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ON THE COVER

New love brings new life to Mike and Betty Clouse's Ovilla home.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sally

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Twenty-eight days and a funny name ...

Thinking about February and mentally pronouncing its tricky spelling (*Feb-RU-ary*), it occurs to me there are several things that make this sometimes-discounted month special. That it is the month short-changed in number of days is the first that comes to mind. The long and twisted Roman rulers' path taken to arrive at February's current 28-days-except-in-leap-year number is too convoluted to cover in this short word count, but try dividing 365 by any number but five, and you'll get the picture. Yes, five yields a whole number quotient, but no one wants a 73-day month.

Celebrating the birthdays of two of our country's most influential presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, adds a little pomp and dignity to February's diminished day count, and of course, Valentine's Day, with its prospect of chocolate and roses, affords it matchless status for romantics. But what is most intriguing to my etymology-centered psyche is the name itself.

The Latin word for this almost-end-of-winter month is associated with the Roman god Februus (*Feb-RU-us*), but before our Old English ancestors adopted the name, February, it was known as *Solmonath*. Maybe phonetically easier to spell, but it means "mud month." Hmm ...

Another name for February was *Kale-monath*. I'll give you a second to decipher that meaning. ... Yes, it means "cabbage month." Apparently, our linguistic ancestors slogged around in mud and ate a lot of cabbage as they waited for springtime. Considering these alternatives, hard-to-spell February doesn't seem so bad after all.

And chocolates and roses trump mud and cabbages every time!

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— By Sally Fuller

AT ANY AGE

AT HOME WITH MIKE AND BETTY CLOUSE

Sometimes, walls have to come down and old things removed to make room for something new. Sometimes, when talking about walls coming down and making room for something new, you're talking about a house. But you might be talking about life. For Mike and Betty Clouse, it was both.

Mike and Betty met, married and built a brand-new life together so fulfilling that when asked to describe it, both exclaimed, "It's unbelievable!" As part of their new, unbelievably happy life, the couple renovated and remodeled their current home, transforming it from a foreclosure rental property, damaged by years of neglect, into an updated and exquisitely decorated home as beautiful as their story.

Every love story is beautiful. That Mike and Betty met when both were in their 60s and had been alone for several years, adds a dimension of hope in rejuvenation to theirs. But as Mike is quick to point out, "Age is irrelevant. Love can happen anytime and when you least expect it." Love is young at any age.

Their story began, as so many nowadays, with an online

dating service. After four years of living alone, a friend suggested Betty give technology a chance. "I was really afraid to do it," Betty recalled, "but she said, 'Just follow your heart. If it doesn't feel right, shut it down.'"

For Mike, meeting Betty was literally what the doctor ordered. After Mike's wife passed away, his doctor prescribed a new relationship. "My family doctor told me, 'You've got to get out and find somebody your age to just go to dinner with, go to the movies with or something.' He told me, 'Get on one of those social things.' So, I did."

Mike's approach to "getting out there" was to take a map and draw a 25-mile circle around his Burleson home. "I figured anything over 25 miles was too far away to be dating. She was right on the line," Mike said as they both laughed. "It wasn't a



very thick line, either, but I thought, *I'll take a chance.*"

"You said you liked my picture," Betty reminded him, with a shy smile.

"Yes, I did," Mike replied emphatically. "That was a cute picture, with her in her sunglasses. And I loved her red hair!"

The two met not long after Betty's hair caught Mike's eye. "We met on Oct. 23 at 11:30 at IHOP in Mansfield. I had pancakes, and then he had to leave and go pick up his grandson," Betty recalled with impressive exactitude.

After the pancake house meeting and some long-distance telephone calls, Betty, a talented gourmet cook, invited Mike to her house for dinner. That was the night Mike knew she was "the one," but it wasn't because of the homemade coconut cream pie she'd made for him.

"I walked in her door and I said, 'There was one thing I wanted to do when I first met you, and I didn't, and that was to give you a kiss. Do you mind?'"

Mike paused and looked at Betty, visibly overcome with emotion. "And then I knew," he said, wiping his eyes. "She had me hooked. It was just a matter of reeling me in."

No good love story is without a little drama. After just a few months, Mike got down on one knee and proposed. But Betty said no. "I knew I wanted to marry him, but I was afraid of what my family would think," she said of the short time they'd known each other.

Mike was "devastated," and Betty was, in her words "a mess" after the failed proposal. "He broke up with me," she said, her tone reflecting the seriousness of the experience. The breakup



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didn't last, and after a few weeks, Betty was ready to say yes. "We went over to his place, and he went to get the ring to put on me. He started to put it on my hand, and I said, 'You have to ask me to marry you.' He said, 'I already asked you.' And I said, 'You have to ask me again, so I can say yes.'"

He asked. She said yes, and he placed the ring on her finger, the finishing touch to their whirlwind courtship but just the beginning of the "unbelievable" life they now share. They married a few months later, and in Betty's words, "It's been hand-in-glove perfect. It's everything I ever dreamed a marriage should be."

Mike added, "It's been a gift from God. In nine years, we have yet to have an argument."

When they married, they moved into Betty's custom-built home in Midlothian, but soon discovered they needed more space. Mike loves woodworking and needed a workshop. Betty is an





accomplished seamstress and Master Gardener, and the house and yard in Midlothian simply didn't provide room for them to both do the things they enjoyed.

They found the foreclosed house in Ovilla and said they "looked beyond the condition and saw the potential." Once again, walls came down. "We had to live in our travel trailer for about six weeks before we could even think about moving in," Mike said of the condition of the house when they purchased it.

Betty's artistic flair and Master Gardening skills coupled with Mike's talent for woodworking and his own artist's eye have transformed the once "literally falling apart" house and seriously neglected 1-acre lot into a place of beauty. Guests find evidence of their combined gifts in every room, from the ladder-turned-ceiling-decor in the dining room to the newly installed rustic cabinets and wood trim in the hall bathroom to Betty's butterfly and other garden spots in the backyard. There's even a work shed with a country-cabin façade in the backyard that Mike built completely by hand, with assistance from Betty, of course.

Another of Mike's hobbies is refurbishing old wooden trunks. Several of the trunks are scattered throughout the house, in use as furniture or transformed into unique decorations. Betty's sewing room, with its colorful thread-filled spindles on the walls, is a tribute to her talent as a seamstress and her creativity.

Together, Mike and Betty transformed their home. Now it is a fitting place to write many more chapters of their love story. **NOW**

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Thirteen years ago, as Maddie Hooper looked forward to her first year at Red Oak High School, she wondered where she'd fit in the sometimes intimidating, new world of high school. "In eighth grade, before I found out we were going to have a swim team, I remember being super worried about where my place was going to be," Maddie shared.

Fortunately for Maddie, who'd been part of a competitive swim club for several years, the adult leadership of her club had a vision. That vision was to take the seven members of the club and form the first ROHS swim team.

"The parents got together and were talking about how we didn't have a coach. We didn't have a place to practice. There were so many things we didn't have, but what we did have was a group of kids who were willing to be part of a team. They got it approved with the district, and lo and behold, a swim team started that year," Maddie said.

That first ROHS swim team was very successful. Maddie's freshman and sophomore years the entire team made it to the regional competition. Her senior year, both the boys and girls won their district competition, and Maddie personally won both district level



Just Add WAT

events in which she competed. "That was definitely the highlight of my high school career, winning district," she said.

The team's initial success inspired team members and the adult leaders to envision a full-blown swim program for Red Oak. "We all began to think, *This could really be something. If we could get people involved, we could continue this program even after we've graduated,*" Maddie said. "Thirteen years later, here we are!"

Before Maddie dove into the role of swim coach in 2014, the Red Oak team had school sponsorship and volunteers to help train but no official coach. Today, the swim team is a thriving part of ROHS athletics, and Maddie is the first official coach of the team she helped form.

Maddie began swimming competitively when she was 8, around the same time she remembers dreaming of one day being a teacher. "I've known I wanted to be a teacher basically my entire life," she said. "I never thought I would end up back in my hometown, teaching and coaching the swim team."



— By Sally Fuller

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"Coach" is not Maddie's only title with ROISD. Her main role with the district is as a fifth-grade science teacher at Wooden Elementary. That dual assignment makes for a very busy day and is evidence of her commitment to her students, the sport she calls her "passion" and the young athletes she mentors.

After teaching for seven periods each day, Maddie uses her planning period to travel to the school bus barn, then to the high school, where she picks up the 13 members of the swim team. From there, they travel to Duncanville High School's Natatorium for an hour-and-a-half practice. Then it's back to the school to drop off the team, before she can go home and get ready to do it all again the next day.

Such is her schedule Monday through Friday, beginning every September. During swim season, which begins in October and can end as late as March, depending on the team's success, she also drives the team to meets on Saturdays. Swim meets have not ended for ROHS this year, as many of the team will be competing at the regional meet this month.

Helping students of all abilities navigate the often-daunting halls of high school inspires Maddie to continue the demanding schedule. "I do what I do because I love working with kids, and I love swimming. Before I entered high school, I always worried about where I'd fit in, so thinking about that and thinking about the incoming students, I'm hoping I can be that place for them," she said.

Maddie's efforts apparently are paying off. The swimmers she coaches agree that her encouragement has helped them find their place in the pool.

"I never liked going out competitively, but as something I was comfortable with — being in the water — it helped give me a confidence boost," said Reed Elledge, a junior who is swimming for his second year as part of the team. "It's

definitely helped me build friendships — and it's a great workout," he added.

Team captain and senior Kylie Holliday agreed. "It keeps me moving, keeps me active, and it lets me do something I love with people I love," she said of the special friendships she shares with her teammates.

Two freshmen on the team, Emma Cooper and Aiden Maskevich, have the distinction of being part of the first class of elementary students Maddie taught. "They were there on day one, two of the first students I ever taught in my life," Maddie mused. That connection with Maddie is part of the reason both of them joined the team.

"I have no history of swimming, but I had Coach as a science teacher, so I thought I'd give it a try. I'm loving it!" Emma shared. Aiden concurred that the chance to have Maddie as a coach piqued his interest in the swim team.

As for Maddie, her goal is to develop accomplished swimmers, while forging relationships. "I don't want them to think I'm just their coach, and that's all I'm ever going to be. I hope I can be that person they come to, even after they graduate, even farther down the road," she said.

Again, it appears Maddie is accomplishing her goals. Her swimmers continually improve, dropping time at every meet, and they consider her a friend as well as a mentor.

"I've had other coaches. She's nothing like them. She cares about you as a person," Aiden shared.

Emma agreed, "She's way more than a coach."

"She's easy to talk to. She's honest. She's a friend and a great coach," Reed said.

Kylie echoed her teammates' sentiments: "She's strict when she needs to be and knows how to keep us focused. At the same time, she knows how to laugh with us and have fun."

Maddie's tireless dedication to the team reflects her total belief in the benefits of the program. "If they don't know where they belong or don't think of themselves as athletic or competitive, it might take practice. And it will take effort, but if someone truly wants to be part of the swim team, they can. My hope is that kids joining the team realize they've found their place." **NOW**

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Spend any time at all with Jennifer Hunt and two things become clear. She is passionate about helping others achieve overall better health and confidence through her work as a licensed esthetician, and she is just as passionate about supporting other small business owners in her community.



Jennifer became interested in helping other people achieve healthier skin soon after moving to Ovilla. “When I was a teenager, I had problematic skin ... We had just moved to Ovilla, and my mom was going to a spa in Waxahachie. She would let me go once in a while and get a facial.”

That early introduction to professional skin care became a driving force behind Jennifer’s career. After a few years of college where she said she “bounced back and forth with majors,” Jennifer took some time off to think about what she wanted to do and what God wanted for her. “I remembered how much I enjoyed facials and that feeling of my skin being clean and taken care of. I wanted other people to have that feeling,” Jennifer shared.

For Jennifer, healthy skin is more than “skin deep.” “Feeling your skin is taken care of builds your confidence. I have people who come in and think a facial is going to be ‘something pretty.’ They walk out knowing more about how to care for their skin,

not only with products but through nutrition and helping relieve stress."

Along with the European or classic facial, Jennifer offers a teen facial, collagen facial, detox facial and more. "I also offer chemical peels, but they're not the kind that are going to bruise your skin and leave you at home for two weeks," she said, smiling. She also is a skilled makeup and waxing specialist.

Jennifer's philosophy of skin care incorporates the whole person. Besides caring for her clients' skin with facials and peels, she also offers holistic services, such as aromatherapy scalp massage and reflexology-based hand and foot treatments. "My goal is not only for people to walk out feeling like 'Oh, I look really great!' but to feel like they've been taken care of."

"Feeling your skin is taken care of builds your confidence."

As a makeup artist, Jennifer works with outreaches helping women rebuild their lives. "Those are probably my favorite days of the year, working with those women who have been through so much and are working to get on a better path. It's so life-changing to be a part of that for them, to help them feel beautiful and like they have worth," she shared.

Jennifer's zeal for helping others is not restricted to her esthetician clients. She is just as eager to see other business owners succeed, a trait she says she learned from her father, also a small business owner in North Ellis County. "My dad taught me to help other small businesses. He does a lot of community things, and he's instilled that in me as well," Jennifer said.

Jennifer is always on the lookout for other entrepreneurs she can help through networking or collaboration. As a recent project, Jennifer hosted a makeup class at a locally owned specialty food shop, increasing both of their businesses' exposure in the market. "I just want to do anything I can do to see other small businesses succeed," she said. **NOW**

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Red Oak ISD Superintendent Dr. Mike Goddard and the Red Oak Hawk welcome 7-Eleven's Slurpee to town during the store's recent grand opening.

Zoomed In: Patty Ellis and Ronda Quintana

By Sally Fuller

Assistant City Secretary Patty Ellis and City Secretary Ronda Quintana wear many hats as the only employees of the city of Oak Leaf. "We never do the same thing twice. There's always something different that comes up," Ronda said.

Patty quickly agreed. "We have several titles, and I like the versatility. If I get tired of sorting out dog tags, I can switch over to permits," she said.

Their "hats" include clerk of court, flood management, elections official and animal control. As animal control officers, they've dealt with everything from emus to raccoons to coyotes, but one distinction in that role is very clear. "I do dogs, and Ronda does cats because I'm allergic to cats," Patty said, laughing.

The two have been working side by side for the city for 10 years, having begun work within just a few months of each other. It's the variety and their obvious camaraderie that keep them happy in their work.



Kelly Sor offers a warm smile and a hot cup of coffee to customers at a local donut shop.



Olivia Pruett happily pets a rabbit at a petting zoo in Red Oak.



Raymond Wilson, Rhonda Hall and Clifton Brown share smiles and laughter with the lunch crowd at their Ovilla restaurant.



Tina Miller of Ferris puts the finishing touches on one of her furry friends.



Cortney, Michael and Mila Matern of Ovilla take advantage of a sunny winter day by picnicking at the park.



Jessica Jamison of Glenn Heights and Tyson watch from the bleachers as their family shoots hoops at Glenn Heights Heritage Park.

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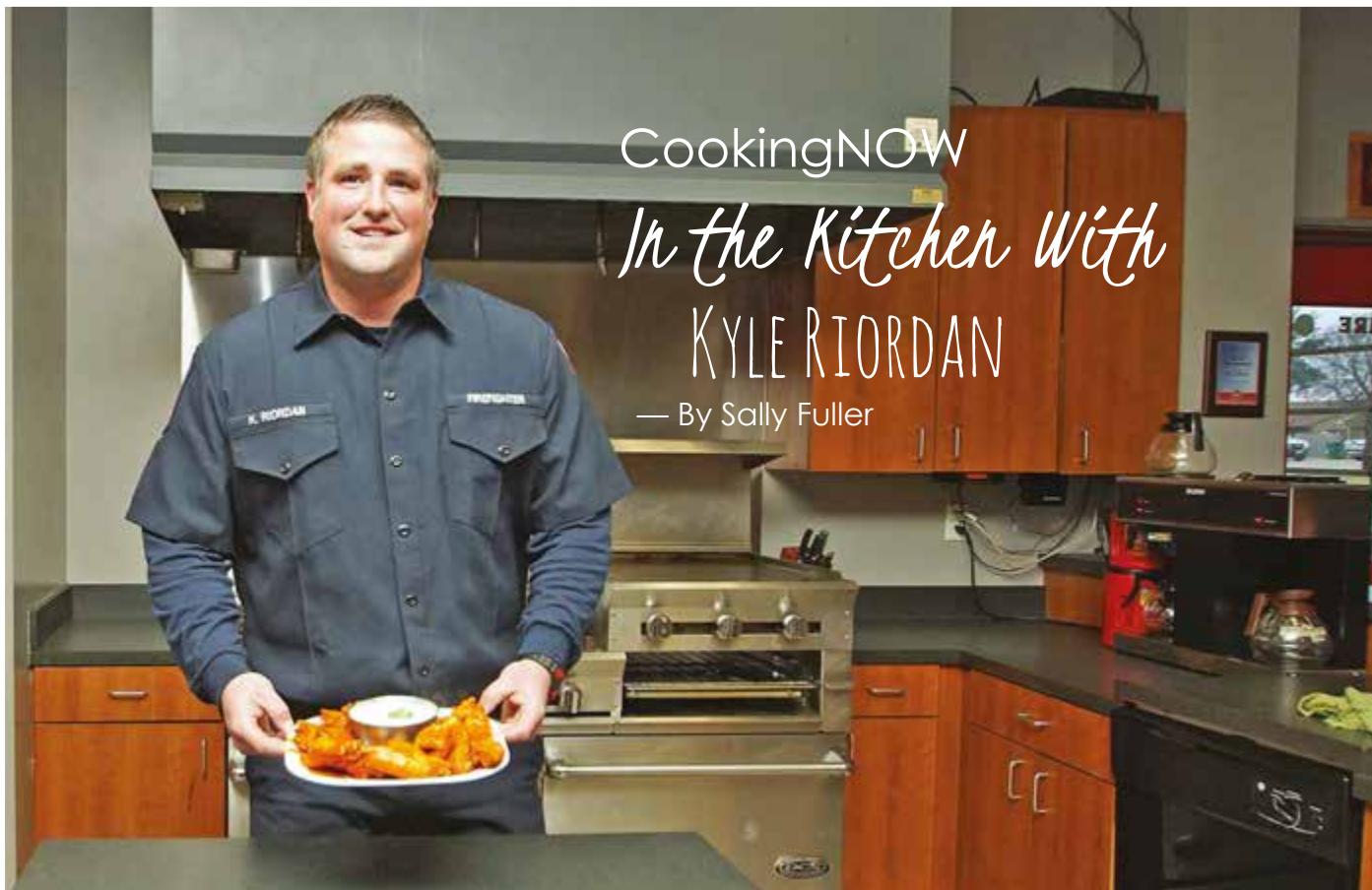


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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

KYLE RIORDAN

— By Sally Fuller

One of Kyle Riordan's favorite things about cooking is that it brings people together. "There's nothing better than seeing people around the table enjoying food you prepared," the Red Oak firefighter declared.

Cooking for other firefighters at the firehouse helped Kyle hone his cooking skills "because the guys will let you know if it's not very good." Still, his co-workers' seal of approval isn't a guarantee everyone will like his cooking.

Kyle recalled a spicy pork taco dish his co-workers really enjoyed. "I was excited to make it for my wife and kids, and they hated it! That ended up being a pizza night instead," he concluded with a laugh.

When he's not on duty, Kyle enjoys fishing, traveling and attending his children's sports events. **NOW**

Favorite Firehouse Wings

Wings:

8 lbs. bone-in chicken wing sections, thawed

2 12-oz. bottles Frank's Red Hot Wing Sauce

Vegetable oil for frying

Dipping sauce:

16 oz. sour cream

1 pkt. Hidden Valley Ranch Dip mix

1. For wings: In a deep fryer or skillet, add enough oil to cover wings completely when frying. Heat oil to 375 F.

2. Pat thawed wings dry with paper towel; add to hot oil. Cook 8-10 minutes.

3. Pour both bottles of hot wing sauce into a large bowl. Once chicken is cooked, immediately add wings to sauce.

4. Toss wings in sauce with tongs until fully coated. Serve hot with dipping sauce.

5. For dipping sauce: Mix sour cream and seasoning packet until fully blended; refrigerate per packet directions.

Loaded Baked Potato Soup

5 large russet potatoes, peeled and washed

6 cups chicken broth

1 cup sour cream

4 oz. (half block) cream cheese, room temperature

2 cups cheddar cheese

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

5 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled

Salt and pepper, to taste

Chives (optional)

1. Boil potatoes in chicken broth until tender. Do not drain. Once cooked, lightly mash potatoes.

2. Add sour cream, cream cheese and cheddar cheese, stirring until well combined.

3. Stir in heavy cream and chopped bacon. Add salt and pepper.

4. Garnish with chives if desired; serve.

Apple Pie

2 9-inch piecrusts (divided use)

6 tart apples, peeled, cored and sliced

2 Tbsp. lemon juice

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

3/4 cup sugar

3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

Pinch of salt

- 1 Tbsp. butter, divided into 4 pieces
- 1 Tbsp. whole, organic milk
- 2 Tbsp. sugar

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Place one piecrust in a 9-inch pie pan; trim edges.
2. In a large bowl, mix apples, lemon juice and vanilla.
3. In a small bowl, mix dry ingredients.
4. Toss apples in a large bowl with dry ingredient mixture until evenly coated.
5. Pour into piecrust, dot with butter and cover with second piecrust. Trim edges and seal with a fork.
6. Cut small slits in top piecrust, brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar.
7. Place on a baking sheet. Bake 1 hour until crust is golden brown. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

7-Up Biscuits

- 4 cups Bisquick mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup 7-Up soda
- 1/2 cup melted butter

1. Heat oven to 425 F. Mix Bisquick, sour cream and 7-Up. Mixture will be wet, but knead and pull until well mixed.
2. Pat into 1/2-inch thickness; cut out biscuits with a round cookie cutter or top of a glass.
3. Pour melted butter into the bottom of a cast-iron pan. Place biscuits on butter; bake 12-15 minutes until golden brown.

Easy Salsa

- 1 28-oz. can whole tomatoes with juice
- 1 small onion, coarsely chopped
- 1-2 jalapeños, seeded, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1-2 bundles cilantro, to taste, chopped
- Juice of 1 lime

1. Place all ingredients in a food processor or blender. Pulse to break up large pieces; blend to desired texture.

Fried Deer Steak (Miss Kay's Cookbook)

- Deer steaks, to taste
- 1/2 cup buttermilk for every 1 lb. deer steak
- 1 large egg for every 1 lb. of deer steak
- 1 cup all-purpose flour for every 1 lb. of deer steak

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Favorite Firehouse Wings

Salt and pepper, to taste
Oil, for frying
Sliced green onions, for serving

1. With a meat mallet, pound deer steaks once on each side.
2. Whisk buttermilk and egg in a bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, mix flour, salt and pepper.
4. Fill a deep cast-iron skillet halfway with oil and heat to 350 F over medium-high heat.
5. Dip deer steak in buttermilk mixture, then flour mixture. Cook in hot oil about 3 minutes, until golden brown.
6. Drain on paper towels; garnish with green onions.

Kyle's Fire Station Chili

- 3 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 white onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. butter for sautéing
- 1 pkt. chili seasoning (your choice)
- 1 cup water
- 1 10-oz. can tomatoes and mild green chiles
- 2 14-oz. cans chopped tomatoes with chili seasoning
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 6-oz. can tomato paste
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 Tbsp. garlic
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. pepper
- 2 Tbsp. hot sauce

1. Brown ground beef in a large pot; drain grease.
2. Sauté onion and bell pepper in butter until translucent. Add to ground beef.
3. Stir in chili seasoning packet, water, all tomatoes, sauce and paste. Mix well.
4. Stir in beans. Add chili powder, garlic, salt, pepper and hot sauce. Mix until well combined.

5. Cook over medium-low heat 1-2 hours, stirring as needed.

Stuffed Bell Peppers (Miss Kay's Cookbook)

- 6 large bell peppers
- 2 lbs. ground meat (beef, turkey, pork or a mix).
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large egg
- 1 12-oz. can tomato paste
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce

1. Heat oven to 375 F.
2. Slice tops off bell peppers. Chop tops and set aside. Remove seeds and ribs from inside bell peppers.
3. Cook bell peppers in a large pot of boiling water for 5 minutes. Set upside down to drain.
4. In large bowl, mix all ingredients well, except tomato sauce. Stuff peppers with meat mixture. Place them in a casserole dish; top with tomato sauce.
5. Bake until filling is firm, approximately 45 minutes.

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ADVENTURE

T H R O U G H H I S T O R Y

— By Melissa Rawlins

Lift your glass for a toast: To life! And give three cheers for destiny — a concept Americans hardly discuss anymore. Since accomplishing our manifest destiny, we tour distant places on a roundtrip ticket, sure that our final destination is home sweet home.

Yet, there is a spot on this planet that has been and will be home to countless generations. And its doors are open to visitors year-round. Israel's heartland, otherwise known as Samaria and Judea, has welcomed intrepid travelers ever since Abraham left Ur Kašdim (commonly translated as Ur of the Chaldees) for Canaan. But the 40-mile-wide swath of land, with Jerusalem in its center, is especially popular now that agritourism is trendy.

Participating in farm activities while touring this part of the Middle East provides a balanced approach to travel. Seasonally, there are grapes to prune in the winter and harvest in the summer — when figs are also easy to find — and olives to pick in the fall. Organic olive orchards, planted near vineyards equidistant between the Dead Sea and Jerusalem, experience pure sunshine throughout the year.

One reputable organization that has developed relationships with multiple local farmers is HaYovel.com, based in the United States. Since Israel's Hebrew-speaking populace rests every

Saturday, and prepares for the Sabbath on Fridays, agritourists only work a few days per week and then give their bodies a rest while investigating various aspects of the region's art, archaeology and appetite.

Health nuts can smell, taste and hear the story of the Saboneto family of organic soaps after driving northeast of Jerusalem to Kochav HaShachar. Foodies will be fascinated by the cuisine throughout Israel. Small cafés with spicy, healthy meats and vegetables are usually ensconced near museums, synagogues, marketplaces and gas stations.

In Jerusalem, larger restaurants like Ima's cater to tourists visiting Israel's center of government, the Knesset. Throughout the day, kiosks pressing juices from fresh pomegranates make a nice alternative to the ubiquitous coffee break. And it's always a treat to start mornings with a visit to the *shuk* (fresh market) in Jerusalem, where cheeses and candies unlike any other are bought in the thousands by people who plan to share them in their own restaurants or homes.

Afternoons and evenings are perfect times to visit the wineries that are popping up throughout the country. Sixteen years ago, Samaria and Judea had only a few small vineyards serving individual families. Now, more than 350 acres are planted with fruitful vines, and a million bottles of wine are produced annually. This is partly because volunteer agritourists are empowering the wine industry's growth. Psagot Winery, close to Beit El (Bethel) northwest of Jerusalem, is a modern gem boasting wide-open views of rock-studded mountains.



Kabir Winery, farther north in Elon Moreh, feels a bit more "ancient." Maybe that is because its vintner, Eliav Hillel, is also a scribe. Nearby, the settlement of Itamar, established in 1984, is at the forefront of Israel's organic agriculture.

Forty miles north, you can wine and dine in Tiberias, where a 10th-century crusader castle now hosts a nightclub. Not far up the shore of the Sea of Galilee, viewing fine and modern art in Ginosar's Museum of the Galilee can precede an invigorating swim in the harp-shaped lake. A little farther north, Capernaum provides history buffs an abundance of beautiful ruins to study. And the beaches of Ein Gev invite families and individuals to simply chill.

No matter how much you enjoy traveling independently, you'll glean more of the depth and breadth of Israel's nature, history and culture by traveling with a guide who lives in the land. Michael Bar-Neder (annbn@012.net.il) specializes in guiding mentally and physically challenged people, as well as families, on tours of biblical Israel. Maayan Usva Cohen (pathsofisrael@gmail.com) guides both on contemporary political issues and in the biblical landscapes of Judea and Samaria, and can also take you on off-road adventures in her jeep. Ask for recommendations when you start planning your trip to the heartland of Israel with the Shomron Regional Council at www.tourshomron.org.il.

Israel awaits with much to learn and see. *L'chaim* — to life — and to destiny! **NOW**

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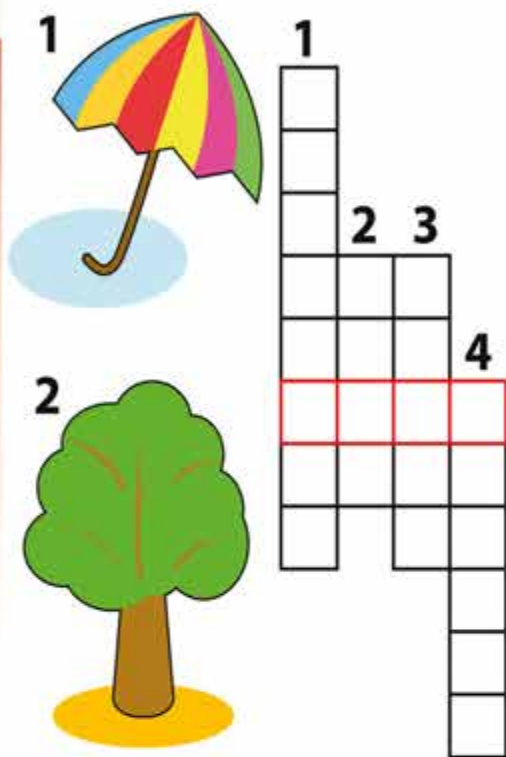
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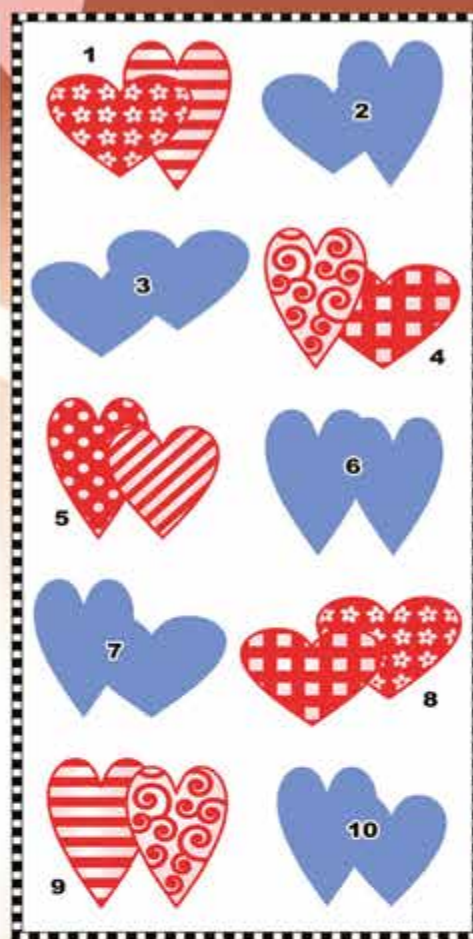
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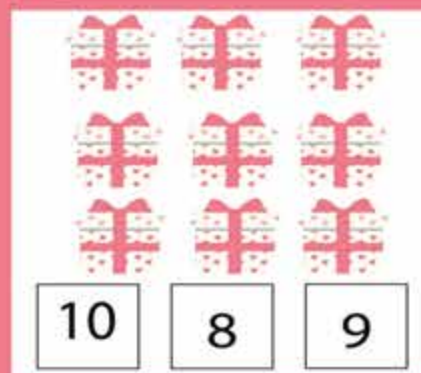
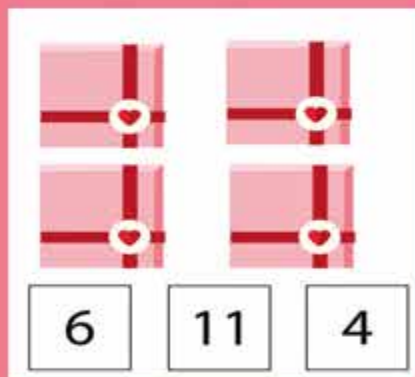
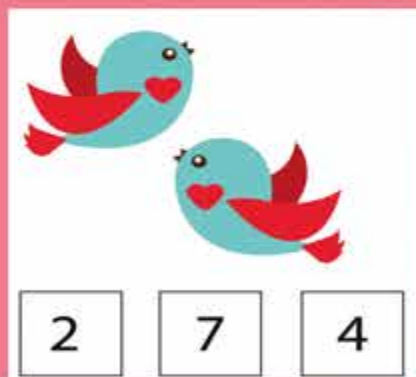
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1-2, 4-7, 5-10, 6-3, 9-6

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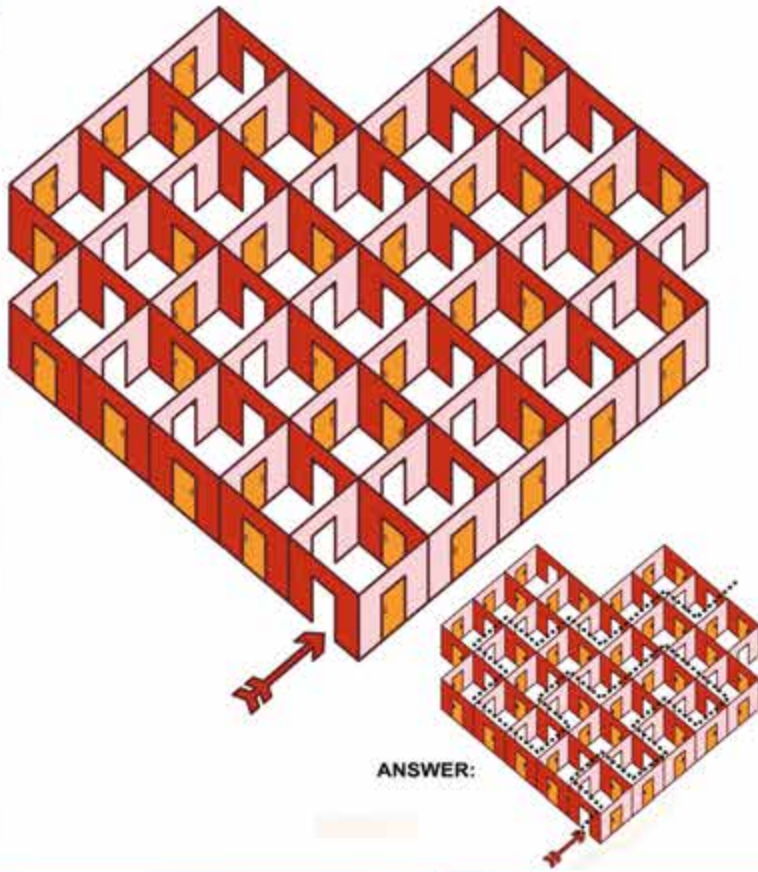
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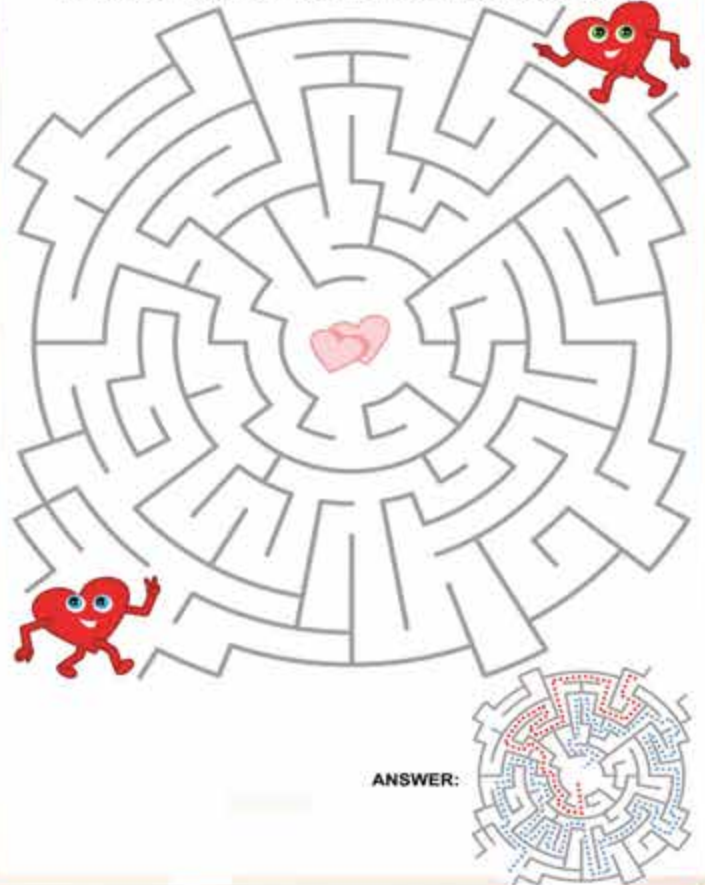
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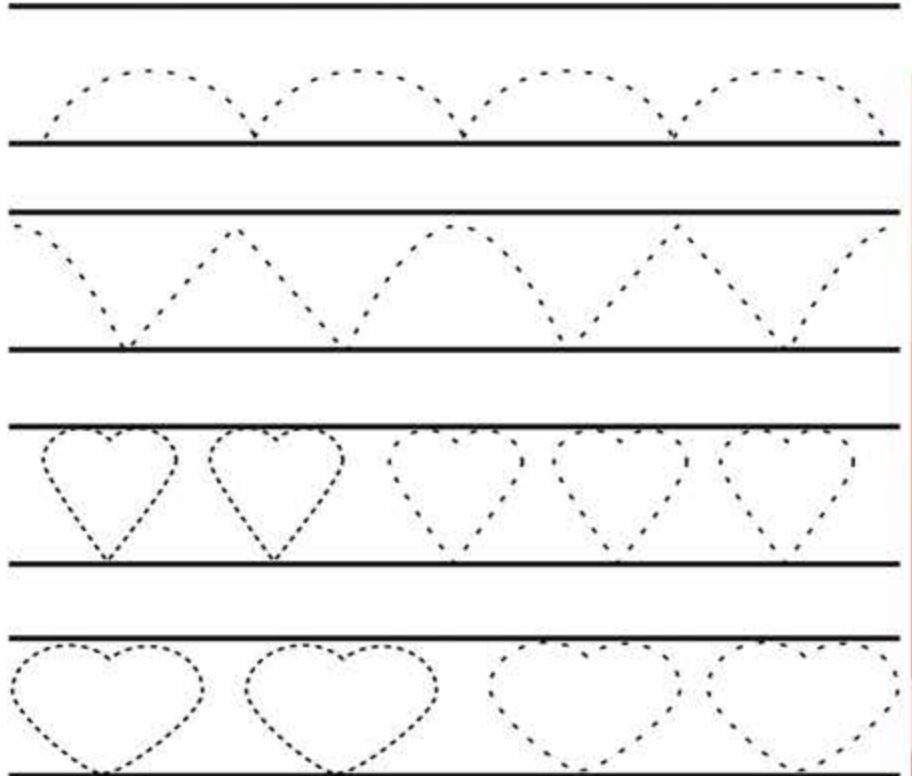
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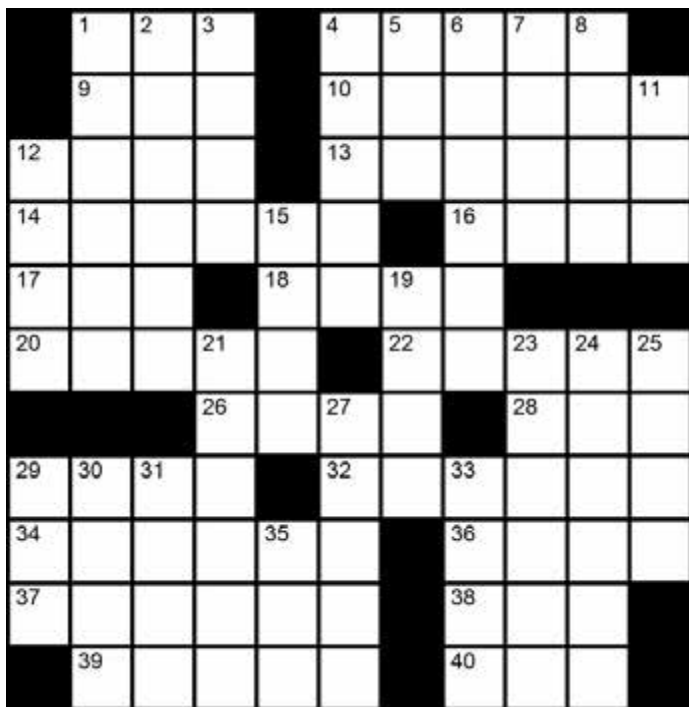
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Across

- 1 " --- now or never"
- 4 Hard on the nose
- 9 Vast amount
- 10 Arranged for voices
- 12 Pie-crust ingredient
- 13 Only state with two official lang
- 14 Puncture
- 16 Caltech, for ex.
- 17 Sparse fluid
- 18 P --- puzzle
- 20 A freckle past ---
- 22 Once more
- 26 Exultation
- 28 Attempt
- 29 Comedienne née Molinsky
- 32 Commuter computer
- 34 Taking the place
- 36 Outer covering
- 37 Softened
- 38 "Halt, --- fire!"
- 39 Prolonged blockade
- 40 Advent mo.

Down

- 1 Prophetic Bible book
- 2 Blessed Mother
- 3 --- City (Baghdad district)
- 4 Pains
- 5 Half a dance, perhaps
- 6 Quarreling
- 7 Pakistan neighbor
- 8 Politician's stand?
- 11 Snockered
- 12 Where to find swinger Michelle Wie
- 15 Songwriter --- Perkins
- 19 UN nuclear watchdog
- 21 Set on fire
- 23 What one goes around in
- 24 Subtly sarcastic
- 25 Big Apple corps
- 27 Cleverly avoid
- 29 Dandy beginning?
- 30 Singles
- 31 Slimming drug
- 33 Urge along
- 35 Brain surgeon's test equipment

Solutions on page 36

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Medium

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

Solutions on page 36

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY

2/1

Father-Daughter Dance:

An evening of dinner and dancing at Ovilla Road Baptist Church. \$10 adults, \$8 children (12 and under). 6:30-8:00 p.m., 3251 Ovilla Rd. (972) 617-8544, registration required, www.orbc.org.

2/4

Mic Barnett of Dallas Public Library Genealogy Division speaks on DNA:

Presented by the Ellis County Genealogical Society, 7:00 p.m., 407 W. Jefferson, Waxahachie. (214) 564-4025.

2/5

Free concert with Celtic guitarist and storyteller Jerry Barlow at Red Oak Public Library:

February is *Love Your Library Month*. There will be events, displays and giveaways throughout the month. 7:00 p.m., 200 Lakeview Dr. (469) 218-1230.

Red Oak Soccer Association:

Spring season in-person signups. Board members will be available to answer questions. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Chick-fil-A, 200 Sharaf Ave. www.redoaksoccer.com.

2/9

A Night in Paris, Valentine Banquet:

Couples, singles and families are invited for dinner and fellowship.

\$20 per person. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Grace Church of Ovilla, 519 Westmoreland Rd. (972) 617-0429, office@gracechurchovilla.org.

Cupid Shuffle Hot Chocolate 5K and Fun Run:

Benefiting REACH Council of Ellis and Johnson counties. 8:00-11:00 a.m., Midlothian Multipurpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St., Midlothian. www.reachcouncil.org/events.html.

2/14 — 2/16

Once Upon a Mattress:

A musical comedy presented by Ovilla Christian School's Fine Arts Department. Tickets at the door, \$10 adults, \$7 students. 2/14 and 2/15, 7:00 p.m.; 2/16, 2:00 p.m., OCS Worship Center, 3251 Ovilla Rd. (972) 617-1177.

2/15

Ovilla Service League dinner and auction benefiting the Ovilla Police Department:

All are invited to enjoy a spaghetti dinner, live and silent auctions and other activities. Adults \$12, children (12 and under) \$6. Dinner/silent auction, 6:00-7:00 p.m.; live auction, 7:00 p.m., 519 Westmoreland Rd., (214) 769-8591.

First Mondays

Ellis County Genealogical Society:
7:00 p.m., Ellis County Woman's

Building, 407 W. Jefferson, Waxahachie. Sammie Lee, (214) 564-4025.

Second Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking:

Dinner and guest speaker. 6:00 p.m., IHOP, Waxahachie. Jim McKeever, (469) 258-7424.

Tuesdays

Red Oak Library Toddler Playtime and Story Time:

Free crafts, story time and learning games for children 18 mo.-5 yrs. accompanied by a parent or caregiver. 9:45-11:00 a.m., 200 Lakeview Dr. (469) 218-1230.

Ferris Public Library Game Day:

Young people 7 to 17 can play PS4 and Wii in the library's meeting room. 3:30-5:30 p.m., 301 E. 10th St. (972) 544-3699.

Second Tuesdays

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE):

1:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (972) 775-2463, rjcarey1@gmail.com.

Wednesdays

Ferris Public Library Story Time:

Pre-school children and their caregivers are invited for stories. 11:00 a.m., 301 E. 10th St. (972) 544-3699.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Red Oak Senior Citizens Group:

Join other seniors for games and activities. Light breakfast provided both days. Lunch provided **Thursdays**; \$2 per week membership fee. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 207 W. Red Oak Rd. (972) 571-0632.

Second Thursdays

Ovilla Service League:

Projects include annual fundraisers to support the Ovilla police and fire departments, collecting food for local charitable organizations and providing support for Heritage Day. 10:00 a.m., Ovilla City Hall, 105 Cockrell Hill Rd. Jane Watson, (214) 769-8591.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trade Days:

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 101 S. Main St. (817) 992-9204.

Sundays

Alcoholics

Anonymous meeting:
5:00 p.m., Midway Baptist Church, 4511 FM 660, Ferris. Michael Peebles, (830) 928-4177, mikepeebles@outlook.com.

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

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
I	T	S	A	C	R	I	D																	
S	E	A							C	H	O	R	A	L										
L	A	R	D						H	A	W	A	I	I										
P	I	E	R	C	E				I	N	S	T												
G	A	S							A	S	I	N												
A	H	A	I	R					A	G														
									G	L	E	E												
J	O	A	N						L	A	P	T	O	P										
I	N	L	I	E	U																			
M	E	L	T	E	D																			
S	I	E	G	E																				

Easy

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

Medium

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



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