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NOVEMBER 2019

Last of His Kind

As a scout in World
War II, Charles
Arnold saved lives



Building Toward the Future

Mayor Reno has a
vision for Midlothian

In the Kitchen With
Shiloh Chacon

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Scavenger Hunt

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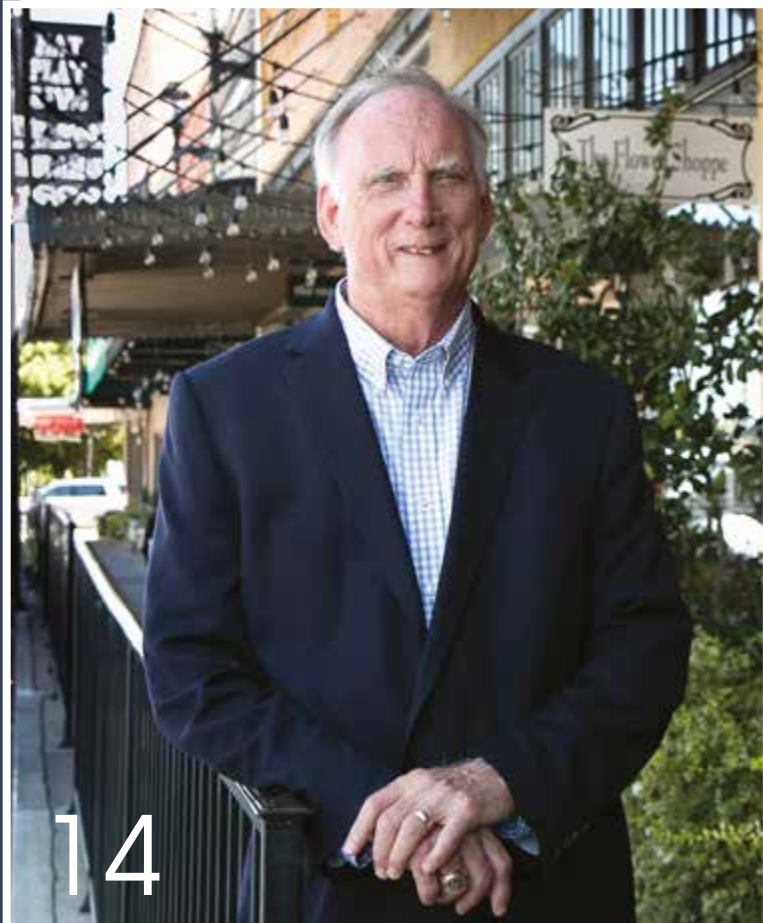
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Publisher, Connie Poirier | General Manager, Rick Hensley

EDITORIAL

*Managing Editor, Becky Walker | Midlothian Editor, Angel Morris
Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith | Writers, Lori Altebaumer . Rick Mauch
Christopher Schmitt . Adam Walker
Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell . Sally Fuller . Angel Morris*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
London O'Connell . Anthony Sarmienta*

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographer, Kobbi R. Blair*

ADVERTISING

*Advertising Representatives, Joyce Sebesta . Cherise Burnett
Dustin Dauenhauer . Bryan Frye . Kelsea Locke . Linda Moffett
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ON THE COVER

This Veterans Day is especially poignant for Shannan Schmidt as she honors her grandfather's legacy.

Photo by
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Angel

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Leaves are falling!

You may determine your favorite season based on the usual things — weather, activities, holidays — but I choose mine because it goes best with my hair. No season suits us gingers better than fall, after all, with the oranges, rusts and reds that abound in the changing leaves. Oh, sure, I love the cooler temps and crisp air. Pumpkin decor makes me giddy, and I favor Thanksgiving's feast and fellowship ... but it is the autumnal colors complementing my locks that make me happiest of all!

There is an unattributed quote that says, "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go," which resonated with me as my red locks started to fade. The rumor is that gingers don't go gray, but I'm proof that our hair changes like the leaves — from vibrant to dull — and many of my hairs are well on their way to white. Sometimes, I feel like Tim Allen in *The Santa Clause* movie. I go to bed a redhead and wake up with evermore white hair than the day before!

For now, Lady Clairol keeps the white hair at bay, but there will come a time when I, like autumn, must let go — when I acknowledge the changing season of my life and become a fan of winter, as my locks do the same. Until then, I'll enjoy my hair's favorite season and marvel in the colorful beauty that is fall.

Autumn is calling!

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Editor's Note: While preparations for this story were underway, MidlothianNOW Magazine learned of the passing of Charles Arnold, who will be deeply missed by his family and friends. In extending our heartfelt sympathies to his family and expressing our appreciation for his service to our country, we trust the following story, which appears as originally written, will serve as a tribute to the life of honor and service he lived.

LAST OF HIS Kind

— By Rick Mauch

Hundreds of Marines depended on Charles Arnold for their lives in World War II. As a scout for his Marine Corps battalion that fought in the Pacific battles of the Marshall Islands, Tarawa and Saipan, he was the first to go into an area and check out the dangers.

"You've got men over here at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock. You watch the coconut trees and rocks the enemy might be behind," Charles, now 94 years old, recalled. "Sometimes, when you'd get into the canyons and there were caves, you'd throw a hand grenade in to see if there were any Japanese soldiers in there. It was kill or be killed.

"I was an expert in rifle and bayonet. That was my job, scouting, and I loved it."

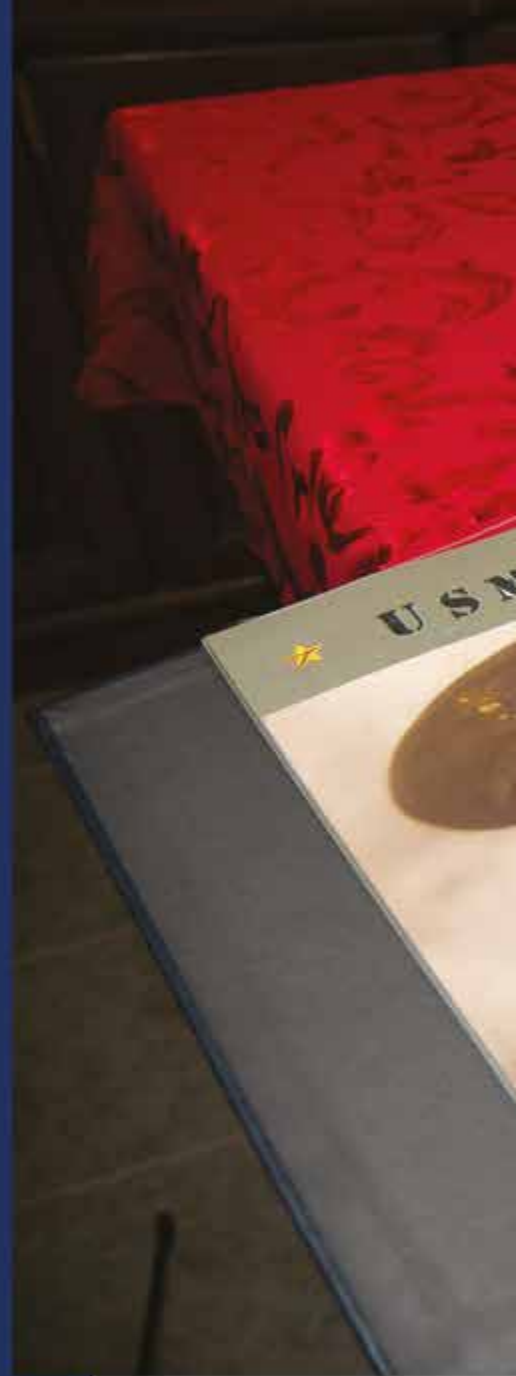
More than seven decades later, Charles continues to honor those men whose lives he helped save by sharing his stories. He loves his country, and he's proud to be part of the military that won arguably the greatest war ever, fighting Japan in the Pacific and Germany in Europe.

"I had 22 cousins fighting the Germans," Charles said. "I didn't hear much from them, but two of them were prisoners. They made it home."

Charles joined the Marines when he was 17, not uncommon for those days. It was against his father's original wishes. "I asked my father if I could join, and he said, 'No.' I pouted around, and he eventually said, 'You're going to join next year anyway, so you might as well join now,'" Charles said, chuckling. With his father's consent, Charles enlisted and served from 1942 to 1945.

Charles noted it was by a bit of irony that he became a scout. It was, in fact, after a scuffle with his lieutenant that he got the job. "I asked them why they wanted me to be a scout. They said, 'Well, you whipped your lieutenant. You know your stuff,'" he said with a laugh. "I guess that was as good a reason as any. Anyway, I guess I did my job pretty good."

Charles is originally from Evant, and like most young men from Texas, he was given a familiar nickname upon enlisting. "We had 2,000 men [in his unit], and every one of them was from the North. I was the only Texan," he said. "For a while, of course, they called me 'Tex,' but the colonel stopped it. He did want to know where my boots and saddle were, though."





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Charles' memories of his time in the war are vivid, right down to the amount of rain he and his fellow soldiers endured. "It rained every night around 1:30 or 2 o'clock. We generally had two guys back-to-back, guarding in case the Japanese used the rain to their advantage," he said.

"One night, someone yelled, 'Sergeant Knight!' He stood up and was shot. We weren't even supposed to whisper. Fortunately, he pulled through."

There were many frightening moments when Charles almost did not make it out alive. "When you hear that bullet go by, it's scary," he said. "But if you don't hear it, it has hit you."

Charles said that anyone who has seen the movie, *Saving Private Ryan*, understands what he and his comrades went through. The famous scene where the soldiers come off boats and the gunfire and bombing seems to go on forever is extremely accurate.

Granddaughter Shannan Schmidt has heard many stories. "My grandmother and he sat down and wrote the stories down for their great-grandchildren to have. They're amazing," she admitted.

Among those stories was one of meeting the president and first lady. "We were sitting there waiting on a train with several thousand men, and this old car drove up. Franklin Delano Roosevelt got out and said, 'I hate war, and Eleanor hates war.'"

"After a year, I went to my commander and said, 'Mrs. Roosevelt said I can come home after a year.' He looked at me and said, 'Mrs. Roosevelt isn't running this d... war.' I stayed three more years."

Charles has been honored many times. In 2009, he traveled to





Washington, D.C., as part of the Ellis County Honor Flight that flew him and others to see the World War II Memorial. "I had him at the Waxahachie airport at 4:00 a.m. It was a great time. They gave him a hat and a jacket," Shannan said.

Charles is also a member of the Big D Detachment, a Marine Corps assistance program out of Mesquite. They perform community service, such as Toys for Tots, and help veterans in a variety of ways. "If a veteran says their house was broken into and his medals were stolen, they'll help get them replaced," Shannan said. "They'll help with utility bills, etc., for veterans. And when I was going to college, my cousin and I received scholarships."

Shannan teaches elementary school in Midlothian. The school district has a video of Charles sharing his stories with schoolchildren.

Charles also has been the featured speaker at Midlothian's annual Veterans Day Banquet (this year, held November 11), which he is on the committee to promote. And promote he does, to his fullest, handing out tickets to the free event to anyone and everyone he can.

"He goes to Walmart, so he can scout people out. Then he'll run out of tickets and say, 'I've got to go to City Hall and get more,'" Shannan said.

Charles believes he is the last living member of his unit. He has made several attempts to locate others, all to no avail. "I went to Hope, Arkansas, looking for someone, but he didn't come home, or he did and left," he said of one fellow Marine. "My wife and I went up to Yellowstone, and I went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, but those members had moved."

"I don't know if I'm the last, but it kinda looks that way. Anyway, we all gave each other a lot to be proud of, and I'll never forget those men and what that time was like." **NOW**

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Shawn Bell,
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Quick to squash any talk about himself, he turns the conversation back toward his team. Over the last few years, Shawn has created a department stacked in talent and experience. He hired a residential change out manager, Phill Seward; a residential service manager, Kyle Doering, and a top-talent sales executive, Rick Brown. Empowering his leaders to further develop the service department, the team quickly realized the need and benefit from offering continuing education classes. As a result, all technicians are offered weekly training meetings and several opportunities each year to hone their craft and develop new skills. And, the CSR team also capitalizes on training opportunities where they learn techniques to enhance a customers' experience beginning with the first phone call.

While Shawn is eager to discuss the talent in his team, he smiles sheepishly when the conversation steers back to his own talents and national awards. And with that, he stands up to head out to his next appointment and simply states, "It's not about me. It's about all of us - the team, the family."



Residential Team

From left: Phill Seward, Rick Brown, Brian Martinez, Charles Hollar, Julian Martinez, Rudy Vasquez, Eric Dominguez, Hugo Avalos, Jonathan Dela Rosa, Tracy McElveen, Ashley Sutti, Chase Pflueger, Heath Darcey, Robert Wooten, Brandon Howk, Julio Guerrero, Shawn Bell, Kyle Doering

Not pictured: Krystal Goodwin & Celeste Hemmle

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BUILDING TOWN THE FUTURE

— By Adam Walker

Richard Reno believes in hard work. It's what made him a successful businessman, and he hopes it will help him just as much in his new role as mayor. "My wife and I moved here in 1996 because we loved this community and thought it was the best choice for our family," he said. "Midlothian has always had a unique identity. It is the attitude of the people that is reflected in the schools, churches, downtown area and local businesses. I like the feel. We are a city that's coming of age, and I want to help us make the right choices for the next 20 years of growth."

Midlothian has already seen a lot of change. In 1980, Midlothian had slightly more than 3,000 people. Today, it is 10 times that size. "Midlothian about doubled in size between 1999 and 2009," Mayor Reno said. "The population doubled again between 2009 and today. We haven't quite awakened to the fact that we're not a small town, in numbers, anymore. By 2050, it's possible that we could have 70,000 residents.

"In 30 years, will Midlothian be the kind of place that our kids, who go off to work and college, want to come back to and start their own families? Right now, we have a lot of young people doing that. I want Midlothian to be a place my granddaughter wants to come back to. The decisions we make now, in the next four years, are important because we only get to make them once, but they will affect our residents in the years to come." Midlothian is already close to entering the top 100 cities in Texas by population, but Mayor Reno understands that quantity isn't what makes a city great. "Quality of life is not just about things," he said. "It's about connections



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with people. I think it's important to look at the long term, where we want to be 30 years or more from now, and then work our way back to the present. The people of this town are concerned about growth, congestion and other issues, and I am right there with them. We need to be updating our Comprehensive Plan for how to begin dealing with those issues now.

"There are many examples in the DFW area of small, rural towns growing to full-size cities," he continued. "We can look at neighboring communities that have grown and see what they did successfully and what we want to do differently. Midlothian is a large community at 65 square miles, and approximately half of that area is developed. We want to build more roads and repair and upgrade the current roads, have more parks and places for young families to enjoy themselves. We will need a new city hall and a new police station. We're in the process of building a new fire station. We also want to have more businesses here. Right now, about 80 percent of our community works somewhere else, but Google and the new Methodist Hospital will start to change that."

Before Mayor Reno moved here with his wife, children and father, back in the '90s, he researched every town in the area, and Midlothian was the town both his family and his father chose. "I firmly believe there is something



unique about Midlothian, something other cities don't have. Part of that is the people. We have a good mix of old-timers and newcomers, and both are open and accepting.

"My wife and I used to stay connected to the community through our children's activities," he shared, "but when they all graduated from high school, we felt like we were losing that connection. So, we opened a coffee shop where we mentored young people in how to run a business, and got more involved at church. My children always said that I worked too much, but work is both my vocation and my avocation. I enjoy staying busy and solving problems. I have a B.A. in math and an M.E. in industrial engineering with a major in operations research — that is applied math, both from Texas A&M University. In the Marine Corps, I was a naval flight officer with the height of my time serving on the USS *Midway*. I started my own business in 1991 based on solving a planning problem for airlines. Now as mayor, I don't have to worry about idle time!"

Under Mayor Reno's guidance, Midlothian is setting a trajectory for the future. "We're laying the groundwork for 2050 and beyond. This is a young town. Our average age is 32, and we're still adding young families. I raised my family here, and that's what motivates me. I want to see Midlothian continue to be a good, healthy city." **NOW**



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Sometimes when things go wrong, you need someone to help guide your way through the rough and tumble of it all. Vicki McCarthy, Attorney at Law, brings more than three decades of experience and knowledge to the needs of her clients.

Vicki graduated from The University of Texas at Austin as an undergrad. In 1986, she completed law school at Baylor Law School. As a lawyer, her areas of practice are consumer and small business bankruptcy and personal injury. "We see a lot of



consumer bankruptcy," she stated. "In bankruptcy, you have people in financial crisis. We help figure out what needs to be done based on their fact situation — whether it is debt accumulation, job change or loss, illness, divorce or retirement. Our office helps clients decide if they need to reorganize, or if they need to get rid of the debt." In addition to handling consumer bankruptcy, she also handles small business bankruptcy. "We handle a lot of small business cases with regard to reorganizing or liquidating in order to help them take care of their debt," she said.

"From a bankruptcy perspective, clients may be able to get rid of consumer debt or pay all or part of it back at 0% interest to the creditors," Vicki noted. "If they no longer have to pay back consumer debt, or if they pay all or part of it back at no interest, it allows them to set up their budget without that worry. Sometimes, we have to get rid of a lot of consumer debt. It's hard. They may have to give back cars, boats, RVs or houses that are too expensive. We give them options to figure out how they can live within their budget."

Vicki brings compassion and knowledge to her personal injury clients. She handles many auto accident victims, construction site accidents, drunk driver situations and slip-and-fall accidents. "I enjoy personal injury cases, because I think we can be helpful in that area," she shared. "When people are in a crisis, we can walk them through the maze of problems they are facing." Vicki can offer assistance in other areas and not just legal. She can refer them to professionals who can help them medically and wait for payment. That is a huge benefit, particularly for her clients who are uninsured. If they are insured, Vicki can assist them through the insurance process.

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A certain level of income is not required before receiving assistance. According to Vicki, there are various programs available through the court system, and some of them are income based. Because the law is constantly changing, Vicki has to keep up with the latest legal requirements. Her goal in handling her clients' cases is to help them have a good quality of life going forward with the resources available to them, even if that means adding professional investigators or additional attorneys to the team. Offering personalized attention, the Law Office of Vicki McCarthy is ready to help. **NOW**



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Around Town



Vietnam veteran Welton Belcher delivers snacks to Officer Christopher Vinson to thank local first responders.

Zoomed In: Florecia Ponce

By Angel Morris

After starting her career on Memorial Day, May 28, 1986, Florecia Ponce retired from Midlothian Post Office with 33 years of service in August. The fifth of 10 siblings, Florecia has lived in Midlothian since 1970 and raised both her children here. "My parents taught me to work hard and be happy. Joining the post office was difficult at first because you worked weekends and holidays, but it worked out in the end!" she said of her long local career.

Florecia witnessed much change in the community through the years, and said her postal patrons became friends through it all. "I loved my customers. They were a blessing to me!" she admitted. "Now I'm ready for a new chapter — traveling, biking, dancing — staying active for sure!"



Larry Jones makes friends with a rescue pup from Hearts and Tails of Hope.



Mrs. McKee's Vitovsky Elementary students show off books donated to each of them by an MISD supporter.



The Mark at Midlothian celebrates joining the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce.



Zolund Lee unloads lumber donated by McCoy's Building Supply for set design on MHHS' production of *The Hobbit*.



Karla and Sabrina, welcome new clients to the grand opening of the Blue Dental Clinic.

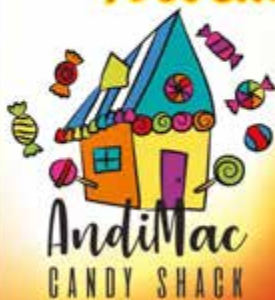


Local businessmen support the 15th Annual Midlothian Education Foundation Golf Tournament.



Sue Fray, Texas Master Naturalist, discusses bird photography with Ellis County NARFE.

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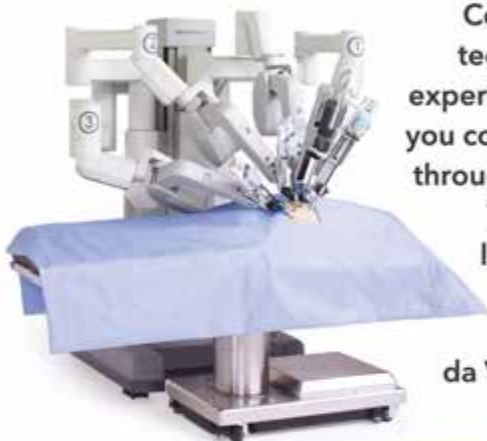
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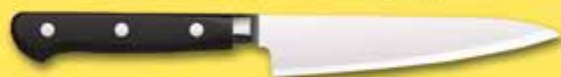


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In the Kitchen With

SHILOH CHACON

— By Angel Morris



Shiloh Chacon's mother enrolled young Shiloh in cooking classes during summer breaks, where she learned basic skills and easy recipes. "When I was a teenager, I would often bake and help my mom finish off dinner. I was very glad that I knew how to cook by the time I went to college," Shiloh noted. "Now I enjoy cooking dinner for my husband and two kids. When I'm not cooking, I enjoy reading, scrapbooking and sewing."

Intimidated to cook her first Thanksgiving dinner, Shiloh experienced some trial and error. "The secret of a successful turkey is to use an oven bag and just follow the directions that come in the box," she admitted. "Use a disposable roasting pan, and cleanup will be a breeze!" **NOW**

Pecan Pie

Makes 8 servings. Crust recipe makes enough pastry for 1 single-crust pie.

Filling:

3 eggs

1 cup corn syrup

2/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup margarine or butter, melted

1 tsp. vanilla

1 1/4 cups pecan halves

Piecrust:

1 1/4 cups flour

1/2 tsp. salt

1/3 cup oil

3 Tbsp. very cold milk

1. For filling: In a mixing bowl, beat eggs lightly with a rotary beater or a fork until combined. Stir in corn syrup, sugar, margarine or butter and vanilla; stir well. Stir in pecan halves.

2. For crust: Stir ingredients together with a fork. Form into a ball. Place ball between two layers of plastic wrap. Roll ball with a rolling pin until flat, rolling from the center out.

3. Place crust pastry into a 9-inch pie plate. Add filling. Cover the edge of the pie with foil; bake in a 350 F oven for 25 minutes.

4. Remove foil; bake for 20 to 25 minutes more, until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool pie on a wire rack. Cover and chill to store.

Turkey Pot Pie

Crust recipe makes 2 crusts.

Pie:

1/3 cup butter or margarine

1/3 cup flour

1/3 cup onion, chopped (or 1 Tbsp. dehydrated onion)

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1 3/4 cups water

1 cube Knorr Chicken Bouillon, crumbled

2/3 cup milk
 2 1/2 to 3 cups cooked turkey or chicken
 1 1/2 cups frozen mixed vegetables

Piecrust:

2 1/2 cups flour
 1 tsp. salt
 1 cup shortening or margarine
 1 egg
 1/4 cup cold water
 1 Tbsp. vinegar

1. *For pie:* Heat butter in a saucepan over medium heat until melted. Stir in the flour, onion, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is bubbly; remove from heat.

2. Combine water and bouillon to make broth. Stir the broth and milk into the butter mixture. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute more.

3. Stir in meat and vegetables. Heat oven to 375 F

4. *For crust:* Cut flour, salt and shortening together. Mix egg, water and vinegar. Pour into flour mixture. Mix only to blend for a flaky crust.

5. Roll out half of the pastry dough; put in a pie pan. Pour meat mixture into the pastry-lined pan. Roll the remaining pastry dough; put on top of meat mixture. Press edges with a fork. Bake about 35-45 minutes, or until golden brown.

Pink Salad

1 8-oz. carton Cool Whip
 1 6-oz. pkg. strawberry-flavored Jell-O
 1 8-oz. container cottage cheese
 1-2 cups fruit, chopped (strawberries, pineapple or mandarin oranges)

1. Stir all the ingredients together; refrigerate for about two hours before serving.

Yam Souffle

Souffle:

2 29-oz. cans yams
 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 1/2 cup milk
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 cup sugar
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1/3 cup butter, melted

Topping:

1 cup coconut
 1 cup pecans, chopped
 1/3 cup flour
 1 cup brown sugar
 1/3 cup butter, melted



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Yam Souffle

- 1. For souffle:** Smash yams with a potato masher. Add remaining ingredients; stir until well blended. Place in a 9x13-inch glass cake pan or casserole dish.
- 2. For topping:** Blend all ingredients; spread on top of yams. Cook at 375 F for 35 minutes, or until bubbly.

Mashed Potatoes

- 5 lbs. potatoes, peeled and cubed
- Water, enough to cover potatoes
- 2-3 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup milk
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine

- 1.** Peel and cube potatoes. Add water and salt; boil for 20 to 30 minutes.

- 2.** When your potatoes are fork tender, remove from heat. Drain the water; place potatoes in a big bowl.
- 3.** Add milk, cream cheese and butter or margarine. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth. If your mashed potatoes are too thick, add several more Tbsp. of milk.

Carmel Fruit Dip

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

- 1.** Using an electric mixer, mix together all ingredients for 1 to 2 minutes. Mixture should be very smooth.
- 2.** Serve with your favorite fruit, such as sliced apples and pineapple chunks. (Note:

To keep apples from browning, soak them in a bowl of pineapple juice before putting them on the serving platter.)

German Breakfast Pancakes

- 1/2 cup butter
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Lemon juice, to taste
- Powdered sugar, to taste

- 1.** Melt butter in a 9x13-inch pan in a 400 F oven.
- 2.** Blend the remaining ingredients in a bowl; pour on top of the melted butter. Bake for 20 minutes. Serve with lemon juice and powdered sugar sprinkled on top.

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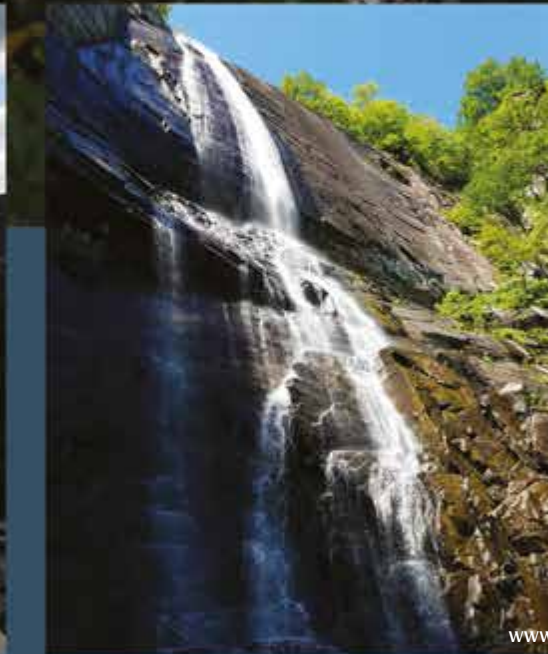
— By Lori Altebaumer

Known as “The Little Town That Rocks,” don’t be fooled by the nickname when visiting Black Mountain, North Carolina. Although rocking chairs abound in the picturesque downtown, there are plenty of good times and breathtaking beauty to keep visitors rolling through this quaint town nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

First inhabited by the Cherokee Indians, Black Mountain has been attracting people seeking rest and refreshment since the early 1800s. Visitors today find this village still thriving in small-town American charm and friendliness. Voted one of the “Prettiest Small Towns in America to Vacation” by TripAdvisor, Black Mountain does not disappoint.

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do around town. Wander among the nostalgic shops lining the pristine streets, where pedestrians still have the right-of-way. Pause to relax in one of the rocking chairs, hand-painted by local artisans and scattered along the sidewalks, as you take in the beautiful landscaping on the town square.

Feeling refreshed and ready to explore? Take a short drive and hop on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This scenic highway winds through towering spruce trees and dense growths of mountain laurel. Roll the windows down and inhale the fresh air, but watch out for wildlife. The turkeys along the roadside seem calmly oblivious to the danger of passing cars on the often-narrow road.

From the forest, the highway ushers you around breathtaking expanses of mountain views and scenic overlooks. You'll discover how the Blue Ridge Mountains got their name as you take in undulating layers of peaks, appearing deep blue like the choppy waves of the sea in the Appalachian atmosphere.

Opportunities for photography enthusiasts are endless. Waterfalls, scenic overlooks and a stunning variety of wildflowers and native trees create the perfect occasion to capture the beauty and majesty of creation.

The abundance of hiking trails for all skill levels offer hours of exploration for those inclined to an outdoor challenge or adventure. Chimney Rock Park and the beautiful Lake Lure are just 30 miles east of Black Mountain. The park offers miles of high-rock hiking trails and waterfalls. It's also the location

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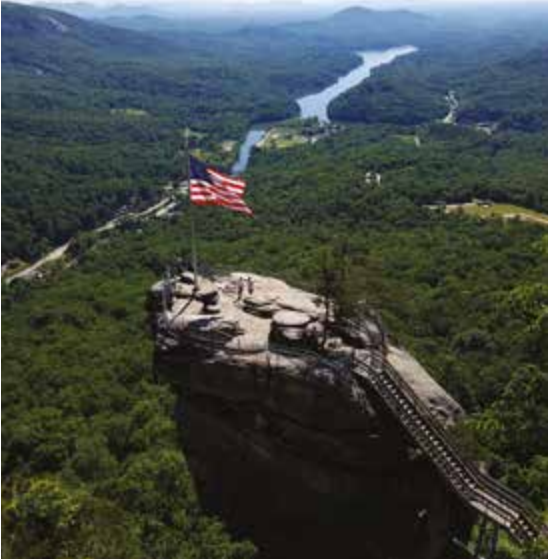
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for filming the movie, *The Last of the Mohicans*. Another short drive takes you to the Nantahala River, where you can experience rafting over Class III whitewater at Nantahala Falls or spend your day fly-fishing.

Drive a few miles west and find yourself in historic Asheville, home of the Biltmore Estate. This 250-room mansion covers more than 4 acres of floor space. The estate itself takes a full day to explore, complete with a vineyard and winery, shopping and dining opportunities.

A tour through pastoral Maggie Valley holds treasures for the palate and the soul. Stop at the produce stands along the way for fresh peaches and sourwood honey as you let the lush, rolling landscape restore your heart to simpler days away from the hustle and bustle of modern living.

As the day ends, the slow pace of Black Mountain welcomes travelers back home. Replenishment for the adventuring soul comes in the form of a plate of barbecue from Phil's Bar-B-Que Pit. Order extra hushpuppies — you won't regret it!

After your meal, meander back downtown for a scoop (or more) of ice cream from Kilwin's Chocolates, Fudge & Ice Cream. Enjoy the sweet treat from one of the oversized rocking chairs, watching the sun sink below the horizon, tucking Black Mountain in for another peaceful evening. Recall your day's adventures as you peacefully rock your cares away, preparing for your next day's exploration of "The Little Town That Rocks." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.exploreblackmountain.com.

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Got Gout?

Got gout? If so, watch what you eat and drink. Changes in diet, including overindulging in certain foods and beverages, especially as we enter the holiday season, can lead to gout attacks.

Gout attacks are extremely painful. They are caused when uric acid accumulates in the tissues or a joint and crystallizes. This most commonly occurs in the big toe joint. This is because the toe is the coolest part of the body, and uric acid is sensitive to temperature changes.

Foods that are high in purines contribute to uric acid build-up. People prone to gout attacks should avoid purine-rich items, such as shellfish (shrimp, crab, etc.), organ meats (kidney, liver, etc.) and red meats.

Also being overweight is linked to higher likelihood of gout developing. Lose weight gradually, and avoid fasting (to avoid a gouty attack). Also, avoid high-protein diets, as this promotes more uric acid formation.

Drink plenty of fluids, especially water (8-16 8-oz. servings per day) to flush uric acid from your body. It is also a good idea to limit or avoid alcohol, especially beer, which interferes with excretion of uric acid. If in the middle of a gouty attack, it is best to avoid alcohol altogether. If you have a history of gout,



but are not in an active gouty attack, limit drinks to one or two 5-oz servings of wine, which is not as likely to increase risk as much as beer can. Also 4-6 cups of coffee per day have been shown to lower gout risk in men.

Gout can be treated with medications, diet changes, increasing consumption of appropriate fluids and immobilizing the foot. In some cases, surgery is required to remove the uric acid crystals and repair the joint. If you have a history of gout, close monitoring by your doctor can greatly decrease your chances of attack. Further, if you are actively suffering from a gout attack, your podiatrist can help to alleviate the symptoms you are experiencing and help you to come up with a game plan to combat this painful condition. **NOW**

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TACKLING TILES

— By Angel Morris

Like other aspects of home improvement, laying tile is not without challenges. If hiring a professional contractor is not within your budget, consider these general instructions before deciding if tile is a DIY within your skill set.

CHOOSING TILE

When choosing tile, homeowners must sort through different sizes, patterns, textures and colors. The room in which your tiles will be placed may impact those choices. For instance, areas which can frequently become wet — such as bathrooms and mudrooms — are not good spaces for glossy tiles, which may become slick.

Smaller spaces can be overwhelmed by large tiles, and small tiles can get lost in larger rooms. Tiles with busy patterns may not only be more challenging to install but can also compete with other decor of a room, such as wallpaper or paint color. Once you have purchased the tile that best suits your style and space, however, it's time to prep your surface.



SURFACE PREPARATION

Perhaps the most strenuous portion of this DIY is removing existing flooring. Old mortars from tile or adhesives from linoleum and carpet must be removed completely, followed by thorough cleaning of subflooring.

Subfloors also must be level and cracks in the concrete should be patched. Wood frames should be secured to joists and in dry, rigid condition, then covered with cement backer board, closely following backer board installation instructions.

Doorjambes may need to be trimmed to ensure tile will lay flat beneath them. Handsaws can do the trick, but jamb saws also can be rented from many tool centers. Wall molding also must be removed prior to tile installation.

CHOOSING A LAYOUT

Once floors are prepped, it's time to determine the layout of your tile. Professionals recommend first ensuring the space is square by measuring each wall's length and the length diagonally from corner to corner. If diagonals are the same measurement and opposite walls are the same length, your room is square. Snapping chalk lines is a trusted trick to provide tile-laying guides, and you may want to temporarily set out your tiles in a variety of patterns before moving on to the next step.



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SECURING TILE

You will need a drill with mixing paddle and a 5-gallon bucket in which to mix thin-set mortar according to package instructions. You only want to mix as much as you can use within about 15 minutes. A second bucket of clean water should be kept on hand, as well as a sponge or towels for keeping mixing tools clean.

With a notched trowel, spread mortar across a small area, then press tile in place along your guidelines. You typically will want to lay full tiles first, then go back in to cut and place small tiles around the border of your space.

Place plastic spacers and position your next tile along guidelines. Continue the process of spreading mortar, laying tile and spacers, all the while checking that your placement is level and aligned. Remember to start along the back of your space and work toward your exit so that you can keep from backing yourself into a corner or placing any weight on the tiles for at least 24 hours.

MAKING THE CUT

After waiting a day or more, you are ready to cut and place border tiles. Make sure you are wearing the proper safety gear for this step. This process requires you to measure from the nearest full tile to the wall, deducting the width of grout. That number is the size to which border tiles must be cut. Scoring cutters and wet saws can be rented for this purpose. Tile nippers or handheld grinders with diamond blades are also handy for curved and smaller cuts.

Watching online tutorials can assist in simplifying the cutting process. After cutting border tiles, you will repeat the process of spreading thin-set mortar, placing tiles and spacers until your borders are complete.

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BORDER AND GROUT

When placing border tile, it is recommended you leave a 1/4-inch expansion gap. This ultimately will be covered with your molding or matching bullnose tile.

After waiting at least 24 more hours and making sure the joints between tiles are clean and dust-free, you are ready to remove the spacers and fill the joints with grout. Follow grout package instructions to prepare the type of grout you have selected to complement your tiles.

A tool known as a rubber float is used to apply grout, dragging it over joints at a recommended 45-degree angle. Every few minutes, you should remove excess grout from atop tiles with clean water and a sponge, again moving at an angle.

After allowing grout to harden per package-recommended times, you will need to apply a sealer. Sealer should be applied with a foam brush or applicator bottle. It typically is recommended that tiles be resealed every year or two.

Not only are there a number of tools and supplies required for laying tile, there are also variables that can impact how the job is done. For instance, there are ways to cover or lay tile without removing existing floors that one might consider.

After following all product instructions and exercising patience for the recommended drying times between steps, DIY tiling can be a money-saving and rewarding, albeit time-consuming, experience. **NOW**

Sources:

1. www.homedepot.com/c/how_to_lay_tile
2. www.todayshomeowner.com/how-to-lay-a-tile-floor/

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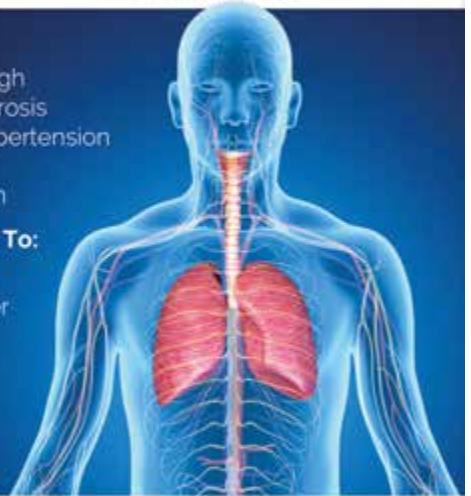
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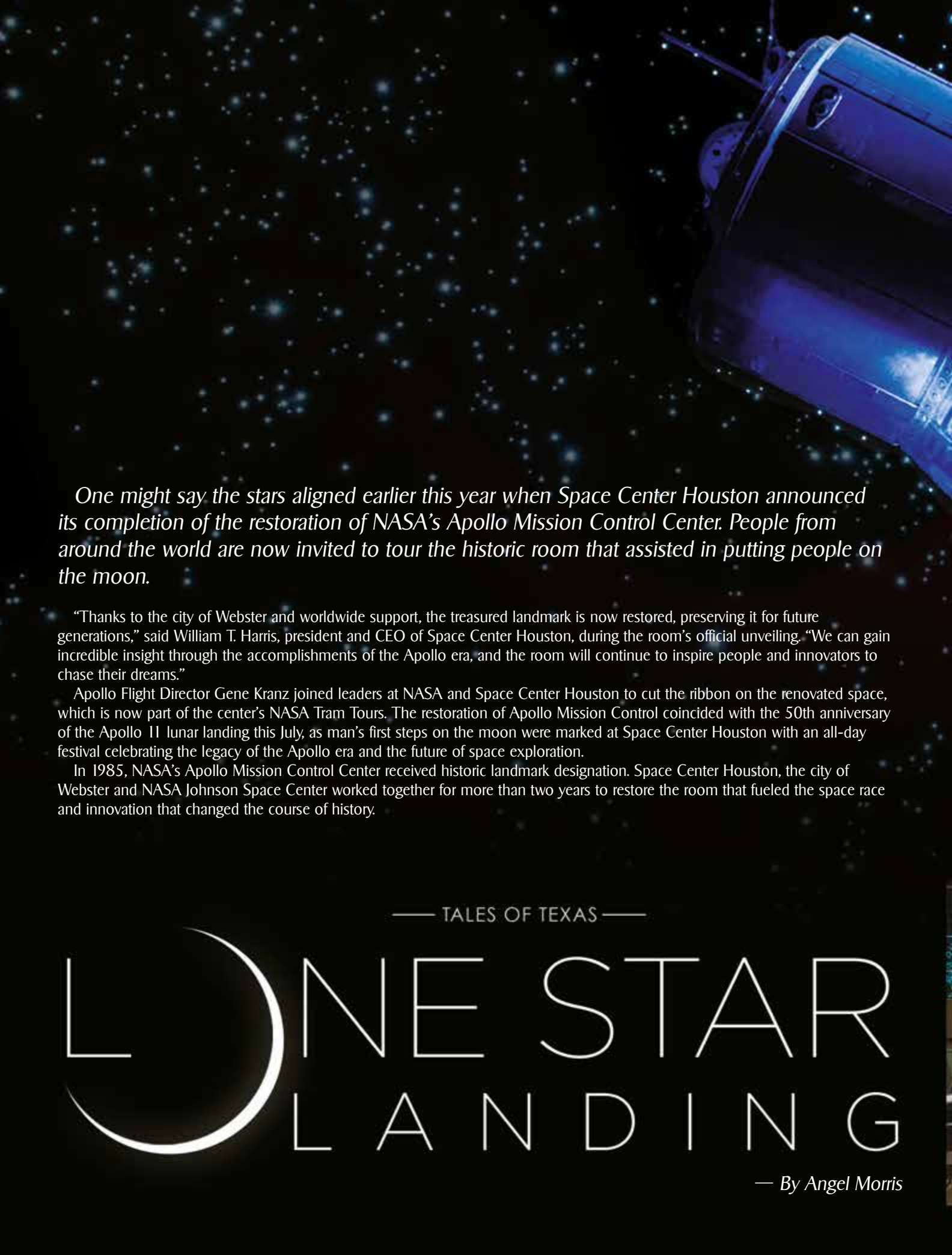
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One might say the stars aligned earlier this year when Space Center Houston announced its completion of the restoration of NASA's Apollo Mission Control Center. People from around the world are now invited to tour the historic room that assisted in putting people on the moon.

"Thanks to the city of Webster and worldwide support, the treasured landmark is now restored, preserving it for future generations," said William T. Harris, president and CEO of Space Center Houston, during the room's official unveiling. "We can gain incredible insight through the accomplishments of the Apollo era, and the room will continue to inspire people and innovators to chase their dreams."

Apollo Flight Director Gene Kranz joined leaders at NASA and Space Center Houston to cut the ribbon on the renovated space, which is now part of the center's NASA Tram Tours. The restoration of Apollo Mission Control coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing this July, as man's first steps on the moon were marked at Space Center Houston with an all-day festival celebrating the legacy of the Apollo era and the future of space exploration.

In 1985, NASA's Apollo Mission Control Center received historic landmark designation. Space Center Houston, the city of Webster and NASA Johnson Space Center worked together for more than two years to restore the room that fueled the space race and innovation that changed the course of history.

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Restoration efforts started in July 2017, including renovations to the mission operations control room, the visitor viewing room, simulation control room and the summary display projection room (also called the “bat cave”). “Guests will now see the restored flight control consoles with buttons illuminated and their screens displaying data used during the Apollo 11 mission,” Space Center Houston described in its news release regarding the project.

“The five large screens across the front of the room have been reactivated with projections to recreate the exact images seen during the Apollo 11 mission. Other details include period-authentic coat racks, chairs and a coffee station. Furnishings on the consoles include flight control manuals, ashtrays, pens, maps, coffee cups and headsets.”

According to Space Center Houston, visiting guests will sit in the original viewing room seats, which have been reinforced and reupholstered. The experience displays an accurate look of the iconic room that was used during the Gemini, Apollo and Shuttle eras.

As one of the city’s top attractions, Space Center Houston is a leading science and space exploration learning center. It welcomes international visitors and offers programming for teachers and students with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

From traveling and permanent exhibits to unique events, the center houses more than 400 space artifacts and the world’s largest collection of moon rocks and lunar samples for public view. Its theaters allow guests to experience not just the past but also the future of the space-flight program.



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Veterans Tribute Dinner

November 11, 2019

6:30-9:00pm

Midlothian Conference Center

Guest Speaker

COL Michael E. Fossum USAF, Ret

RSVP at www.midlothian.tx.us/veteransdinner

More info 972.775.7177

SAVE MONEY!



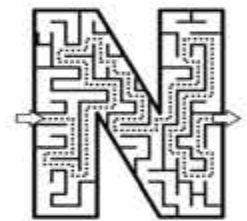
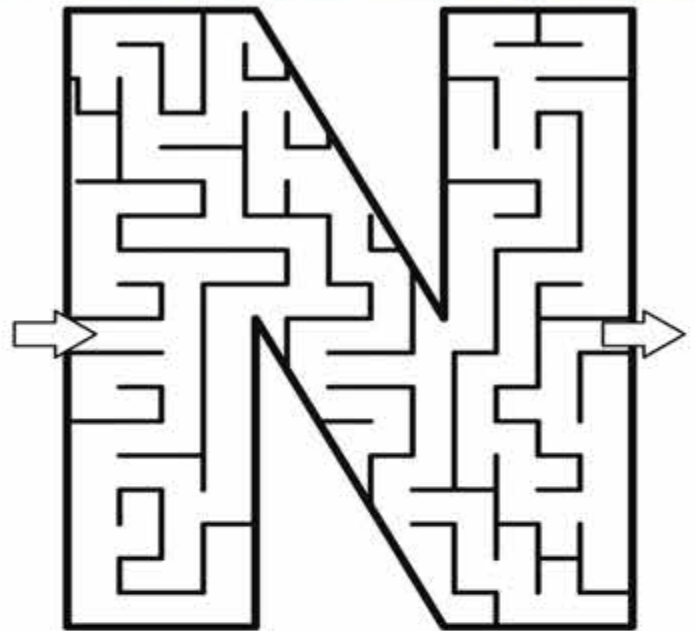
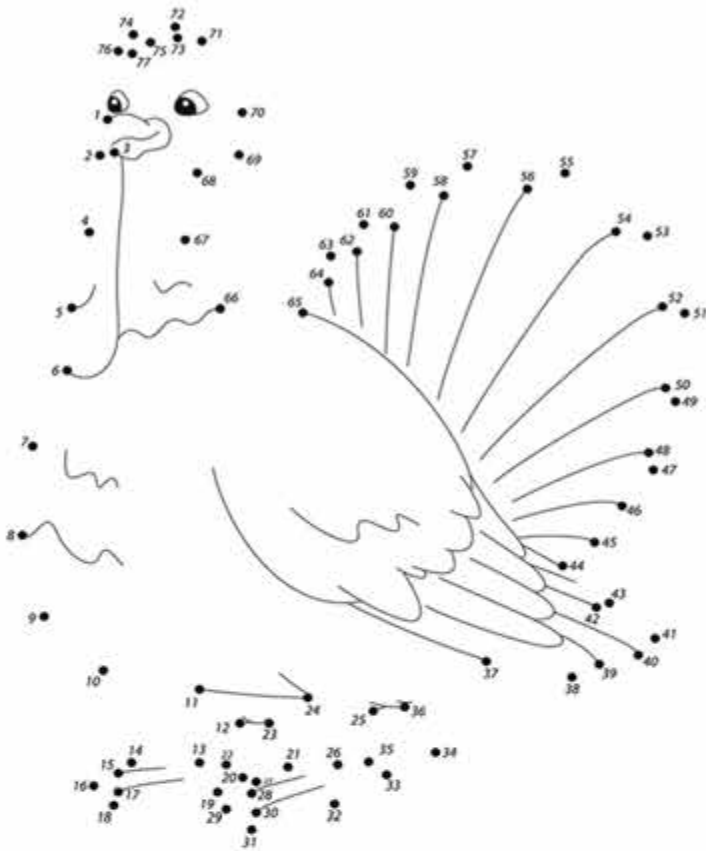
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Kids' Fun Page



MYSTERIOUS WORD: _____

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

AMERICAN
APPLES
AUTUMN
BIRD
BREAD
CORN
DINNER
FOOD
GRAPE
HAPPY
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
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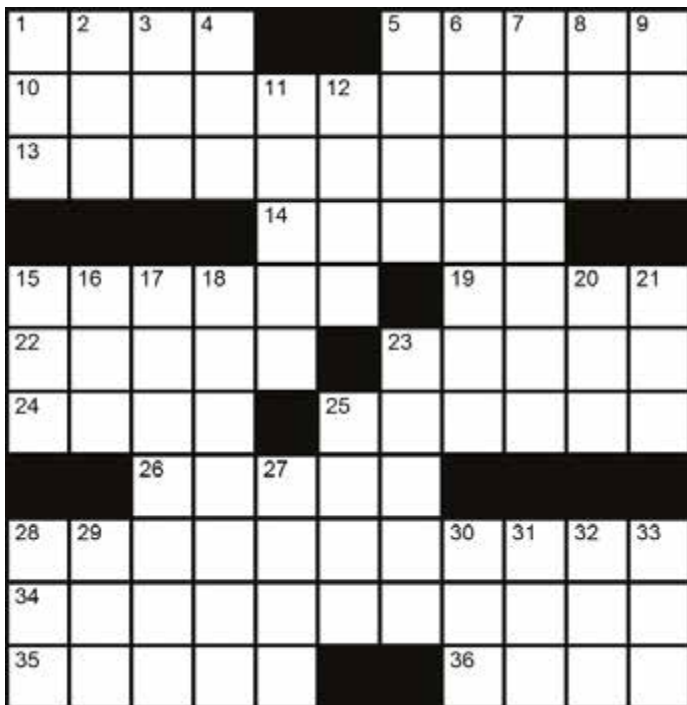
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Biblical homicide victim
- 5 Iraqi port
- 10 Double-check
- 13 Forewarning
- 14 Watch
- 15 Fumed
- 19 Pervading air
- 22 "... but I could be wrong"
- 23 --- firma
- 24 Software trial version
- 25 What a parade does
- 26 Set of moral principles
- 28 Graveyard of Empires
- 34 Agree
- 35 Groups of animals
- 36 Round, red root vegetable

Down

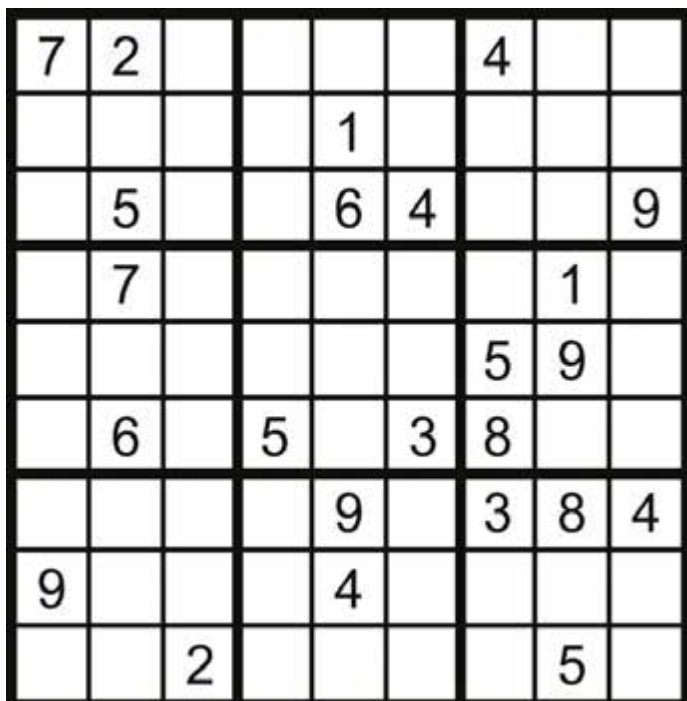
- 1 Stage equipment
- 2 Ingot
- 3 Supplement
- 4 Moon lander
- 5 Place of confinement
- 6 Now and again
- 7 St. Elmo is their patron
- 8 City it can be blamed on?
- 9 Raggedy one
- 11 Lust after
- 12 Lady of "Idylls of the King"
- 15 Move up and down
- 16 Metal-bearing mineral
- 17 Natural number
- 18 Hated big-time
- 20 Globe
- 21 Eight hours, to most workers
- 23 Implied
- 25 Turpentine source
- 27 Fort --- State University, Kansas
- 28 Powdery residue
- 29 Sum charged
- 30 Weep
- 31 Golfer's peg
- 32 Affirmative vote
- 33 Open mesh fabric

Solutions on page 60

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

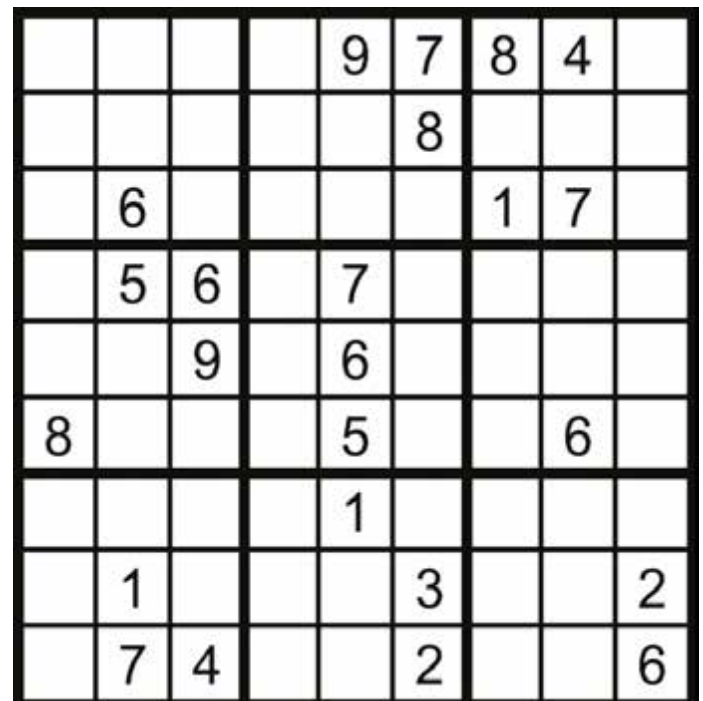
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

Solutions on page 60



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11/7

Veterans Hiring Fair:

Connecting veterans, service members and their spouses to Texas Employers. 1:00-4:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Contact Susan Plumlee at (972) 937-8114, ext. 3333, for more details.

11/9

Midlothian Lions Club Pancake Breakfast:

Fundraiser breakfast. Advanced tickets: \$2 or \$5 for adults, \$3 for children at the door. 7:00-10:30 a.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. For more details, visit midlothianlions.com.

MHS Cheer

Mistletoe Market:

Shopping and a visit from Santa! 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian High School Café, 923 S. 9th St.

4th Annual Bridges Band and BBQ Bash:

Texas state championship barbecue cook-off with featured celebrities: Chef Kenzie Mills, Chef Plum and Chef Michele Ragussis. Live music, kid zone, cupcake war, goat yoga, silent auction and raffle. Benefits Bridges Training Foundation. Free admission. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie.

Wine & Arts Festival:

Featured artisans and wine tasting options. 2:00-9:00 p.m., 8th Street and West Avenue E. Learn more at (972) 723-8600.

11/9-11/10

Feline PAW Foundation Five Claw Salute:

Cat show benefiting Ellis County animal shelters and rescues. **Saturday:** 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Learn more at www.felinepaw.net.

11/10

Pie Palooza!:

Pies to buy, throw or judge, along with children's activities, hosted by Homeless Coalition of Ellis County. 2:00-6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. Learn more at (972) 937-4400.

11/11

Veterans Tribute Dinner:

Meal and guest speaker. 6:30-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Call (972) 775-3481 to register.

11/19

State of the City Luncheon:

Chamber luncheon featuring City Manager Chris Dick as

speaker. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. To register, email info@midlothianchamber.org.

11/21

Tinsel & Toys for Tots Benefit:

Bring new, unwrapped toys and receive purchase discounts. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Lucky U Boutique, 1001 E. Main St., Ste. C.

11/23

Gobble Wobble 1M/5K/10K:

Family-friendly race benefiting Manna House. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Learn more at mannahousemidlothian.org.

12/2

Christmas Tree Lighting:

Usher in the season with musical accompaniment to the reading of *The Christmas Story*. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. **Rainout date: December 3.**

Second and Fourth Mondays

Community Book Club:

Lively discussion of books chosen by club members. 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows

Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

First Tuesdays

Midlothian Area Historical Society Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Community Room of CNB, 310 N. 9th St. For more details, contact Edwin Bateman at (972) 743-2379.

Thursdays

Celebrate

Recovery Meetings:


A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00-9:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. Email CR@dfwlighthouse.org, for details.

Last Thursdays

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1425 Meeting:

All active, retired and former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. 7:00 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave., Ennis. (214) 803-4954.

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

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	B	E	L		5	B	A	S	R	A
10	M	A	K	E	C	E	R	T	A	I	N
13	P	R	E	M	O	N	I	T	I	O	N
					14	V	I	G	I	L	
15	B	O	I	L	E	D		19	M	O	O
22	O	R	N	O	T		23	T	E	R	R
24	B	E	T	A		25	P	A	S	S	B
					26	E	T	H	I	C	
28	A	F	G	H	A	N	I	S	T	A	N
34	S	E	E	E	Y	E	T	O	E	E	E
35	H	E	R	D	S			36	B	E	E

Easy

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

Medium

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

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