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Around Town

Calendar

Recipes for a
Thanksgiving Feast

Crossword/Sudoku

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November 2026
Volume 23, Issue 11



Becky Walker

WaxahachieNOW Editor
becky.walker@nowmagazines.com
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ON THE COVER



*Executive Director Deidre Hamid
is passionate about the work
C.A.R.E. Services does to fight
food insecurity in Ellis County.*

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Publisher/General Manager, Rick Hensley*

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Serving C.A.R.E. Daily

— By Becky Walker

In 1982, longtime Waxahachie resident, Mattie Borders, recognized a need. Neighbors in the community were going without a basic necessity — food. So, she began operating a food pantry out of her own home. Inducted into the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame in 2016, Miss Mattie lived the charity's mission statement of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" throughout her long life. She passed away in 2018 at the age of 105, but her legacy lives on.

The food pantry, later named Waxahachie Care Services, continued to grow and has recently undergone a name change. "We serve all communities in Ellis County. Where you live does not determine your access to food. So, we rebranded from Waxahachie Care to C.A.R.E. Services," Executive Director

Deidre Hamid explained. "C.A.R.E. stands for Compassion, Advocacy, Resources and Empowerment. That's what we want for our neighbors."

Deidre has been with C.A.R.E. for a year. A native of DeSoto, her upbringing in the Church of Christ influenced her heart for service. "I always had to do community service with youth group," she shared. "I went to college at University of North Texas and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which encouraged hours of community service." She also holds an MBA from Northwood University. "I was employed by the government on the Workforce Board, serving Ellis County. It was a natural transition to continue to serve the same demographic in this role, and I love it," she said. "I love being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community."

Food is distributed in a drive-thru food pantry and fresh market four days each week (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-noon). People are welcome to come twice a month. Monthly pop-ups are also held on the fourth Friday at Graham Street Church of Christ and on the fourth Saturday at First United



Methodist Church. People can get additional food at these locations, and it doesn't count against them. Senior boxes are distributed once per month for individuals 60-plus who have registered at the office. "We offer home delivery once a month for shut-ins. Volunteer drivers are needed to help with that," Deidre said.

The organization has a small staff of six, but local churches and volunteers are the heart and soul of the operation. Neighbors donate non-perishable food as well as non-food items like sanitary napkins and diapers. "Monetary donations help purchase freezers and refrigerators and maintain the trucks and trailers that are used daily to pick up and deliver food. Those funds also help with the purchase of food and mandated food handling supplies," Deidre explained.

Volunteers come in daily as early as 8:30 a.m. to prep, distribute, clean and restock. They serve, help and pray for people if they want it and connect people with additional resources. "We are under the North Texas Food Bank and Feeding America, and we are a North Texas Food Bank official garden partner," Deidre said. "We have a garden that needs to be watered daily and harvested. We encourage local gardeners to donate their surplus harvests to us for distribution." All salvage food goes to local ranchers and farmers. "If it can't be consumed by humans, we want it to at least be consumed by animals.



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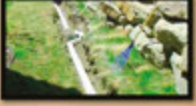
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"I go to Washington, D.C., to advocate for SNAP benefits and all programs that fight food insecurity," Deidre continued. "There are free applications on our website for food and energy aid. Our generous partners at TXU, Direct Energy, Reliant Energy, City of Waxahachie Water Department and others help provide families with needed funds to sustain their households. We have outstanding partnerships with BJ's, Walmart, H-E-B, Aldi, Walgreens, Tom Thumb, Chick-fil-A, Starbucks and many others, including local gardeners and the Ellis County Farm Bureau."

Monday through Wednesday of each week, they have resources like SNAP, TANF, WIC and Workforce enrollment. Sims Library comes to help with literacy programming. "We are at capacity now, but we have people willing to offer additional free services to our neighbors, if we just had space. I want a bigger building, so we can add mental health services," Deidre



said. "We care for the families of Ellis County, and we want to thread these resources together for them to thrive."

C.A.R.E. will host Thanksgiving-themed distributions on the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. They believe it is important to meet people where they are. So, they have partnered with multiple businesses, such as TXU, Atmos, BJ's, Walmart and H-E-B, that provide pre-cooked turkeys and hams, so the unhoused, families living in cars, "senior saints" and others unable to lift or cook a large, frozen turkey, can still celebrate the holiday. "Everyone, no matter their living

status or physical status, can still enjoy pre-cooked turkey or ham," Deidre explained. In December, they will partner with Waxahachie ISD in Operation Full Plate, to provide holiday-themed food items for families during the two-week Christmas break. When students who are enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs are not in school, they are not eating much. This program helps fill that gap. "The goal this year is to serve 500 families," Deidre said.

According to the North Texas Food Bank, one in four children in DFW is food insecure, and Ellis County is included in that statistic. C.A.R.E. is currently serving 80-plus families (easily 400-500 people) each day. Miss Mattie would be proud, because growing compassion for their neighbors is at the heart of everything they do. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To volunteer or donate, visit www.careservicestx.org or call (972) 923-2273.



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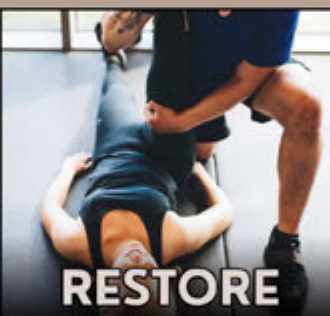
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October 15 – December 7 | Presented by Randy Bond, Local Licensed Medicare Agent

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Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Waxahachie

As Ellis County grows, so does the demand for great healthcare experiences close to home. To meet this need, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Waxahachie recently completed an 85,000-square-foot addition to its campus. The new East Patient Tower features 50 additional inpatient beds and doubles the size of the labor and delivery area for growing families.

“The new tower adds not only space but also capabilities and amenities for patients and their loved ones,” says Justin Pond, Chief Operating Officer of Baylor Scott & White – Waxahachie.



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The six-story tower also includes an expanded emergency department that adds advanced trauma care for serious injuries and a dedicated space for OB emergencies. In addition, it houses three endoscopy suites, more beds for neonatal intensive care and postpartum care, and infusion and dialysis suites designed for comfort.

Beyond square footage and equipment, the facility will bring some of the medical services and specialists typically associated with major urban hospitals to the area.

“For a long time, many patients with complex medical needs had to go to Dallas to receive the kind of care they needed,” says Pond. “We’re excited to offer more advanced care services closer to home with our new tower and our plans for the future.”

The hospital is welcoming its first neurosurgeon this month and will be expanding its cancer care program this year.

“We really looked at what patients want and listened to our community when we began designing

and building the East Tower,” Pond says.

That approach is evident in every department. For instance, the tower includes a new parent room where mothers can sleep before taking their infants home, rather than staying in a postpartum bed. The room helps mothers get accustomed to caring for their newborns by giving them time to care for their babies themselves, while keeping nursing staff nearby should they have questions or concerns.

Meanwhile, the NICU is much more spacious and includes private rooms for babies and their families.

Training the next generation of physicians is critical to building a strong healthcare workforce for Ellis County. The new tower includes space to help further the medical center’s residency program. There’s a strong correlation between where physicians train and where they spend their careers.

“Growing our residency program will help us meet the needs of this community today and for generations to come,” explains Pond.

It’s part of the medical center’s commitment to Waxahachie and surrounding areas — a commitment that stretches back more than a century. Since opening in its current location at I-35 and Highway 287 in 2014, the campus has nearly doubled its capacity for patient care and added a new heart hospital in 2023.

The addition of the East Patient Tower was made possible by the people the medical center serves. The collaboration between community members, local government and civic organizations is one of the things Pond says he’s most proud of.

“It takes an incredible community and a lot of teamwork to build a modern care facility like this. It was inspiring to watch everyone come together around a common vision of improving the well-being of our neighbors.” **NOW**

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Zoomed In:
Beth and Alexander Dueñas

By Becky Walker

Beth Dueñas and her son, Alexander, spent a fun-filled day at Sims Library's Library Palooza event, which was held to celebrate Library Card Signup Month. The event featured games, popcorn and balloon artists. "I'm on the Sims Library Board, so we come to a lot of activities here. But we always have," Beth shared. "When I was a single mom, this was our entertainment. My daughter is almost 18 now, and we've lived at this library!"

Beth and Alexander had already been to see the balloon artists. Then Alexander, who is really into dinosaurs right now, got a dino tattoo on his face. "I like having T-Rex eating my face!" he said with a grin. "It's all been fun!"



The Martinez family — Jorge, Angel, Alma and Yaritza — pose for a photo after Angel danced the La Raspa at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.



Volunteers with Foresters Financial, KABOOM! and PHP brave the rain to build a new, open-to-the-community park at the Waxahachie YMCA.



Alison Gravely of the American Legion Auxiliary Chris Kyle Post 388 encourages kids to make Christmas cards for active or retired service personnel during Library Palooza.



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Zoomed In: Nia Mburo

By Becky Walker

Nia Mburo recently earned three All-American Honors at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics, which is held at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She comes from a family of track athletes. Her mother and her brothers are all runners.

A Life Middle School Waxahachie student, Nia runs for Express Track, an AAU team based in Fort Worth, which competes across the Dallas area. This marked the fourth year in a row for Nia to qualify for the Junior Olympics. Nia had to stay focused during the competition, since there were races to run almost every day for a week. "When I'm in my zone, I'm really zoned out, focused on my race," she said. "I don't really talk to anybody."

The hard work paid off. She placed seventh in the nation in the 100 meter, eighth in the 200 meter and ran the opening leg of the 4x100 relay, in which her team finished first.



Cassandra Morlock and her daughter, Sophia, celebrate as Baby Elijah makes it to the quarterfinals in the Baby of the Year Competition with hopes to go further. <https://babyoftheyear.org/2026elijah-0af1>.



In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Brave Like Ellie holds its 3rd Annual Warrior Walk and Run.



Johnny Campbell, III places 1st in both kata and sparring for the Intermediate 10 & 11 Year Old Division at the TKL Lone Star Shootout.



Cody Henson and his mom, Tammy Henson, sell crafts and photography at Junk in the Trunk.



C-10 enthusiasts pack Getzendaner Park.



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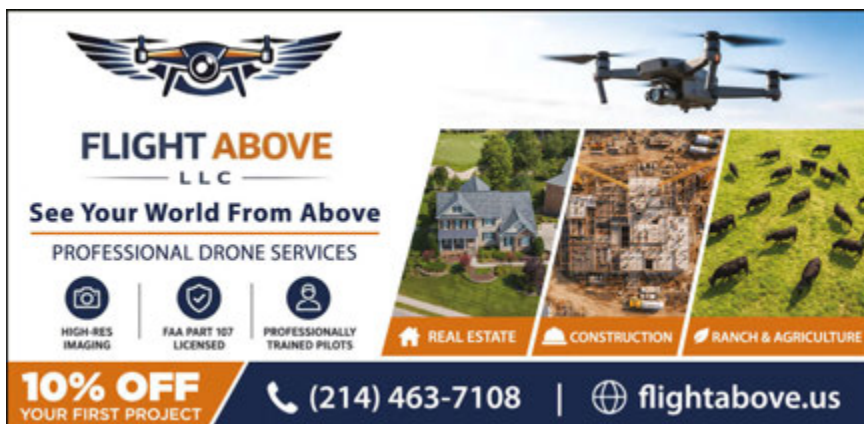
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11/7

Hachie Uncorked: Plein Air Wine Stroll

Sample a wide variety of local wines with tastings included in admission. Plein air artists, live music and food. <https://www.waxahachiecvb.com/events/2026/hachie-uncorked2>.

Junk in the Trunk

Vintage finds, antiques, handmade goods. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Historic Courthouse Square, Waxahachie.

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a rousing evening of American music. 7:30-9:00 p.m., 499 East University. Purchase tickets at <https://www.waxahachiesymphony.org>.

11/7-11/8

Paint Historic Waxahachie Plein Air Art Show

Public exhibition and art sale. Experience award-winning plein air paintings, and meet the artists behind them. Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Ellis County Woman's Building, 407 W. Jefferson St.

11/13-11/14

13th Annual Festival of Trees

People use their creative skills to decorate a tree, wreath or other Christmas item, which they donate to be auctioned. Benefits Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County. **Friday:** 5:00-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., FUMC, 505 W. Marvin.

11/14

Ellis County Veterans Celebration

The 26th annual celebration will feature a musical tribute, live performances and multimedia presentations honoring veterans. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Join the Ellis County Marine Corps League Detachment 1452 for an unforgettable evening of tradition and camaraderie. 5:00-11:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln. Tickets at EllisMCL.org/Birthday-Ball.

11/19

Waxahachie State of the City

Doors open: 11:00 a.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

12/1

Christmas Parade and Community Tree Lighting

Parade route is from Getzendaner Park, down Main Street to Rogers Street, ending at the historic MKT Train Depot. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

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RECIPES FOR A Thanksgiving Feast



From the golden turkey to the perfectly spiced sides, the Thanksgiving meal represents tradition and togetherness. These recipes deliver classic flavors with a few special touches, ensuring your holiday spread is both delicious and memorable for everyone gathered around your table. **NOW**

Herb-Roasted Turkey

- 1 12- to 14-lb. whole turkey, defrosted
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. fresh sage, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 onion, quartered
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 cups chicken broth

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F; remove the turkey giblets, patting the bird dry with paper towels.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the butter, rosemary, thyme, sage, minced garlic, salt and black pepper.
3. Gently loosen the skin over the turkey breast; rub half of the herb butter underneath.
4. Rub the remaining herb butter over the outside of the turkey.
5. Stuff the cavity with the lemon halves, quartered onion and rosemary sprigs.
6. Place the turkey on a roasting rack in a large roasting pan; pour the chicken broth into the bottom of the pan.
7. Roast for 3 to 3 1/2 hours, basting every 30 minutes, until a thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the thigh

reads 165 F.

8. Let the turkey rest for 20-30 minutes before carving.

Cast-Iron Candied Sweet Potatoes

- 4 large sweet potatoes
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup mini marshmallows
- 1/4 cup pecans, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Peel the sweet potatoes; slice them into 1/4-inch rounds.
3. Melt the butter in a large, cast-iron skillet over medium heat.
4. Add the brown sugar and maple syrup to the melted butter, stirring until combined.
5. Stir in the cinnamon, nutmeg and salt.
6. Arrange the sweet potato rounds in the skillet, layering them in the sugar mixture, and turning to coat both sides.
7. Cook on the stovetop for 5 minutes to begin softening the potatoes.
8. Transfer the skillet to the oven; bake for 25-30 minutes until the sweet potatoes are tender.

9. Remove from the oven; sprinkle the mini marshmallows and chopped pecans evenly over the top.
10. Return to the oven; bake for an additional 5-7 minutes until the marshmallows are golden brown. Serve warm.

Pecan Pie Bars

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup corn syrup
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F; line a 9x13-inch pan with parchment paper.
2. Pulse the flour, powdered sugar, salt and cold butter in a food processor until crumbly.
3. Press the mixture into the pan; bake for 18 minutes.
4. Whisk together the eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar and vanilla extract. Stir in the pecans.
5. Pour over the baked crust; bake for 25 minutes.
6. Cool completely before slicing into bars.



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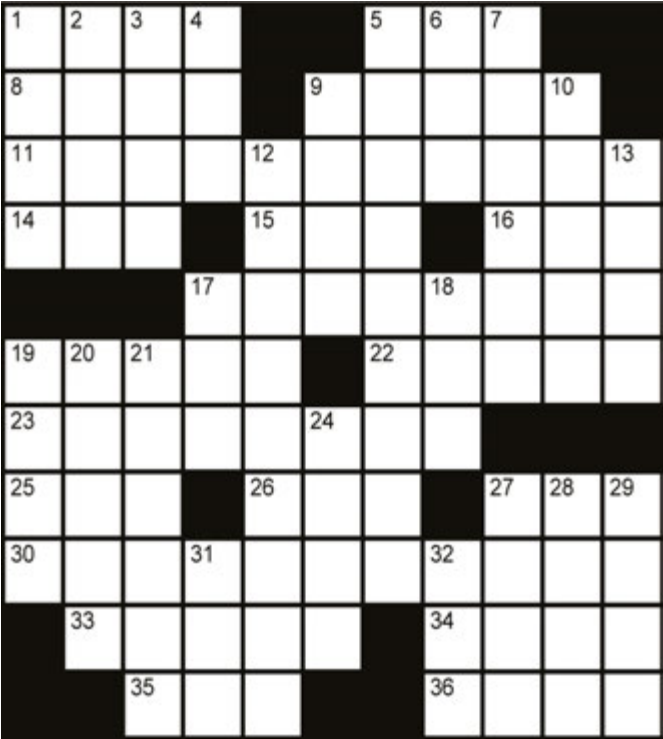
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Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

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Across

- 1 Shimmering gemstone
5 Old school dance
8 "Lemon" fish
9 Washed out
11 Disturbed enough moose, of a kind
14 Sleuth's cry
15 It should stop you at an intersection
16 Texting letters for a former identity
17 Thrown objects
19 Polite form of address for a woman

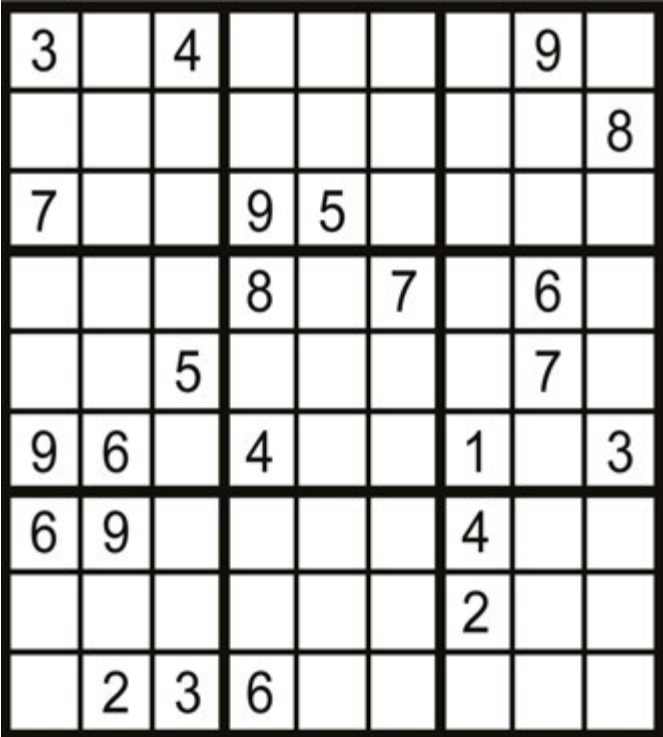
- 22 Apparel
23 Native Coloradan, originally
25 Diminutive dog
26 Intimidate
27 "Dallas" star Barbara --- Geddes
30 In a highly-strung manner
33 A means to ---
34 Furnace
35 It checks brainwaves
36 High point

Down

- 1 Labor Dept. agency
2 "A Bear of very little Brain"
3 --- mater
4 13 Popes have had this name
5 Bequeaths
6 Lyric poem
7 What Soylent Green was made of (1973 movie)
9 Broker's charges
10 Boxers' fists
12 Massage magic ring, pulling a face
13 Get lippy
17 Planetary plan
18 Anger
19 Spouse
20 Fragrance
21 Very beginning
24 Goon
27 Radar image
28 Cosmopolitan competitor
29 Wildcat
31 Golfer's peg
32 William H. Bonney, --- "Billy the Kid"

Sudoku Puzzle

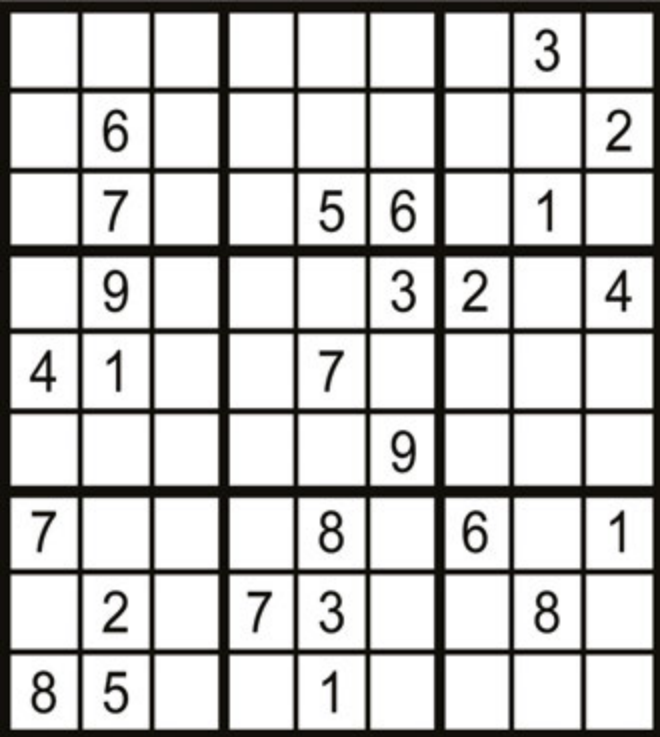
Easy

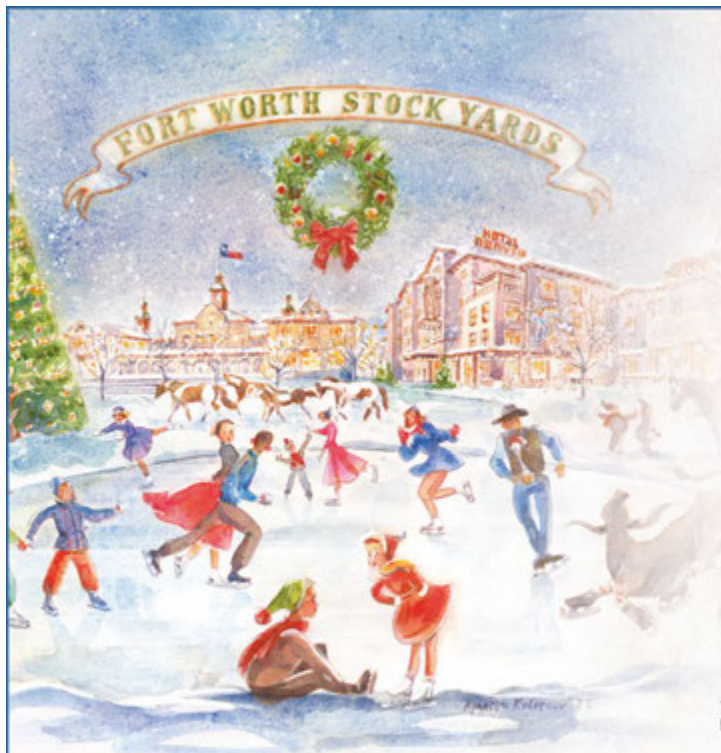


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25	T	O	Y		26	C	O	W		27	B
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Easy

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Medium

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



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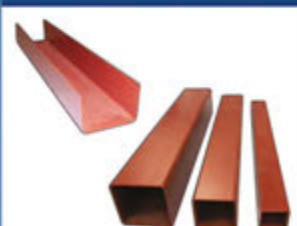


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