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M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2021



Coach of the Year

Kallye Johnson earns
the TAPPS title

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Chaney's Designs

2021 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Brandy Simmons


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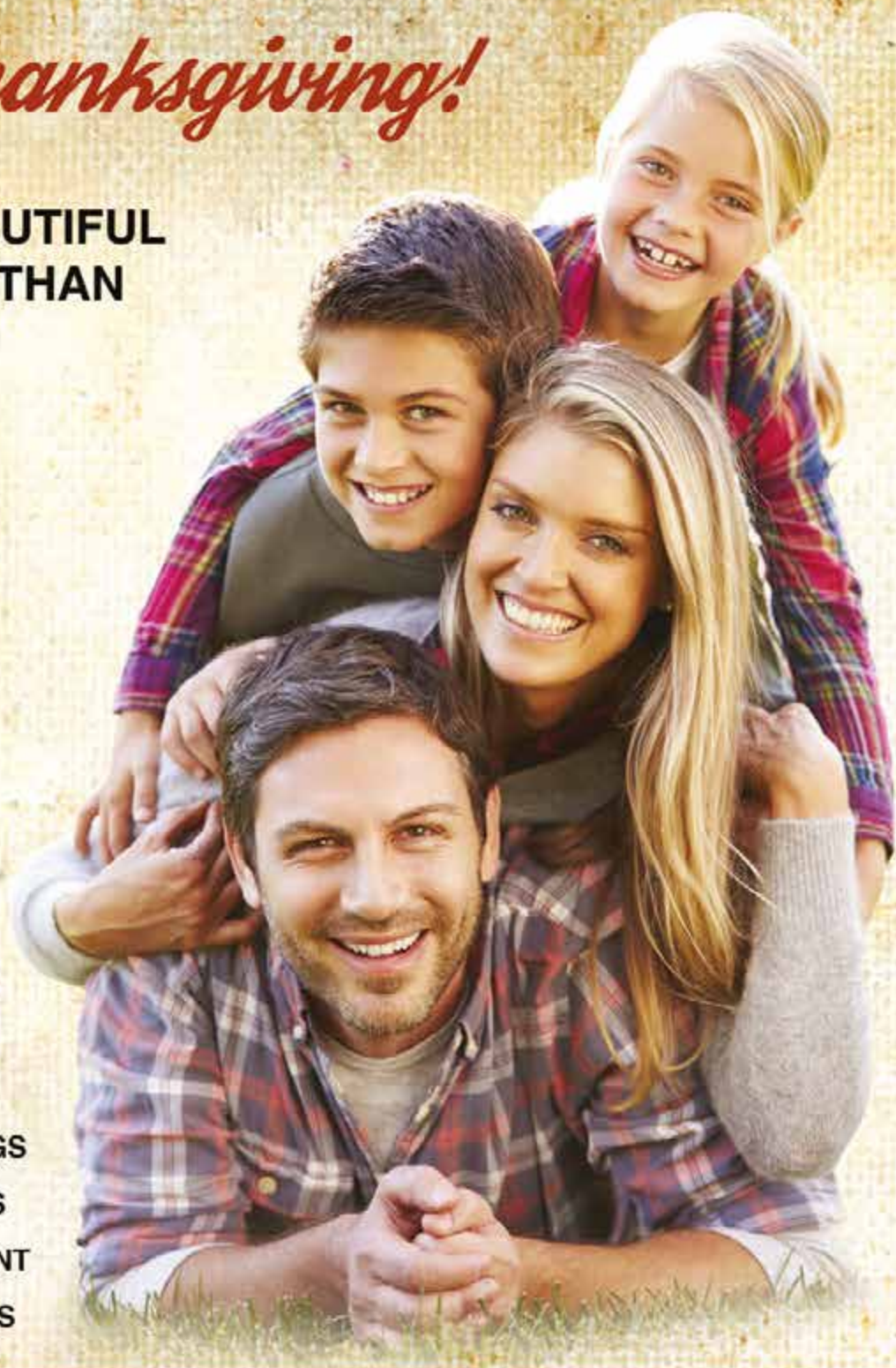
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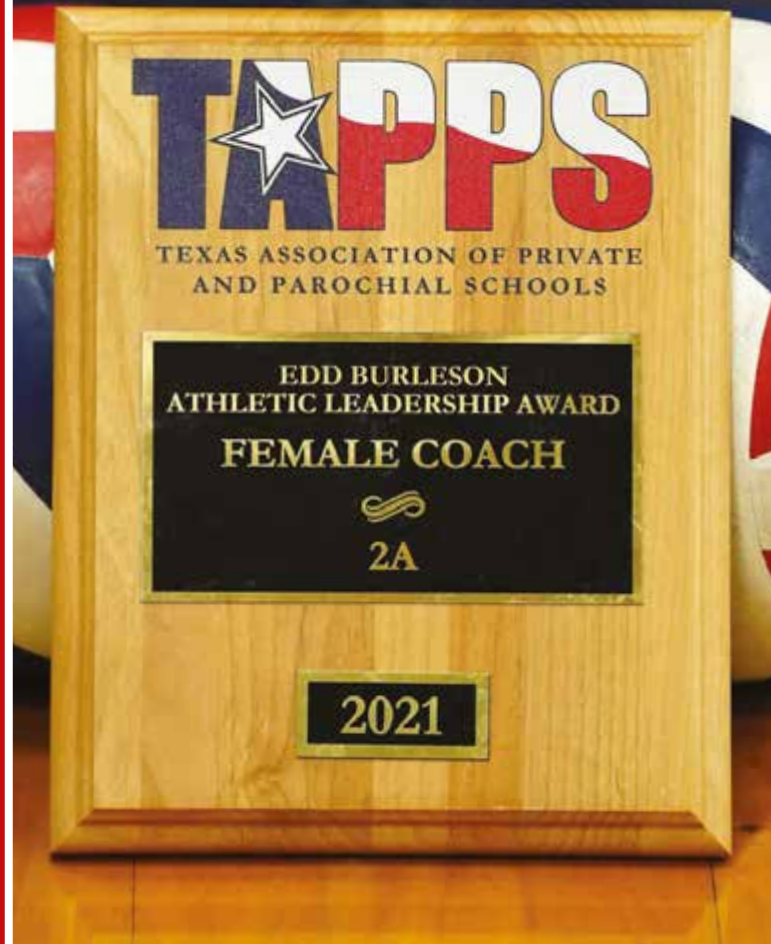
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ON THE COVER

Ovilla Coach Kallye Johnson emphasizes relationships over wins.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

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Celebrate the chaos!

You know what I love most about November? It is officially holiday season, and all bets are off when it comes to decorating, shopping and eating. I mean, technically, I enjoy those three things all year, but this month means they kick into high gear! Why is it that winter brings with it a desire to feather my nest and feed my soul with what I most enjoy? I can only surmise it somehow mimics creatures' call to hibernate through nature's harshest time ... reminding me of the importance of balancing busyness and rest.

Wikipedia describes hibernation as a state of minimal activity characterized by slow breathing and a lowered heart rate. (Where do I sign up?) Depending on the species, it lasts days, weeks or months, before which animals must stock up on energy to last its duration. (Ingesting all I want before a long winter's nap? Look at me! I'm your girl!) In hibernation, some mammals shed 15-27 percent of pre-hibernation weight because their energy comes from stored fat. (Losing weight doing nothing more than sleeping? Um, hello? Winter Olympics? I've just found a sport where I take the gold!)

In reality, year's end means most of us are in higher, not lower, gear. Decking the halls, planning presents, baking favorites are things that take more thought and energy now than any other time. I don't really have many chances to nap, and my 50-plus-year-old metabolism severely hinders my ability to binge. Nevertheless, engaging in these few favorite things is how I re-focus on home and family. For me, there is peace to be found in the eye of this season's storm.

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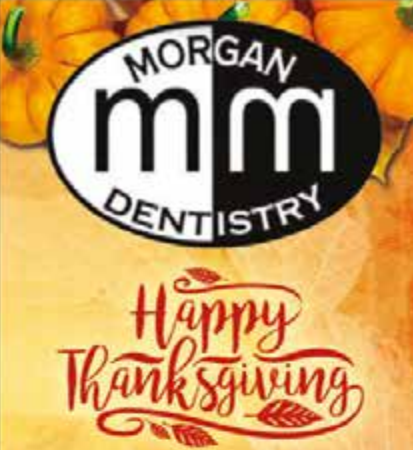
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COACH

Behind any great athlete is at least one coach who impacted their life. For many students at Ovilla Christian School, that coach is Kallye Johnson, who was recently named the 2020-21 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 2A Female Coach of the Year. “I was slightly embarrassed. I hate attention,” Coach Johnson admitted.



A 2006 graduate of Grapevine High School, Kallye attended The University of Texas at Arlington where she earned a Bachelor of Social Work in 2010. “Before my last semester of college, I realized that social work was not the profession for me, teaching was,” Kallye reflected. “But I was so close to finishing my degree that I went ahead and finished my BSW. I got my Texas Teaching Certification in math after graduation and started teaching spring of 2011.”

Although Kallye was a high school basketball and volleyball player, she decided not to play sports in college. “I randomly got thrown into coaching part time in 2008 while I was still in college. The school my husband was coaching at had their volleyball coach quit the week before the season started, and they asked me if I would fill in,” Kallye explained. “I fell in love with coaching and have been doing it ever since.”

A highlight of Kallye’s career came in 2017 when her team at Wichita Christian School beat its district rival in Regional Playoffs for a trip to the Final Four. “We hadn’t beaten that team one time in the past 10 years, and we were coming off a really hard 2016 season,” Kallye recounted. “It was a great moment for me to see multiple years of hard work pay off just like that.”

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of the YEAR

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Kallye said some of her most cherished coaching experiences are off the court, however. “The most memorable things are just the relationships that I still have with former players and getting to see their growth and lives after graduation. I still keep in contact with girls from the very first team I coached in 2008,” she noted.

Over time, Kallye attempted to cut back from coaching, but the universe had other ideas. In the summer of 2020, she was hired at OCS to teach algebra and geometry, alongside her husband, Josh, who is also employed at the school. “I was going to take a break from coaching, as we had an infant at the time. The current coach had to step back after we were hired, and I felt God leading me to accept the job as head volleyball and track coach.”

Kallye adopted a team that had been State Champs for two years. They went on to win the title a third time, and Kallye was honored as the 2020 District 2A-3 Volleyball Coach of the Year. Fittingly, that award was followed by the TAPPS Female Coach of the Year title, which is presented annually to someone who has been nominated by TAPPS member schools and selected by members of the Athletic Executive Committee.

Nicknamed “Mrs. Coach” by her players, Kallye encourages athletes of all skill levels and has coached some of the very best, including 2021 graduate, Tessa Henry, who was TAPPS 2A Female Athlete of the Year. “Going into my senior year with a new coach made me a little nervous, but it didn’t take long for me to see her experience as a volleyball coach,” Tessa recalled. “Trust came very





easy, and she made my senior year of volleyball fun and exciting. She's a great coach, friend and mentor, who incorporates her love of the Lord into her coaching."

Kallye and Josh have coached multiple sports for the past 13 years. "Between the two of us, we have coached volleyball, football, boys' and girls' basketball, track, golf, tennis, AAU basketball and club volleyball," Kallye listed.

Currently residing in Waxahachie, the Johnsons have three children, Julius, Kenlee and Korbryn. They attend Stonegate Church in Midlothian and enjoy watching movies together as a family.

However, as any good coach can attest, much of their time is dedicated to their extended school family of students and athletes. Fortunately, juggling the roles of teacher and coach is something Kallye learned from the best. "My high school basketball coach, Wanda Tarlton or Coach T, was the most influential person who has impacted my career. Not only was she a talented and dedicated basketball coach, she also taught pre-calculus," Kallye praised. "More importantly, she had a way of making every player on the team feel needed and included, even those who weren't the best athletes."

Through the years, Kallye has incorporated her mentor's style into her own, and she enters her second year of coaching at OCS with a clear mission. "My philosophy is 'relationships over wins,' and I want to continue to build relationships with players keeping God at the center of everything," Kallye explained. "On the court, I want to continue building on the powerhouse volleyball program that Ovilla Christian has become." **NOW**

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— By Angel Morris

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You name it, and Chaney's Designs can customize it. Since 2013, the embroidery and screen print shop has been the city's go-to stop for high-quality designs and apparel for any business, team, club or special event. "I've been in graphic design for almost 30 years and have always loved doing custom, creative things," Owner Laura Chaney explained. "I'd always been interested in learning how to do embroidery, as well, so that, partnered with my passion for design, led me to this business."



One step inside Chaney's Designs' storefront location and visitors are greeted with a variety of school spirit T-shirts, caps, boutique jewelry and gifts. "With all the colors of the rainbow available, we can embroider or digitize almost anything," Laura promised.

The company's most popular services are custom embroidered logos on company shirts and caps, monogrammed bags, blankets and more. "We also do custom banners, decals, car magnets and vinyl lettering," Laura noted.

Laura, who grew up in DeSoto, initially dreamed of mass producing her art on greeting cards. Instead, she started her first T-shirt business in 1992. "I've always been an entrepreneur, and ran my first company for about five years," Laura recounted. "I learned a lot back then about business and the screen-printing industry and have done it ever since."

After living in North Dallas for a while, Laura had an opportunity in 2002 to be a graphic designer for a sign company in Red Oak. "It was the perfect place to raise my daughter, too," she said. "I worked there for over nine years."

Laura loves Red Oak because of its small-town feel and welcoming residents. "It's fun getting to know my customers and building that camaraderie around their businesses, schools and teams," she admitted. "I appreciate how all the local business support each other and the opportunity I have to meet new people on a daily basis."

"I'D ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO DO EMBROIDERY, AS WELL, SO THAT, PARTNERED WITH MY PASSION FOR DESIGN, LED ME TO THIS BUSINESS."

If you spot someone wearing a customized item around town, there's great possibility Laura had a hand in it. "That's the fun part for me — creating a one-of-a-kind design or logo. We love helping our customers take their design idea to the next level or coming up with something brand new!" Laura expressed. "We have lots of items to choose from, or you can bring something for us to personalize to your specifications."

Nominated three years in a row for Best of Ellis County for Embroidery and Screen Print by readers of the *Waxahachie Daily Light*, Laura received the top spot last year and was in the running again at press time. "I'm very big on integrity. If I say I'm going to do something, I follow through," Laura promised. "I refuse to give a customer a mediocre product, and seeing the sheer joy in a customer's eyes when they pick up their order is like giving out presents year-round!"

Chaney's Designs is easy to find located next to the Red Oak High School. Hawk spirit is evident in the store, but spirit wear is also provided for Ennis, Ferris, Palmer and Waxahachie. "This business lets me achieve my personal goal of giving back to the community I live in," Laura noted. "We come up with new designs every year for local schools, just so students have something to look forward to and get excited about." **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Samantha Lord

By Angel Morris

At only 13, Samantha Lord already has eight productions under her belt, including a recent starring role in *Into the Woods Jr.* “Becoming the witch and paying attention to little details like my walk, talk and how to be old was difficult but rewarding,” Samantha recalled. “But the people of Ellis County Children’s Theatre are very supportive, and they push us to be better actors.”

Samantha was 8 when she began acting. “My mom found ECCT, where I attended camp and had my first audition,” Samantha reflected. Samantha also began voice lessons and joined the drama department of her school, where she’s held title roles in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Annie*. Samantha also enjoys volleyball, basketball, throwing shot put and discus throw and sketching for fun. “My goals are to be a stage actor and do whatever God calls me to do.”



Billy Nelson showcases his artwork, like this one titled *In the Beginning*, at area festivals and on Facebook.



Jana Jeffers and daughter, Abigale Maum, head to a Wild About Cheer competition.



Mayor Mark Stanfil and wife, Karen, along with Logan Ragsdale visit during a community event.



Shades of Gray performs in downtown Ovilla.



Joseph gets a birthday greeting from Super Yard Cards of Ellis County.



Eli McMahon, Ian Scott and Jaxon Rosenberry take a break from a bike ride at the Ovilla Road Subway.



Coach Bryan Bell and son, Hulon, prepare to play at Red Oak's Lindsey Park baseball fields.



Red Oak High School Marching Band and Color Guard place third at the Midway Marching Preview.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

BRANDY SIMMONS

— By Angel Morris



Brandy Simmons' family is full of professional and home-grown cooks. "My mother would bake delicious cakes, cookies and pies year-round. My father is a pit-master, affectionately known as The Smoker. So, my love for cooking was implanted through family," she explained.

A California native, Brandy's favorites are Mexican cuisine and soul food. Baking during the holidays reminds her of her late mom, and some wisdom regarding special occasion meal prep. "Don't wait until the last minute to gather your ingredients. If possible, start prepping your dishes one to two days ahead," she advised. "Cooking for the holidays can be stressful. But like my mom would say, 'If you stay ready, then you'll never have to get ready.'" **NOW**

Purple Hull Peas With Smoked Turkey

- 1 smoked turkey leg
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 can beef consommé
- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- 6 cups water (or as needed)
- 3 16-oz. pkgs. frozen purple hull peas

1. Place the smoked turkey leg, onion, garlic powder, black pepper, apple cider vinegar, beef consommé and seasoned salt into a large soup pot; pour in water to cover. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat; simmer until the meat is tender, about 1 hour.
2. Stir the peas into the soup, adding more water, as needed, to cover the peas by 1 inch. Bring to a boil. Again, reduce heat and simmer until the peas are tender and have begun to break apart, about 1 more hour.

3. Remove the turkey bones and tendons from the turkey meat; discard the bones. Simmer until the soup is slightly creamy and thickened, stirring frequently, about 10 minutes.

Collard Greens With Ham Hocks

- 2 white onions
- 2 smoked ham hocks
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 3 32-oz. cans beef consommé
- 3 bundles of fresh collard greens, cleaned and trimmed
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt, or to taste
- 3/4 tsp. ground black pepper, or to taste

1. Combine the onions, ham hocks, red pepper flakes and garlic in a stockpot; add the beef consommé. Cook the mixture over medium heat until the meat is falling off the bone, about 2 hours.

2. Stir the collard greens, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper into the broth mixture; cook until the greens have reached desired tenderness, about 2 more hours.

Brandy's Famous Neck Bones

2 white onions, roughly chopped
(divided use)

5 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
(divided use)

1 Tbsp. distilled white vinegar
1/4 cup water

4-5 lbs. pork neck bones

1 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt

1 tsp. ground black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Sprinkle 3/4 of the onions and garlic into the bottom of a roasting pan; pour in the vinegar and water. Season the neck bones with salt and pepper; place them into the roasting pan.

2. Sprinkle the remaining onions and garlic over the neck bones; cover the roasting pan tightly with aluminum foil.

3. Bake in the preheated oven for 2 hours, basting every 30 minutes. Be sure to recover the foil every time you baste.

4. After 2 hours, remove the foil; continue baking until the neck bones are golden brown, about 45 minutes.

Emma Jean's Sweet Potato Casserole

My mother's recipe.

4 cups sweet potato, cubed

1/2 cup white sugar

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/3 cup all-purpose flour

2 eggs, beaten

1/2 cup milk

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1/2 tsp. salt

7 Tbsp. butter, softened (divided use)

1/2 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Put the sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan with water to cover. Cook over medium-high heat until tender; drain and mash.

2. In a medium bowl, mix the sweet potatoes, white and brown sugars, flour, eggs, milk, vanilla extract and salt. Add in 4 Tbsp. of butter until the mixture is coarse; place into a baking dish.

3. In a separate bowl, use the remaining 3 Tbsp. of butter, and stir in the pecans. Sprinkle the mixture over the sweet potato mixture.

4. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until the topping is lightly brown.



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Holiday Punch

- 1 64-oz. bottle of Hawaiian Fruit Punch
- 1 64-oz. bottle unsweetened pineapple juice, chilled
- 1 2-liter bottle ginger ale
- 1/2 gal. orange sherbet

1. In a punch bowl, mix together the fruit punch, pineapple juice and ginger ale. Add scoops of orange sherbet into the punch. Wait for the sherbet to begin melting, approximately 10 minutes; stir gently and serve.



Brandy's Famous Neck Bones, Collard Greens With Ham Hocks and Purple Hull Peas With Smoked Turkey

Kelly Mack's Smoked Chicken Cornbread Dressing

My dad's recipe.

- 8 cups crumbled cornbread
- 4 cups cubed stale bread
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 large yellow onions, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups celery, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth, or as needed
- 1 1/2 cups smoked chicken, cooked and chopped
- 1 10.75-oz. can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/4 cup chicken giblets, cooked and chopped
- 4 large hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 4 Tbsp. self-rising flour
- 4 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 tsp. fresh sage, chopped, or to taste
- 2 large bay leaves
- Seasoned salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 3 large eggs, beaten

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease 2 9x13-inch baking dishes. Combine the cornbread and stale bread cubes in a large bowl; set aside.

2. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions, celery and green bell pepper; cook until transparent, about 5 to 10 minutes.

3. Pour the onion mixture over the cornbread mixture. Add the chicken broth, chopped chicken, soup, giblets, hard-boiled eggs and flour. Mix so that all the cornbread is wet. Mix in the parsley, sage, bay leaves, salt, and pepper. Add the beaten eggs; the mixture should be soupy. Pour the mixture evenly into the prepared pans.

4. Bake in the preheated oven until cooked through and set, about 1 hour to 1 hour and 20 minutes.

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

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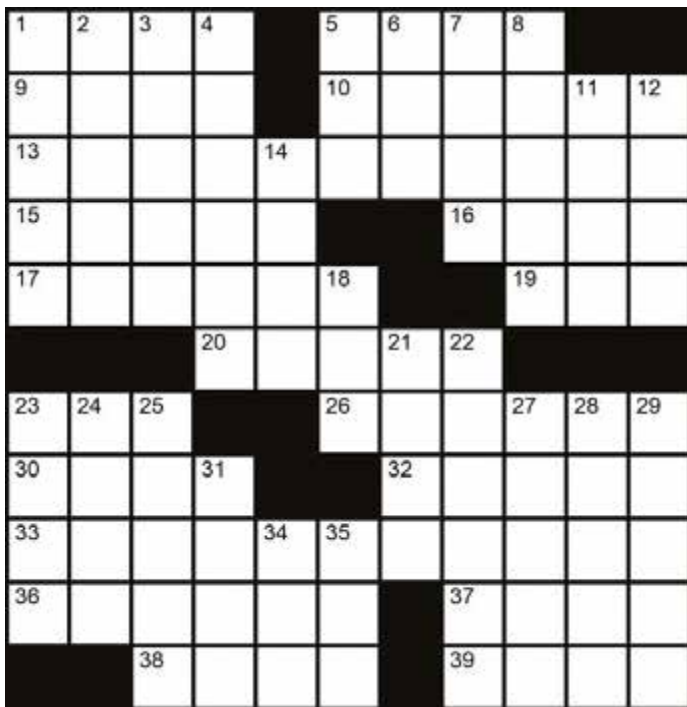
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Across

- 1 Feeling of hunger
- 5 "Four Weddings --- Funeral"
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Director of "Amadeus"
- 13 Unfortunate
- 15 Mournful ring
- 16 Great ideas
- 17 In peril
- 19 Fink
- 20 Coats
- 23 Going
- 26 Old capital on the Vistula
- 30 One way to hydrate in hospital
- 32 The first Mrs. Trump
- 33 A shared characteristic, if common
- 36 Inactive state
- 37 Diamond team
- 38 Kind of year
- 39 Where holes are started

Down

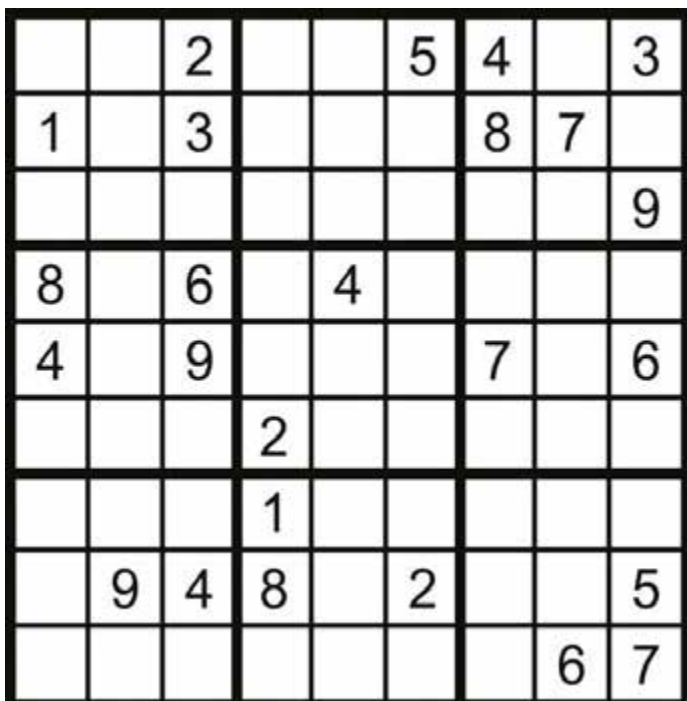
- 1 Arctic garment
- 2 --- you forgetting something?
- 3 It hangs near Chad
- 4 Vampire repellent
- 5 Toward the stern
- 6 A negative
- 7 Street
- 8 Fossil resin
- 11 Egyptian dancing-girl
- 12 Digs of twigs
- 14 "Born Free" lioness
- 18 Fearsome initials
- 21 Emerald Isle
- 22 Learned one
- 23 Chances
- 24 Erode
- 25 Last edition
- 27 --- Holmes, a Tom Cruise ex
- 28 One- --- (basketball defense strategy)
- 29 Merchandise
- 31 Sit for a portrait
- 34 "Mamma" follower
- 35 Web-connection co.

Solutions on page 28

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

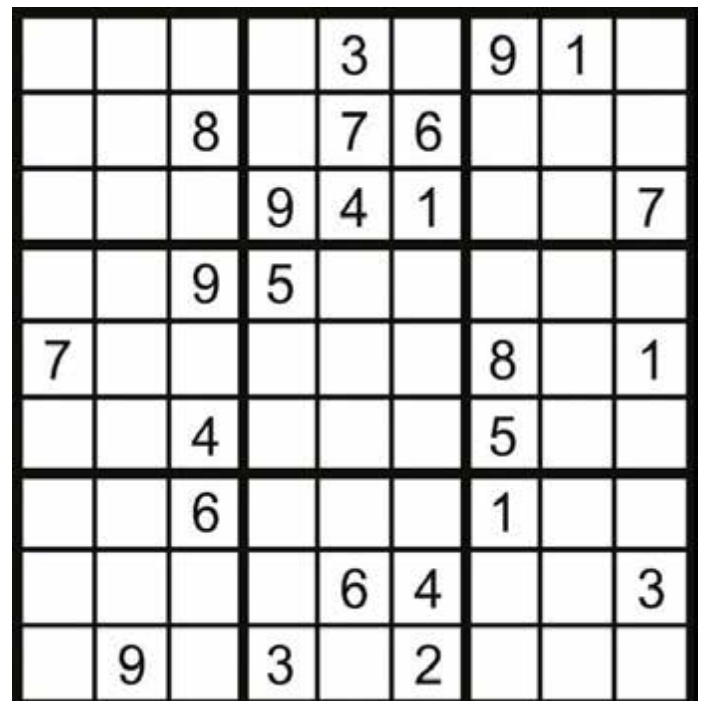
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Medium



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Solutions on page 28

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NOVEMBER

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11/5-11/7

Holiday Market:

Variety of vendors and food trucks, benefiting the 4-H and FFA Youth of Ellis County.

Friday: VIP Night. Adults: \$25; kids 12 and under: Free. 5:00-9:00 p.m. **Saturday and Sunday:** Adults: \$10; kids 12 and under: Free. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. Hwy. Bypass 287, Waxahachie.

11/13

Lord's Acre Fall Festival:

Silent and live auctions, country store, foods and handmade quilt raffle. 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,

Ovilla United Methodist Church, 1403 Red Oak Creek Rd.

Women of Grace:

Inspirational guest speaker, music, boxed lunch and more.

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2474 Hwy. 287, Waxahachie. Call Rebecca at (214) 537-0791 for more details.

12/4

Christmas in Red Oak:

Hosted by the city of Red Oak. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Watkins Park, 101 Live Oak. More information will be available nearer the event date at www.redoaktx.org/christmas.

Fourth Mondays through November

Creative Quilters

Guild of Ellis County:

Social time, business meeting, show and tell program. 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie. Learn more at elliscountyquilters.com.

Tuesdays

Red Oak Library:

Thanksgiving and fall crafts and stories outside behind the library. 10:00 a.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy.

Third Wednesdays

Ellis County

Christian Women's Connection Meeting:

Cost is \$15. Reservations due **Friday before** the meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Country View Golf Course, 240 W. Belt Line Rd. Contact Dee Ann Ellis at (972) 921-6221.

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

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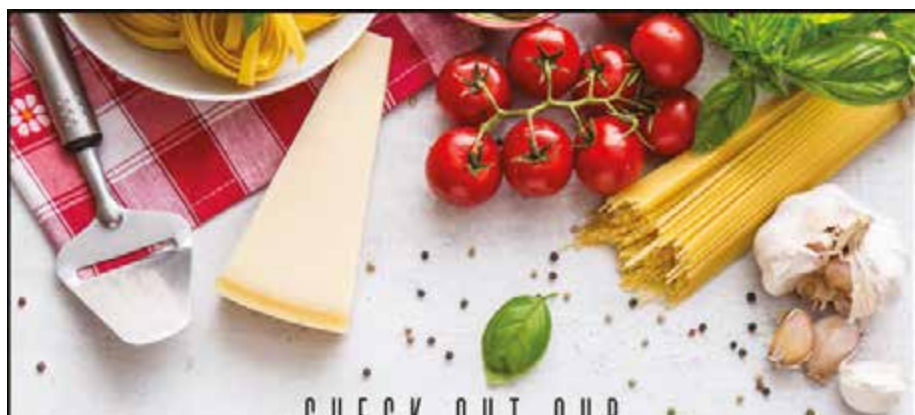
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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

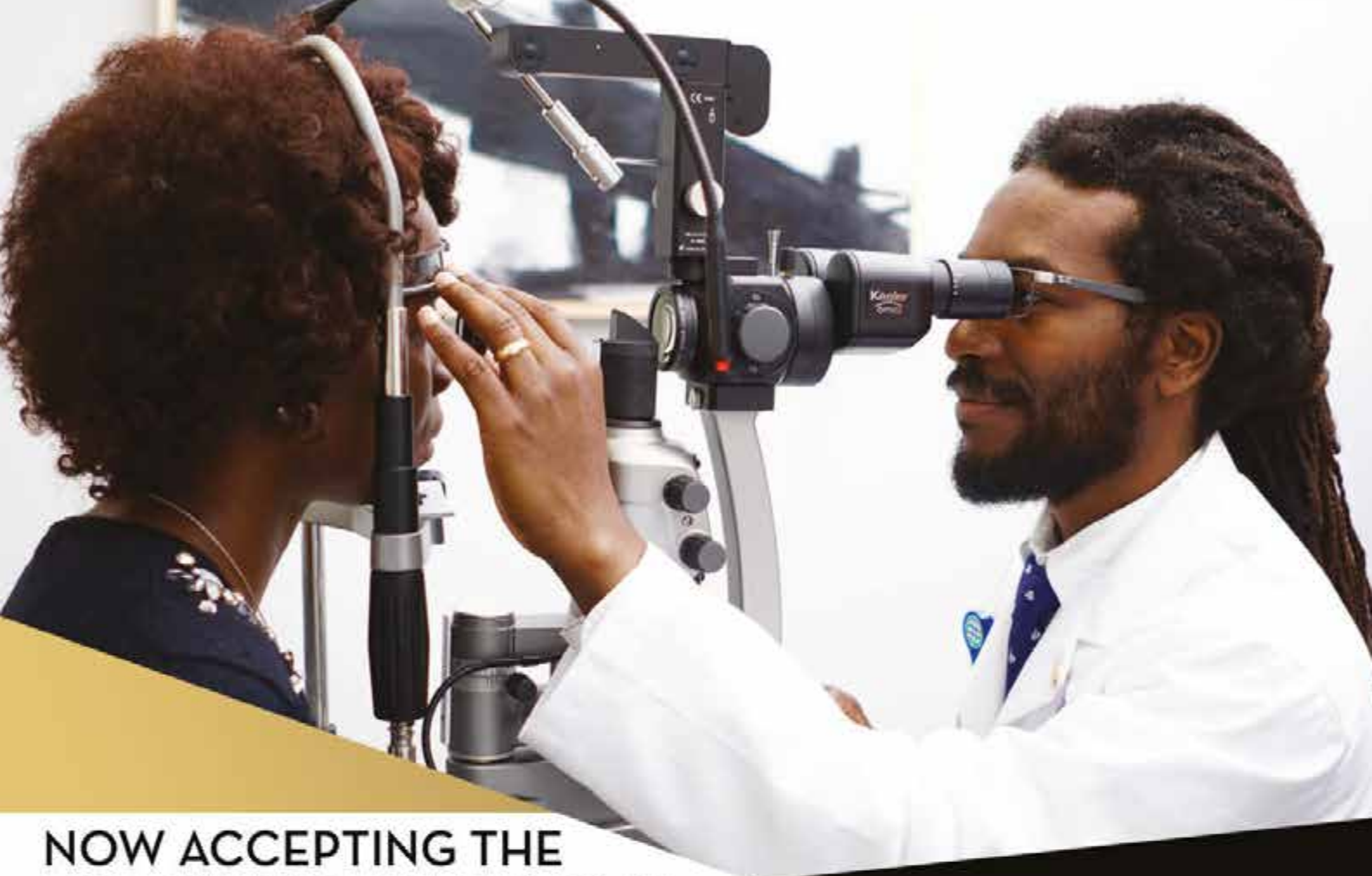
1	P	A	N	G		5	A	N	D	A		
9	A	R	I	A		10	F	O	R	M	11	N
13	R	E	G	R	E	14	T	T	A	B	L	E
15	K	N	E	L	L				16	G	E	M
17	A	T	R	I	S	18	K			19	R	A
						20	C	A	K	E	22	S
23	O	F	F			26	K	R	A	K	O	W
30	D	R	I	P		31			32	I	V	A
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36	S	T	A	S	I	S			37	N	I	N
						38	L	E	A	P		T
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Easy

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

Medium

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



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