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OCTOBER 2019

## Grappling With Success

Wrestler Jackson Carter is the state's best

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## Enthusiastic Effort

Kasey Cheshier brings excitement to service at the United Way

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### In the Kitchen With Shannan Teubner

Also inside: Scavenger Hunt

Featured Business: Bellucci's Italian

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**14** ENTHUSIASTIC

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**30** TIMELESS

WITH SUCCESS Jiu-Jitsu training helps this wrestler flourish on the mat.

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#### ON THE COVER

Jackson Carter sets his sights on another state championship.

**Photo by** Kobbi R. Blair.

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Angel Morris *MidlothianNOW* Editor angel.morris@nowmagazines.com (972) 533-7216

## EDITOR'S NOTE

#### Go read a book!

While my family needs no excuse to read, it seems October gives us an official reason to laze around with a favorite novel by way of National Book Month. I can't remember a time when I didn't love a good book. While today I can read online or via e-reader, there's still something special about cozying up with a "real" book. Hardback or paperback, I love either and even have a newfound fondness for large print editions these days.

There was a time after college when I somewhat lost my interest in reading. I guess I associated it with schoolwork rather than entertainment and forgot how much I'd enjoyed it in my youth. Fortunately, I began dating someone who asked what I liked to read, and suddenly my forgotten hobby was back — along with all the adventures a good book can bring.

Perhaps it's the former schoolteacher in me, but I have little patience for anyone who says they suffer from boredom. There are too many books for that to be the case. And while I most certainly appreciate the ease of the Internet, I still value real-life books for research and study.

If you've forgotten the joy of a good tome, why not use this month to rediscover it? If you never liked to read, maybe you just haven't found the right subject or author. What better month than October to get lost in a book?

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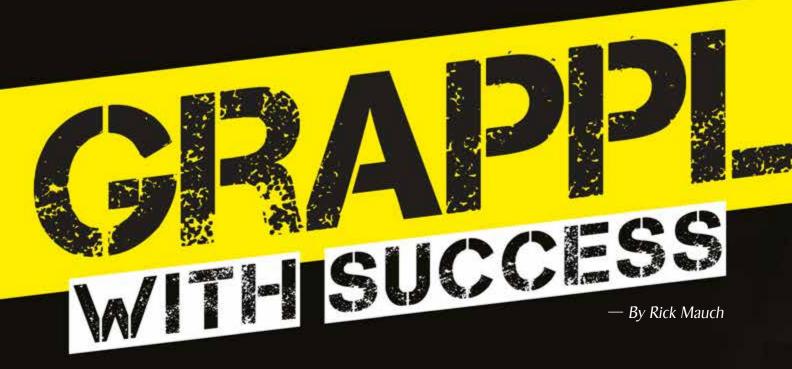
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In his effort to become better at a sport he loved, Jackson Carter found and fell in love with another sport. Now, he's at the top of his game in both sports and loving each.

"I did Jiu-Jitsu before I started wrestling," the Midlothian High School senior said. "I wanted to improve that, but I found I was good at wrestling and that I really loved it. And I found you can get good scholarships to college in wrestling."

So, while Jackson continued in the martial arts, he became a wrestler — and a great one, a history-making one, in fact. Jackson, who wrestled in the 138-pound class, won the Class 5A state championship in his division this past season. He is the first wrestler from MHS to win a state title.

Jackson captured his title in dramatic fashion, a come-from-

behind 6-4 win over Precious Essien of Frisco Liberty, who had earlier defeated Jackson in the regional finals. Jackson trailed in their state championship match 4-0 before taking control with a couple of takedowns.

"I watched plenty of video between regionals and state. I watched that one [the regional finals] over and over to see what I could fix," Jackson said.

"We didn't know his style [at regionals]," Jackson's father, Aaron Carter, said of Precious. "He's a big freestyle Greco-Roman wrestler. Jackson was able to neutralize his skillset and able to grind him out the entire match."

Jackson began wrestling about six years ago with the Midlothian Wrestling Factory youth program. From there he not only became a state champion, but he is also a two-time All-American with USA Wrestling, having earned the honors competing in the 152-pound and 160-pound classifications at the West Coast Nationals in El Paso this past summer. He finished second in both divisions, competing against the top young wrestlers from across the United States. "It was my first national tournament," Jackson said. "I didn't know what to expect, but I think I represented myself and my supporters very well. I'm proud of my performance." Jackson said he would likely remain in the 160-pound weight class when he wrestles for MHS this season. He's excited about the new challenge and opportunity to win a state title in a different weight class.

> "I have really good confidence. You have to go in expecting to win," he said. "Now I'm going to be





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"And Jackson learned to never take an opponent for granted," said his mother, Pam Carter. "We've always taught him to be humble, not to underestimate anyone."

Jackson was an immediate success at the high school level. As a freshman, he posted a 36-11 record and finished second at district and sixth at regionals at the 138 weight. As a sophomore, he was 50-5, won district, took second at regionals and placed fifth at state. Last season, he was 43-3 and won district before taking second at regionals, followed by his history-making state performance.

Jackson also remains a success in martial arts. He has a purple belt in Jiu-Jitsu and is a state champion in his division in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

In fact, he has incorporated his favorite Jiu-Jitsu move into wrestling. It has played a major role in his success on the mat.

"One of his signature moves is the Twister, or a wrestler's guillotine," Aaron said. "In MMA [Mixed Martial Arts] it's a submission technique, but in wrestling, it's used to pin an opponent."

Pam followed with, "Jiu-Jitsu has helped him a lot. Someone who is strictly wrestling may not know those moves. That comes from his Jiu-Jitsu training,"

During the school year, Jackson practices a couple of times a day, along with lifting weights. He also works out with Brandon Quick, his Jiu-Jitsu coach.

And he does a lot of running at all times of the year. "Last year [summer of 2018], we went to Oklahoma State University training camp. We ran eight miles at 6 o'clock every morning, and the last day we ran 13 miles," Jackson said.



A REASON TO WW



"When it comes to his diet, that's something of a family affair," Pam said. "We all kind of dieted with him. It's a big sacrifice. There's no Taco Bell, and when you go to the movies, you can't have that popcorn."

The new MHS head wrestling coach is LeRoy Barnes, replacing last season's 5A Coach of the Year, Kevin Reed, now an assistant principal at MHS. LeRoy and Jackson are very familiar with each other, since he previously gave Jackson private lessons.

"As I began work with Jackson [just over a year ago] to now, I've seen so much growth within his wrestling," LeRoy said. "I'm blessed to have an opportunity to continue working with him in the offseason. Furthermore, I'm extremely excited to be in his corner during his last high school season."

Jackson added, "He knows my game, and I know his. It'll be a smooth transition. He's going to help me win my second state title."

Jackson hasn't decided on which college he will wrestle for, but he's narrowing the list down. One thing is certain, though — he does plan to compete at a higher level and perhaps even return to the high school game as a coach someday.

"I've thought about being a teacher and maybe a wrestling coach," he said. "I've also thought about being a pharmacist. But I love wrestling so much, and the thought of coaching is really interesting."

As far as choosing a favorite between wrestling and Jiu-Jitsu, Jackson loves both — plain and simple. "I don't like this question," Jackson said with a laugh. "I'm better at Jiu-Jitsu, I think, but I also love wrestling and being with a team. And wrestling will get me into college." **NOW** 



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From Left TOP: Chrissy Coppock, Alen Munoz, Martin Ferman, Ruben Cadena, Omar Munoz, Wesley Wise, Billy Wofford, NACHO, Roger Villarreal, Mark Dearborn, Jorge Reyna, Dan Lopez, Neal Guthrie, Chad Day, Hunter McClendon, Jerry Beam From Left BOTTOM: Omar Menchaca, Ivann Sanchez, Mark Negrete, Salvador Reyna, Ashu Mandit, Isai Lopez NOT PICTURED: Neil McClendon & Gabe Vera

Roger Villarreal started with Texas Ace Heating & Air in January 2015. When he first started, he represented the entire New Construction Department – a department that did not exist prior to his hire. He served as the sales rep, the field rep, the QC rep, the designer and the manager. Quickly identifying an area within the company both ideal and necessary for growth, Roger set out to foster and build relationships with as many builders, and project managers that he could – the easiest of his tasks, given his commitment to customer care and service. Already known within the industry for his direct collaboration and tenacious work ethic, his attention to the customer experience has helped grow the department into the largest sector of Texas Ace.

And, as the New Construction Department continues to grow, so too the team. Now a highly prized ensemble of the most experienced and professional talent, the New Construction Department employs: a support staff led by Dan Lopez; a Quality Control crew led by Chad Day; a Start Up crew led by Mark Dearborn; a Warehouse crew led by Isai Lopez; and, an Engineering staff led by Billy Wofford. And this is where Roger is most comfortable – much preferring to discuss the team's accolades than that of his own attributes - awards such as Vendor of the Month, Trade of the Quarter, and Outstanding Vendor of the Year. Just as important, are the personal rewards that come from working with such programs as Habitat for Humanity and Homes for Troops.

And, while the success of the department lies largely with the team's efforts, it's Roger's big heart and big personality that continues to win over his peers, his customers and his community of builders.

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# ENTHUSIASTIC EFFORT

— By Bill Smith

If there were a vaccine for contagious enthusiasm, Kasey Cheshier would run from it! As a serious runner, having competed in marathons, the new executive director of the United Way of West Ellis County brings excitement for the mission of the organization with him.

Kasey explained, "We serve with our partner agencies and individuals on this side of the county, including those in Midlothian, Waxahachie, Avalon, Milford and Red Oak. Of course, we reach out to the rural areas of the county, also."

The mission statement of the United Way says, "United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good." It also explains, "The United Way of West Ellis County, in partnership with you, improves the health, prosperity and education in our community."

Although Kasey has been with UWWEC for less than a year, he has a history as an active volunteer, and he has been a leader in service wherever he has been. "Several friends told me about the UWWEC executive director opening. I feel like God led me here. My wife and I prayed and talked about it, and we gained a real sense of peace that this is where I am supposed to be," he said.

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Prior to becoming the executive director of the United Way, Kasey was the director of operations for Ben Franklin Apothecary in Duncanville. For his efforts in community service, Kasey was elected Man of the Year in Duncanville last year.

"I have lived in Midlothian for 10 years, and this new position gives me more opportunity to serve the community that my wife and I are raising our family in," Kasey expressed. "We have three children and love seeing them grow up in this great town."

As Midlothian continues to grow, the small-town feel still exists, though it might not be as visible to some as it once was. Stephanie Bowman works with Kasey as director of programs for UWWEC. She pointed out, "There is still a great need for volunteer programs and services here. Even right here in Midlothian, there are areas that struggle to have meals each night."

Kasey added, "As we get comfortable in our day-to-day routines, we may not see the needs that exist all around us. Part of my job is to raise awareness of some of the needs that may be overlooked."

UWWEC partners with a number of member agencies such as Mentors Care, Paws for Reflection Ranch, Midlothian Senior Activity Center, Meals on Wheels, Reach Council and Manna House. "These are the guys on the front lines, meeting the everyday problems of serving the community," Kasey credited.

Kasey visits with these partners so UWWEC can assist in any way possible beyond the financial resources. "For instance, Manna House does a great job





helping feed school children who may not have another source of food when school is not meeting. However, an additional need we see is those children who live in rural areas who may not be able to come to one of Manna House's distribution centers. So, part of what we do is try to recognize these areas and then match the need with the member partner who can help," Kasey explained.

UWWEC is also a training resource for its member agencies. "We have quarterly opportunities for our members to get together and share ideas and learn. Our most recent training program covered board governance and responsibilities," Kasey related.

Raising awareness of the United Way seems to come easy to Kasey. "We recently had a 'Pop Up Giving' event at the Rail Port Brewery in Waxahachie. The response was very positive. People in Ellis County are compassionate givers. When they see a genuine need, they help."

UWWEC also recently had a Day of Action with Meals on Wheels, serving with them and helping recruit volunteers. "We encourage people to consider sharing their talents by volunteering and their treasures by donating to our cause. We want to be good stewards of these things, so they have the greatest impact on meeting the needs in our community."

Kasey concluded, "Most people know what the United Way logo and brand is. We want to show them how it works here locally."

Editor's Note: For people looking to serve, visit www.VolunteerEllisCounty.org. This site matches the volunteer with the opportunity.







## Bellucci's Italian

— By Rachel Smith

#### **Bellucci's Italian**

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Walking into Bellucci's Italian Restaurant, authentic Italian music fills one's ears, and dim lights melt away tension. Signature Italian decorations and paintings complement the walls. It is not uncommon to witness owners Anthony and Patchara (Pattie) Cucci greet their guests with a smile as they help them find a comfy corner in which to unwind. "We are a family-oriented restaurant, serving genuine, homemade Italian food," Pattie beamed. "When you come here, you experience the culture."

Anthony and Pattie's culture is rich with Italian roots. "We're true Italians," Anthony exclaimed. "We have Italian cooks and waiters in the restaurant, and I have Italian heritage. My mother's side is from Rome, and my father's side is from Sicily."

Even the restaurant's name was born from their roots. "It's a combination of our kids' names and our last name. Our 9-year-old daughter is Isabella, and our 7-year-old son is Gianluca. That's where we get Bel-luc-ci." "Now, we have another baby on the way!" Pattie smiled.

Bellucci's Italian not only has owners with deep roots, the business is also creating its own roots in Midlothian. As a company, Anthony and Pattie donate to Manna House and the local football teams, as well as send meals to the firehouse. They also invest in their children's school by serving lunch.

"We love people, and we love cooking," Anthony said, which is evident in the food they serve. Their menu contains not just Italian food, but also hearty steaks. Everything Bellucci's Italian sends out of the kitchen is fresh and made to order. "Even the complimentary bread we send out is made to order!"

"We both enjoy seeing people happy when they eat our food," Pattie stated. "We love the people and the community, which is why we've been learning and growing here for 10 years."

#### "WE LOVE PEOPLE, AND WE LOVE COOKING."

Pattie and Anthony met when she, at 18, began working for his parents, who owned many restaurants. "My dad moved to Arlington in 1979 to open the first pizzeria," Anthony said. "He was the first in his family to start a restaurant. *The Star-Telegram* wrote, 'Come watch Italians spin pizza from New York!' I still remember the day we opened. People wrapped around the door, waiting to come in and check it out."

Today, years later, Anthony and Pattie have remained true to the Cucci legacy. Celebrating its one-year anniversary this month, Bellucci's Italian is still thriving. "This year has helped us work out the kinks," Pattie said. "It's like moving into a new house. You get used to everything being different. But we have grown up with the business."

Considering all that they have learned while running the restaurant, they are ready to expand. With so much to offer already, such as their steaks with sauces, unique butter mixtures, beer and wine, they want to add a full-service bar and new food to the menu as the town grows.

Above all else, Anthony and Pattie humbly give respect to their staff, who diligently work to keep their vision of authentic Italian cuisine alive. "We are grateful for the amazing team of employees here who have helped keep the restaurant successful," Pattie said. "We wouldn't have made such an impact in the community without them!"







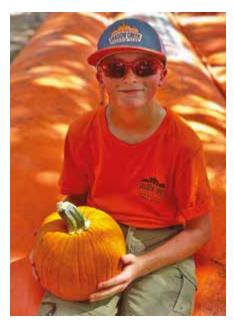
### **Zoomed In:** Melvin Gaitan

By Angel Morris

Each year, Melvin Gaitan anticipates the Ranch Riders Horse Show at Midlothian's Paws for Reflection Ranch. In its fifth year, the show gives some 50 riders in the therapeutic program a chance to demonstrate the horsemanship and riding skills they have learned in front of family and friends.

It takes 40 volunteers, 15 horses and three certified riding instructors to bring the event to life. This year's theme was *Star Wars - May the Horse Be With You.* "The show is fun and awesome. I love the T-shirt, too!" Melvin said, but admitted the best part is the spectators cheering him on. "I felt a sense of accomplishment when I finished!"

## Around Town



Nate Nunes is ready for another fun season at Shadow Creek Pumpkin Farm.



Stephanie Bowman, United Way of West Ellis County program director, distributes children's books at a local event.



Washmasters celebrates its grand opening in Midlothian.

## NOW



MYFL Team Trevino recently held a car wash to raise funds for a family who lost their home to fire.



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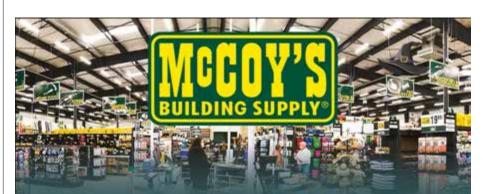
Volunteer Kandis Stone cleans up after cutting senior citizens' hair through Manna House.



Travis Huckaby, owner of Blue Line Pest Police, helps sponsor a Midlothian Chamber After Hours Networking Bash.



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After her husband passed in 2010, Shannan Teubner discovered an unexpected solace in cooking. "He was the cook. I didn't know how to make anything unless it came from a box," she admitted. "I started learning and getting more creative."

Shannan challenged herself to "cook through the alphabet." "Chicken, corn and carrots were the menu one night; pork, peas and pudding another. As the Internet evolved and cooking shows became more popular, I watched and learned new things."

In addition to cooking for her three sons, Shannan enjoys serving friends or family when they're dealing with stress, an illness, a surgery or grief. "I think food is one of my love languages," she said. Her other interests include watercolor pet portraits, singing and paper crafting. NOW

#### Shredded Chicken Taco Meat

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs
  16-oz. beer or chicken broth
  2-4 cups water, enough to cover chicken
  1 tsp. paprika
  1 tsp. chili powder
  Pinch cayenne (optional)
  1 tsp. ground black pepper
  1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- Tbsp. ground cumin
   Tbsp. salt
   Tbsp. olive oil
   onion, diced
   green bell pepper, diced
   red bell pepper, diced

**I.** Put chicken thighs in a deep-sided sauté pan; cover with beer and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 10 minutes.

**2.** Remove chicken; shred it. Set meat aside. Reserve 1/2 to 1 cup of the liquid. Mix together reserved liquid and seasonings in a cup.

3. Add olive oil, onion and bell peppers to the pan; sauté until the onion is cooked.4. Return shredded chicken to the pan; add the reserved liquid. Cover; simmer until liquid is absorbed.

#### Hug in a Bowl Chicken Soup

3 Tbsp. ghee or butter (divided use)
2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
Kosher salt, to taste
Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
6 cloves garlic, minced
8 oz. baby bella mushrooms, thinly sliced
1 large onion, diced
6 carrots, peeled and diced
4 stalks celery, diced
1/2 Tbsp. dried thyme
1/4 cup all-purpose flour (optional)
6-8 cups chicken stock

I bay leaf

- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger, or more to taste
- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley leaves, chopped, or 2 tsp. dried
- 1/2 cup coconut cream, canned, full fat or heavy cream

**I.** Heat I Tbsp. ghee or butter in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Season chicken thighs with salt and pepper, to taste.

**2.** Add chicken to the stockpot. Cook until golden, about 2-3 minutes; set aside.

**3.** Melt 2 Tbsp. ghee or butter in the stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add garlic, mushrooms, onion, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes. Stir in thyme until fragrant, about 1 minute.

**4.** Whisk in flour, if using; stir until slightly golden. Add chicken stock, bay leaf, ginger, parsley and chicken thighs; cook, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened, about 4-5 minutes.

**5.** Stir in coconut cream or heavy cream until heated through, about 1-2 minutes; season with salt and pepper, to taste. If soup is too thick, add more chicken stock, as needed, until desired consistency is reached.

#### Iona's Bierocks

- 2 small heads cabbage, shredded 2 large onions, diced
- Z large onions, diced
- 1 lb. ground beef or venison 2 green bell peppers, seeded and diced
- 4 stalks celery, diced
- 4 starks celery, Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste

16 Rhodes Texas Size Rolls (Place on baking sheet, not touching, and thaw.) Melted butter, to taste

**I.** Fry cabbage, onions, meat, green peppers and celery until meat is browned. Do not over fry, or your filling will be dry. Salt and pepper to taste.

**2.** Roll dough or press out thin. Place serving of cabbage and meat mixture on 1/2 of dough. Fold over; press edges together. Let rise 15-30 minutes. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

**3.** Bake 15-20 minutes, or until done. Brush each one with melted butter; serve.

**4.** Note: You can use biscuits instead of rolled dough, and you can make the filling whatever you want. A hamburger and cheese filling is delicious!

#### **Cheesy Taco Surprise**

I sweet yellow onion, diced I red bell pepper, seeded, membranes removed, finely diced

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- I green bell pepper, seeded, membranes removed, finely diced
- 1-2 Tbsp. butter or olive oil
- I lb. ground beef, venison or turkey
- 1/2 sweet potato, finely diced
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 tsp. paprika
- l tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 Tbsp. garlic powder
- I-2 Tbsp. parsley
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 cups uncooked rice or grain of your
- choice, or less, if desired
- 3 cups chicken stock

- 1 15-oz. can Ranch Style or black beans, rinsed
- 1 15-oz. can whole kernel corn, drained, or 12 oz. frozen corn
- 2 lbs. shredded cheese (divided use)
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom soup (can substitute plain Greek yogurt or sour cream, if desired)

 Sauté onion and bell peppers in a deep skillet in butter or olive oil until onions are translucent. Add ground beef to skillet.
 Once some fat is rendered from the beef, add sweet potatoes and seasonings. You can add 1/2 cup of water during this time to help the seasoning reduce and the potatoes to cook, if needed.

**3.** While cooking the ground beef, cook rice in chicken stock. Do not salt. (All the seasoning will be in the meat).

**4.** Once beef is browned, add beans and corn. Mix together; add 2 big handfuls of shredded cheese.

5. Mix well until cheese is melted; add cream of mushroom soup. Stir together.
6. Combine meat mixture and rice together in a large bowl; mix thoroughly. Spread mixture into a 9x13-inch pan. (You may be able to fill two pans.) Generously cover with remaining shredded cheese.

**7** Broil on high until cheese is melted, bubbling, and golden brown, about 10-20 minutes. Let cool; enjoy!

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



## THE LOCAL TABLE

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

- Virginia Woolf



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## TIMELESS TMELESS TMELESS -By John T. Taylor

Do you ever think you would like to go back in time? Maybe not an earlier time but a simpler one, where residents still sit on their front porches and visit with their friends? A place where you are greeted on the sidewalks by people genuinely glad to see you? Can you even imagine such a place that also has quality events and attractions, as well as quality relaxation?

Tucked into the northeast corner of Texas, you'll find Jefferson, one of Texas' oldest and most historic cities. A charming destination for families, or a romantic weekend getaway for couples, you'll find myriad entertainment choices all year. With its 20-plus award-winning B&B's, top-ranked restaurants and exciting festivals, Jefferson is a mustsee destination, and one to which you will want to return. Its location east of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and north of Houston makes it easily accessible by major highways.







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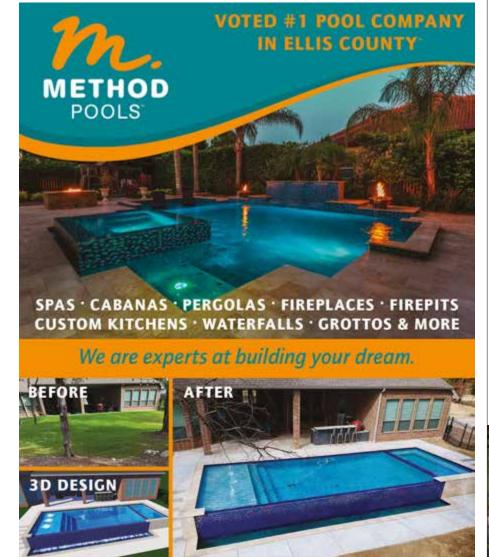




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Founded in the 1840s on Big Cypress Bayou, Jefferson was once the largest inland river port in Texas. Steamships plied this river to New Orleans by way of the Red and Mississippi Rivers and brought a level of prosperity not seen by other cities in this region. This is still reflected today by the presence of nearly 100 entirely restored homes built in the 19th century, many of them open for tours. Surrounded by stately magnolias and gardens, they give visitors a glimpse into the grandeur that was Jefferson 150 years ago.

Today, that famed waterway hosts visitors to canoe and kayak past magnificent cypress trees draped with Spanish moss, reminiscent of states farther south and east. If that sounds too much like exercise on your visit, take a narrated riverboat tour with an experienced and entertaining guide and local historian. If you have more time and a passion for water activities, visit nearby Lake O' the Pines, as well as Caddo Lake, a haven for photographers and fishermen. Fully equipped campgrounds are available at both lakes.

Jefferson was designated "The Bed and Breakfast Capital of Texas" by the Texas Legislature, and those establishments found here are definitely deserving of recognition. From plantation breakfasts in many to charming hosts, you'll experience the graciousness and manners of the South with the friendliness of Texas. If it's a historic hotel you prefer, the Excelsior House Hotel is located downtown and has been in continuous operation since the 1850s.





While the pace is slower here, you'll quickly find an attraction to interest almost everyone and a memory waiting to be made. There are museums, galleries and an original restored Carnegie Library. For model railroad enthusiasts of all ages, the R.D. Moses Model Railroad is located in the Depot directly behind the Jefferson Historical Museum. Train rides, soda fountains, a petting zoo with exotic animals, shops and boutiques, informative horse-drawn carriage rides and coach tours on brick streets await your exploration and are in operation year-round. To fuel all that activity, you'll find Jefferson has everything from unique sandwiches, award-winning barbecue, burgers and fudge to bistros, wine, coffee bars and fine dining establishments. If you still have the energy, you will find ghost tours available on weekends with fascinating stories of hauntings, past and present.

Festivals abound all year with a candlelight Christmas season, an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration and a pilgrimage of homes. Add to that Mardi Gras, motorcycle rallies and car shows, Bigfoot sightings, history symposiums and Girlfriend Weekend book festivals, and you might have to stop to catch your breath. But, if you're just looking to get away from the crowds for a weekend, Jefferson offers that, too. And that feeling of relaxation and contentment you'll carry home with you comes free of charge.

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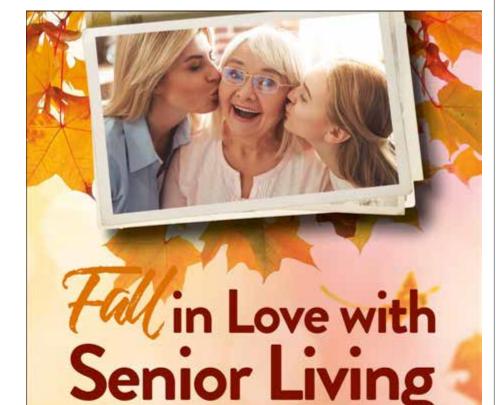
Ever want to repair or update your home without spending a lot of money to hire someone? Let's face it. Most of us don't know where to start with a major project, and in a lot of cases, we shouldn't tackle some updates. But almost anyone can do some simple repairs or upgrades that will completely change the way your home looks.

**Seal roof vents.** Over time, the rubber around the vents on your roof wears out. This can be a source of leaks in your home. To repair them, cut/scrape away rough spots and the old caulk with a pocket knife. Apply a thick bead of lap seal caulk around the seam between the vent pipe and the old rubber gasket. Then run a second bead of caulk just below the first bead. Finally, slide the replacement rubber gasket over the pipe and press it down tight to the flange.

**Cover a ceiling stain.** Painting is one of the most-used ways to quickly update a home. But what happens if you had a leak and need to cover the spots first? Simple. Make sure you address the leak, but then use Upshot by KILZ to seal and cover the spots. Follow the directions provided. Easy fix.







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**Add wall art.** Most home improvement or home decor stores carry a variety of wall words or pictures. Choose a wall to highlight with these quick and easy additions. The wall art or words have easy-to-follow instructions, making this a simple project.

**Replace cabinet knobs and** pulls. An effortless and inexpensive way to completely change up a bathroom or kitchen is to replace the old drawer pulls and knobs with an updated, fun version. Available at home improvement, home decor and even some department stores, the options are endless. Love chickens or animals? A variety of options enhance other items already in your kitchen. Sports fan? Look for literally dozens of sports-shaped knobs. These can also be used in a bedroom on a dresser or desk to create a fun atmosphere. In most cases, you only have to unscrew the old knob/ pulls and screw in the new ones. Invite your children to help with this project.

**Change interior door knobs.** If you have an older home, you might want to replace the old-fashioned knobs with something more modern. But if you love the country style, even a new home can enjoy a fresh look with the oldfashioned crystal knobs. While this takes a touch more skill, you still need only a screwdriver to complete the project. Make sure to line up all the elements within the knob and check before closing the door.

**Paint vinyl flooring to look like stone.** Often vinyl flooring isn't in bad shape, but it can lose its luster and original appeal. Even if the flooring has small chips or cracks, you can actually use those areas to enhance the look of









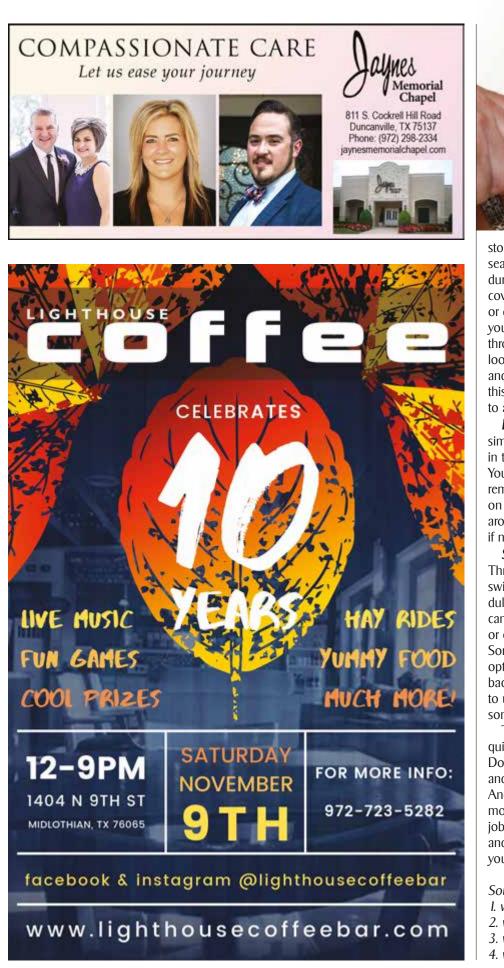
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stone. Use chalk paint, and be sure to

stone. Use chalk paint, and be sure to seal the floor after it dries to increase durability. Start with a base color to cover the floor. Then mix in lighter and/ or darker colors, and lightly brush over your base color to achieve uneven tones throughout the room, creating the stone look. Be sure to start in the far corner and work your way out of the room. Try this out on a small space before moving to a larger area if you're nervous.

**Replace house numbers.** A simple update for the exterior comes in the form of new house numbers. You can find many options, and simply remove the old and hammer or screw on the new ones. Be sure to clean around the area and touch up paint, if needed.

*Switch out switch-plates.* Throughout most houses, light switches and outlets have the same dull cream or white covers. But you can find decorative options to brighten or create an elegant look in any room. Some hobby stores carry clear acrylic options if you want to create a unique backdrop. You only need a screwdriver to uninstall and replace old covers with something new.

These are merely a few ideas to quickly and easily update your home. Don't be afraid to use your imagination and come up with something wonderful. And, of course, utilize the Internet for more ideas. Hire a handyman for big jobs you can't do, but get adventurous and make a few changes. You'll be glad you did.

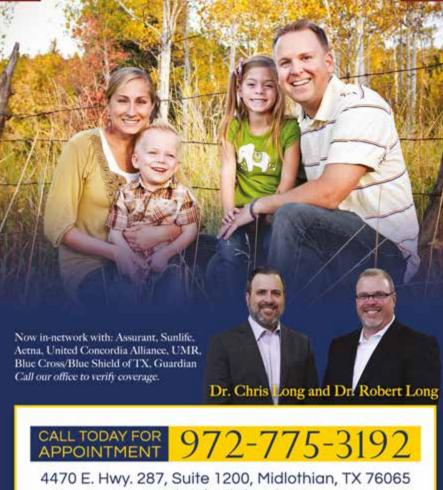
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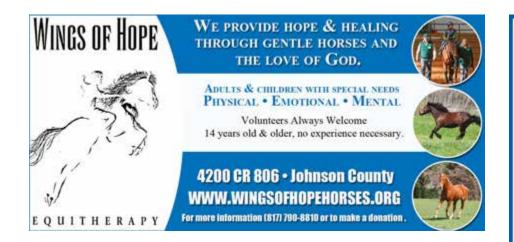
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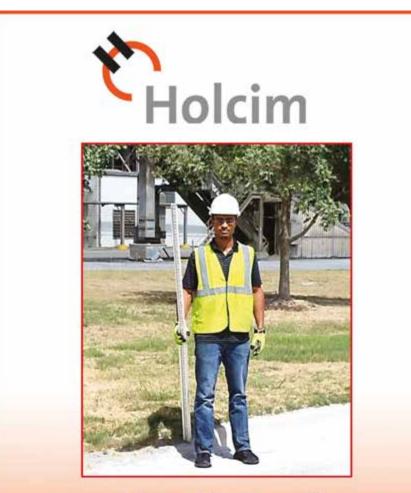


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# OR NOT TO BEAN

\* (Tales of

- By Lisa Bell

As the days turn cooler, nothing tastes better than a big bowl of chili. The spiciness and warmth tingle in your mouth and heat you up from the inside out. And even on the hottest day in the summer, what would a hot dog be without the extra flavor of chili and cheese on top?

But did you know that chili is actually the state dish of Texas, and that National Chili Day is celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday of February? Quite an achievement for a simple dish that is greatly loved alone or used in many recipes.

Many stories and legends of chili's origin exist. According to an old Southwestern American Indian legend, a beautiful nun, Sister Mary of Agreda of Spain, first recorded the recipe for chili con carne. The natives knew her as "La Dama de Azul," the Lady in Blue. She mysteriously never left Spain, but reportedly this beautiful nun entered trances and traveled to faraway lands, where she shared Christianity with natives. Some believe during these trances, tribes in Texas taught her to make chili.

The original version consisted of venison or antelope meat mixed with onions, tomatoes and peppers.

Throughout the centuries, Spanish settlers made the concoction — some using spicier chili peppers than others. None of the early recordings mention the use of beans in making the popular dish, which became a staple because of its ease and low cost. In some cases, people used more onions and peppers to stretch the scant amount of meat they could afford to buy.

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In 1895, Lyman T. Davis of Corsicana, Texas, made chili and sold it from the back of his wagon for 5 cents a bowl with all the crackers a customer wanted. Later, he opened a meat market and sold his chili in brick form under the brand of Lyman's Famous Home Made Chili. Then in 1921, Davis canned his secret recipe and named it after his pet wolf, Kaiser Bill. He called it Wolf Brand Chili. A picture of Kaiser Bill still appears on today's label.

A few years later, Davis struck oil on





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his ranch and quit the chili business, selling operations to J.C. West and Fred Slauson, two Corsicana businessmen. The new owners had Model T Ford trucks with cabs shaped like chili cans and painted to resemble the Wolf Brand label. A live wolf, caged in the back of each truck, got the attention they wanted. Conagra Brands Inc. now owns Wolf Brand Chili.

From the time of its early beginnings, chili remains one of the favorite dishes for Texans to eat, but it is also perfect to use in cooking. Although the original varieties most likely didn't include beans, some people insist on using them in their homemade recipes. And Texans love a good chili cook-off, where some of the best chefs compete to win the title of world's best chili.

One of the most famous events in the world occurs annually in the small town of Terlingua, Texas. In 1967, the renowned chili cook-off began in order to settle an argument between two journalists who both claimed to be the leading experts on chili. Texas historian and chili head, Wick Fowler, teamed with car magnate Carroll Shelby to settle the dispute between Frank X. Tolbert and H. Allen Smith.

The contest was designed to determine who knew more about chili, a Texan or a New Yorker. The first year the judges called a draw, unable to agree on which tasted best. One judge claimed permanent damage to his taste buds because of the intense amount of spices.

In its 53rd year, the three-day event will be held October 28-November 2, 2019. Each year, it draws thousands of attendees, with chefs vying for the coveted title of best chili. The event now features other food and drink competitions, dancing, art and a Texas author tent among many activities.

Undoubtedly, today's version of chili looks and tastes quite different from that of long ago. The use of beans in a recipe generally remains a question of individual preference. For some, chili needs nothing more than basic ingredients. Beans belong in a class all by themselves.



Anyone hungry for a big steaming bowl of chili? Now you know why you love it so much — and why in 1977, the Texas Legislature proclaimed it as the official state food "in recognition of the fact that the only real bowl of red is that prepared by Texans." **NOW** 

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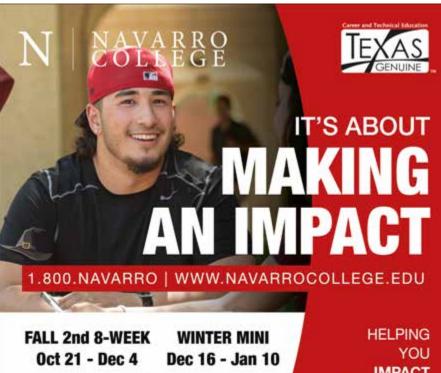
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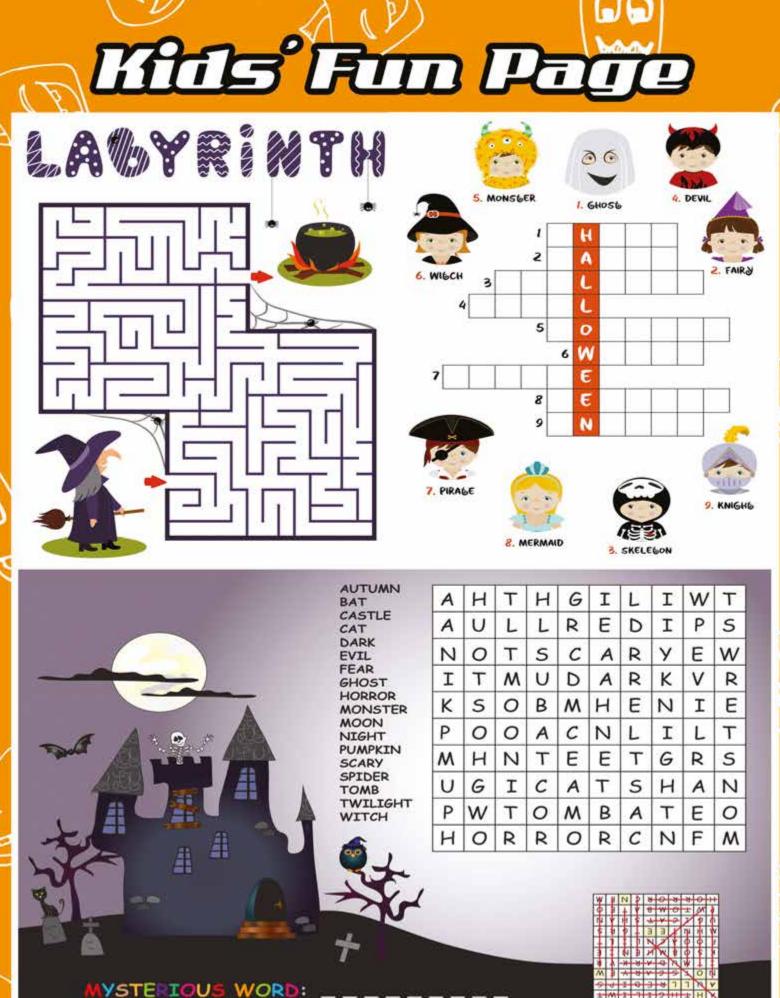
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19	20	21		+		22	$\vdash$	+	$\vdash$	+
23	$\uparrow$	-	$\vdash$	+	24		$\vdash$			
25		1		26	+	+		27	28	29
30	-	1	31		+	+	32		1	1
	33	-	-	+			34			-
	35	+	+	+		B	36		+	+

Solutions on page 60

#### Across

- 1 Start of Operation Overlord
- 5 Banned pollutants
- 9 Former Soviet ruler --- Andropov
- 10 Acute
- 11 Watch
- 14 When one is supposed to get there
- 15 Metal container
- 16 Period of history
- 17 Judicial restraint
- 19 Variable
- 22 Old-fashioned
- 23 Hung around
- 25 First of her kind
- 26 The whole race, or a member of half of it
- 27 Put down in the street
- 30 Journey's end
- 33 Yearned
- 34 The power to reject
- 35 Playthings
- 36 Thrust with a knife

#### Down

- 1 Embankment
- 2 Musical composition for two
- 3 Extent of space
- 4 Pup's cry
- 5 Remarkable events
- 6 Reef
- 7 Cattle classifications
- 8 Puffball emissions
- 10 Obstacle
- 12 Scholarly centers
- 13 Not any
- 17 Light rowboat
- 18 Siender bar
- 19 Ran away
- 20 Occupy
- 21 Worldwide cultural org.
- 24 South African monetary unit
- 27 Tokyo legislature
- 28 Small thing
- 29 Nose-in-the-air sort
- 31 Your, old style
- 32 Domestic channels for news, education, entertainment and rubbish

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# Sudoku Puzzle

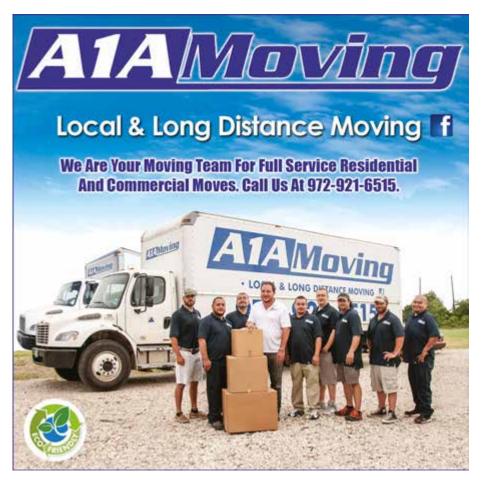
Medium

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

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Solutions on page 60





Easy





IN THE HUNC WHAT OUR READERS ARE SAYING: "Thanks for creating this scavenger hunt. I truly enjoyed it!"

"Great gifts that we could really use!"

"Thanks, had real fun doing this game."

"Found them all!"

### SEPTEMBER SCAVENGER HUNT WINNERS:

Jaime Daggett - \$100 NOWmag Kathryn Yarbrough - Main St. Gym 1x membership + initiation fee Betsy Hillyard - Mill Creek Meat Co. \$50 gift card

Hidden Footballs Page 3, ABC ICE Page 6, Midlothian Plumbing Page 17, The House on 5th Page 27, Bellucci's Italian Page 28, Jan Davis Ebby Halliday

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# all 13 He

#### 10/1-10/19

**Coat Drive:** 

Assist a local Boy Scout in his Eagle Scout project by donating good condition coats of any size. Coats will be collected at the Manna House booth during the Fall Festival **October 19.** For additional donation sites, email jbumgarner 15@gmail.com.

#### Through 10/27

Shadow Creek Pumpkin Farm: The fall experience includes games, snacks and fun. Hours and events listed at shadowcreekpumpkinfarm.com. 1530 Indian Creek.

#### 10/4

#### Fundraiser Golf Tournament:

Register at www.misd.gs/MEF to support Midlothian Education Foundation. Shotgun start: 1:00 p.m., Mansfield National Golf Club, 3750 National Pkwy., Mansfield. For details, contact jamie\_mcnulty@misd.gs.

### 10/5

Walk, Roll & Stroll: Fun walk organized by the Kelcie D. Davis Foundation to raise awareness for childhood cerebral palsy. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Mountain Peak Community Park, 6440 Hill Dr. Learn more

at kddfoundation@gmail.com.

#### Heroes of Midlothian Oktoberfest: Benefiting families of local law enforcement, firefighters and military veterans.

4:00-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, I Community Circle Dr. Learn more at www.heroesofmidlothian.org/.

#### Paws for Reflection Ranch Roundup:

Dinner and auction supporting therapeutic programs. Adult tickets: \$50. 6:30-9:30 p.m., 5431 Montgomery Rd. Buy tickets at www.pawsforreflectionranch.org.

### 10/12

#### Coming Home Fall Market: Local and student vendors selling holiday decor, clothing, jewelry, baked goods and more. Benefits SAGU scholarships and campus beautification. Admission: \$2; free for students and seniors. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Communications Center, 1200 Sycamore, Waxahachie. SWA@SAGU.edu.

## 10/19

Ellis County Walk to End Alzheimer's: Registration: 8:00 a.m.; opening ceremony: 9:00 a.m.; walk begins: 9:30 a.m., Downtown Square at Main Street, Waxahachie. Chamber Fall Festival and 5K Cupcake Run: The run is followed by the festival featuring food, vendors, kids' zone, dog show and blood drive. Run starts: 8:00 a.m.; festival: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium,

### 10/25-10/27

1800 S. 14th St.

Beauty and the Beast, A Broadway Musical: Waxahachie Community Theatre's fall production, tickets can be purchased online beginning October 1 through the theatre's website: www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com, Chautauqua Auditorium at Getzendaner Park.

## 10/26

#### Texas Country Reporter Festival:

Join Kelli and Bob Phillips, hosts of the weekly TV show, Texas Country Reporter, for this 24th annual, one-day arts and music festival. More than 250 booths featuring artists, craftspeople, food, live entertainment and some of the people who have been featured on the TV show over the years. Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; "unplugged" performance by country legend John Anderson: 6:00 p.m., historic courthouse square, downtown Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.waxahachiecvb.com.

# October

### 10/31

Trick or Treat Time: Kids up to fifth grade, wear your costume and come by for a treat. 5:30-6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Call (469) 856-5211 for more details.

## 11/23

Manna House Gobble Wobble Fundraiser Run: Register through November 22 for the November 23 10K, 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run. Certified Course, chip timed, medals awarded. Visit www.mannahousemidlothian.org to register.

### Fridays

Storytots: Story, craft and snack provided. 11:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to angel.morris@nowmagazines.com.



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# Crossword -Sudoku Solutions

D	<sup>2</sup> D	<sup>3</sup> A	<sup>4</sup> Y			۶P	°C	B	<sup>8</sup> S	
٩Y	U	R	Т		<sup>10</sup> S	н	A	R	Ρ	
"K	E	E	Ρ	12 A	N	Е	Y	Ε	0	13 N
<sup>14</sup> E	Т	A		<sup>15</sup> C	A	N		<sup>16</sup> E	R	A
			17 G	A	G	0	<sup>18</sup> R	D	Ε	R
<sup>19</sup> F	20 L	21 U	1	D		22 M	0	S	S	Y
23 L	1	N	G	Ε	24 R	Е	D			
25 E	٧	E		<sup>26</sup> M	A	N		27 D	28	29 S
<sup>30</sup> D	E	S	<sup>31</sup> T	1	N	A	<sup>32</sup> T	1	0	N
	33 A	С	н	Ε	D		<sup>34</sup> V	E	Т	0
	<sup>35</sup> T	0	Y	S			36 S	т	A	В

Easy

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

#### Medium

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





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