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OCTOBER 2018

## Cooking With Purpose

Kelli Desmond helps  
students at WHS  
learn culinary arts

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Kids' Fun  
Pages Inside  
pp. 48 & 50

Crossword/Sudoku  
pp. 52 & 54

## Seeing a Star

At Home With Billy and  
Sherry Collard

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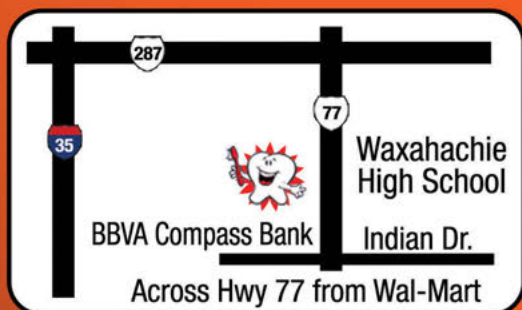
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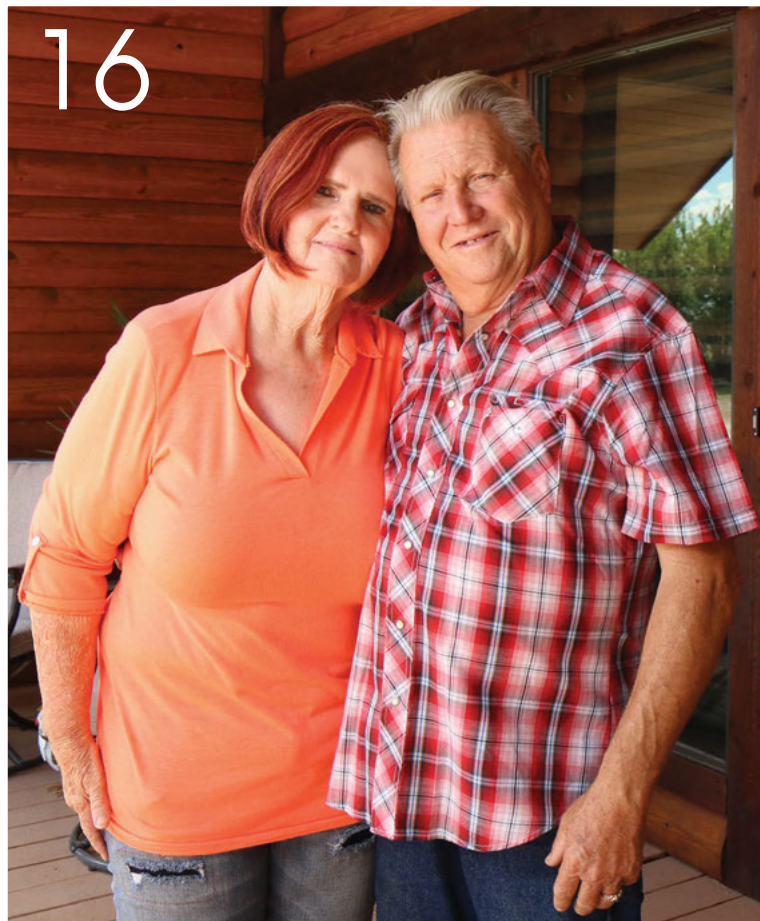
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## ON THE COVER



*Kelli Desmond prepares for the upcoming Farm to Table Dinner.*

**Photo by**  
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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Sandra*

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## *Birthday Greetings!*

A milestone is a noteworthy event that causes a change or marks a specific point in the development of a person or project. Milestone birthdays begin at the first breath and only come to an end when this earthly life as we know it is over.

Some notable birthdays that most of us understand, have experienced and/or can relate to are the Terrible 2s, Sweet 16, 21, 50 and all those that follow. To me, the Terrible 2s is the time when children can spread their wings and move a few steps away from their parents. Sweet 16 isn't always sweet. Just ask my mom. Twenty-one marks the stage in life by law where adult decisions are made, some good and some not so good. By the time a person celebrates 50 through 75, they've gained wisdom beyond measure.

But what about 85? My mom will reach that milestone at the end of the month. The stories that date back to when she was a teenager growing up in Heyworth, Illinois, are priceless. The more she shares, the more I learn about the sweet lady who raised me. I welcome each and every memory.

Each birthday is a celebration!

P.S. We hope you enjoy our new Fun Pages for kids and adults!



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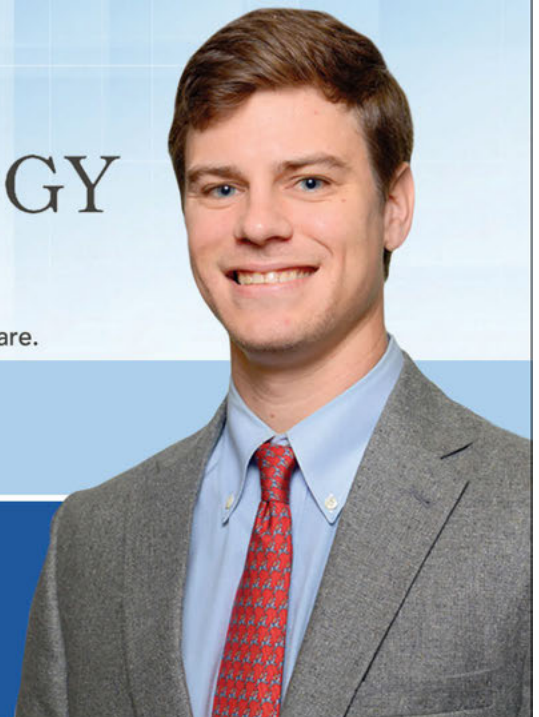
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# COOKING *with* PURPOSE

— By Derek Jones

*A critical component of an education system is to provide students with a wide variety of opportunities. Waxahachie ISD is committed to providing such experiences through Career and Technical Education. Amy Vance, CTE coordinator, explained, "We have 14 career clusters designed to give high school students the opportunity to explore a career as a cohesive unit over a four-year time frame. Many students find their passion within CTE."*



Photo by Kobbi R. Blair







**“OUR CLASSES ARE DESIGNED TO MOVE BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL HOME ECONOMICS COURSE AND PROVIDE THE STUDENTS WITH A FULL-BLOWN CULINARY EXPERIENCE.”**

Culinary arts is a career path many students discover within CTE. “We have really seen an interest in culinary arts take off in the last five years,” culinary arts teacher, Kelli Desmond, stated. “Our classes are designed to move beyond the traditional home economics course and provide the students with a full-blown culinary experience.

“If students decide to participate in culinary arts, whether as a job or as further study, they will be more than ready when they leave this program,” Kelli added.

The culinary arts experience moves beyond just mixing ingredients and cooking. “It is important for the students to understand all the pieces and how they come together,” Kelli shared. “For instance, I don’t want students to just make pasta, but I want them to know where the pasta comes from, how to make pasta from scratch, what to pair it with and how to do other things with it such as stuff it.”

Kelli also acknowledged culinary arts helps students in other areas of study. “This career path requires a lot of



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science and math, and I think this helps build confidence within the students in these other areas.”

Amy nodded in affirmation and smiled, “Yes, culinary is math.”

Waxahachie High School operates a student-run restaurant within the Billy Bates Career & Technical Education building. “Teachers are only facilitators of the restaurant,” Kelli explained. “Each week, a different student works as the head chef, while another serves as the house manager.”

Community members, teachers and administrators can make reservations to eat at the restaurant, which is open on Wednesdays. “This kind of hands-on education is so valuable to the students,” Kelli stated. “It allows them to take four years of knowledge and put it into practice in a real-world setting.”

The Culinary Arts Department also hosts an annual event, Farm to Table Dinner, on the square in downtown Waxahachie every November. “This event is important because it allows a platform for our students to collaborate with local farmers,” Kelli shared. “The students prepare and serve a four-course meal with ingredients which have all been locally grown.”

Farm to Table Dinner will be in its third year this November and has become bigger with each passing year. “The community comes out, and our students provide the meal, and everyone has a great time,” Kelli noted.

Farm to Table Dinner does not just benefit the culinary arts students, but also allows other CTE students

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to work with one another. "Students from the art department make a take-home gift for the participants of the dinner. Students from the architecture and construction class design the center pieces, and students from the horticultural class are involved in growing micro-greens for the meal," Amy explained. "We are always looking for ways to make projects such as this dinner cross-curricular."

Projects like Farm to Table Dinner do not just provide the students with experience. A \$3,000 scholarship was offered last year to a culinary student



from the proceeds. The rest of the proceeds are split between the different departments involved. "You know, we are always looking for community sponsorships for the event," Amy admitted. "These partnerships help students out immensely."

This year the event is November 3, and tickets are \$100 per person. Seating is limited. To anyone considering attending the event, Amy offered, "Come enjoy a local sourced, four-course meal. Experience fall at the courthouse, and see our kids in action. It will be an amazing experience."

The CTE classes are immensely popular thanks to directors like Amy and teachers like Kelli and Joel Skipper who work to ensure students have the best possible experience in

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their career classes. "The laboratory type classes are so important because they provide a hands-on experience and ensure our students are prepared for life beyond high school, no matter what career they choose," Amy stated.

"I have had kids take culinary arts just because they wanted to take a class where they could eat," Kelli laughed. "However, once in the class, many of those students find they absolutely love culinary arts."

Amy and Kelli believe strongly in the benefits of CTE for their students, but also are quick to give credit to others. "The administration here at Waxahachie provides so much support to enable our CTE teachers to be effective," Amy acknowledged. "Also, these types of programs would not be possible without the support of the community here in Waxahachie and the local businesses who support us."

"We have such strong parental support," Kelli added, "but, really, our success all comes down to our amazing students who work so incredibly hard every day." **NOW**

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*Derelict, trashed, ready for the bulldozer treatment — Billy and Sherry Collard's vision saved the house they chose to make into their now beautiful home from being turned into splinters and hauled away. Built in the 1960s, the home didn't just need updating. It had been occupied with wild critters and vagrants. "We saw the possibilities and have a big family," Billy said. "We all went to work and made this happen with little outside help. This has been a four-year project."*

Seeing the possibilities of creating a star of an abode, the couple showed their pride in everything Texas by incorporating the "Lone Star" into many of the design elements. The home's Western theme is welcoming and relaxing.



# Seeing a Star

— By Virginia Riddle

— AT HOME WITH BILLY AND SHERRY COLLARD —





By using their own labor and with smart online shopping, the couple stayed within their budget. Billy, a Lancaster native, started his business career in construction at age 12 and was “running” a crew by age 16. “I quit school after ninth grade, but experience is a good teacher,” he explained.

He now owns a Glenn Heights RV park and WDC Recycling in Waxahachie. He used his recycling skills to upcycle items found and collected over many years.

A DeKalb, Texas, native, Sherry also left school after the ninth grade, but she shares an eye for upcycling items. “My momma always told me I could do anything if I put my mind to it,” she said.

Sherry is very crafty, creating from trash and collectibles, many of their home’s furnishings. She sells her creations at Canton’s First Monday Trade Days.

Billy recalled when he met Sherry at age 16 and asked her out on a date. “We dated a while and then went our separate ways, only to get together again 20 years later. I believe that God ordained us to be together. Sherry’s a great help mate and my best friend.”

Married 26 years, the couple shares a blended family of three daughters and one son. “Our kids are *our* kids. We raised them as a package,” Billy emphasized. The couple has 13 grandchildren, with another on the way, and 10 great-grandchildren.

After the years of rehabbing, Billy and Sherry moved to Waxahachie during the first part of 2018, finally occupying their dream home. “We started making special memories last Christmas when we celebrated in this home with all our family and their families. We hadn’t entirely gotten moved, but we wanted to celebrate here,” Sherry recalled. “Everyone lives locally.”

The family likes the country atmosphere that living just outside



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of town allows. “We’re down-home folks,” Billy said. “This is country living with big-town convenience.”

Billy and Sherry are active members of House of Praise that moved from Lancaster to Waxahachie. “We had outgrown the Lancaster building and found a building to renovate here,” Billy explained. “We did a lot of the work ourselves, and the building is beautiful. Our congregation just keeps growing.”

Sherry wanted porches, so the home has three — a full-length back porch, with the front of the home offering the family a choice of a sun porch or front porch with its welcome sign. Cedar posts support the porches and are used inside. “They had bark on them. We stripped and varnished them,” Sherry recalled.

Sugar gliders enjoy the backyard trees, and chickens, Bo and Glenda, named for the couple’s best friends,

rule the roost. “They have personality, and since they were in the house while we worked on it, they still want to come in,” Sherry quipped. Angelina, the family’s dog, barks greetings to visitors.

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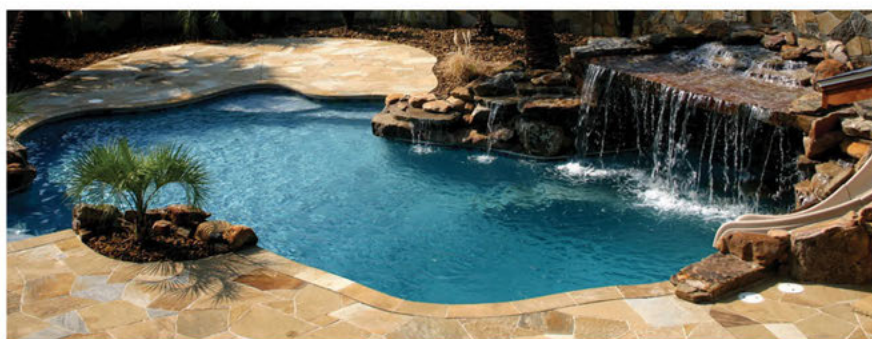
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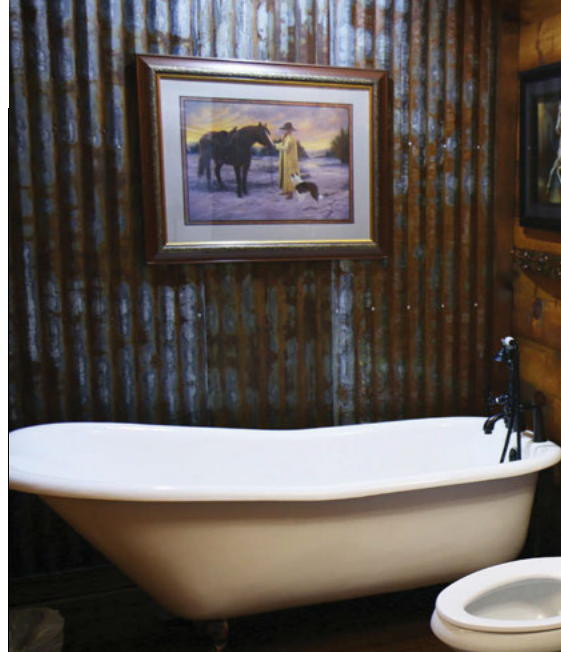


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interior of the home, along with some wood trim. “We went for the hunting lodge/western look,” Billy said. The isolated master suite features a window seat. “This was a three-car garage,” Billy added.

Light switch covers throughout the home were “copper-toned” by Sherry, and the doors are knotty alder. The open living/kitchen/dining area is supported by a perimeter of beams. The fireplace mantel was customized at a sawmill.

Floor-to-ceiling windows let light stream inward. Billy customized a large centerpiece chandelier. A pool table can be covered to provide for extra diners during family gatherings, and an antique organ is a family treasure. Brands burned into a wall contain all the initials of the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The informal dining room, breakfast bar and kitchen sport Sherry’s love of roosters and hens. A washboard and collection of crosses are wall decorations. Texas-themed rugs complete the Western look, along with an antique wagon wheel hung artfully as a window between the living room and Billy’s home office in which an antique Navajo rug lays.

Built-in shelving contains Western figurines and a spur collection. Western lariat rope trims the wheel window and the repurposed tables. “I’ve had that wagon wheel forever,”





Billy said. "We use a whiskey barrel as a table, and Sherry decorated these ammunition boxes for more tables."

The hallway leading into the grandkids' wing is the backdrop for family photos. Sherry antiques and aged the tin used as a wall surround for the claw-footed tub in the hall bath. Another whiskey barrel was used to craft the sink, towel racks and mirror.

Granddaughter, Hailey's, bedroom furnishings were junk finds repurposed by Sherry. Another bedroom suite offers a private bath and separate entrance. Sherry's handmade porcelain dolls reside there, along with collections of Barbies and figurines. "Sherry won first place at a Dallas show with her dolls," Billy said proudly.

"I framed houses and built custom homes for 35 years," Billy said. "This home is the result of 'seeing' all those homes. We've taken our time, creating something from nothing. It all came together well." **NOW**

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# KEEPING THE

— By Joy Horn

# COMMUNITY INFO

*During the month of October, schools across America advocate for a drug-free youth by participating in Red Ribbon week. In a world where alcohol, tobacco and narcotics have become part of many young people's lives, campaigns such as Red Ribbon week strive to keep students safe.*

The campaign started because of Enrique Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who was abducted and murdered in 1985. After his death, people began to honor him by wearing a red ribbon, and since then, the movement has grown into what it is today.

Here in Ellis County, REACH Council is aiding schools in this endeavor by providing presentations and educational services. "REACH Council is a substance abuse prevention and education agency. We primarily serve Ellis and Johnson counties by providing community-level education. Our primary focus is partnering with local ISDs to deliver curriculums and presentations that focus on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use," Tom Kowatch explained.





Tom is the certified prevention specialist for the REACH Council. He recalls that the No. 1 lesson schools request during Red Ribbon Week is the "pig lung presentation," which entails bringing in real pig lungs that visually mimic lungs blackened by tar to help students get a better understanding of what smoking can do to the human body. Other topics addressed by REACH during Red Ribbon Week presentations include: healthy choices, alcohol, marijuana and prescription pills.

WISD schools rely on REACH during Red Ribbon Week because it is important for all students to be given age-appropriate education on something that could have a major impact on the rest of their lives. In addition to services during Red Ribbon Week, REACH provides other educational opportunities. "Curriculums are free of charge and most meet once a week for 10 weeks. They focus on the importance of goals, decision making, communication, managing emotions, what addiction means and the health affects of illicit drug use," Tom said.

"In addition, we provide presentations on peer refusal,

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healthy relationships, parenting for prevention and current drug trends,” Program Director Cassie Street added. By providing these services, adolescents are given tools to make better choices for themselves and their futures.

REACH also provides weekly to monthly presentations at Disciplinary Alternative Education Program campuses to help high-risk students stay clean and make the right choices.

According to Cassie, the primary substances used by Ellis County adolescents are marijuana, alcohol and electronic cigarettes. In fact, one in 16 high schoolers use marijuana daily, as it has become the drug of choice, second only to alcohol. “Perception of harm continues to decrease. This year, daily marijuana use exceeds daily cigarette use among eighth through 12th grade students,” Cassie said.

It is imperative that parents and teachers become aware of these statistics, so they can help students who may need intervention. “With an increase in the number of states legalizing recreational use and lack of understanding when it comes to the difference between medical marijuana and recreational marijuana, there’s a view of, ‘If something is legal, it can’t be harmful.’ This is not necessarily correct,” Tom explained.

The use of electronic cigarettes, or “vaping,” is another legal substance being used by more and more teens. It is marketed as a healthier alternative to cigarettes. However, medical evidence is proving that this isn’t necessarily true. “Research shows that vapes are very harmful due to the chemicals used in their composition. For example, many flavor additives are safe when ingested as food, but not safe when inhaled into the lungs. Some of the chemicals used in the liquids are carcinogens, as well,” Tom stated.

Though drinking and driving among teens is decreasing, teens



also perceive alcohol as safe since it is legal. "There is still a lack of perception of harm about alcohol and underage use. We take every opportunity to provide educational materials to adults and especially families about the fact-based dangers of these substances," Tom said.

REACH provides up-to-date, researched material in its presentations to schools and communities, and they also try to educate parents. They believe parents are crucial to preventing their children from partaking in these substances. "Adolescents may not act like they listen or like they're paying attention, but they do," Tom stressed.

Modeling appropriate behavior is also extremely important in helping kids stay clean. "What you tell them, especially what you model, will have a greater impact than any educational presentation, curriculum or brochure," Tom explained.

Some advice REACH would like to share with parents on how to keep kids drug-free is to educate oneself on current drug trends, set expectations and know who your child hangs out with. Parents should also be aware of medications that are stored in their homes and know how to dispose of them properly. "You have more influence than their friends if you're intentional, consistent and genuine. Be open to having a discussion with them about pressures in their lives and how they deal with those pressures in a healthy way," Tom suggested.

Also, it is important to never host a party where underage drinking takes place. "Be involved in your children's lives. Know what they are doing and who they are doing it with," Tom continued. "It is also important to know the parents of who they're spending time with." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information on how to keep your kids safe, visit their website at [reachcouncil.org](http://reachcouncil.org).*



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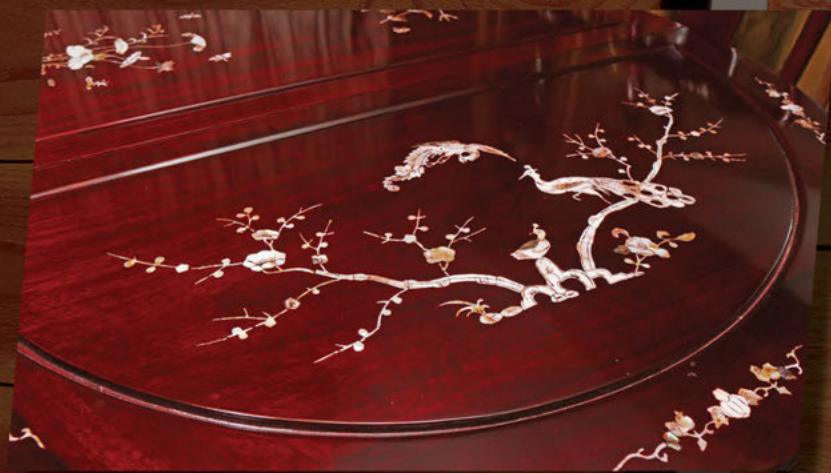
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# The Long Journey

— By Derek Jones

Great courage is required to leave everything familiar, including culture and language, and relocate to another country. Twenty years ago, Min Lu did exactly that when she left her home in Shanghai, China, and moved to the small town of Waxahachie. “I fell in love with Waxahachie the first time I visited, and I knew I just had to live here,” she explained. “You can’t find friendlier people anywhere.”

Min spent her early years growing up in the city of Shanghai in a high-rise apartment building. With more than 20 million people living in Shanghai, Min felt unable to escape the constraints of the city. “Children need dirt and open spaces to play, and in Shanghai, there is no dirt,” she explained. “In China, people take their vacation to the country, so they can see nature.”

She made her first journey to America on a business trip, which brought her to Waxahachie. She knew the

quaint town offered more than enough serene countryside to last a lifetime. At the age of 34, she packed her things and left China for Texas.

Upon arriving in her new hometown, the biggest hurdle was the language barrier. “Everyone in Waxahachie was so nice, and they helped me with the language,” she recalled. “When I first arrived here, I could not even mail a package because I didn’t know how to ask for a stamp or envelope. But everyone I ran into was willing to help me, so I was able to learn the language quickly.”

Min was not content to just sit back and enjoy her new life in Texas. She wanted to contribute. She enrolled in classes at Navarro Junior College to learn English. Despite the cultural and language barrier, Min graduated from Navarro earning a science degree with honors. “I love children, so I knew I wanted to teach,” she stated. “I want to work with all children.” It is no surprise Min has earned teaching certifications in special education, dyslexia and autism.

In 2004, Min married Joseph Magana. The two soon purchased a small piece of land on the southern outskirts



of Waxahachie. Here, Min has created her own little patch of heaven. "In China, you have to wait until retirement to move to the country, but I decided I did not need to wait until then," she shared. "I realized I could make my dreams come true much sooner."

In the backyard, Min has all the dirt she could want, and she uses that dirt to nurture her garden, where she grows fresh vegetables and herbs.

**"You can't find friendlier people anywhere."**

Min is proud of her Chinese heritage and uses her knowledge to teach children the Chinese language. She has learned some cultural differences between China and America on her own. "In China, everyone stops by each other's houses and apartments whenever they want to, unannounced," she laughed. "I had to learn that in America, people always prefer you make arrangements before you drop by. In China, a guest always accepts what is offered, but in America when someone says, 'no-thank you,' they really mean they do not want anything."

In her home hangs a banner written in Chinese that translates to "gentle wind blowing smoothly." Min explained the meaning: "A wind can be harsh and blow everything away, but the wind is pleasant when it is soft and gentle. Friendliness is like a soft and gentle wind."

Min noted the connection between Waxahachie and the banner's message. "The friendliness of the people is what brought me to Waxahachie, and it's the reason I have stayed," she said. "I hope the simple act of being friendly and kind to one another is something we never lose." **NOW**



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# CookingNOW

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### MATTHEW SLAY

— By Lindsay L. Allen

Mathew Slay has had a love for cooking since he was a boy. But knowing the basics wasn't enough for him. Out of pure interest, Matthew attended culinary arts school at night after working his "real job." The now father of three children, ages 5 and under, says it's all worth it when he lands on a recipe his wife and kids love. It's not just cooking he enjoys, but studying the ingredients and preparing to cook, as well.

"I enjoy teaching my kids to cook in theory," he joked. "However, actually teaching them to cook at their ages is pretty challenging. But, it's a really important skill that they will know before they enter the world as young adults." **NOW**

### Fresh Corn Risotto

**3 quart-size boxes Swanson Reduced Sodium Chicken Broth**  
**1 lb. bacon, cut into lardons**  
**1 large shallot, minced**  
**2 cups Arborio rice**  
**1 cup Pinot Grigio wine**  
**5 ears corn, shucked and kernels sliced from the cob**  
**1 cup grated Parmesan cheese, or more to taste**

- 1.** In a saucepan, heat chicken broth until almost boiling. (You may only use 2 boxes of the chicken broth. Have an extra just in case you need more.) Turn heat down to simmer.
- 2.** In a separate soup pot or Dutch oven, sauté bacon over medium heat until light brown; do not let it burn. Remove bacon from pan with a slotted spoon.
- 3.** In the bacon fat, sauté shallots until translucent.
- 4.** Turn heat up to medium-high. Add rice;

stir hard using a flat-bottomed wooden scraper or a silicon spatula, scraping the bottom of the pan to make sure the rice doesn't stick and burn. Sauté until grains look shiny.

**5.** Pour in the wine. Stir; reduce until wine is mostly evaporated.

**6.** Add hot chicken broth 1 or 2 cups at a time, stirring as constantly as possible until broth is absorbed, and rice is no longer soupy. Continue adding broth 1 or 2 cups at a time; stir until rice is *al dente*. This process will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

**7.** Add fresh corn, Parmesan cheese and more broth, if necessary, to keep it at a loose consistency. Rice should be runny, but not soupy.

**8.** Taste and adjust seasoning. Add more Parmesan if you can't taste the Parmesan or it needs salt; add more corn if you aren't getting a few kernels with each bite, etc.

**9.** Stir in bacon at the end. Add more broth and stir just before serving. Rice will continue to absorb broth as it cools.

### Classic French Duck Confit

**5-6 duck legs (Can be purchased at an Asian grocery store.)**

**Kosher salt, to taste**

**Fresh thyme sprigs, to taste**

**6 garlic cloves**

**3-plus qts. vegetable oil**

**1.** On a sheet pan, lay out thawed duck legs. Salt very heavily (way more salt than you would normally use for meat). Spread out thyme sprigs and smashed garlic cloves amongst the legs.

**2.** Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate for 24 hours. After 24 hours, uncover; brush salt off of legs.

**3.** Place legs in a large soup pot; completely cover with oil. Toss in the garlic cloves and thyme sprigs.

**4. To cook on stovetop:** Bring to a very, very light simmer (a bubble or 2 every couple of seconds). Simmer until duck meat and skin pull back from the end of the duck leg, approximately 4 to 5 hours.

**5. To cook in oven:** Place pot in oven set at 270 F; simmer until duck meat and skin pull back from the end of the duck leg, approximately 4 to 5 hours.

**6.** Once meat is tender and almost falling off the bone, take out of oil with tongs; place on paper towels on a sheet pan. You can either store legs in the refrigerator for a couple of days if you want to make ahead or proceed to the next step immediately.



7. Turn up oven to 500 F. Place legs skin side up in hot oven; cook until skin is brown and crispy.

## Rustic No-knead Dutch Oven Bread

3 cups all-purpose King Arthur flour  
1 tsp. active dry yeast  
4 pinches kosher salt  
1 1/2 cups warm water  
Butter, to taste  
Honey, to taste

1. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix flour, yeast and salt.
2. Pour warm water, at approximately 115 F, into flour mixture; stir with a wooden spoon until it's mixed into a wet, sticky, shaggy dough.
3. Cover bowl with plastic wrap tightly; let rise and bubble overnight.
4. Line a Dutch oven with parchment paper. Preheat Dutch oven to 450 F. When oven is preheated, punch down the bread dough; dump onto a floured surface.
5. Sprinkle with flour; shape into a ball. Cover with plastic wrap on the floured surface for at least 1/2 hour.
6. Place rested dough into the Dutch oven. Be careful because the Dutch oven will be very hot. Score a large "X" in the top of the dough with the tip of a sharp knife.
7. Bake, covered, for 45 minutes. Uncover for 15 additional minutes, or until bread is a deep, golden brown and sounds hollow when knocked on.
8. Let cool slightly before slicing and slathering with butter and honey.

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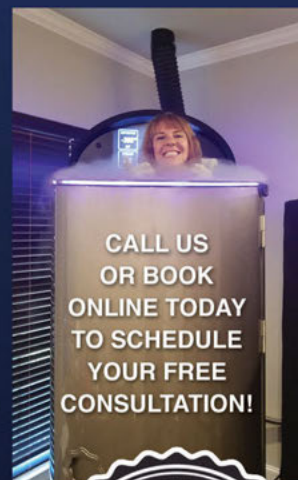
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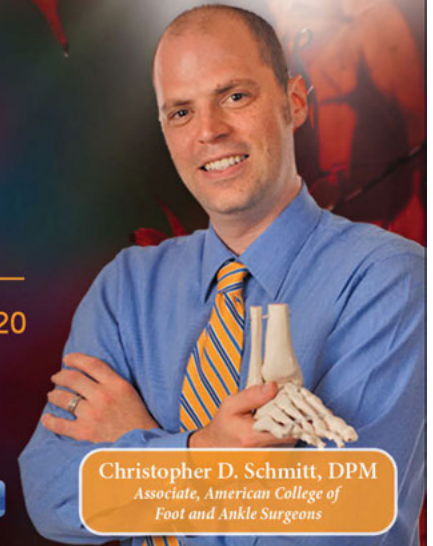
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## TravelNOW

# MGM and More

— By Michele Goldberg

What do you get when you begin with our fantastically beautiful corner of classic New England, blend in dozens of unique attractions, swirl in some cool college vibe and top it all off with MGM Springfield, one of the most impressive new hotel casino experiences in the United States? Why, Western Mass, of course!

Long celebrated as a “triple threat” destination, the region bursts with top attractions and provides ultra-easy access and superb dollar value. High-profile places like the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Yankee Candle Village, Six Flags New England and the Springfield Museums bring literally millions of visitors here annually. Quintessential college towns and major events like the Big E and Bright Nights — plus craft fairs, sporting events and the arts — draw millions more.

And it’s getting even better and more diverse! The opening of MGM Springfield, a state-of-the-art entertainment complex in the heart of the region’s biggest city, provides excitement ranging from Vegas-caliber shows to top-shelf dining to incredible shopping and, of course, lavish casino gaming options.

Positioned at the junction of I-90 and I-91, Western Mass is regarded as the “Crossroads of New England.” Boston is a 90-minute drive, and New York City can be reached in less than three hours. The public is also served by train, as well as major bus lines. Bradley International Airport is only about 20 minutes from Springfield, making access by air a breeze.

MGM Springfield promises tons of excitement, but there’ll also be no shortage of activities to keep young ones busy.



Visitors to MGM Springfield will discover a movie theater, a classic New England bowling alley, restaurants and more than a dozen specialty retail outlets. An ice-skating rink operates in the winter, and a farmers' market offers local produce in the summer. You don't have to be a grown-up to get a huge kick out of this place!

Near MGM Springfield, the esteemed Springfield Museums offer access to four world-class museums, plus the new Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum and the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, all under a single admission. Right there, you've got a day's worth of exploring on your hands.

Minutes away, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site recalls its days as a powerhouse of industrial manufacture of military firearms. This was America's first armory, established by George Washington.

We also invented basketball here in Springfield, and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame proudly traces its history. The Hall is completing a renovation featuring upgrades in their exhibits. A few miles north in Holyoke, there's the Volleyball Hall of Fame, because we invented that game, too!

For more fun, there's Six Flags New England — home to an array of fabulous rides and attractions. During the month of October, the park transforms for its annual Halloween festival, Fright Fest, and winter brings Holiday in the Park.

One of the region's most-recognized attractions is Yankee Candle Village. This sprawling candle-focused experience boasts 200,000 candles on display in more than 200 fragrances, plus a wide variety of other activities. The opportunity to craft a wax likeness of your hand, create personalized candles and dip-your-own critters makes Yankee Candle a sure-fire day of fun for all ages. **NOW**

To continue to explore Western Mass, visit [www.ExploreWesternMass.com](http://www.ExploreWesternMass.com). Photos courtesy of Michele Goldberg.



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BusinessNOW

# Living Right Designs

— By Virginia Riddle and Sandra Strong

## Living Right Designs

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**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

What began as a 4-year-old little girl's pastime grew into Living Right Designs, a full-service, residential and commercial interior design firm. Lacey Rodgers, owner and lead designer, founded LRD three years ago. "I use stable design principles that will last through time," Lacey said. "I work to create trust with my clients and enjoy making them happy. Designing is my true passion."

She still enjoys the challenges that come with developing a

full concept for both the interior and exterior of properties. Her on-point design expertise and hit-the-ground-running attitude are provided to new construction, as well as those properties that are in dire need of rehabilitation. "I take design a step further by looking at how a client is going to use the space," she explained.

LRD partners with JAG Construction on many projects, with the goal of satisfying customers by listening to what they want and how best to achieve the end results they are dreaming of. Lacey offers that listening ear to homeowners, business owners, nonprofits and developers.

To accomplish what her clients envision, Lacey utilizes a three-step process. Step 1 is an in-home consultation. This is the initial face-to-face meeting where she determines a clear understanding of all the clients' needs, wants and wish list. "This is the time we establish a budget and full timeline," Lacey shared, "and where I am able to personalize the services I provide."

Step 2 is the design phase. "This is where I develop a digital



design, render drawings and collect samples for the client to approve,” Lacey explained. Step 3 is taking the vision and bringing it to fruition.

As a designer, it’s much more than a new paint color and matching window treatment, although LRD can provide visual coordination services to finalize decor, if and when needed. For Lacey, it’s all about using the talent she was given. “I believe the Lord gives each person a special talent, and I believe my talent is found in designing,” she acknowledged. “I am using my talents to the best of my ability.”

Many times, starting a family can derail a career, but that hasn’t been the case for Lacey. She admitted of her family, “They fuel me as a designer.”

The name, Living Right Designs, came from Lacey’s strong faith. As a new family in Waxahachie with a church that continues to support them, Lacey felt she was on the right path and “living right.” With more than 10 years of experience in the industry, Lacey has a hospitality, commercial and residential background. The firm has developed an impressive list of commercial and residential clients over the years. Lacey’s a Houzz top-rated designer, a Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce member and holds an A rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Lacey earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Dallas in interior design. She received the Outstanding Graduate Award for best portfolio and professionalism her senior year. Her competitive nature — the one she grew up with — has only increased over time. “I’m always striving to do better,” she said. “I enjoy my work because I have to learn everything about the code requirements in different cities, and I get to work with other professionals such as developers, engineers, architects, contractors, builders and talented craftsmen. But most of all, this is fun, exciting and creative, and I get to work with wonderful clients.” **NOW**

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*Stuart Stephenson and Mike Miller look over paperwork during the first Adopt-A-Class meeting of the new school year.*

## Zoomed In:

### Jacob Richardson

By Sandra Strong

Jacob Richardson has been a firefighter for eight years, with the last five being spent with the Waxahachie Fire Department. "My wife, Melissa, and our son, Daniel, were recently part of a much larger photograph of 12 of the Waxahachie Fire Department firefighters," Jacob shared, referring to the photo that was seen nationally. "It included 12 dads and 13 babies, two of which were twins."

The babies, all born to WPD firefighters, wore identical onesies with their dad's last name imprinted on the back. After the initial excitement, Jacob and his family took one last photo to celebrate the commemorative day.



*Mike Sipes and his dogs, Manso and Kyra Jean, stop for a photograph while on one of their regular outings to Academy Sports.*



*The Chamber and friends gather to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new MedExpress Urgent Care.*





Picker Jeff Parsons with the Antique Pickers Back Roads Tour smiles for the camera as he looks at a few pieces of gold and silver jewelry.



The men of the Huneycutt family take advantage of the good deals offered at Harbor Freight.



The Waxahachie Pee Wee Football team battles hard until the end at a game in Granbury.



Felipe Gutierrez inspects a roof for any repairs that may be needed following strong winds.



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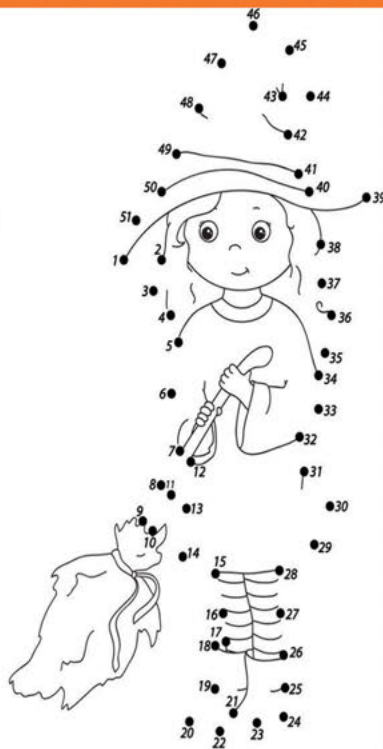
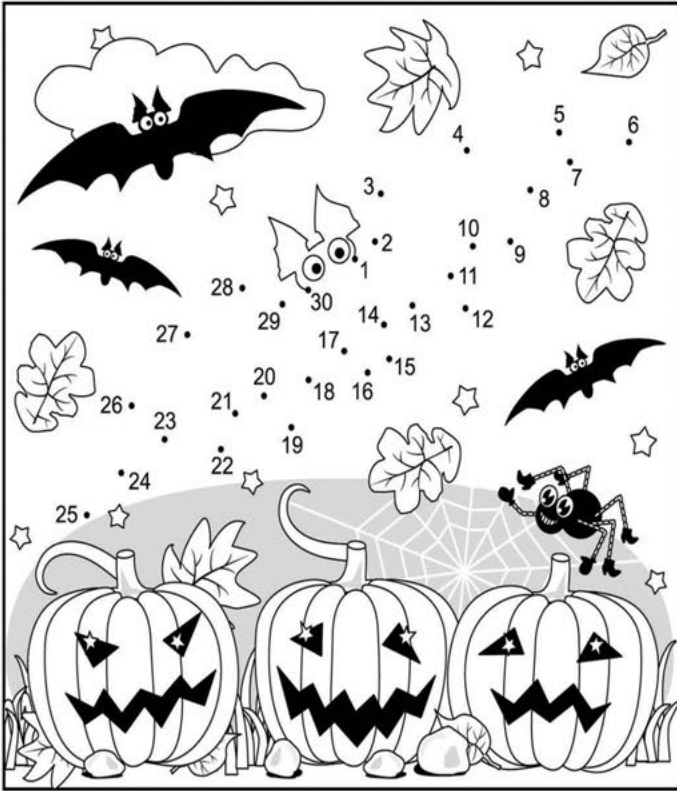


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# Kids' Fun Pages

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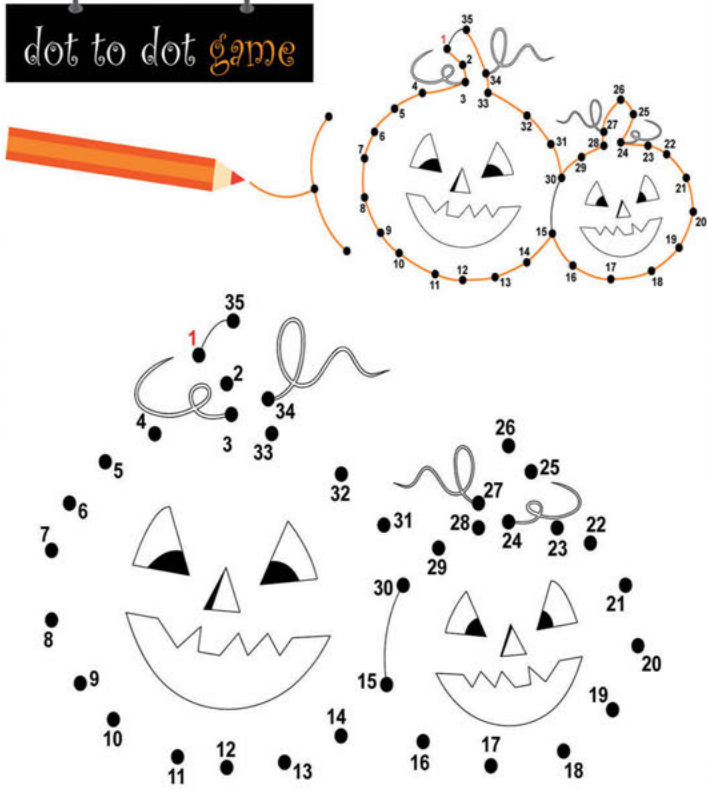
A	H	T	H	G	I	L	I	W	T
A	U	L	L	R	E	D	I	P	S
N	O	T	S	C	A	R	Y	E	W
I	T	M	U	D	A	R	K	V	R
K	S	O	B	M	H	E	N	I	E
P	O	O	A	C	N	L	I	L	T
M	H	N	T	E	E	T	G	R	S
U	G	I	C	A	T	S	H	A	N
P	W	T	O	M	B	A	T	E	O
H	O	R	R	O	R	C	N	F	M

MYSTERIOUS WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

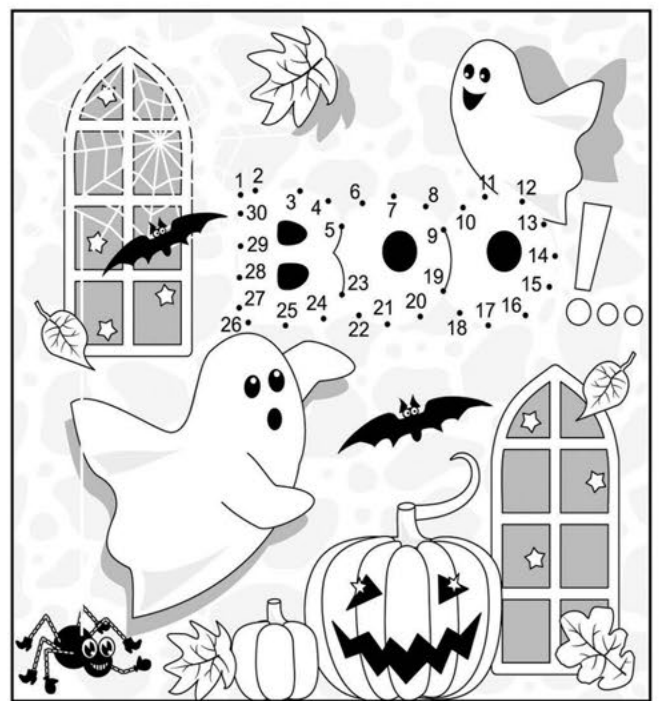


SOLUTION: HALLOWEEN

## dot to dot game



Draw a line from dot number 1 to dot number 2, then from dot number 2 to dot number 3, 3 to 4, and so on. Continue to join the dots until you have connected all the numbered dots. Then color the picture!





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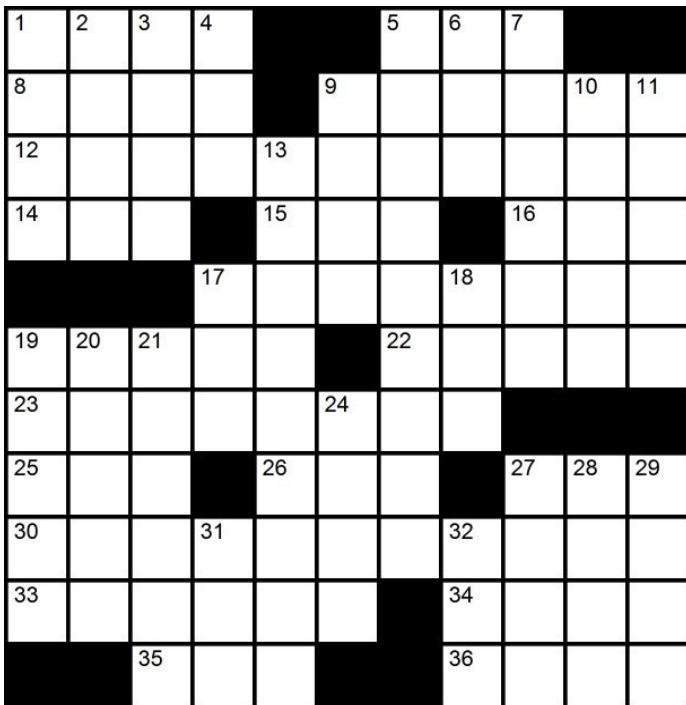
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# Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

## Across

- 1 Substitution word
- 5 Opposite of 'tain't
- 8 One of the WWII Allies
- 9 Circles and such
- 12 Stand-in
- 14 Lock opener
- 15 Ask for a loan
- 16 Fuss
- 17 Interrupted
- 19 Diplomat's department
- 22 Tend the roast
- 23 Quixote's opponent
- 25 Well, --- monkey's uncle!
- 26 Air-pressure measure
- 27 Meet
- 30 They get elected
- 33 Wears slowly
- 34 Hess or Breckinridge
- 35 Deity
- 36 Noble

## Down

- 1 Wait in ambush
- 2 Now it makes sense!
- 3 Catch sight of
- 4 Online address
- 5 An event might be open to it
- 6 "--- the Walrus" (Beatles tune)
- 7 Talks
- 9 Mark left by a healed wound
- 10 Initiate the break-up
- 11 Rock
- 13 Went for
- 17 Usual amt.
- 18 Record-holder --- Ripken
- 19 Hit
- 20 Indonesian island
- 21 Not digital
- 24 Horn-wearing goddess
- 27 Jack's "Chinatown" co-star
- 28 Concerning, in legal memos
- 29 Former Russian ruler
- 31 Words to wed
- 32 Mischievous child

Solutions on page 56

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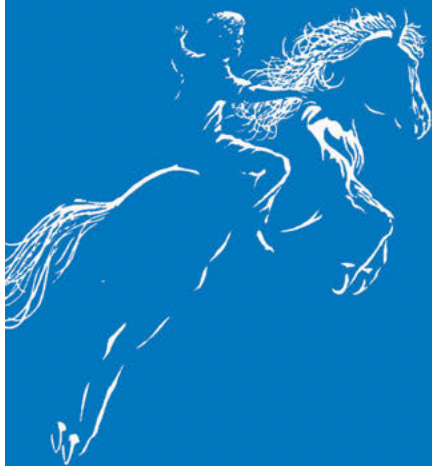


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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

[Solutions on page 56](#)

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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

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8	U	S	S	R				9	S	H	A	P	E	S	
12	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	M	E	N	T				
14	K	E	Y			15	T	A	P			16	A	D	O
						17	S	T	R	U	C	K	I	N	
19	S	20	T	21	A	T	E		22	B	A	S	T	E	
23	W	I	N	D	M			24	I	L	L				
25	I	M	A			26	P	S	I			27	F	I	T
30	P	O	L	I	T	I	C			32	I	A	N	S	
33	E	R	O	D	E	S				34	M	Y	R	A	
						35	G	O	D			36	P	E	E

Easy

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

Medium

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

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5

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5 — 7

White Room of My Remembering presented by SAGU: Hagee Communication Center. For tickets and information, visit [www.sagu.edu/whiteroom](http://www.sagu.edu/whiteroom).

6

4th Annual IOOF Oddfest: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Singleton Plaza. For more information, email [collegestreetpub@yahoo.com](mailto:collegestreetpub@yahoo.com).

Waxahachie Symphony Association presents Saint Louis Brass: 7:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Communication Center Performance Hall. For further details, visit [www.waxahachiesymphony.org](http://www.waxahachiesymphony.org).

12 — 14

Vintage Market Days: Ellis County Expo Center.

13

WISD Dance/Drill Team Color Run: Getzendaner Park. For more information, email [ewilcox@wisd.org](mailto:ewilcox@wisd.org).

22

Creative Quilter's Guild of Ellis County monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m.

20

Legacy Run/5K and 1-mile Fun Run: 8:00 a.m., Lumpkins Stadium. Call (972) 923-4631 for further details.



Coming Home Fall Market: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Communication Center, 1200 Sycamore, Waxahachie. \$5 admission for adults \$2 admission for children. The event is hosted by Southwestern Women's Auxiliary and will include home décor, boutique clothing and jewelry, beauty products, specialty food, handmade products and more. For more information, email [swaevents@sagu.edu](mailto:swaevents@sagu.edu).

4th Annual Family Festival hosted by Our Sunflower Friends: 11:00 a.m., Ellis County Expo Center. All families and children are welcome to attend. For more information, visit [www.oursunflowerfriends.org](http://www.oursunflowerfriends.org).

27

Texas Country Reporter Festival: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., historic downtown Waxahachie. Join Bob and Kelli

Phillips, hosts of the weekly TV show, *Texas Country Reporter*, for this one-day arts and music festival. Admission is free. For more details, call (469) 309-4040 or visit [www.waxahachiecvb.com](http://www.waxahachiecvb.com).

31

Trick or Treat on the Square: 3:00-5:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.



November

3

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Ellis County 5K: 7:30 a.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Fall Farm-to-Table Feast: downtown Waxahachie.

Ongoing:

Last Thursdays  
Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting: 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave., Ennis. For more information, call (214) 803-4954.

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



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# Slow and Steady

— By Sandra Strong

The Southwestern Assemblies of God Women's Auxiliary has been celebrating 25 years of service to the campus all year long. The ladies in the group are referred to by many names — the nut ladies, the bag ladies, the brick ladies and those who add “jewelry” to the university grounds. “These 25 years have been a slow and steady race,” said Renee Davis, SAGU alumni and auxiliary president. “Our goal has been to raise money, just so we can give it away.”

In the beginning, beautification of the campus grounds became the priority. Once the sprinkler system was in place, it was time for trees, shrubs and flowers to be planted. “The building was beautiful, but the outside needed some TLC,” Renee explained. “We learned it was a struggle for individuals to donate toward something they couldn't yet see.”

That first beautification project grew into many others for the SWA. Christmas at SAGU brings the community together for a night of hot chocolate, homemade cookies, caroling and holiday lights. The names found on the Legacy Brick Walk and the most recent addition — the Lions in Love Bench — are additions that the faculty, students and community can see and instantly appreciate. “We are also most proud of the fountain located in the courtyard of the Hagee Communication

Center,” Renee shared. “Four years ago, we were approached about the signature fountain. It took us three years to raise the \$66,000, but it was worth it. The fountain is something everyone can see and enjoy!”

The first Coming Home Fall Market will be held October 20, in conjunction with SAGU's 2018 Homecoming weekend. Renee, along with Beverly Robinson, SWA vice president of fundraising, are gearing up for what they hope will be an annual event the community will embrace wholeheartedly for what it is — another avenue to raise money that can be given away. “The Coming Home Fall Market is geared to women,” Renee stated. “A variety of items are going to be available from crocheted animals, jewelry and homemade greeting cards to essential oils, LipSense and savvy teacher spirit wear.” The event promises to have something for everyone, including the pecans and walnuts SWA has been offering since its inception 25 years ago.

Making money allows the SWA “accessory crew” to continue adding to the beauty found and enjoyed on campus, while also increasing the scholarships they already have in place. “We currently award two \$1,500 scholarships a year,” Renee explained. “They go to females who plan on majoring in education. We'd love to expand that giving to include a third scholarship to be offered to a female with no limitations on their major.” The market will no doubt help this expansion come to fruition. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information about the Coming Home Fall Market, visit [www.sagu.edu](http://www.sagu.edu) or email [swaevents@sagu.edu](mailto:swaevents@sagu.edu).*



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