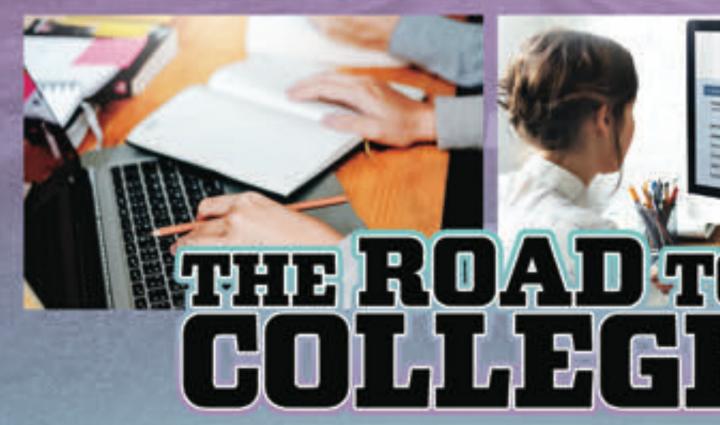
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— By Sandra Walters

During the first year of high school, start your child's college preparation. Why? The high school grades determine where he or she will attend, so focus on excelling academically. In addition, get your child mentally prepared by purchasing a binder, or use an electronic option to keep all college documents in an accessible location. Before you know it, the senior year will arrive, and this prior hard work will be appreciated.

If you haven't already, take your son or daughter on a college road trip to find schools that best fit him or her. Many students think they want to attend a certain school, but they have no real experience with the institution. For instance, a conversation with a young man and an older lady took place at a local snow cone shop recently. "What grade are you in?" she asked as he made her snow cone.

He replied, "I am a sophomore."

She then inquired, "Do you know what college you want to attend?"

"I want to go to Oregon State in Washington, D.C.," he answered.

The woman remarked, "Oh, OK," and abruptly ended the conversation with the young man. He had obviously never been to Oregon or Oregon State before. Sadly, he didn't even appear to understand that Oregon State couldn't be in Washington, D.C.

It is crucial for students to discover if a school is a good

fit before applying, getting accepted and then realizing the college isn't suitable. It is advisable to do your homework prior to scheduling a campus visit. Research the schools of choice online. Then, plan a tour while school is in session. Evaluate the campus environment, and talk with students to receive more insight. Investigate the academic programs, and see if you may attend a class to witness class size, teaching styles and the academic atmosphere. Check the student residence halls and dining facilities. Identify career planning services for undergraduates. Investigate transportation options. Find out how students use their out-of-classroom time. Become aware of student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) After the visit, brainstorm reasons for selecting a school, and rank them according to your criteria. Create a list of things that are very important, somewhat important and unimportant. Have your student rate their top three schools according to their needs.

Next, a student should begin registering for college standardized tests during their freshman year to practice. However, since the pandemic, some schools no longer require these tests, but this could still be a determining factor for highly competitive schools. Make sure your student learns the requirements for their top schools and works toward that GPA, those testing scores and attempts to stand out among the crowd. Universities are looking for people who add to their school's community, which includes extracurricular activities. This entails volunteer work, sports, clubs and more. As your student journeys through their high school years, build a high school résumé. This lists all their school activities with brief descriptions. Look online for examples.

Create an ApplyTexas account during the summer of their senior year, and if your child desires to attend an out-of-state institution, use the Common App to submit the application. The writing prompts for ApplyTexas often don't change. Write the essays in advance, so you will be prepared for the busy times



ahead. Of course, revisit the documents to edit, revise and proofread the essays to make any necessary updates. Because the senior year can be a really difficult time, the hard work over the years will begin to make sense.

Finally, research scholarships and grants early. It's easier to get local scholarships and grants than national ones. Begin with the scholarships that are offered to students in your ISD. Many organizations offer specifically to particular high schools, so look for scholarships given to individuals at your school or in the DFW area. As you try to identify more savings, fill out your FASFA form on October 1st when it opens during your senior year. Try to avoid having college debt when paying for college. The cost — including books, supplies, room and board, etc. — is about \$100,000 for a Texas public university. Attending an out-of-state school or private school increases the price. Parents and students shouldn't wait until senior year to consider these things, because it can be overwhelming. NOW

#### Source:

I. http://www.collegeforalltexans. com/apps/collegecosts. cfm?Type=1 &Level=1.









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# **Crossword Puzzle**

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Easy

#### Across

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- 5 Shock physically
- 8 Fend off
- 10 Artistic inspirer
  11 Procession
- illumination 13 She-sheep
- 14 Slender bar
- 15 Pinch
- 17 Positive testimonial19 Humphrey's
- successor 22 Comes down
- to Earth

  23 Disintegrated
- 25 Make lace

Medium

26 Direct a gun

- 27 Bathwater tester?
- 30 Cede grip on assorted characters, moving ahead
- 33 Chawbacon
- 34 Acknowledge
- 35 Winter depression
- 36 Biz bosses
- Down
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  - frankly
    3 "Honor is a ---
  - scutcheon" (Falstaff, Shakespeare, "Henry IV Part
  - 4 Atomic safety org.

- 5 "A --- of Wine, a Loaf of Bread - and Thou ... "
- (Omar Khayyam) 6 Lucy ---, Scott's Bride of
- Lammermoor
  7 Impede
- 9 Something suggestive of an earlier time
- 10 Go-betweens
- 12 Old trick-taking game
- 16 Oral specialist
- 17 Absolute beauty
- 18 Bunch of cash
- 19 Statute
- 20 Mathematical diagrams
- 21 Coypu fur

- 24 Float at anchor
- 27 Periodic movement of the sea
- 28 Upon
- 29 Causes of personality clashes
- 31 Condition of TV's "Monk"
- 32 Sawbones

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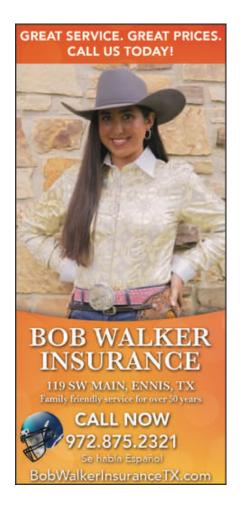
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# Sudoku Puzzle

8 9 3 9 8 8 9 5 3 9 1 6 1 8 6 5 3 3 8 9 3 8 3 9 5 8 5

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excited to have won!"







#### 9/2

#### **Racewars:**

It's a car show! It's a racing event! It's more! Car enthusiasts from all over the USA are talking about it. Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287 For more information, call (972) 878-2641 or visit www.texasmotorplex.com.

#### 9/5

#### MHMR: G.L.O.W. GROUP:

This Grow, Live, Obtain, Wellness group promotes nutrition education with hands-on experiences preparing meals and learning about health, wellness, and physical activity. In this group, caregivers will practice healthy eating strategies they can build into their daily routines. Free. Registration is required as space is limited. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ennis Welcome Center, 201 NW Main St. Please register by clicking the link: https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/stepinto-summer-ennis-tickets-617238405687?aff=oddtdtcreator.

#### 9/8-9/9

#### Patriot Day BBQ Bash:

We will never forget. Sanctioned by Outlaw BBQ Association. Brisket/pork ribs/chicken Cookoff: \$185 individual team entry. Guaranteed payout: \$3,500 (3 meats). Jackpot for pinto beans/ dessert/mystery meat. A portion of the proceeds and any prize money donated back will go to a local "1st Responder" nonprofit.

Downtown Ennis. For more information, contact Geoeffery Williams at gwilliams@ennischamber.com or (972) 878-2625.

#### 9/15

#### Senior Night at the Football Game:

Come join the senior student recognition as the Lions take on the Corsicana Tigers at Lion Memorial Stadium, Kickoff: 7:00 p.m. Electronic tickets only. available at https://gofan.co/ app/school/TX16066.

#### 9/12

#### Friends of the **Library Meeting:**

Noon-1:00 p.m., at the library's temporary home, 115 W. Brown St.

#### 9/16

8th Annual Cl0s in the Park: Family, friends and trucks. "The Largest C10 Gathering in the South." Come view 1.200 of the coolest classic trucks on the planet. 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave., Waxahachie.

#### 9/30

#### **Texas Motorplex Night Lights Sky Lantern Festival:**

Texas Motorplex, 7500 W. Hwy. 287 For more information, call (972) 878-2641 or visit

www.texasmotorplex.com. or https://www.nightlightsevent.com.

#### Fourth Mondays Through November

#### Creative Quilters Guild of **Ellis County:**

Social time, business meeting, show and tell program. Sign-in: 6:00 p.m.; meeting: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie. Learn more at elliscountyquilters.com.

#### Mondays and Wednesdays

#### **Chess Classes:**

Free for all ages. 3:00-5:30 p.m., at the Ennis Public Library's temporary home, 115 W. Brown St. For more information, call the library at (972) 875-5360.

#### **Tuesdays**

#### **Rotary Club of Ennis Meeting:**

Lunch, club business and program. Noon, First United Methodist Church, 300 N. Sherman St.

#### Second Tuesdays

#### **Ennis Masonic Lodge** #369 Meeting:

7:00 p.m., 209 N. Dallas Street.

#### National Active and Retired **Federal Employees Chapter** 1191 Meeting:

1:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., rotating between Corsicana, Ennis and Waxahachie. For more information, contact (972) 775-2463 or rjcarey I @gmail.com.

#### Wednesdays

#### **Ennis Host Lions Club Meeting:**

Noon, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd.

#### First Thursdays

#### Sip, Shop & Stroll:

Come enjoy some sips, bites and special deals with our wonderful downtown merchants, 5:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Ennis, Call the Ennis Welcome Center at (972) 878-4748 for more information.

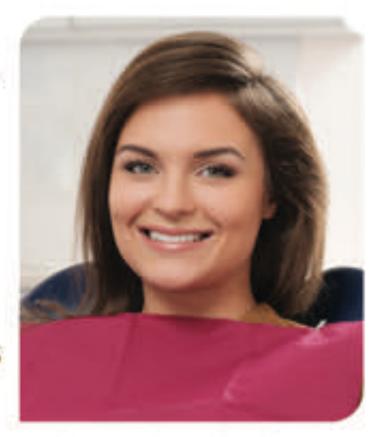
#### Saturdays Through October

#### **Ennis Bluebonnet Market:**

Come see the variety of fresh produce, hand-crafted items and unique products from area farmers, craftsmen, artists and specialty vendors. 8:00 a.m.noon, North Dallas Street. For more information, visit https:// ennistx.com/choose-ennis/ farmers-market.

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

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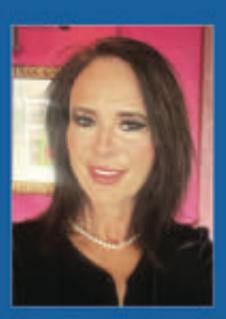
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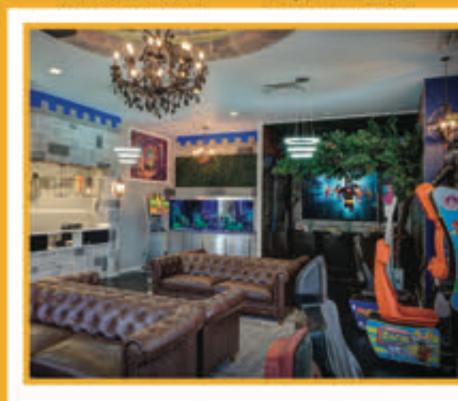
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