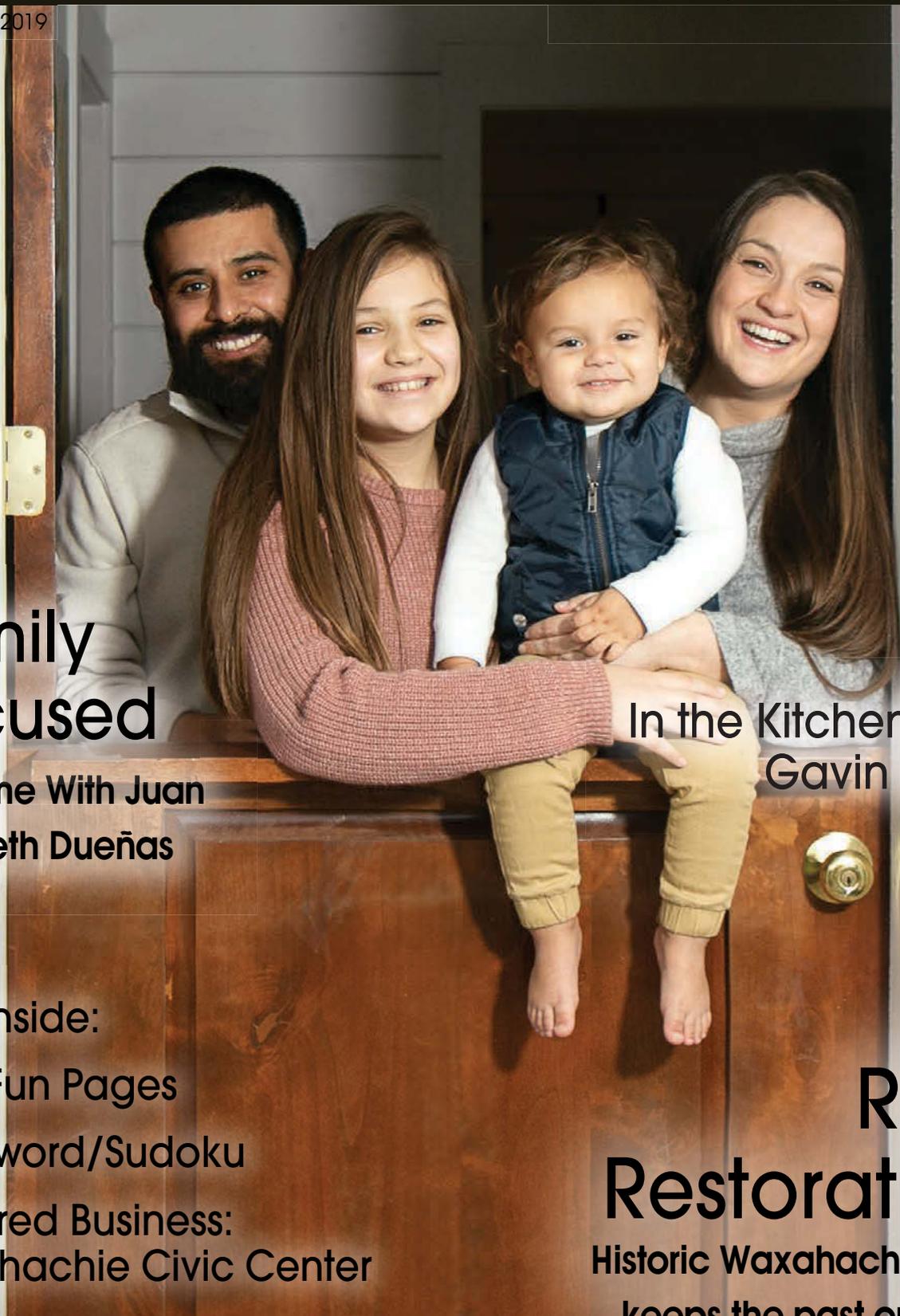


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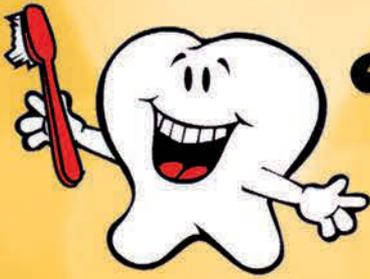


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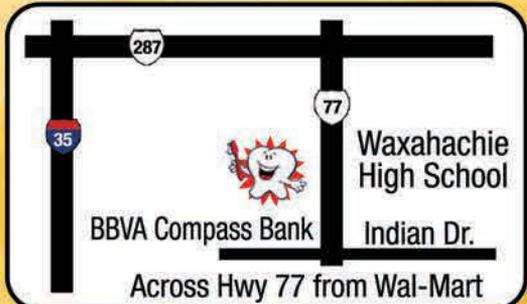
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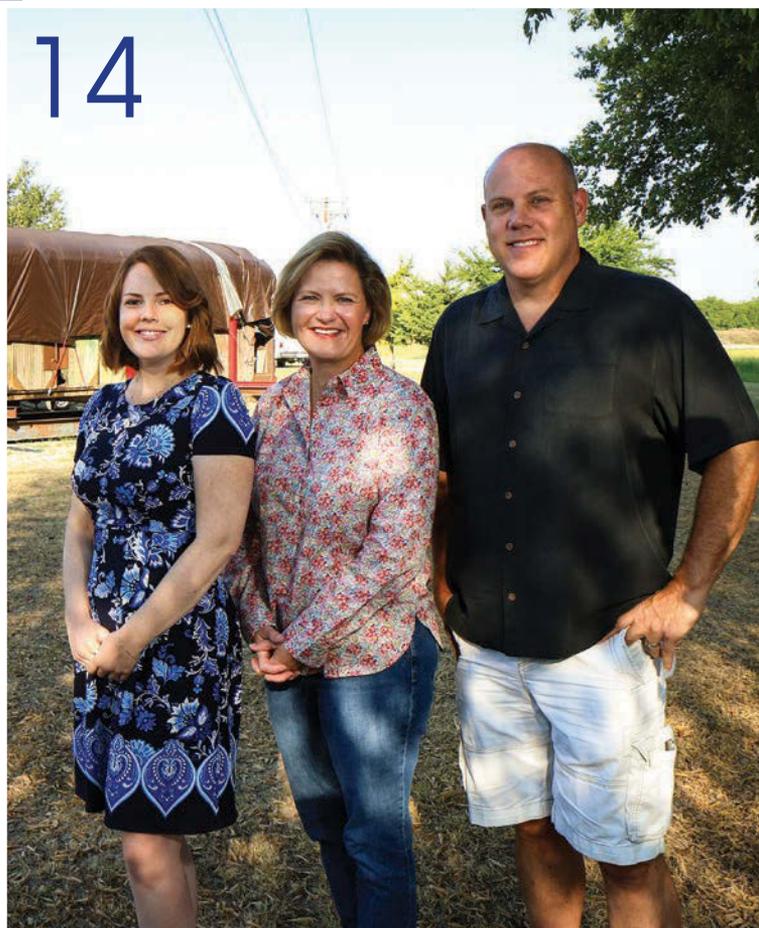
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## ON THE COVER



*The Dueñas family greets their guests with welcoming smiles.*

**Photo by**  
Kobbi Blair.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Sandra*

Sandra Strong  
WaxahachieNOW Editor  
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*Hello, Waxahachie Family!*

To date, this is the most difficult editor's note I've written. February is the month where I usually share my thoughts on Valentine's Day, with its candy, cards and flowers. This February, I'm doing something new and unexpected — I'm saying goodbye to the magazine I've worked at and loved for nearly 14 years. I'm saying goodbye to you, the wonderful people of Waxahachie, who have read my stories, cried with me during interviews, given me the best leads ever and held me up with your encouraging and kind words. I would never have been successful as your community editor otherwise.

Going back to the very beginning, I realize I didn't come to this position at NOW Magazines by accident. For me, it was more of a divine intervention. I honestly believe this is where God wanted me planted, and now He's moving me into another season of wonderful possibilities. As many of you know, I've prayed over many pages of handwritten notes over the years, just like I told you I would. I've asked blessings, health and favor over everyone who's taken their featured place in the magazine. With my belief in God and in each of you, I was able to shine month after month, and for that I will forever be grateful.

When you see me in the store or out at one of the many city-hosted events, please don't hesitate to stop and spend a few minutes catching up. Because, believe it or not, you are the ones I really worked for. It was your love and appreciation for *WaxahachieNOW Magazine* that mattered most.

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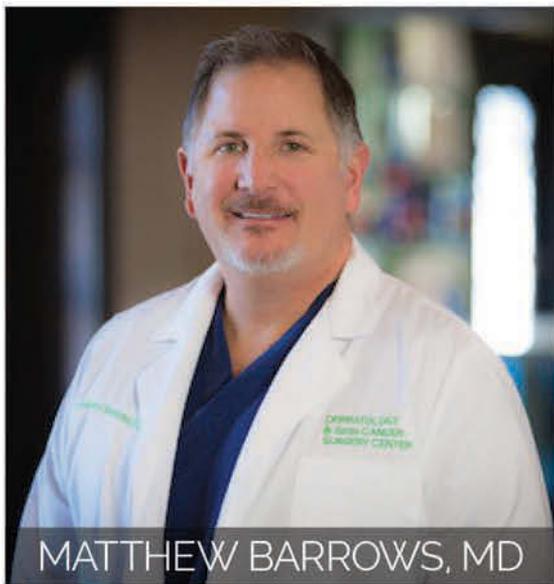
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# FAMILY FOCUSED

— By Sandra Strong

*Juan and Beth Dueñas are working toward a minimalist lifestyle that comes with a long-range plan for their family of four. The only way they knew the plan would come to fruition was to make some major changes in their lifestyle. They realized they no longer wanted to be landlords of one property and homeowners of another. They wanted to be the master of their own destiny.*

The first thing they did was sell their home off of Broadhead Road and move into the home Beth had purchased years earlier at the age of 21. “I had lived in the home before meeting and marrying Juan,” Beth explained. “Once we were married, we kept this home as a rental property.”

Needless to say, it’s been quite an adjustment, but they are keeping their eyes on the prize — retiring at the age of 45, just 15 years from now. They are learning how to live “with” one another, instead of rooms apart, and it appears to be working out beautifully as evidenced by the positive energy found when first entering the home through the beautiful Dutch door.

The downsizing took them from an oversized 2,400-square-foot, three-bedroom, three-bath home with a theater and a room designated as the home office to a quaint 1,200-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-bath abode where the office also serves as the laundry room. “It may be much smaller, but we are making it work,” Beth reiterated. “Everyone seems to have settled in nicely.”





AT HOME WITH **Juan and Beth Dueñas**

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Juan grew up working in his family's cabinet business, General Cabinetry, located in Ferris. He and Beth, along with both their families, own and operate GC Living, a housing company where new homes are being built as fast as Beth and her mom can find available lots, and Juan and Beth can draft the new designs. "The goal to our downsizing was to construct new homes using cash flow," Juan explained. "Everyone in both families has a role to play."

"It's a family affair, where we all work as one," Beth said, explaining the organic significance of the venture, since she comes from a real estate background with her mom. "Juan and I both have good work ethics thanks to our hardworking parents."

In the short time they've been in the home, they've transformed it from top to bottom with what they love — clean lines and minimal clutter. One of their favorite television shows, when they have time to actually sit down and watch, is *Fixer Upper*. Their home is a smaller replica of what they've watched Chip and Joanna Gaines create over the years.

Their home remodel now includes an open-concept kitchen, dining and living area. They enclosed the one-car garage, turning that space into a playroom for their children, 10-year-old Madelyn and soon-to-be 2-year-old Alexander. The kitchen boasts of black and white tiled flooring with cabinets hand-constructed by Juan, as well as floating shelves and a detached pantry, also crafted by Juan's skilled hands. "I purchased the legs and hardware locally," Beth said, "but so many details in the home have been imported from other countries." The two brass owls that once belonged to Beth's great-grandmother rest atop this cabinet.

The hanging light fixtures found over the sinks in the kitchen and bathroom are from Italy, as is the stove that Beth

absolutely loves. These are just a few of the imports found in the home. The uniqueness found in the simple design of the lights and stove have been the starting point for many conversations that have allowed Juan and Beth to share their experiences of shopping abroad, both for their home and the homes they are building for others.

The refurbished hardwood floors are original to the home. Shiplap is found throughout, while sliding barnlike doors conserve needed space. "I love all things vintage," Beth shared. "The home now has that vintage feel, and I love it!"

The children bring so much energy and character to the home. Madelyn is an old soul who already has a keen eye for design. The paint splatters on the art table in her bedroom are proof she isn't shy about trying new techniques to get the end result she is hoping for. "Mom and I just finished that moon phase hanging," Madelyn said. When asked about the move to a smaller home, Madelyn simply stated, "I love both of the homes equally."

If the energy Alexander exudes as he runs tirelessly through the home could be bottled, everyone would be running with wild abandon. His laughter is contagious, and his curly hair and sweet smile are precious. His love for his big sister is quite evident, as he follows her from room to room. "And she's the best big sister ever," Beth confessed.

The crucifix that hangs in the small hallway is a testament to Juan's Catholic upbringing. "It was crafted from silver from Central Mexico in a small town my dad grew up in," Juan said. "It's over 100 years old."

Their long-range plan is going to take hard work and a lot of discipline, but this young family is up for the challenge. "We have to keep ourselves focused on the prize if we want to see it come to life in the time frame we've allotted," Juan said. In the near future, when time allows, Juan and Beth will be adding 800 square feet to their home. The plan will allow for a much larger master suite with its own bathroom and walk-in closet.

"We've had all the stuff," Beth said, as Juan nodded his head in agreement. "We just want to focus on family and continue to create a happy atmosphere for our family." **NOW**



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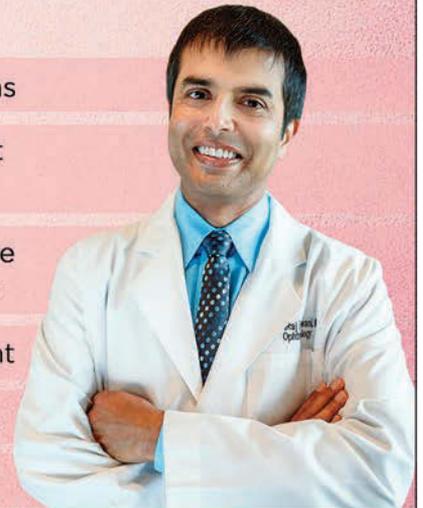
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# RICH RESTORATI

— By Joy Horn

*Historic Waxahachie, Inc. is currently restoring a new historical landmark for the community to enjoy. It will not only be fun to admire, but also will provide insight into the town's rich history. HWI is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that was started in 1977, which is still enriching the culture of the community today. "We are a preservation education and advocacy group," said Kathleen Bowen, president of the group. "We advocate for historic preservation in Waxahachie and try to get the community involved."*



"Many people think you must own an old house to be involved with Historic Waxahachie, Inc. That's not true," Kathleen continued. "You just need to care about our city's great history, and its wonderful resources — our people and their stories, our homes and buildings and churches, our parks and streets and our cemeteries. All of these resources are important and should be preserved for future generations."

You don't have to look far to see what HWI has done to help save the city's history. "We have done many special projects that include

restoring the red caboose downtown, purchasing the bronze eagles on top of the courthouse, saving the first office buildings in Waxahachie that now sit across from the College Street Pub, the baseball mural on the Parks and Recreation Building and many others,” said Chelsea Klepfer, public relations chair of the group.

Many of the residents in Waxahachie have lived here all their lives, and their families have been here for generations. These projects allow Waxahachie natives to explore their own heritage and the pasts of relatives, while also allowing visitors and new residents to learn about the town they have chosen to visit or join.

An Interurban Freight Train Project, which started in January, will likely be completed within two years. Eventually, it will be donated to the city of Waxahachie by HWI and will reside downtown near the future amphitheater. Car No. 507

# ON

was originally a passenger car when built in 1907. It was converted to a freight car in 1917. “It is more than 100 years old,” said Greg Nehib, vice president of HWI. “It was originally owned by the Texas Electric Railroad and was used to move freight. It ran for hundreds of miles all the way from Waco to Denison.”

The train rode into Waxahachie on a 15-foot elevated track that gradually sloped down onto College Street. It transported items such as baggage, dry goods, medicine, automobiles or even the contents of a family’s home if they were moving from town to town. Some Waxahachie residents remember the train delivering prescriptions to local pharmacists.

The freight train is expansive

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and could hold up to three Model A's within its chamber. However, it should be noted that automobiles were not commonly owned during this time, and public transportation was a significant aspect of everyday life in Ellis County. "Since not many people had cars, train and bus transportation were more prevalent. If they did have a car, it was often just one per family," Greg stated. "The Interurban could operate independently because it was electric. Current trains are usually run on diesel, are powered with multiple engines and pull many freight cars, but this Interurban system was almost revolutionary and forward-thinking for the time, because it had a low carbon footprint."

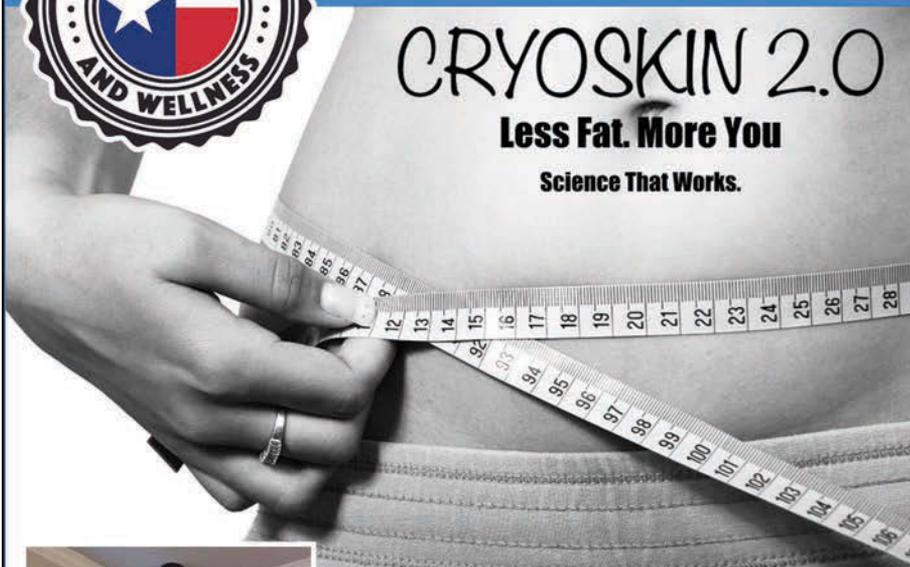
Eventually, the Interurban ceased operation in December 1948, and the electric motors and trucks were taken off and sold for scrap. "There have been several Texas Electric Railway cars found in Ellis County. One was actually purchased by Plano and now sits in a museum in their city," Greg shared. "David Hudgins has been instrumental in helping us attain the one we are currently restoring. Over the course of eight years, he was finally able to talk the owners into selling it to our organization."

The freight train, initially hidden underneath a barn, was located on the owner's rural property in Palmer and was being used for storage. Volunteers from HWI and Colonial Restoration removed the barn that was covering the railcar and helped the McMillan Movers transport it from Palmer to the City of Waxahachie Convenience



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Station by Lion's Park, where it will be restored before nestling into its final home downtown. "Historic Waxahachie, Inc. plans on giving the freight car to the city as a gift — the city will not be purchasing it," Greg clarified. "We hope it will become a tourist attraction for historic and heritage tourism, as ours will be the only freight car from the Texas Electric Railway that we know of currently on display."

This substantial train car stands 12-and-a-half feet tall and spans 60 feet long. It weighs a whopping 25 tons, and it's mostly composed of wood. Its stature is grand and captivating. The wooden, antique exterior will be the perfect backdrop for family photos, engagement pictures or even a playful selfie with friends.

One idea on the table is to repaint one side to read, *Serving the heart of Texas*, while a large, red heart accents the side of the script making the train feel welcome and inviting, per a 1928 photo of the railcar the HWI located.

A ramp leading up to a plexiglass window may be incorporated, so visitors can view the rustic insides of the freight car and imagine what life must have been like in the early 1900s. This feature would add to the educational value and would be entertaining to discuss with children or students from the community. Learning about the history of the town will help bridge the gap from the past and inform future generations.

"Our primary mission is to educate others about the importance of saving Waxahachie's history. We want to ensure that our history — whether it's restoring a grand old home or telling an important story — is not lost," Kathleen conveyed. "Like all nonprofit, volunteer organizations, we can only do these things with support and help from the community." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information on Historic Waxahachie, Inc., visit [HistoricWaxahachie.com](http://HistoricWaxahachie.com).*



BusinessNOW

# Waxahachie Civic Center

— By Sandra Strong

## Waxahachie Civic Center

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**Event Hours:**

Sunday-Thursday: 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

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Under the guidance of Director April Ortiz, Waxahachie Civic Center's 19th year is underway, and things have been more than just a little busy. "February used to not be such a busy month," April shared. "Now, it's one of the busiest months of the year!"

Three events will once again be hosted at the Civic Center in the month of February. The Daddy/Daughter Dance has grown each year in popularity, and April and her staff are expecting nothing less this year, as dads escort their daughters



to an evening of fun. "This will be the eighth year for the dance," April said. "Last year, we sold 505 tickets in a single week." It's proven to be a night where dads are beaming with pride as they dance the night away with their little princesses.

This will be the fifth year for the SkillsUSA Texas District 6 Leadership Skills Conference, where students from Waxahachie and many surrounding counties come together to compete. These competitions, as stated in the SkillsUSA mission statement, empower members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. "This is an all-day, three-day event that's grown from 1,100 students the first year to a projected 1,800 students this year," April added. "From here, winners will move on to the state level of competition."

Dancers of all ages are already making plans to be at another three-day event — the Encore Performing Arts National Dance Competition — hosted for the second consecutive year at the Waxahachie Civic Center. "It's fair to say we have something going on daily here at the Civic Center,"

April confessed. "It may be a small something, but big or small, we love them all!"

The newly completed and recently unveiled Patio Project has been in the works for nearly five years, and April is beyond happy to see it come to fruition. The two plaza areas will offer additional outdoor seating and enjoyment, as well as restructure the unused spaces at both of the main entrances. Star Plaza is located by the entrance to the main offices on the east side, while the entrance by the Cape Myrtle Room on the west side of the building will be home to Fountain Plaza.

**"FEBRUARY USED TO NOT BE SUCH A BUSY MONTH. NOW, IT'S ONE OF THE BUSIEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR!"**

Several years ago, talk began on how to best utilize these two "dead spaces." An idea that started small grew into these two beautiful plazas — areas that took on a life of their own once the work began. "Bob Lynn came up with the idea. He's been so helpful in the implementation," April explained. "The city of Waxahachie, through their beautification program, has highlighted several areas to further beautify the city, and the Civic Center happened to be one of those areas."

The benches in both areas invite guests to sit and relax while taking in all the two plazas have to offer. Star Plaza offers a historical feel with the inlaid star that mimics the Waxahachie Civic Center logo, while the water cascading from the sugar bowl kettle fountain in Fountain Plaza brings a peace to the once barren area.

As April and her staff dive into 2019, they also look forward to all 2020 has to offer. "The Waxahachie Civic Center will celebrate 20 years in 2020," she said with excitement. Reminiscing over the growth of the Civic Center, April can't help but smile at all they've been able to accomplish as they look forward to the next 20 years. **NOW**

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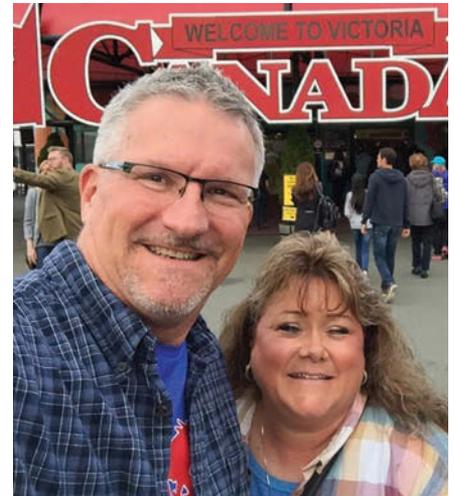
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Steve and Tammy Goad love spending time together at softball games and at antique malls and festivals.

## Zoomed In: Paul Smith

By Sandra Strong

Paul Smith met Amy in 2013 while both were working at the North Texas District Office of the Assemblies of God. A friendship turned into a relationship that turned into marriage in July of 2014. "It's been an incredible journey since then," Paul shared, "and it just keeps getting better."

Getting to share his graduation from SAGU with a master's degree in business administration with his wife and family proved to be beyond amazing. Paul spent the entire evening asking himself, "Is this really happening? Did I really finish this?" As family, friends, colleagues and mentors gathered around to congratulate him, he realized the collaborative effort had come to fruition. "I don't think I could have done it alone," he said. "God has truly blessed me with an incredible support system."



Craig Fenton and Tammy Patterson are all smiles as they prepare for tax season at KJ CPA.



Amy Lane serves customers with a smile at the Waxahachie White Rhino.



Primera Baptist Church's Irene Florez joins Kairos volunteers preparing food for a weekend ministry in the Sanders Estes Unit in Venus.



Branden McClain, owner of McClain's Total Car Care, works hard for customers in 2019.



Ellis County Commissioner Paul Pery takes advantage of a photo opportunity with Tommy Blake.



Rosalyn White and Rebecca Ceron, stylists with Fantastic Sams, take a quick moment to smile for the camera.

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**GAVIN BONE**  
 — By Sandra Strong

Gavin Bone enjoys cooking because he finds pride in the products he creates, especially his homemade meals. “I also get to experiment and perfect my favorite meals,” he stated. “I have been cooking for as long as I can remember. Cooking really kicked off in the middle of a random summer when I started making everything by hand.” Gavin is still fascinated by how everyday items can be turned into gourmet meals with just a little guidance.

This guidance for Gavin comes from late-night YouTube binge watching, his need to keep learning and his desire to wake up early to make whatever he wants. “I test these recipes over and over until they are just right,” he explained. “Only then will I serve them to my family.” **NOW**

### Pico de Gallo Queso

**8 oz. cheese, shredded (Oaxaca, Jack or white American)**

**1/2 cup milk**

**1 small tomato (about 1/2 cup), cut into 1/4-inch diced pieces**

**1 Tbsp. red onion, finely diced**

**2 tsp. minced serrano pepper, including seeds if you like it spicy**

**2 Tbsp. cilantro, chopped**

1. Place cheese and milk in a small saucepan over low heat to melt the cheese. Stir frequently to prevent burning.
2. Combine remaining ingredients in a small

bowl. Mix thoroughly. Add to the cheese mixture, stirring until thoroughly incorporated.

3. Pour into a bowl. While still warm, serve with tortilla chips.

### Easy Brisket Rub

**1/2 cup kosher salt**

**1 cup coarsely ground black pepper**

**1 5- to 6-lb. brisket, flat**

1. Preheat a smoker to 225 F using your personal preferred method. Then add wood chips.
2. Mix the salt and pepper to make the seasoning rub. Apply the rub to the brisket.

3. Place the brisket on the smoker. Add additional wood chips as necessary to supply continuous smoke throughout the cooking process.

4. Cook brisket until it reaches an internal temperature of 170 F. This usually takes 4-5 hours.

5. Carefully wrap the brisket in foil or butcher paper and return to the smoker. Continue cooking until brisket reaches an internal temperature of 190 F, usually 1-2 additional hours.

6. Rest the meat, still wrapped, for 30 minutes to 1 hour.

7. Unwrap the brisket. Slice against the grain to serve.

### Homemade Bread

**1/4 oz. active dry yeast**

**2 1/4 cups warm water, 110-115 F**

**3 Tbsp. sugar**

**1 Tbsp. salt**

**2 Tbsp. canola oil**

**3 1/4 to 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour (divided use)**

1. In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add sugar, salt, oil and 3 cups flour.

2. Use remaining flour to prepare a kneading surface. Turn dough onto the floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic, about 8-10 minutes.

3. Punch dough down. Bake at 375 F for 30-35 minutes, or until golden brown. Bread should sound hollow when tapped.

## BBQ Sauce

4 cups ketchup

1 cup honey

1/2 cup apple cider vinegar

1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce

1 1/2 cups dark brown sugar

1 Tbsp. garlic powder

1 Tbsp. onion powder

1 Tbsp. ground black pepper

1 7-oz. can jalapeño peppers, pickled

1. Pour all liquids into a saucepan. Add the dry ingredients to the mixture. Keep the sauce on medium heat to simmer for about 15 minutes.

2. When ready, take the pan off the heat; let cool. Once cooled, pour the sauce into a blender to disperse and chop the jalapeños.

## BBQ Pork Spare Rib Rub

1/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup paprika

3 Tbsp. coarse salt

1 Tbsp. black pepper

1 Tbsp. garlic powder

1 Tbsp. onion powder

1 Tbsp. chili powder (optional)

1 Tbsp. cayenne pepper (optional)

1. In a small bowl, mix all ingredients together using your hands, making sure to bust up any clumps in the brown sugar.

2. This is a perfect combination for pork spare ribs.

## Mongolian Stir-fry Beef

1 1/4 lbs. flank steak, thinly sliced

1/4 cup cornstarch

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil

1/2 cup low-sodium soy sauce

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup water

1 tsp. minced ginger

Chili garlic sauce, to taste

3 garlic cloves, minced

Green onions, sliced for garnish

Pinch red pepper flakes

1. In a large Ziploc bag, add the flank steak and cornstarch. Toss the beef to coat evenly.

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2. Heat a large skillet to high heat; add vegetable oil. Once heated, add the steak in a single layer.
3. Cook on each side for 1 minute, or until the edges begin to brown. Once the steak is cooked, remove and set aside on a plate.
4. In a small mixing bowl, combine soy sauce, brown sugar, water, ginger, chili garlic sauce and garlic. Add the sauce to the pan; bring to a boil.
5. Add the steak to the sauce. Allow the sauce to thicken for a couple of minutes.
6. Toss with the chopped green onions; sprinkle with red pepper flakes.
7. Serve on top of steamed white or fried rice.



Homemade Pasta and Alfredo Sauce

## Homemade Pasta

- 3 large eggs, beaten to blend
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. kosher salt

1. Mix eggs, flour, oil and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer with your hands until a shaggy dough is formed.
2. Knead with dough hook until dough is smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes.
3. Cover dough with plastic wrap. Let rest at least 30 minutes. Cut and roll as desired.

(Note: Dough can be made 1 day ahead, but it needs to be tightly wrapped and chilled.)

## Homemade Alfredo Sauce

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. salt

- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

1. In a medium saucepan, add butter, whipping cream and cream cheese. Cook over medium heat; whisk until melted.
2. Add minced garlic, garlic powder, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Continue to whisk until smooth; add the Parmesan cheese.
3. Bring to a simmer; continue to cook for about 3-5 minutes, or until it starts to thicken. Toss it with your favorite pasta.



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# ADVENTURE

T H R O U G H

# HISTORY

— By Melissa Rawlins

*Lift your glass for a toast: To life! And give three cheers for destiny — a concept Americans hardly discuss anymore. Since accomplishing our manifest destiny, we tour distant places on a roundtrip ticket, sure that our final destination is home sweet home.*

Yet, there is a spot on this planet that has been and will be home to countless generations. And its doors are open to visitors year-round. Israel's heartland, otherwise known as Samaria and Judea, has welcomed intrepid travelers ever since Abraham left Ur Kaśdim (commonly translated as Ur of the Chaldees) for Canaan. But the 40-mile-wide swath of land, with Jerusalem in its center, is especially popular now that agritourism is trendy.

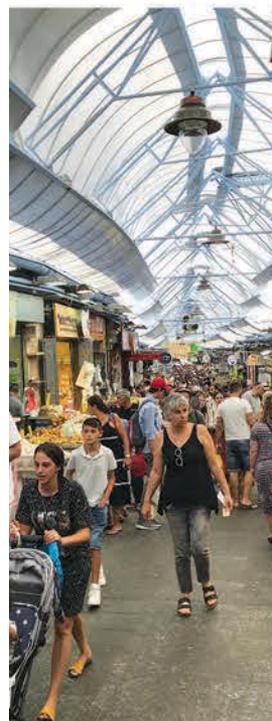
Participating in farm activities while touring this part of the Middle East provides a balanced approach to travel. Seasonally, there are grapes to prune in the winter and harvest in the summer — when figs are also easy to find — and olives to pick in the fall. Organic olive orchards, planted near vineyards equidistant between the Dead Sea and Jerusalem, experience pure sunshine throughout the year.

One reputable organization that has developed relationships with multiple local farmers is HaYovel.com, based in the United States. Since Israel's Hebrew-speaking populace rests every Saturday, and prepares for the Sabbath on Fridays, agritourists only work a few days per week and then give their bodies a rest while investigating various aspects of the region's art, archaeology and appetite.

Health nuts can smell, taste and hear the story of the Saboneto family of organic soaps after driving northeast of Jerusalem to Kochav HaShachar. Foodies will be fascinated by the cuisine throughout Israel. Small cafés with spicy, healthy meats and vegetables are usually ensconced near museums, synagogues, marketplaces and gas stations.

In Jerusalem, larger restaurants like Ima's cater to tourists visiting Israel's center of government, the Knesset. Throughout the day, kiosks pressing juices from fresh pomegranates make a nice alternative to the ubiquitous coffee break. And it's always a treat to start mornings with a visit to the *shuk* (fresh market) in Jerusalem, where cheeses and candies unlike any other are bought in the thousands by people who plan to share them in their own restaurants or homes.

Afternoons and evenings are perfect times to visit the wineries that are popping up throughout the country. Sixteen years ago, Samaria and Judea had only a few small vineyards serving individual families. Now, more





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than 350 acres are planted with fruitful vines, and a million bottles of wine are produced annually. This is partly because volunteer agritourists are empowering the wine industry's growth. Psagot Winery, close to Beit El (Bethel) northwest of Jerusalem, is a modern gem boasting wide-open views of rock-studded mountains. Kabir Winery, farther north in Elon Moreh, feels a bit more "ancient." Maybe that is because its vintner, Eliav Hillel, is also a scribe. Nearby, the settlement of Itamar, established in 1984, is at the forefront of Israel's organic agriculture.

Forty miles north, you can wine and dine in Tiberias, where a 10th-century crusader castle now hosts a nightclub. Not far up the shore of the Sea of Galilee, viewing fine and modern art in Ginosar's Museum of the Galilee can precede an invigorating swim in the harp-shaped lake. A little farther north, Capernaum provides history buffs an abundance of beautiful ruins to study. And the beaches of Ein Gev invite families and individuals to simply chill.

No matter how much you enjoy traveling independently, you'll glean more of the depth and breadth of Israel's nature, history and culture by traveling with a guide who lives in the land. Michael Bar-Neder (annbn@012.net.il) specializes in guiding mentally and physically challenged people, as well as families, on tours of biblical Israel. Maayan Usva Cohen (pathsofisrael@gmail.com) guides both on contemporary political issues and in the biblical landscapes of Judea and Samaria, and can also take you on off-road adventures in her jeep. Ask for recommendations when you start planning your trip to the heartland of Israel with the Shomron Regional Council at [www.tourshomron.org.il](http://www.tourshomron.org.il).

Israel awaits with much to learn and see. *L'chaim* — to life — and to destiny! **NOW**

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Vanessa has been in the title industry since 1999, and an Escrow Officer since 2005. Vanessa is married and has one daughter and multiple family pets. She is a native Texan, growing up on Lake Buchanan in the Texas Hill Country, she attended Tarleton State University where she met her husband. Vanessa and her family enjoy spending time outdoors and on the lake, boating, skiing, swimming and camping.

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A modern interior scene featuring a teal armchair with a tufted pillow, a white conical pendant light, and a textured grey wall. The scene is framed by a white border on the left and bottom. The teal armchair has a tufted pillow and is supported by wooden legs. The white conical pendant light hangs from the ceiling. The background wall has a textured, grey finish. The floor is a light-colored wood or laminate.

# REPURPOSING WITH REUPHOLSTERY

— *By Sandra Strong*

*Are you a crafter who finds great pleasure in diving into a dumpster to see what has been discarded? Do you enjoy turning someone's trash into treasure? Do you have a family heirloom that could use some tender loving care? If so, then learning the art of upholstery can be the skill you need to bring new life to an old chair, headboard or couch. There are no real limits to the craft of upholstery once the basics have been mastered.*

There are several types of upholstery — traditional, automobile, commercial and marine. Learning the basics found in the traditional type can make venturing out in the other three types a little less overwhelming. The best advice would be to practice on a flat wooden board. A seat to a simple straight-back chair is the perfect place to begin.

Only a few basic tools are necessary when learning how to upholster your first item — a bread knife, a screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, scissors and industrial staples. If the base needs to be replaced, then the use of a skill saw will be added to the list. You will also need foam, batting and upholstery fabric.



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Remove the chair bottom by removing the screws. Be sure to put screws in a safe place because you will need them later. Pull the old staples with pliers or a flat-head screwdriver, whichever you feel more comfortable using. Once the staples are removed, you are then able to see the padding underneath the old fabric, as well as the condition of the base. Only replace the base if it seems unstable, broken or rotted. If making a new chair bottom is warranted, use the old base as your pattern when cutting the new one.

The next step, after first deciding the thickness, is to cut the foam padding using the wood base as your pattern. If you choose to use batting material between the padding and the upholstery fabric, you need to be sure to cut it large enough so, when stretched, it will fit around the sides and corners of the base. You need to allow for no less than a 1-inch overlay on the backside. This is also the rule when cutting the fabric. It is better to have an excess of batting and fabric on the back to remove instead of not having enough.

If the fabric you choose has a set pattern that needs to be centered, make sure you have it centered on the base prior to stapling the layers to the base. Check the front as often as needed to see that the pattern hasn't slipped or moved from where you originally started. It's much easier to check than it is to pull staples and start the process over again.

The last thing to staple is the corners, and they seem to be the most difficult part of the process. Before stapling, you

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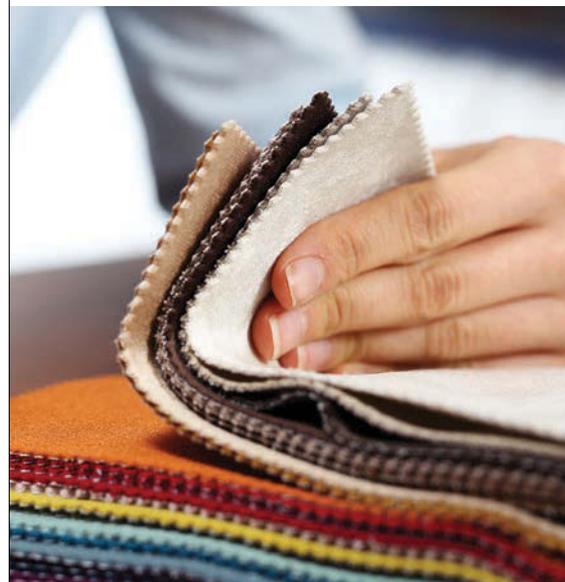
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will need to decide what type of corner you want to end up with — those that are more precise or those that are gathered. Before stapling the corners down, you will need to make sure the batting hasn't puckered under the fabric. If it has, you will need to use your scissors to trim away any excess. This will allow for clean, precise corners.

Once the stapling is complete, be sure to trim any excess material off the back of the base for overall neatness. Prior to fastening the base back on the chair with the screws you previously set aside, you may want to also redo the frame of the chair with a quick sanding and coat of paint. That choice is up to the one doing the upholstery.

One simple chair can lead to a set of chairs, an ottoman or even a headboard. The beauty of upholstery is that you can start over as many times as you need to. When stapling, you may have pulled too tight on one side, while not pulling tight enough on the other side. Upholstery is much more forgiving than other forms of recycling and repurposing.

If you do decide to venture out to upholster a set of chairs, be sure to number the chairs. Make sure the top and bottom of each individual chair share the same number, otherwise you may have trouble when it comes time to reset the chair bottoms to the frames. Numbering assures that the original screw holes line up perfectly.

Where you may have found the item no longer matters. Once the upholstery process is complete, your dumpster dive, garage sale find or heirloom will become something brand-new that you can be proud of for years to come. **NOW**



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## Women: Still Think High Heels Are Worth It?

It's not what fashion-conscious women want to hear — another warning about high heels. But, pump-style shoes often cause significant pain by irritating a common bony deformity on the back of the heel called 'pump bump.' In many cases, it can lead to bursitis or Achilles tendonitis if left untreated.

Pump bump is common in young women who wear high heels almost every day. The rigid back of a pump-style shoe can create pressure that aggravates the heel bone when walking. The bump or bony protrusion is a hereditary deformity that can cause Achilles tendonitis or bursitis due to constant irritation from pump-style shoes. Those with high arches or tight Achilles tendons are especially vulnerable to developing pump bump if they work in high heels.

The medical term for the disorder is Haglund's deformity. In addition to the noticeable bump, symptoms include pain where the Achilles tendon attaches to the heel, swelling in the back of the heel and redness in the area.



In most women, doctors can prescribe medications to reduce the pain and inflammation. This does not, however, get rid of the bony protrusion. Icing the back of the heel reduces swelling, and stretching exercises can relieve tension in the Achilles. Long term, it's best to avoid wearing high heels, if possible.

When the dress code requires high heels, female patients can try heel lifts to decrease pressure on the heel. They can also wear appropriate dress shoes that have soft backs or are backless. **NOW**

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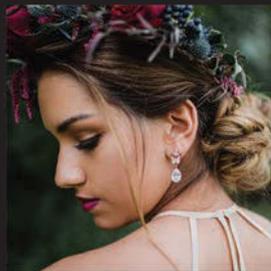
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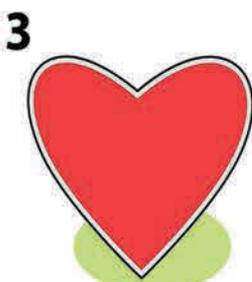
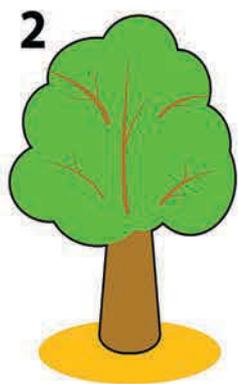
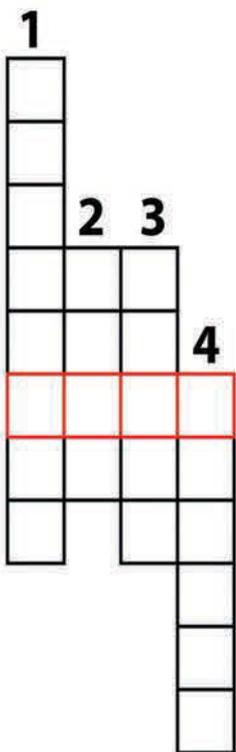
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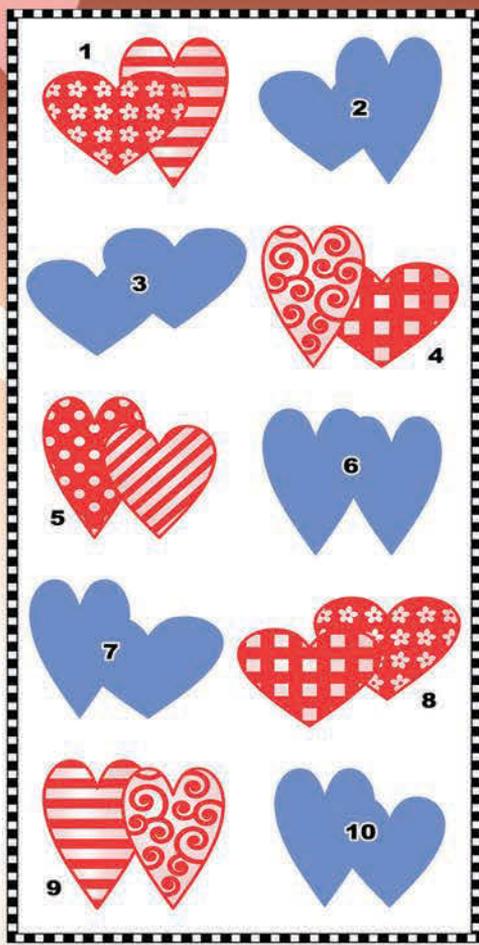
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# Kids' Fun Pages



Solution



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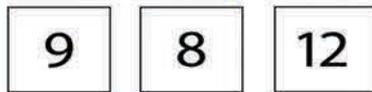
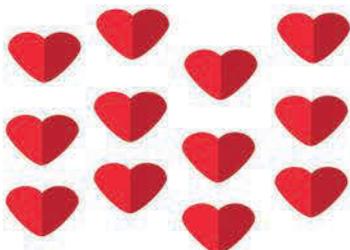
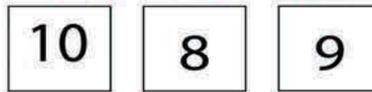
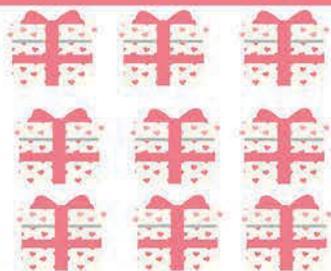
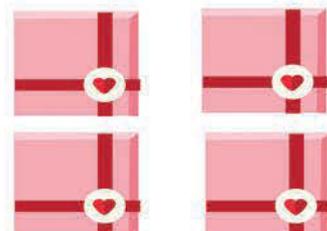
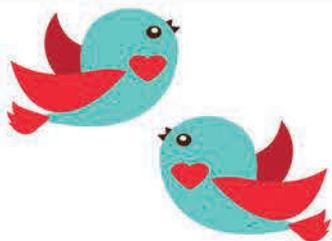
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ANSWER:

1-2, 4-7, 5-10, 8-3, 9-6

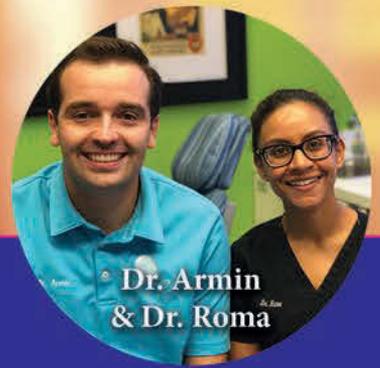
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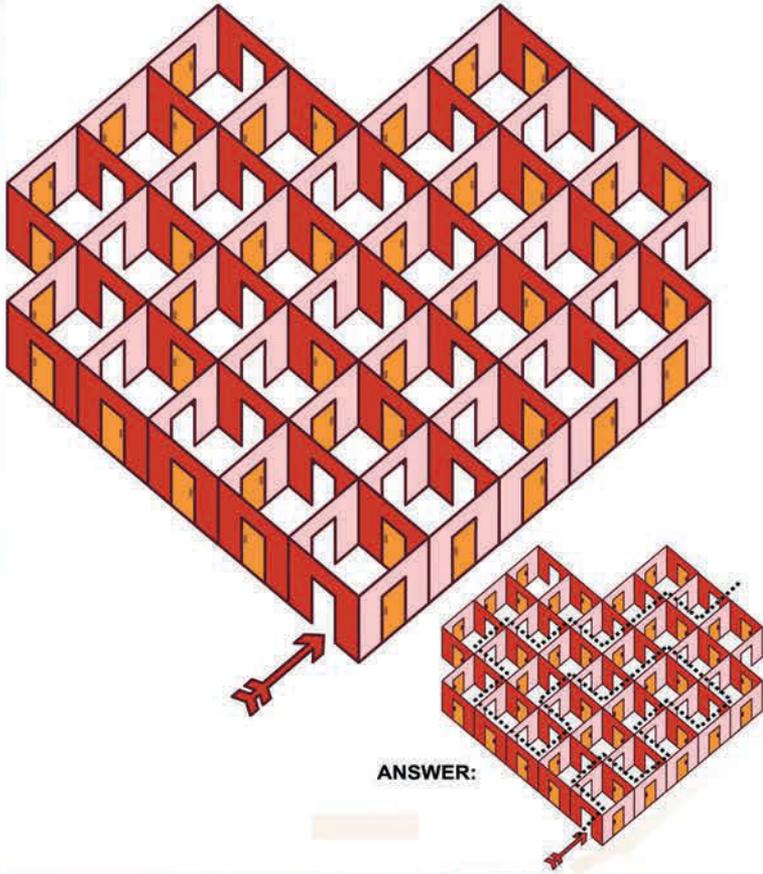
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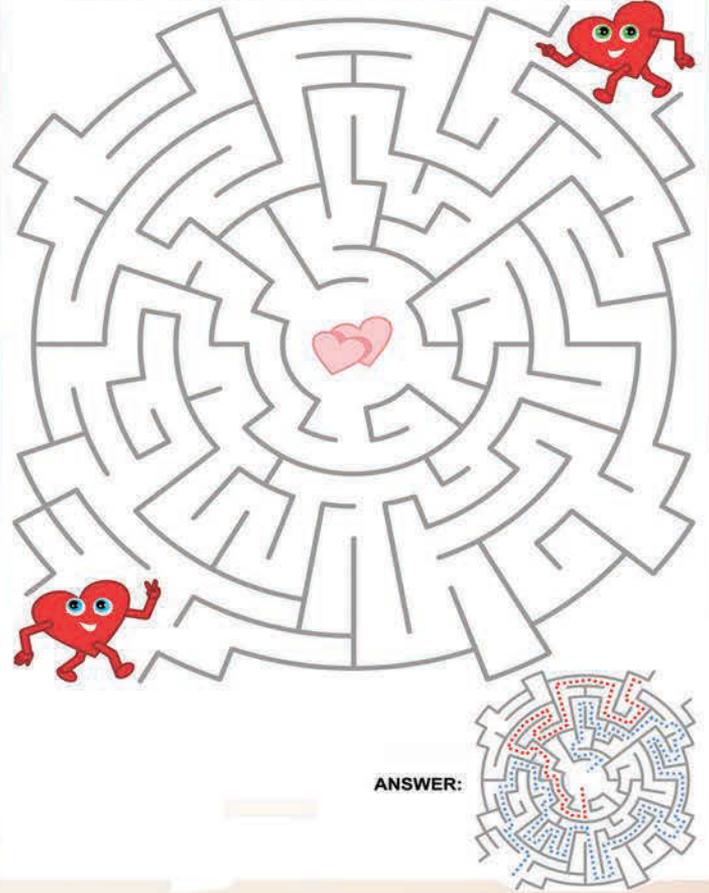
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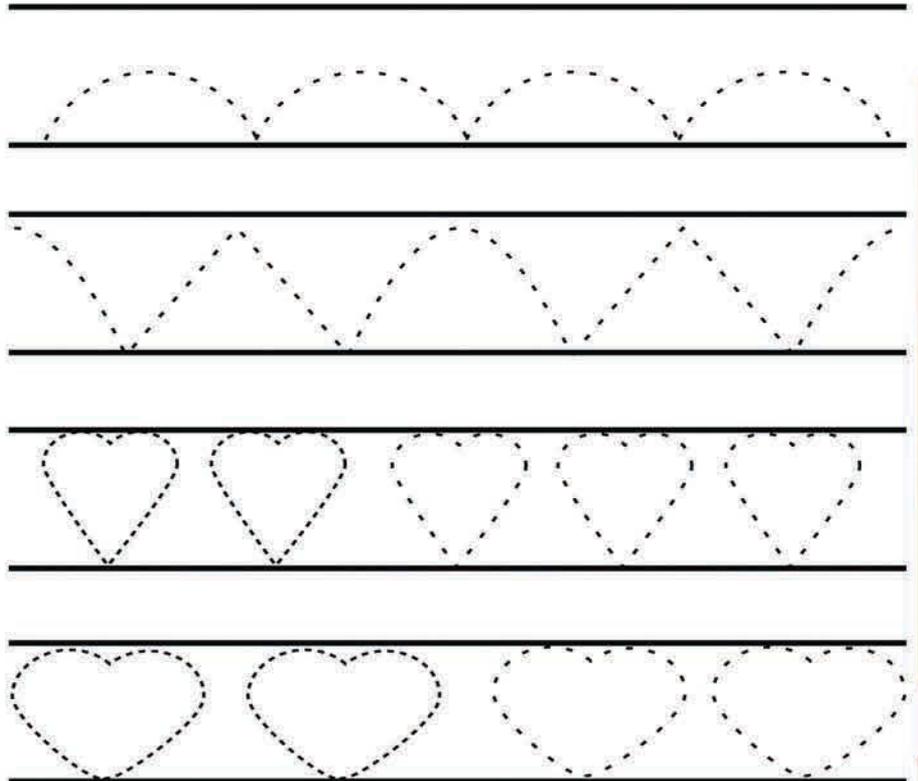
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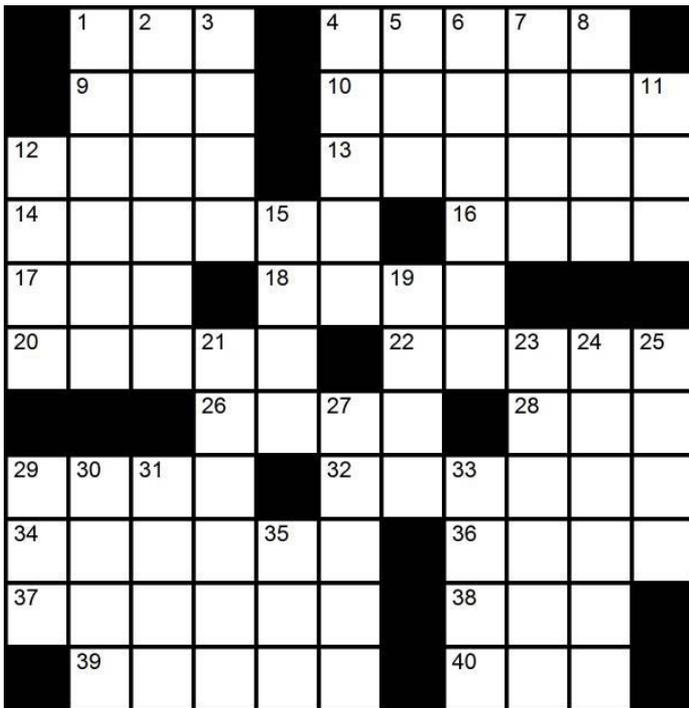
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 " --- now or never"
- 4 Hard on the nose
- 9 Vast amount
- 10 Arranged for voices
- 12 Pie-crust ingredient
- 13 Only state with two official lang
- 14 Puncture
- 16 Caltech, for ex.
- 17 Sparse fluid
- 18 P --- puzzle
- 20 A freckle past ---
- 22 Once more
- 26 Exultation
- 28 Attempt
- 29 Comedienne née Molinsky
- 32 Commuter computer
- 34 Taking the place
- 36 Outer covering
- 37 Softened
- 38 "Halt, --- fire!"
- 39 Prolonged blockade
- 40 Advent mo.

## Down

- 1 Prophetic Bible book
- 2 Blessed Mother
- 3 --- City (Baghdad district)
- 4 Pains
- 5 Half a dance, perhaps
- 6 Quarreling
- 7 Pakistan neighbor
- 8 Politician's stand?
- 11 Snockered
- 12 Where to find swinger Michelle Wie
- 15 Songwriter --- Perkins
- 19 UN nuclear watchdog
- 21 Set on fire
- 23 What one goes around in
- 24 Subtly sarcastic
- 25 Big Apple corps
- 27 Cleverly avoid
- 29 Dandy beginning?
- 30 Singles
- 31 Slimming drug
- 33 Urge along
- 35 Brain surgeon's test equipment

Solutions on page 52

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 52

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 Impact Communities is a community coalition that is dedicated to reducing youth substance abuse.  
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 (972) 937-1531

**SWAGG**  
 SWAGG is a family-oriented ministry that shares the love of God by offering serenity, wisdom, agility, grace and guidance to foster and homeless children.  
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 Waxahachie, TX 75167  
 (972) 213-8212

**Healing Hearts Center**  
 The Healing Hearts Center provides shelter, counseling and crisis intervention to families experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault.  
 505 W. Marvin St.  
 Waxahachie, TX 75165  
 (800) 828-7893

**Waxahachie CARE Services**  
 Waxahachie CARE Services is a food bank helping those in need in the Waxahachie area.  
 1208 Ferris Ave.  
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**Common Ground**  
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# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

## FEBRUARY

2/7

### Rainbow Wishes & Unicorn Kisses:

8th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance: This promises to be an evening of food, fun and dancing. Tickets are \$15 per person. Waxahachie Civic Center, (469) 309-4040.

2/25

### Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County:

Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., [www.elliscountyquilters.com](http://www.elliscountyquilters.com).

3/22 – 3/23

### Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project presents

#### Heaven's Front Porch:

All tickets are \$12. 7:00 p.m., Friday; 3:00 p.m., Saturday, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. [www.WaxaOFS.com](http://www.WaxaOFS.com).

### First Mondays

#### Friends of Sims Library meeting:

Newcomers are always welcome. 10:00-11:00 a.m., library meeting room, 515 W. Main St.

### Second Mondays

#### Ellis County Veterans Networking:

Dinner and guest speaker. 6:00 p.m., IHOP, Waxahachie. Jim McKeever (469) 258-7424.

### First and Fourth Mondays

#### Avenue Moms:

10:00 a.m.-noon, The Avenue Church, 1761 N. Hwy. 77. Register at [www.events.theavenuechurch.com](http://www.events.theavenuechurch.com) or call the church office at (972) 937-5301.

### Third Mondays

#### Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting:

7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin. [www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org).

### Fourth Mondays

#### Texas Master Naturalists Indian Trails Chapter:

6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Waxahachie. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. [www.txmn.org/indiantrail](http://www.txmn.org/indiantrail).

#### Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting:

6:30-7:00 p.m., social time; 7:00-8:00 p.m., program, Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave. [www.elliscountyquilters.com](http://www.elliscountyquilters.com) for more information.

### Tuesdays

#### Lariat Bridge Club:

6:30 p.m., Boy Scout Cabin, 1139 Brown St. Shari at [weatherscf@yahoo.com](mailto:weatherscf@yahoo.com) or call (505) 270-4017.

#### GriefShare meeting:

4:00 and 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the Youth Center Kindergarten Room. Call (972) 935-9801 or visit [www.cowboyfaith.org](http://www.cowboyfaith.org).

#### Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite class:

This is an interdenominational Bible study class. 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave. Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.

### Second Tuesdays

#### Ellis County Republicans monthly meeting:

7:00 p.m., Ellis County GOP Headquarters, 610 Water St. (972) 923-9383.

### Fourth Tuesdays

#### Ellis County Technology (ECT) meeting:

6:30 p.m., LaQuinta. Wendy Merritt at (469) 256-8989.

### Wednesdays

#### DivorceCare:

DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meet at the same time, as well as childcare for younger children. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Midlothian, Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St., Midlothian. (972) 775-3993.

### Third Wednesdays

#### The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting:

Cost is \$13. Reservations are due **Sunday** before the meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Barb at (214) 463-5064 or email [barb.jacobs19@yahoo.com](mailto:barb.jacobs19@yahoo.com).

### Last Wednesdays

#### Collaboration of Organizations & Services monthly meeting:

1:00 p.m., Sim's Library. Terri Klein at [terri.klein@co.ellis.tx.us/](mailto:terri.klein@co.ellis.tx.us/).

### Thursdays

#### Genealogy Research Assistance:

The Genealogy and Reference Department will be offering the tools needed to search for your ancestors. Attendees will be able to exchange information, share creative solutions, generate resources and solve these mysteries. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Sims Library.

#### Junior Master Gardeners Club:

Club is for children ages 5-12. If you have an interest in gardening, come for gardening related activities and help maintain the Sims Library garden. 3:45-4:45 p.m., Sims Library.

#### Ellis County Bible Study Fellowship Satellite Class:

This is a nondenominational Bible study class. 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. Lou Archibald at (214) 850-5303.



## 3/1 — 3/3

### Sweethearts and Orphans XX:

Sweethearts refers to fact that the event is held in honor of wives, girlfriends or significant others who have put up with the old car obsession that many times takes them away on Valentine's Day. Orphans refers to the cars that have been orphaned that include, but are not limited to, the Hudson, Studebaker and Nash, as well as Chrysler, Ford and GM models. 3/1, 60-mile driving tour; 3/2, car show and dinner; 3/3, awards ceremony. Downtown Waxahachie, Larry Kollie, (972) 903-9037, AKLOL1915@gmail.com.

**Buckout Arena Ministry:**  
7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2374 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass. (972) 935-9801.

### First and Third Thursdays

**Ellis County HEALS:**  
They are helping those who have lost a loved one to suicide. 6:30-8:00 p.m., 408 Water St. elliscountyheals@gmail.com or on Facebook.

### Second Thursdays

**Crackpots meeting:**  
6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church

of Ennis. Vicki Bell at (469) 285-4845 or Myra Morrissey at (972) 998-5868.

### Last Thursdays

#### Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting:

All active, retired or former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave., Ennis. (214) 803-4954.

### Fridays

**Ellis County Democrats Coffee and Talk Open House:**

8:00 a.m., Democrat HQ, 215 E. Main St. (972) 937-9039.

#### Business Networking International meeting:

8:00-9:30 a.m., LaQuinta, 311 Stadium Dr. (469) 222-9160.

#### Story Time at Sims Library:

presented by the Jr. Service League for children 3 and older. In addition to reading books, children will participate in a craft and receive a snack. 10:00-11:00 a.m., (972) 937-2671.

### First Saturdays

**Books and Brew:**  
Author Talk Series: Hear authors

read from their books, have a book signed and learn about the creative process. The local Starbucks will provide free coffee and attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. Event is free and open to the public. Noon, Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

### Fourth Saturdays

#### Bristol Opry:

Featuring local singers and musicians. 7:00 p.m. Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

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

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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
				A	C	R	I	D							
9	S	E	A		10	C	H	O	R	A	L				
12	L	A	R	D		13	H	A	W	A	I				
14	P	I	E	R	C	E		16	I	N	S	T			
17	G	A	S		18	A	S	I	N						
20	A	H	A		21	I	R		22	A	G	23	24	25	N
					26	G	L	E	E		28	T	R	Y	
29	J	O	A	N		32	L	A	P	T	O	P			
34	I	N	L	I	E	U			36	R	I	N	D		
37	M	E	L	T	E	D			38	O	R	I			
	39	S	I	E	G	E			40	D	E	C			

Easy

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

Medium

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



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