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Amber

Amber D. Browne
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy fall, y'all!

Fall is officially underway, and the season of autumn will soon usher in crisp evenings around the firepit and thoughts of planning for the upcoming holiday season. And what a season it is!

This month, I will trek into our attic space (with the help of my hubby, of course) to grab boxes of fall decor. Ceramic pumpkins will adorn the mantel, and our watchful scarecrow wall art will keep an eye over the family through the month of November. Seasonal decorations featuring fall colors will evoke a sense of warmth, while decorative owls perched on book shelves and spiderwebs displayed in corners remind visitors of the spookiness of Halloween.

Fall festivals and trunk-or-treat events will be held across the local area for the youngsters donning their favorite costumes. As Halloween falls on a Friday this year, trick-or-treaters will have ample time over the weekend to recover from the holiday's sugar rush.

This month, we celebrate all things fall, but I will keep an eye out for Thanksgiving and Christmas decor and related party items. I will also create a wish list of holiday gifts for friends and loved ones. It is never too early to start planning!

Have fun out there!

October 2025
Volume 15, Issue 10

ON THE COVER



This longtime Weatherford resident is forging ahead on a harmonious path.

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Zhanna Linscombe.

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PLAYIN' BRA

Sitting atop a Black Beauty rocking horse swaying and singing along to big band sounds emitting from the family's battery-operated radio set Charles Roberson's love of music into motion. "Even now, I listen to '40s music a lot because that is the first thing I ever remember hearing. I had a great singing voice until I hit puberty, and it went totally south," Charles laughed. It was at Weatherford High School that Charles first picked up a brass instrument. Over the past seven decades, he has continued to play, and now in his mid-80s, he shows no signs of slowing down.

Trombone was Charles' first instrument of choice. He excelled in the high school band, and during his senior year, he received an invitation to play in the National FFA Band. He and another WHS band member traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, for the National FFA Convention. Charles still cherishes his jacket from his performances with the National FFA Band, as well as his high school letter jacket. "It says All-State Band, All-Region Band. We had a lot of fun."

Following Charles' high school graduation, the band director at Hardin-Simmons University offered him a full scholarship and promises of a European tour playing with the Cowboy Band, whose members donned chaps and hats. At the time, Charles planned to go to Weatherford College, which did not have a band, so the opportunity to play and the overseas trip enticed him. "I'm 19 years old and single. I said, 'Let's do it.'" However, Charles only stayed one semester at Hardin-Simmons because of the cancellation of the European trip. With his band dreams on the back burner, he went home and finished two years at Weatherford College.

Charles joined the Army National Guard at the age of 18 and served eight years. He then joined the U.S. Air Force in the early 1960s. He was stationed in Guam when an opportunity to audition for the Air Force band neared. A discussion with the base commander dissuaded him from trying out for the band. After two years of service, he was discharged and returned to Parker County. Upon returning home, Charles worked in various industries, and in the late 1960s, he got a job at General Dynamics. It would be years before Charles was able to perform in front of an audience.

NING SS

— By Amber D. Browne

In the 1980s, Charles joined the Weatherford Community Band, which fizzled out about a year later. “I would like to see us create another one,” he said. “It’s fun just to have a group that can go play at any time.” A decade later, Charles began playing euphonium with the Fort Worth City Band, which plays a variety of musical styles from classical to trending pop songs. The band has played at Texas Christian University’s Van Cliburn Concert Hall, local music festivals and at other events. For six years, while performing with the Fort Worth City Band, Charles also played with the Dallas Czech Concert Orchestra, performing across Texas and Oklahoma.

Charles continues to play euphonium voluntarily with the Fort Worth City Band. “We play it all,” he said. In the early 2010s, he joined the German Band of North Texas to play tenor horn. “I love the little tenor horn. It’s an Eastern European instrument, and it takes a tremendous amount of

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lung power to play it,” he shared. “That keeps my heart and lungs in good shape.” They often play at October Fest events across the area, as well as at other events. They do not charge for performances because of copyright laws on the music. “The band is not as big as it was. Now, we’re like a little German village band. We don’t wear lederhosen. Most people are not built for lederhosen, so it’s just being kind to your friends and neighbors,” he joked.

Charles has developed close friendships within the German Band of North Texas. “Most of us are Irish

and English, but we love the music,” he explained. The band’s performances range from polkas to formal concerts. The late Ed Loeb founded the German Band of North Texas in 2003 and had acquired rare, authentic German sheet music from Norway for the band to perform. One of Charles’ fondest memories is playing at a park in Arlington. Sounds of familiar tunes tempted an older gentleman with a heavy German accent to request a march, which Charles shared was not a “politically correct” piece in Germany. “We said, ‘We don’t care, we’re Americans. We can play anything we want to.’ We played it for him, and he came back, and the tears were just streaming.” The man shared with them that he had not heard the song since he was a little boy in Germany, and he continued to request his favorites throughout the performance.

Charles Hightower took over as the band’s director when Ed passed, continuing the band’s legacy of playing rare German music. “We’ve had a lot of really good musicians,” he said. “We still have a lot of fun.”

Since Charles’ wife of 45 years, Glenda, passed last year on Christmas Day, he has ramped up his efforts to spend more time performing with the two bands. Charles shared that to perform, musicians must have tough skin and other aspects. “You have to naturally love music to start with, and it helps to have a good sense of humor. There’s a camaraderie similar to what’s in the military.” His efforts with the bands have built long-term friendships. Charles has also found camaraderie through his volunteerism with the American Legion Post 163 in Weatherford. He has been involved with the post for more than five decades and currently serves as first vice commander.

Visits from his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, along with his involvement with the American Legion, the Fort Worth City Band and the German Band of North Texas, plus his ties to fellow 1956 WHS graduates will keep him planted in Weatherford for years to come. Charles laughed, “It gives me something to do to keep me out of trouble.” **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Terri Silva & Nettie Carrell

By Amber D. Browne

Dedicated volunteers at Saving Hope Rescue help hundreds of dogs and cats find forever homes each year. “It’s so rewarding to work with the animals and help them overcome their obstacles,” said Terri Silva, volunteer.

The Saving Hope Rescue Ranch & Sanctuary in Aledo boards strays, plus dogs and cats from shelters and breeder surrenders. Development plans are underway at the ranch, and although it is closed to the public, it opens once a month to potential adopters with a conditionally approved application to visit with the animals. The rescue also hosts adoption events in the area.

Volunteer Nettie Carrell encourages others to foster, adopt and volunteer. She said, “These dogs deserve to have great lives, and I love being able to provide that for them.”



Neil Kennedy, owner of Twisted Snifter in Weatherford, showcases an available bourbon.



The kitchen crew serves up tasty grub at Dayne's Craft Barbecue in Aledo.



Aledo FFA serves waffles to teachers before starting the new school year.



Austin Elementary second-grade teacher, Amy Jones, is recognized as the EECU Teacher of the Month for August.



Chandler Lacefield, pictured with Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer, establishes a permanent scholarship endowment earmarked for first-generation college students.



Peach Festival Art Show winners are recognized for their work by the Weatherford Art Association.



The Weatherford Art Association announces the winners of Artist of the Month for September-Joyce Pinkerton, 1st; Cindi Neverdousky, 2nd; and Ann Feriend, 3rd.



Volunteers with the Fort Worth Chapter of National Charity League team up with Saving Hope Rescue to find dogs their forever homes at PetSmart in Weatherford.



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A well-executed outdoor escape can provide years of memorable experiences. Tucker Mullens, founder and operator of Everything Outdoors in Parker County, believes creating and building these exterior spaces for clients will provide beauty and tranquility for years to come.

Everything Outdoors can satisfy most exterior requests ranging from patios, pergolas, fences and outdoor kitchens to



irrigation, sod, flower beds and renovations. Currently Tucker's favorite type of project is beginning with a blank canvas to bring the client's vision to life. "Brand new landscapes are my favorite," he said, "designing it from the ground up and seeing it through."

If a client is interested in learning more about how Everything Outdoors can create the ideal exterior oasis, the business offers a free initial consultation. Discussions will include sharing design ideas and color choices, and if the client wants to move forward in the process, Tucker and his team will develop a plan, proposal and design sketches.

With a father as an architectural engineer and a mother who helped with wedding coordinating and decorating, Tucker admitted he inherited a good mix of right- and left-brained assets. "My mom taught me a lot about the design and flow, and my dad was really good about teaching me about building, construction and the architecture side."

Living on a 30-acre family plot as a young boy, this Aledo native's love of nature developed early in life. For Tucker's

first job, he mowed lawns for his brother-in-law's landscape company. He learned gardening techniques from his mother and gained additional experience working for landscape crews. Tucker opened Everything Outdoors in the fall of 2023. "I've always enjoyed being in and working in the outdoors, so I think that's what brought me back to that side of the industry and helped me decide to start my own business," he said.

Everything Outdoors serves clients across Parker and Tarrant counties. "It's been really neat to work with some of the families I grew up with, getting to reconnect," Tucker shared. Although building a business can be challenging, Tucker's vision is to continue to surpass his business goals to ultimately become one of the premier landscape and design companies in North Texas. "The rewarding aspect is getting to build relationships with our customers and see what we can do to 'wow' them."

His ideal client is someone with a vision and a heart for the outdoors. "When they get home, my hope is that they would rather be outside," Tucker shared. "They would look forward to being outside just as much as being inside. I know for me, the best part of my day is usually spending time in my garden, so I look forward to helping people who want to create that."

With Everything Outdoors' growing team of employees who are trained on various aspects of design and installation, including licensed irrigators, crews can bring the client's vision to reality. Tucker, an Eagle Scout and former college baseball athlete at Weatherford College and Tarleton State University, minored in Spanish and is bilingual. "I've always had a heart for other languages and cultures. I really enjoy getting to speak Spanish in my daily work life."

The culture that Tucker and his management team creates at Everything Outdoors sets them apart from similar businesses. "Treating people well and creating beautiful outdoor spaces is exactly what I want us to be known for," he said. A combination of passion, integrity and empathy for their employees and customers allows Everything Outdoors to create and complete projects above and beyond client expectations. **NOW**



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Mary Martin's Pecan Pie



CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH

LORRAINE CRUTCHER

— By Amber D. Browne



Lorraine Crutcher uses her Texan and Mexican roots and family travels to Germany as culinary inspiration. Lorraine is the director of development at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center but is known as “Pioneer Lolo” at the center’s Pioneer Cabin Park, where visitors experience history through gardening and cooking. “Cooking and teaching have helped me be a better steward of the history we preserve at the Doss,” she shared.

Most of her inherited recipes are kept alive in her mind, as they were passed down verbally by her ancestors. “This is not the best way to preserve these cultural or family traditions,” she said. Her advice? Write down family recipes. “Records are the best way to remember where we came from and all the flavors that remind us of home.” **NOW**

Louise Andrews’ Cowboy Beans

2 cups dried pinto beans or red beans
Salt, to taste
2 onions, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tbsp. fresh hot red peppers, chopped
2 Tbsp. bacon drippings
1 1 1/2-lb. can tomatoes
1 tsp. chili powder

1. Add the beans to a pot. Cover with water; soak overnight.
2. Drain the beans. Return the beans to the

pot; cover them with water. Add salt, to taste. Simmer, uncovered, for 1 hour.

3. Add the onions, garlic, red peppers and the remaining ingredients. Simmer for 1 hour; add hot water, as needed, to cover the beans. Simmer until the liquid cooks down. Do not let the beans become too mushy.

Pioneer Lolo’s Mexican Corn Bread

1/3 cup cooking oil
1 egg
1 6-oz. pkg. Martha White Gladiola Mexican Style Cornbread Mix

1 4-oz. can diced green chiles or pickled jalapeños
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cups shredded cheese
1/3 cup milk
Fresh jalapeños, to taste, chopped (optional)
1/4 cup frozen corn (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Add the cooking oil to a cast-iron skillet. Put it in the oven to heat; remove when you see the oil shimmering in the skillet.

2. In a medium-size bowl, whisk the egg. Add the cornbread mix, diced green chiles or pickled jalapeños, onions, cheese and milk. Add fresh jalapeños and corn, if desired. Mix well.

3. Pour the batter into the prepared skillet. The oil should sizzle when the batter hits the skillet. Evenly spread the batter. Bake 20-25 minutes, or until golden brown on the top and edges. Run a butter knife along the edge of the pan to loosen the cornbread before flipping it onto a large plate. Remove excess oil with paper towels.

Mary Martin’s Pecan Pie

3 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup white Karo corn syrup
3 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. white vinegar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/8 tsp. salt
1 cup pecans, chopped
1 unbaked piecrust

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a large bowl, mix together the eggs, sugar and the next 5 ingredients. Add the pecans; mix well.

2. Add the unbaked piecrust to a greased pie dish. Pour the mixture into the pie shell; bake for 25-30 minutes, or until a knife poked into the center comes out clean.



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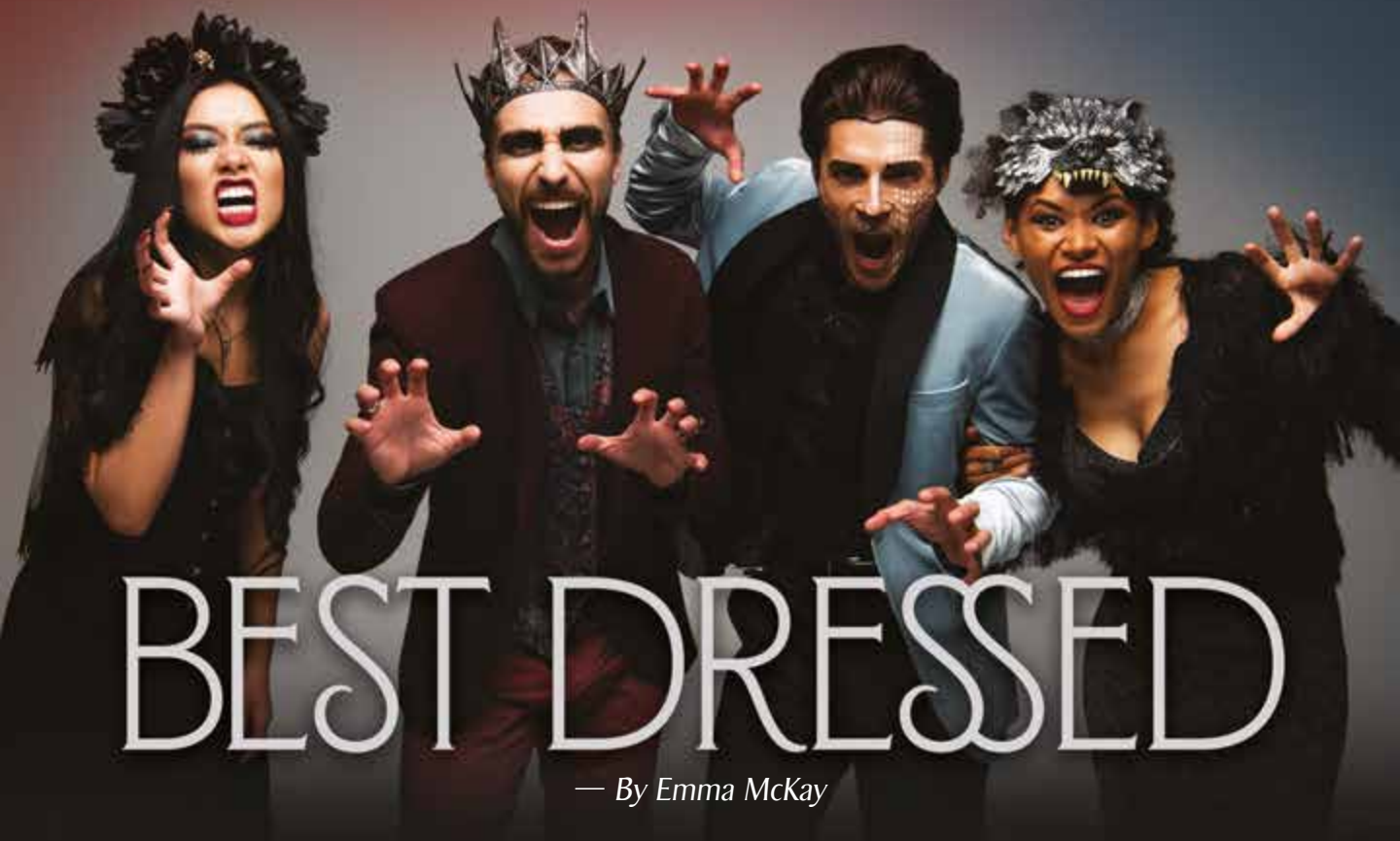
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Whether you're going to a Halloween party, fan convention or Renaissance fair, wearing a costume can be a fun way to immerse yourself in the experience. However, buying a premade costume can be expensive, despite the cheap, uncomfortable material it's made of, and you don't want to arrive at the event, just to discover other people in the exact same costume as yours.

Crafting your own costume can be a fun and artistic way to ensure your outfit stands out. Unfortunately, stocking up on patterns and yards of fabric can quickly add up, and if you possess little experience in costume-making, it can be discouraging when your expensive outfit doesn't look how you imagined it. Here are some tips on where and how to source supplies, without breaking the bank.

Thrift shops

The most important rule of searching for costume pieces

in a thrift shop is to not tie yourself to a specific idea of what you want to find. Chances are you're not going to find exactly what you envisioned. Instead, let the racks speak to you. If you want to dress as a pre-existing character for your event, choose a few different characters and save pictures of them in different outfits to your camera roll. That way, you have a better chance of finding a garment that resembles something one of them would wear, and you can use the photo as a reference to look for other items. It is also helpful to look at other people's cosplays of the characters. Seeing the creative liberties other cosplayers take will get your own creative juices flowing. "Screen accurate" is not the determining factor of a good cosplay.

Just because you will be purchasing ready-made clothes doesn't mean they have to stay that way. If you find a shirt made with the perfect pattern for your outfit but the style is completely wrong, feel free to chop it up! If the pants you want are a size too big, you can easily find tutorials on YouTube that will guide you through the process of tailoring them to your size.

You don't have to stick to the clothes racks, though. If you need large swaths of fabric for a cape or flowing skirt, check the linens section. If you're lucky, you may find a \$5 king-size top sheet in the color you need. Patterned curtains and tablecloths can also be useful if you desire something

that adds a dash of personality and is stain resistant.

Estate sales

In addition to the clothes and linens you could find at thrift stores, estate sales have a plethora of items that could be useful in your costuming journey. You can repurpose decor into props, or find some nice jewelry to elevate your look.

Some estate sales have rooms full of crafting supplies, including bolts of fabric, patterns, sewing supplies and other tools you need. Not only should these things be cheaper than at the craft store, but you might find better quality gadgets that aren't available anymore.

Although the first day of the sale has the most items available, usually the second day and beyond will have items at discount. You might be able to find a serious deal on something that everyone else passed over.

Fabric warehouses

Because they cater to a wide audience, craft stores are limited in what types and qualities of fabric they provide. Instead, visit one of the several fabric warehouses in the DFW area. Not only will there be more to choose from, but the prices will be better. Also, since the stores specialize in fabrics, the sales associates should be better suited to helping you figure out what type of fabric you need to pull off a certain look.

Etsy/Online Crafters

Sometimes the easiest way to get the exact accessory you want is to pay someone else to help you. Many cosplayers sell accessories, props and even full costumes online. However, buying premade pieces can quickly become expensive since you are paying for quality and labor. If you want the help of other cosplayers, consider choosing only one or two pieces that you for sure don't want to create on your own.

Some cosplayers sell downloadable patterns for costumes or files for 3D printers, so you can create the look at home. If you don't have a sewing machine or 3D printer, see if your local library has a makerspace you can access with your library card where you can use these tools for free!

Although it takes time and creativity to assemble, you'll treasure your costume for years to come. Who knows? Creating costumes may even become your new favorite hobby. NOW



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OCTOBER

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10/2

Go West Community Showcase:

Vendors and food trucks.
4:00-6:00 p.m.,
Walsh-Founders Park, 13805
Walsh Ave., Fort Worth.
parkercountychamber.com.

10/3

20th Annual Pink Luncheon:

Support the Parker County Health Foundation. Cost: \$150.
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Willow Park Baptist Church, 777 Crown Pointe Blvd., Willow Park.
parkercountyhealthfoundation.org or (817) 550-8998.

10/3-10/31

Clark Gardens Pumpkin Patch:

Choose a pumpkin to take home, play games and stroll the garden. Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 children; ages 3 and under are free. Open daily **Monday-Saturday:** 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Clark Gardens Botanical Park, 567 Maddox Rd.
clarkgardens.org.

10/3-11/2

Fall at the Farm:

Fall fun will include a pumpkin patch, hayrides, petting zoo and more. Ages 3-16: \$5; 17-plus: \$7. **Fridays & Saturdays:** 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., **Sundays:**

Noon-6:00 p.m., Heritage Urban Farm, 1439 Old Airport Rd.
heritageurbanfarm.com.

10/4

Huge Fall Sale:

Shop handmade quilts and crafts, baked goods and more. Profits will support Lutheran Women's Mission League.
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Ball St. (817) 613-1939.

Pioneer Heritage Festival:

Enjoy log cabins, a children's area, petting zoo, music and more at this free festival. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Doss Heritage & Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr.
dosscenter.org.

10/7

WPD's National Night Out:

Meet local first responders at this block party that includes a giant Minecraft building zone, free hot dogs, bounce houses and more. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr. (817) 598-4325.

10/10-10/11

WC Lone Star Region Rodeo:

Weatherford College will host the inaugural rodeo followed by concerts each night. Ticket price varies. 6:30 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse Grounds, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. wcathletics.com.

10/11

5th Annual Wine & Whiskey Walk:

Enjoy wine, whiskey, food and music. Ages 21-plus. Cost varies. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., 114 Austin Ave.
experienceweatherford.com.

Monster Bash 2025:

Enjoy live music, a Haunted Woods Walk, food and drink vendors, a costume contest and more. Free. Gates open: 5:00 p.m.; event: 7:00-10:00 p.m., 503 Santa Fe Dr.
experienceweatherford.com.

10/17

Parker County Senior Connections Expo:

Older adults can connect and learn more about services in Parker County through vendors and presentations. Free. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main. (817) 598-6168.

10/18

Equines for the Front Lines Open House:

Join to learn how horses can help veterans. Enjoy games and activities, a silent auction and refreshments. Noon-4:00 p.m., 172 Jamar Dr.
equinesforthe前线lines.org.

10/25

Fall Fling Show:

Join for family fun including cars, trucks and motorcycles, plus food trucks, vendors and more hosted by Parker County Cruisers. Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr.
parkercountycruisers.com.

Crossroads of Texas GO TEXAN Country Festival:

Find Texas-made art, crafts and culinary favorites at the largest one-day event in the state! 200-plus booths and live music on 10-plus stages, including country artist Randall King. Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

Downtown Weatherford Candy Crawl:

Wear your costumes and bring the children to shop and grab sweet treats at local businesses. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 224 N. Main St. d-winc.org.

10/31

Safe Howloween:

Attend for a night of fun, games and candy. Admission is one canned good. 5:00 p.m. for special needs families; 6:00-9:00 p.m. for other families, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr. (817) 598-6316.

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



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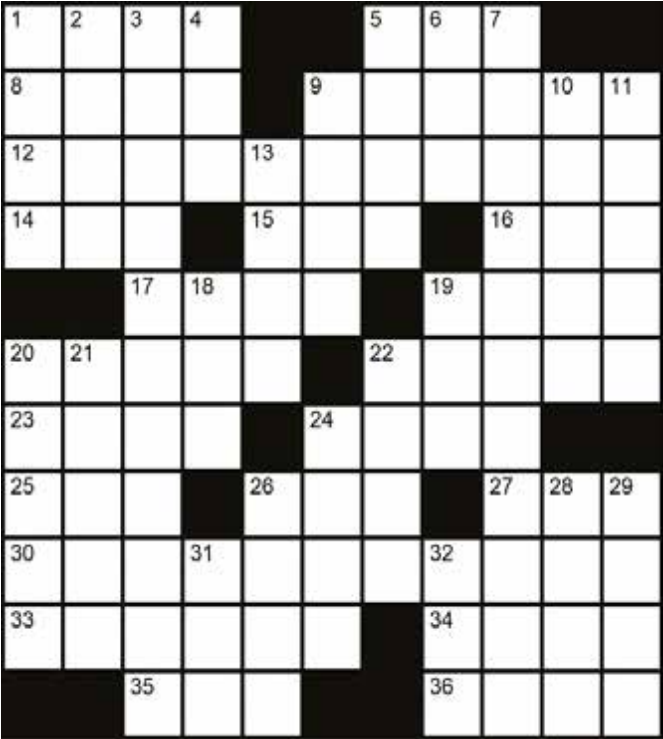
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Crossword Puzzle



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- Across**

 - 1 Musical Mama, who died young
 - 5 Feverish ailment
 - 8 Not manual
 - 9 Spanish rice dish
 - 12 Smashed replica tomb - it's troublesome
 - 14 Fox partner in Oklahoma
 - 15 "--- we there yet?"
 - 16 Number of people brought home, briefly
 - 17 Make sweaters
 - 19 Such as Shakespeare
 - 20 Shaft
 - 22 Alexandre ---, author of the story behind "La Traviata"
- Down**

 - 23 Thin rope
 - 24 Japanese clogs
 - 25 "All This, and Heaven ---" (1940 Bette Davis movie)
 - 26 Abu Dhabi is its capital
 - 27 UK aces?
 - 30 Seller's hoped-for figure
 - 33 Multi-hit Wonder
 - 34 She recognised a Savior in the Temple
 - 35 Latin king
 - 36 Someone like you
- Down**

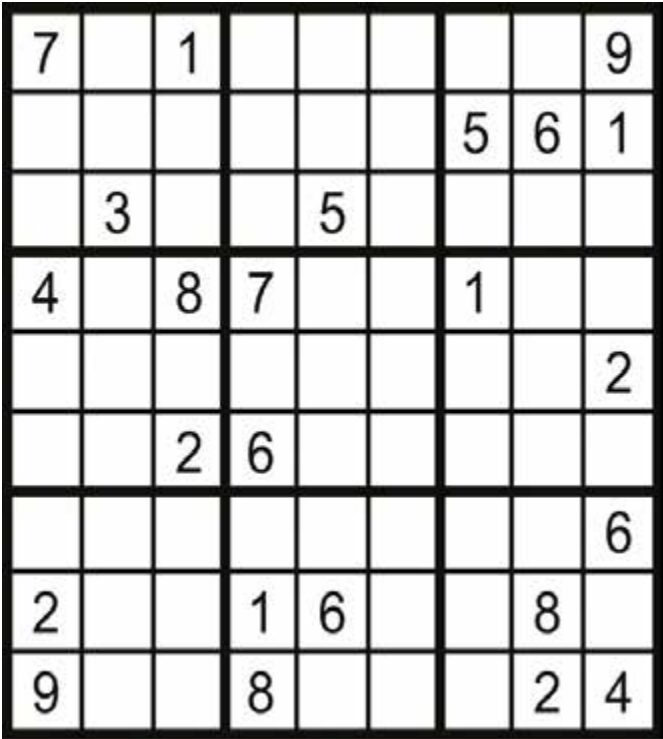
 - 1 Toy gun ammo
 - 2 Migraine feature
 - 3 Security dealer
 - 4 Blubber
 - 5 Renown
 - 6 Meadow
 - 7 Rural inmate turned blue
 - 9 Sassy
 - 10 Seventh sign of the zodiac
 - 11 They change bases
 - 13 Den
 - 18 Doze off
 - 19 Nevertheless
 - 20 Pretend to be
 - 21 Perch
 - 22 Obscure
 - 24 Measuring instrument
- Down**

 - 26 AT&T computer operating system
 - 28 Teenager's torment
 - 29 Dread
 - 31 "--- changed my mind"
 - 32 Knock vigorously

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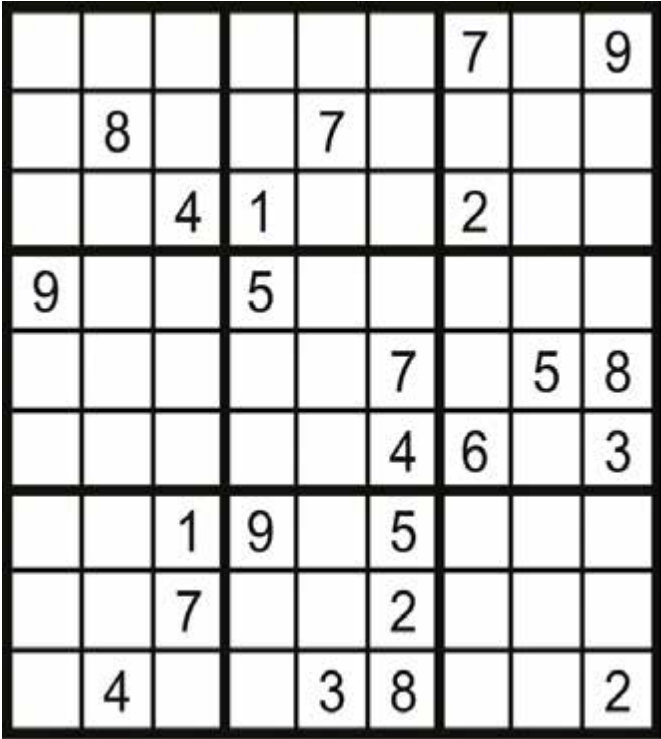
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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