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# Southwest NOW

M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2020

## Rapping Shakespeare

Cora Garner uses a variety of methods to engage her students

## Painting Everything

Carolyn Ellis' creativity shines through

In the Kitchen With Nicky Rivera

Also inside:  
Scavenger Hunt

Featured Business:  
Brandon Florence, DDS

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- Saturday, Feb 1, 2020 | 8 am to Noon
- Tuesday, March 31, 2020 | 7 am to Noon & 4 pm to 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | 7 am to Noon
- Thursday, April 2, 2020 | 7 am to Noon & 4 pm to 8 pm

## Hall of Honor Nominations Are Now Open

DeSoto ISD developed the DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor in 2012 to recognize alumni and those who have provided meritorious service to the district.

Thousands of alumni, educators, parents, community supporters, business people and elected officials have made significant contributions to the development and improvement of DeSoto ISD.

Nominate these individuals to be celebrated through the DeSoto ISD Hall of Honor in one of two categories: DHS Alumni Hall of Fame or DeSoto ISD Distinguished Service Award.

Nominations for the Class of 2020 may be submitted online until the deadline on **Friday, February 28.**

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [http://www.desotoisd.org/about\\_de\\_soto\\_isd/de\\_soto\\_isd\\_hall\\_of\\_honor](http://www.desotoisd.org/about_de_soto_isd/de_soto_isd_hall_of_honor).

### CALENDAR

- Feb . 10: Regular Board Meeting
- Feb. 13: Parent Conferences/ Early Dismissal
- Feb. 14: Professional Development/ Student Holiday
- Feb. 17: Presidents' Day (District Closed)
- Feb. 24: Regular Board Meeting
- Mar. 9-13: Spring Break
- Mar. 21: Female Leadership Forum

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American Heart Health Month and a Texas medical pioneer go hand in hand.



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## ON THE COVER

*Cora Garner is "rapped" up in educating students.*

**Photo by**  
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Adam*

Adam Walker  
SouthwestNOW Editor  
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*What's love got to do with it?*

Very little, actually. At least the romantic type. St. Valentine's Day is celebrated all over as a special day devoted to romantic love, but who was St. Valentine, and how is he connected to finding the love of your life?

Well, not a whole lot is known for certain about the Valentinus who became the saint. He lived in the Italian province of the Roman Empire and died on February 14 in 269, or a year or two after that. He was probably the bishop of Terni and may have been visiting Rome when he was arrested for being a Christian and refusing to sacrifice to pagan gods. He may have been illegally performing marriages for Christian couples. While he was in prison, he prayed for God to heal his jailer's daughter of blindness. One early story claims he was brought before Emperor Claudius who thought he was a likable sort and was thinking about letting him go, until Valentinus shared the Gospel with the emperor. At that point, he had Valentinus beaten with clubs and chopped his head off.

So, where're the hearts and cupids (which the real Valentinus would have known as a pagan god)? Those things, and the stories about him being the patron saint of lovers don't show up for about 1,200 years. And Chaucer, the guy you probably heard about in English lit class, may be the one who made all of that up, for a sort of satire. From that point on, lots of stories have been told.

*Now, where's the chocolate?*

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Event/Student Name	Date	Time	Location
Choir/Performance	Dec 20th 2014	7:30	DeSoto
Basketball	Jan 27-29	6:00	DeSoto
Tribute	Jan 27-29 2015	6:00	DeSoto
Culinary Show	Jan 9th 2020	5:30	DeSoto
Open House	February 1 2020	4:30	DeSoto
March	2020	10:00	DeSoto

SH





# Rapping — By Bill Smith MAKES PEARE

*Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” DeSoto High School teacher, Cora Garner, knew from the time she was a sophomore student in DeSoto that changing the world could start with DeSoto High, and vowed to come back and do her part in the education system.*

Upon entering Ms. Garner’s classroom, one senses a difference in the atmosphere that is somehow hard to distinguish. Besides a dictionary on almost every desk, there are posters on the walls with text unfamiliar to the uninformed, and there is music playing in the background. “The music may be neo-soul or rap music. I find the instrumental version of familiar songs and play them in the background. The music keeps the room calm and helps with classroom management,” Cora explained.

One of the posters is a description of Cora herself, an attempt to describe herself in her own words, so her students can have a head start on understanding who she is, as she spends time during the semesters learning who her students are. The poster indicates that Cora is cool, kind, unique and eclectic. “I feel like I may be unique because of the number of tasks I am balancing right now, from teaching this class, relating to my students and not just my students but others in the school, to taking college classes looking forward to completing my master’s degree and moving on in my career. At the end of the day, I hope I am a little wiser, but I acknowledge I’m still just 25 years old.

“I am eclectic, and part of that is a result of my background. Both my parents were in their 40s when I was born. My father is from Louisiana and is into religion and sports. My mother is from Chicago, the south side, and is a professional jazz vocalist.” Both of them have had an influence on who Cora is today. “In fact, my mother was working for the school district when I was a child, and I was around other educators growing up. My mother was my first teacher, although she was not a professional educator.”

Cora is quick to point out the classroom teacher that most influenced her career choice. “Mr. Cato inspired me. I wanted to be like him,” she continued. “I saw that I wanted to be a leader and manage a classroom. I knew I wanted to be a school principal someday, and I knew I wanted to come back to DeSoto and pay it forward in my own community.”





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In just her first year teaching sophomore English, Cora was selected as Teacher of the Year for DeSoto High School. Additionally, she was selected as Teacher of the Year by the Southwest Alliance of Black School Educators. Some of her core teaching techniques have spread throughout the district. One of the posters in her classroom outlines steps for students to use in composition. Cora explained, "Hit it. Feel it. Cut it!" cover the introduction, body paragraphs and closing parts of an essay. Our students recognize these parts not only in their own compositions, but also in reading and identifying the parts of essays for tests." Another teaching technique Cora is known for is incorporating rap music into her lesson plans. "This is about being culturally relevant and relating to the students so they recognize, for instance, rhyme schemes in the music they would be listening to when they are not in class."

It might seem unusual to hear Shakespeare's poetic *Romeo and Juliet* recited to the tune of rapper O.T. Genasis or The Notorious B.I.G., but Cora did just that, and the video went viral from the DeSoto ISD's Facebook page. The video led State Board of Education member, Aicha Davis, to invite Cora to demonstrate her instructional raps with her students at the Texas Education Agency meeting in April 2020.

Cora also uses other methods that might seem more traditional to reach and relate to her students, but she recognizes the benefit of today's technology, as well. "I don't think I have ever done a lesson without it," she mused. "I also want to find a way to connect when it does not appear there is a connection." One of the whiteboards in the room outlines school sports schedules. "Last year, I had a couple of students I knew I was not connecting with. They were into

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basketball, and though not really a big sports fan, I decided the best thing I could do was attend their games. I made a poster that had their names and jersey numbers on it and carried it with me, and it indicated that they were my students. It made an impact on them. Their classroom performance improved, not just in my class, but it continues today, as they have moved on to the next grade level.”



Cora has her own educational platform that she labels with three “C’s.” “First is culturally responsive. You are teaching in a way that relates to your students. My students relate to Hip-Hop, R&B, fashion, etc. The second ‘C’ is collaboration. I don’t limit strategies to just my class. I share them throughout the school district with other teachers and students. The third ‘C’ is community. I get the students involved in their community. We have taken students with us as we canvassed the neighborhoods before a local election.”

Cora had a vision of advancing her career in school administration in her own community while still a high school student. She is actively pursuing her goals to give back to the source of her inspiration. **NOW**

*Editor’s Note: The link to Cora Garner’s video of her rapping the prologue to Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet is: <https://www.facebook.com/100004736056195/posts/1155312307969960?sfns=mo>.*

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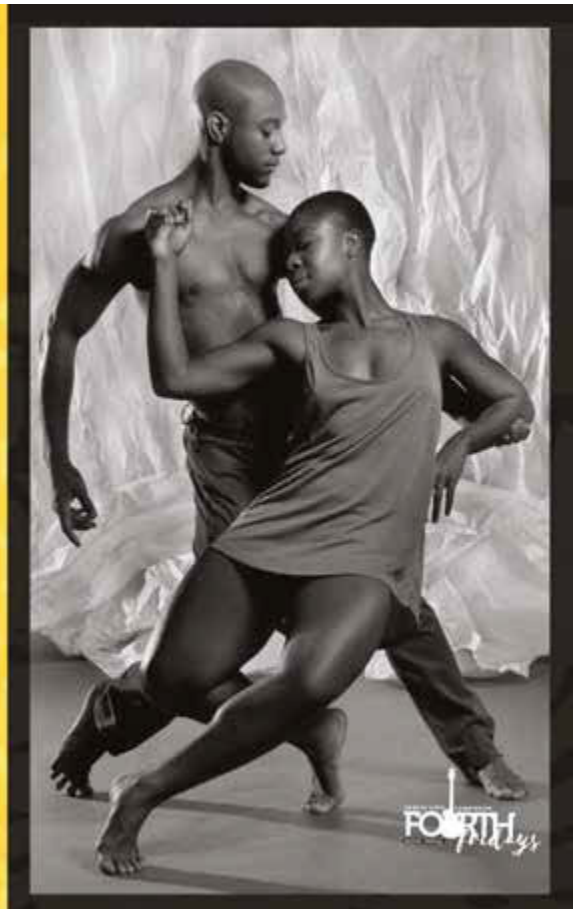
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# PAINTING EVERYTHING

— By Bill Smith

*“In 2012, I bought a canvas and some paint because I thought it would be a fun thing to do. My first effort struck me as powerful and moving. By the time I had completed three or four paintings, I told my husband that I wanted to go way deep into this,” Carolyn Ellis reflected on the beginning of her career as an abstract artist.*

After 30 years raising and homeschooling their six children, Carolyn was ready for a creative outlet. She had no idea that her 30-year experience at home with her children was preparing her for an avocation that could also be a vocation. “I had just turned 62, so I applied for Social Security, and my art was funded!” she said with a laugh. “Raising and teaching my children taught me how to express myself, as I was teaching them to express themselves. I learned how to improvise and be spontaneous, which is what abstract art is about.”







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Carolyn's creative streak and her spontaneity will strike you even before entering her home studio. Those traits come out in her personality, and not only does her garage door reflect her abstract art, but she has painted small works on the doors and trunk of her car. Upon entering the studio, your eye will be naturally drawn to the large paintings on canvas that adorn every wall and stretch to the ceiling. Many of the colors are vivid and bright, but a few are darker and more foreboding. One thing is certain. Carolyn's art will evoke an emotion or some feeling that will make one want to describe what they see.

However, not every painting in the studio is on the large canvases. On the mantel over the fireplace in her studio are McDonald's coffee cups she painted with purple, cerulean, fuchsia, yellow, red and black. "I painted a few of the cups and sent a digital picture to McDonald's. They then sent about 60 cups to me!" Adjacent to the cups is a collection of ping pong balls. No two are alike, of course.

Carolyn explained some of her motivation, saying, "God is in charge, so my definition of success is being able to do what you love. I never took art classes. In fact, I did not particularly like school. I endured school. I took one year of college, then realized I did not have to do that." On a wall in her studio, Carolyn has written, *Abstract art frees the spirit, nourishes the soul, engages the mind.* She explained, "It comes from a subconscious place." Another quote on the wall says, *Embracing chaos, running with disorder, cultivating improvisation, looking discouragement right in the eye.*







Originally from Washington, D.C., she describes Texas as being a lot brighter. "There is just a lot more light here," she said. "We reared our children in a very small town in East Texas. It was good for raising our children, but after they were grown, my husband and I wanted to move to a bigger city, and Duncanville has been great for us. I had a studio in Athens, and an attorney from Dallas purchased four of my large paintings and ordered two more. I asked him what he wanted painted. He said for me to just paint what I felt like painting, and he knew he would love it.

"Two years ago, I approached a real estate firm in Dallas about a vacant storefront. I said I would like to put a pop-up art exhibition there, and they agreed. It was inspiring for me and others. People my age would come in with tears and say I was living their dream." Carolyn recently spoke with the Duncanville Parks and Recreation Department superintendent about setting up an outdoor exhibit in the pavilion at Armstrong Park this spring.

Noted neuroscientist Eric R. Kandel, in a recent book, poses the question, "Are art and science separated by an unbridgeable divide? Can they find common ground?" The very nature of the question seems to give away the answer, a resounding, "Yes!" Carolyn Ellis seems to see the whole world through the eye of an artist. "These are the happiest years of my life right now. My joy is in painting. My faith plays a part in everything I do. My next breath is a gift from God. I offer Him my creative outlet." **NOW**

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# BusinessNOW

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— By Adam Walker

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Dr. Brandon Florence was a student in dental school, on his way to dinner at Sam's Pizza when destiny called. "I saw the sign for Joe Potter's dental office. I cold-called him. We worked together from 2004-2013, when he retired. Dr. Potter had been here since 1972. I am able to call him my mentor and friend."

Dr. Florence is passionate about providing quality comprehensive care for his patients and their teeth. "I specialize



in the rehab of badly damaged teeth. If you need a smile makeover, we use digital impressions created by taking pictures of your mouth. It's an effective patient education tool. We can often restore broken smiles in as little as three weeks. We also screen for sleep apnea and offer an alternative to a CPAP machine. We can screen here in the office and coordinate a take-home sleep test, which is then examined by a board-certified sleep physician. I'm a sleep apnea patient myself and benefit from Oral Appliance Therapy (OAT)."

Dr. Florence values knowing his patients to build trust. "Part of my treatment philosophy is that it is important to spend time learning who my patients are. I enjoy getting to know them. This isn't a volume-driven practice."

Conservative treatment is the goal for Dr. Florence. "My treatment philosophy is based in being conservative, which most often means taking care of small problems now, before they get out of control. That saves time and money. Prevent



the pain and infection that waiting can cause. We've been using the same dental lab for 46 years. They're located in Duncanville and provide the personal touch our customers are looking for."

Continuing education is vital to staying on top of the latest developments in the field. "A minimum of 12 class hours of continuing education is required, yearly, but I often spend an entire week with the Pankey Institute, learning new techniques and training with other dentists, surgeons and other professionals. L.D. Pankey believes in a philosophy called the Cross of Life that says it's important to balance work, play, faith and family. I graduated from Dallas Baptist University in 1999 and Baylor College of Dentistry in 2004. I love creating healthy smiles, but it's important to spend time with my wife and two sons. I enjoy fishing and sports. We go to church in Midlothian, where I have enjoyed coaching soccer. Over the years, I have been involved with the Chamber of Commerce here in Cedar Hill, and I was involved in Boy Scouts for years."

**"My treatment philosophy is based in being conservative, which most often means taking care of small problems now, before they get out of control."**

Dr. Florence's staff is equally committed to caring for their patients. "My front office team has a combined 34 years of experience. My two hygienists have 36 years of experience, combined. My two assistants also have 36 years' combined experience. Many of them grew up in this community. My team, as a whole, really stands out. We take all PPOs and offer Care Credit and Lending Club as payment options."

Caring for the whole patient is their goal. Dr. Florence and his team want to help you with your dental and sleep apnea needs. **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Camille Henderson

By Adam Walker

Camille Henderson is a local go-getter, helping others achieve their goals. “I do a little of everything. I’m a photographer. I make T-shirts. And I host a podcast called *The Lion Experience*. I interview local entrepreneurs and help them get the word out about what they’re doing.” She has her own studio at home where she produces her podcast, which airs twice monthly.

“I enjoy networking and helping others. I had mentors for my T-shirts and for my photography. Now, I have mentors for my podcast, so I want to help others like others helped me.”

Though she’s only been at it for two months, she hopes that her podcast will eventually grow into a TV talk show. “I’d love for that to happen!”



Eric and Erica Williamson celebrate the New Year.



Local artist, Estefania Perez, poses with her work at the Duncanville Feed Store.



Cedar Hill Mayor Pro Tem Clifford Shaw and Hope Mansion Executive Director Dr. Camille Gray attend the New Year's Eve Gala.



Health Inspector Mamata Bhandari and Mayor Curtistine McGowan recognize the safest food handlers in DeSoto.





Bray Elementary Principal Eric Barnes poses with actress Irma P. Hall during a visit to the campus.



First Methodist School students present food from their annual food drive to Duncanville Outreach Ministry Representative Trent Dean.



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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

NICKY RIVERA

— By Adam Walker



Nicky Rivera, originally from Temple, Texas, loves to cook for friends and family, including his wife, Sara. “I especially enjoy smoking meats. I have visited barbecue restaurants around Texas in search of the perfect smoked meats. I’m from a large family of Hispanic origin, so I grew up watching my grandmothers and mom in the kitchen preparing traditional Mexican cuisine.”

He enjoys traveling and experiencing the foods of the world. “I pay attention to the flavors and spices and styles of cooking and try to infuse those into the dishes I prepare.”

He frequently cooks for church events at Duncanville First Baptist and at Post 81 of the American Legion. “I enjoy cooking almost as much as I enjoy eating the food I prepare!” **NOW**

## Smoked Brisket

**1 brisket**

**Olive oil, to taste**

**Sea salt, to taste**

**Coarse ground black pepper, to taste**

**Atkins Southwest Seasoning, to taste**

**Post Oak wood, cut into small logs to fit in your smoker**

**1.** Rub brisket all over with a little olive oil. Rub the meat with sea salt, coarse black pepper and Atkins Southwest Seasoning. Place in the refrigerator for about 3 hours to marinate.

**2.** Place the brisket in the smoker. The average cooking temperature needs to be about 170 F. After the meat thermometer reaches that temperature, wrap the brisket in

foil. Return the brisket to the smoker until it reaches an internal temperature of 195–200 F.  
**3.** Take the brisket out of the smoker. Wrap it in a towel or place it in the oven for an hour to render the juices.

## Traditional Mexican Picadillo

**1 lb. ground beef**

**1/2 tsp. cumin**

**1/2 tsp. oregano**

**Salt, to taste**

**Pepper, to taste**

**Olive oil, for frying**

**1/2 white onion, chopped**

**2 deseeded jalapeños, chopped**

**1 clove garlic, chopped**

**1 tomato, chopped**

**2 potatoes, finely chopped**

**1/4 cup yellow bell pepper, chopped**

**1/4 cup red bell pepper, chopped**

**1/4 cup green bell pepper, chopped**

**1 cup beef stock**

**2 Tbsp. flour mixed in a small amount of water to make a thickener**



1. In a large skillet, brown the ground beef with the cumin, oregano, salt and pepper. Drain juices from the beef.
2. In a separate skillet, add some olive oil, add all of the vegetables; fry until the onions become translucent.
3. Add beef stock. If more liquid is needed to cook the potatoes, add more stock or water. Simmer on low until the potatoes are tender. Add thickener.
4. Serve with tortillas, rice and beans.

## Earthquake Cake

- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 Duncan Hines Devil's Food cake mix
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 block cream cheese or Neufchatel cheese
- 2 cups powdered sugar

1. Grease a spring form pan. Preheat the oven as directed on the cake mix box.
2. Sprinkle the bottom of the pan with the pecans and coconut. Combine cake mix, water, oil and eggs. Pour the cake batter over the pecans and coconut.
3. In a medium bowl, mix the cream cheese and powdered sugar. Dollop this over the cake mix.
4. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out dry. When the cake is done baking, loosen the spring form pan. Be careful; it will be hot. The cake may have craters in it — looking like an earthquake.

## Pork Ribs or Baby Backs

- Pork ribs or baby back ribs
- Atkins Southwest Seasoning, to taste
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Pecan or hickory wood, cut into small logs to fit your smoker

1. Clean and remove the membrane from the back of the ribs. Apply a generous rubdown of the Atkins Southwest Seasoning, salt and pepper.
2. Cook the ribs for roughly 4-5 hours at 200-225 F, depending on the outside temperature. You will need a higher temperature in the winter.

## Cheddar Peppers

- 20 jalapeños
- 1 pkg. plain cream cheese (Cinnamon or pecan cream cheese may be substituted.)



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**1 cup cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese**  
**Sea salt, to taste**  
**Pepper, to taste**  
**Rotisserie chicken, shredded (optional)**  
**20 thin-sliced bacon slices, halved**

1. Wash the jalapeños. Cut the peppers long ways, into halves. Devein; remove the seeds, unless you want them spicy.
2. In a bowl, mix together the cheeses, salt, pepper and chicken, if using.
3. Spoon the cream cheese mixture into the jalapeño halves. Wrap bacon around the entire pepper; use a toothpick to hold it closed.
4. Bake on parchment paper at 400 F until the bacon is golden brown.

## Greek Baked Asparagus

**1-2 bunches asparagus**  
**Olive oil, to taste**  
**Coarse sea salt, to taste**  
**Black pepper, to taste**  
**1-2 cloves garlic, chopped**  
**Juice of 1 lemon**

1. Wash, snap and dry enough asparagus to fill a parchment-lined cookie sheet pan. Drizzle with olive oil.
2. Roll each spear so it is completely covered in the oil. Lightly sprinkle coarse sea salt,



Smoked Brisket

- pepper and chopped garlic over the asparagus.
3. Bake in the oven at 350 F for 10-15 minutes. Squeeze lemon over the asparagus before serving.

## Mashed Potatoes

**6-8 large Yukon Gold potatoes**  
**Water**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**1/4 cup milk**  
**1/2 stick butter**  
**1/2 block cream cheese (about 4 oz.)**  
**Bacon pieces, for garnish**  
**Chives, for garnish**  
**Cheese, for garnish**

1. Wash, peel and cut the desired amount of potatoes into chunks. Place in a large pot;

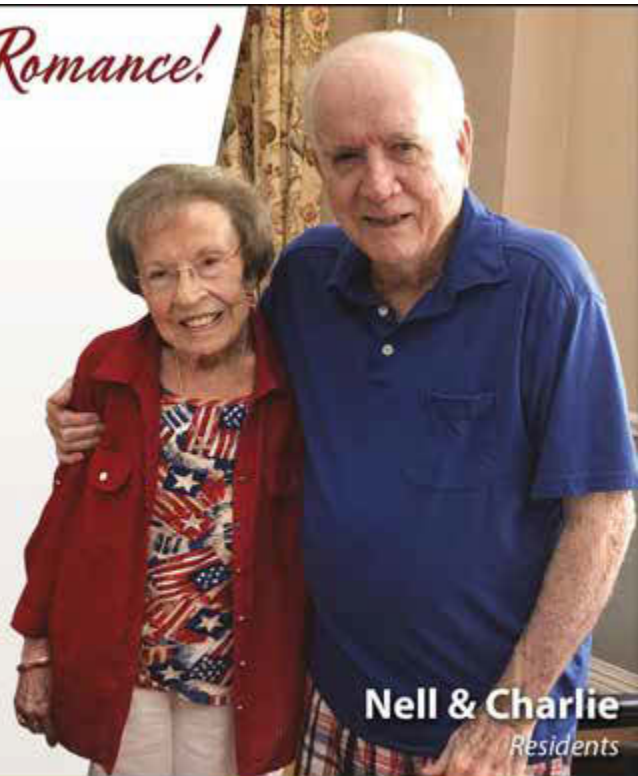
- cover the potatoes with water (about 2 inches above the potatoes). Heat to boiling. Reduce the heat; boil until the potatoes are soft.
2. Drain the water; add salt. Add milk, butter and cream cheese. Mix with a mixer until smooth. You may garnish with bacon pieces, chives, cheese and extra butter.

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- Virginia Woolf

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*The American Heart Association reminds us that one in four deaths each year in the United States is a result of heart disease. In response, American Heart Health Month takes place each February to raise awareness of the disease and how to prevent it.*

Longtime Texas resident, Dr. Michael DeBakey, was a pioneer in cardiology whose accomplishments centered around heart health. Namesake of the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center, Dr. DeBakey performed the first successful removal of a blockage in the carotid artery, establishing the field of surgical treatment of stroke, in 1953.



# TEXAS • KEY NCE

— By Angel Morris

While today, Dr. DeBakey's name can also be found on other Texas research facilities and schools, it was not his birth name. After immigrating to Louisiana from Lebanon, the Dabaghis decided DeBakey was a more suitable, anglicized version of their name.

Born to Shaker Morris and Raheehja DeBakey in 1908, Michael is said to have shared his parents' thirst for knowledge and discipline. Shaker was not only a pharmacist, but also an investor. Michael's compassionate spirit no doubt came from his mother, who was an activist for nonprofit organizations.

In 1926, Michael graduated high school as valedictorian, then earned his bachelor's degree from Tulane University in 1930. While finishing his medical degree at Tulane's School of Medicine in 1932, DeBakey invented the roller pump — a tool helping blood flow continuously during operations. The device went on to be used in the first open heart surgery two decades later and was the first of more than 50 surgical heart and artery instruments credited to Dr. DeBakey.

Volunteering for military service at the start of World War II, DeBakey is credited with changing the way the Army handled casualties. Serving four years in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, he pursued movement of medical facilities nearer to the front lines,

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speeding the care of wounded soldiers and increasing their chances of surviving.

In 1945, he received the Legion of Merit Award for these efforts, which resulted in the Army's standardization of MASH units — Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals — which were first utilized in the Korean War a decade later, with helicopters and airplanes used to transport wounded soldiers from front-line care centers to surgical hospitals.

As a result of DeBakey's efforts, reports suggest soldiers who made it to MASH units had a 97 percent chance of surviving. With ongoing concern for servicemen, Dr. DeBakey also developed the Veterans' Administration (VA) Medical Center System and VA's Medical Research Program to try and ensure the treatment of soldiers returning from war and veterans with certain medical issues.

Moving to Houston in 1948, Dr. DeBakey became a staff member at Houston Methodist Hospital and joined the Baylor College of Medicine faculty. Houston Methodist's website credits the doctor as "essential to the Texas Medical Center's evolution into the largest medical complex in the world."

DeBakey recruited doctors and researchers who, with him, developed many innovative treatments. Other significant accomplishments by Dr. DeBakey include the invention of the

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Dacron graft — tubes which can replace or repair blood vessels — which he initially prototyped using his wife's sewing machine in 1954. This method would save DeBakey's own life decades later, when he suffered a dissecting aortic aneurysm at age 97, and doctors performed his own procedure on him.

In addition to his Dacron graft development, DeBakey performed the first aortocoronary artery bypass in 1964, and in 1968, the first multiple-organ transplant of a heart, one lung and both kidneys from one donor to four recipients. Working into his 80s, the medical statesman is credited with more than 60,000 surgeries.



Dr. DeBakey ensured Houston would continue to be synonymous with heart surgery treatment by teaching at Baylor College of Medicine, training thousands of surgeons, conducting ongoing research and co-authoring some 1,300 published articles. In 2001, Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center officially opened. In 2008 at age 99, Dr. DeBakey died at Houston Methodist Hospital, where he had served a significant portion of his career and had greatly advanced cardiovascular medicine.

You can honor Dr. DeBakey's legacy by recognizing February as American Heart Health Month in large or small ways. Visit [yourethecure.org](http://yourethecure.org) for tips on living longer, healthier lives. Here you can also learn about supporting causes that promote heart health, such as being aware of upcoming health legislation and holding food companies accountable. In the spirit of Dr. DeBakey, the website helps you make decisions with heart. **NOW**

**Source:** [houstonmethodist.org](http://houstonmethodist.org)  
Photos courtesy of Houston Methodist.



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# Kids' Fun Page

Help friends to meet in the middle of the Valentine maze.



### Family

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

Find all the words from the word list (ignore spaces and dashes):

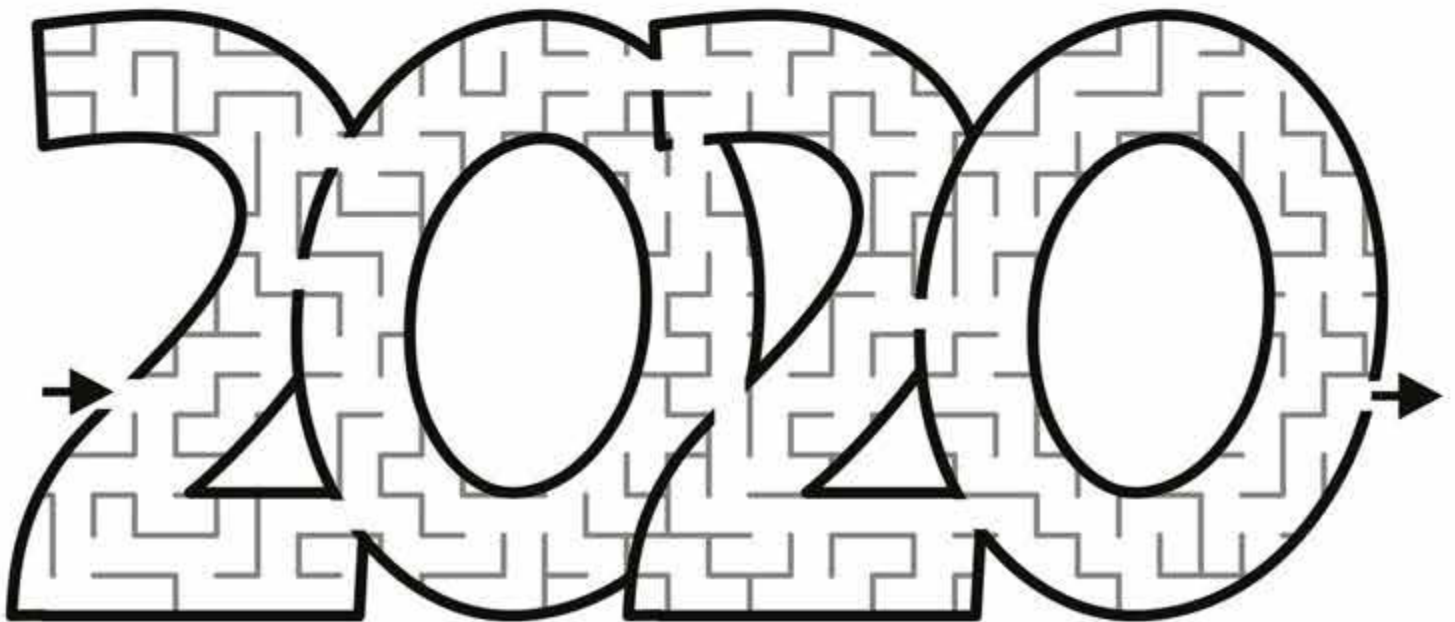
AUNT	MOTHER
BROTHER	NEPHEW
CHILDREN	NIECE
DAUGHTER	PARENT
FATHER	RELATIVE
GRANDFATHER	SISTER
GRANDMOTHER	SON
	UNCLE

ANSWER:



This is a zigzag word search puzzle. Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.

ANSWER:







# Veterans Benefit Forum

DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee is partnering with North Texas VA Outreach Services and the DAV to bring VA representatives to DeSoto on a monthly basis. If you need help with applying for benefits, have been denied benefits or just have questions, please attend our Veterans Benefit Forum.

**For more information, please call 972-230-9648**

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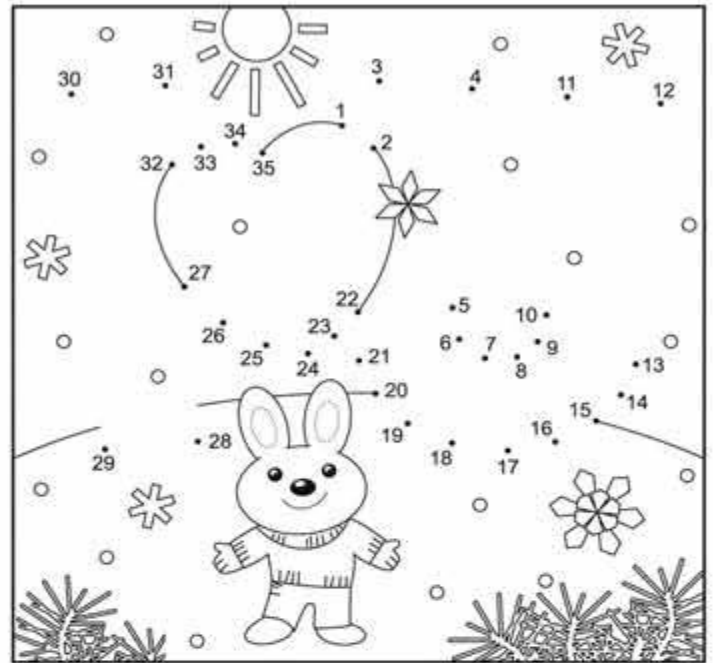
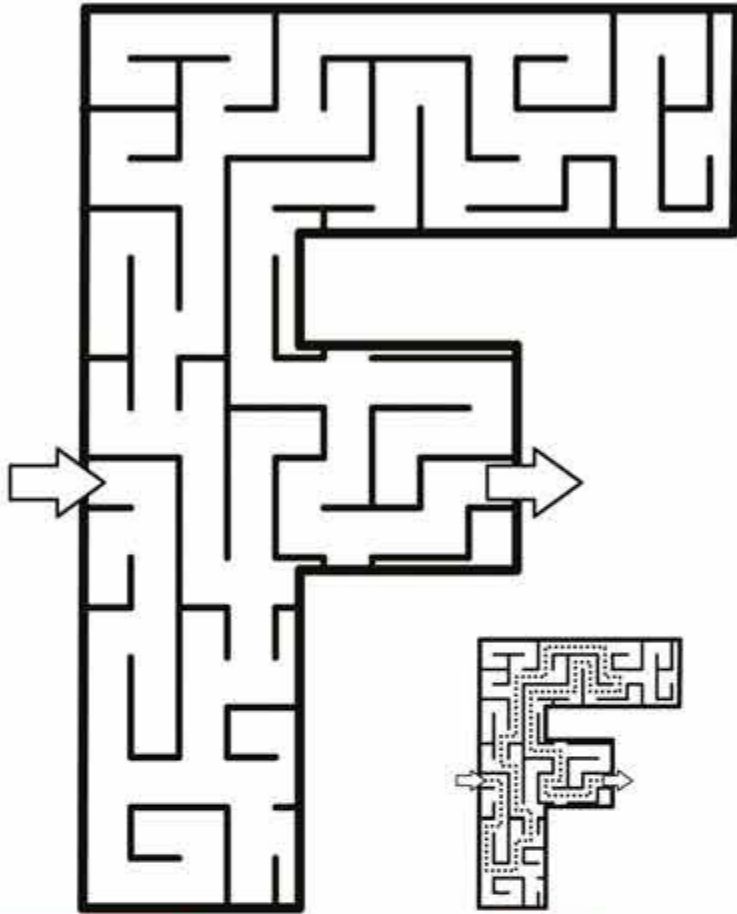
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# Kids' Fun Page



ANSWER:



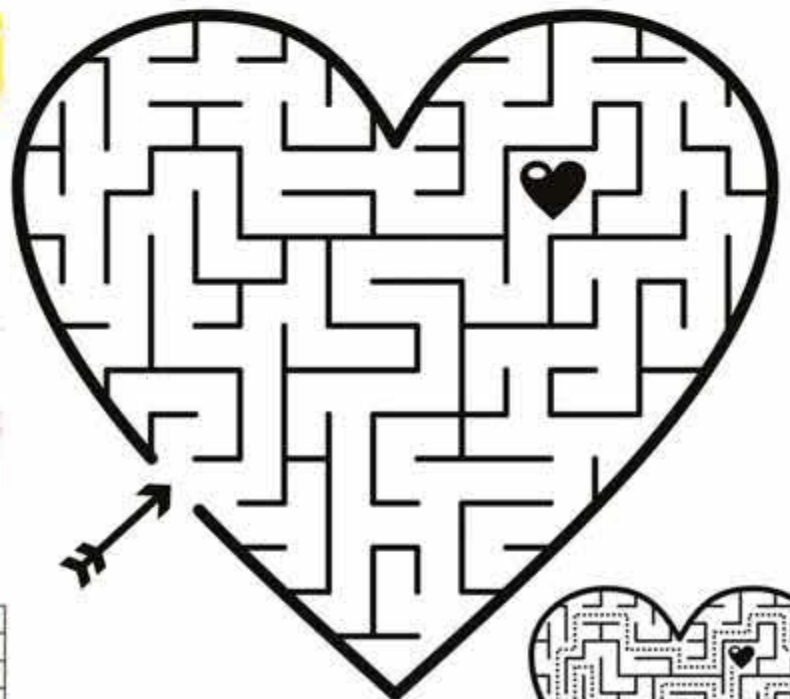
V	R	W	O	L	L	E	Y
A	I	B	L	A	C	K	I
E	N	O	Y	E	R	G	E
L	K	B	L	R	E	D	G
P	N	G	R	E	E	N	N
R	I	W	H	I	T	E	A
U	P	O	E	U	L	B	R
P	B	R	O	W	N	W	O

- BLACK
- BLUE
- BROWN
- GREEN
- GREY
- ORANGE
- PINK
- PURPLE
- RED
- VIOLET
- WHITE
- YELLOW

MYSTERIOUS WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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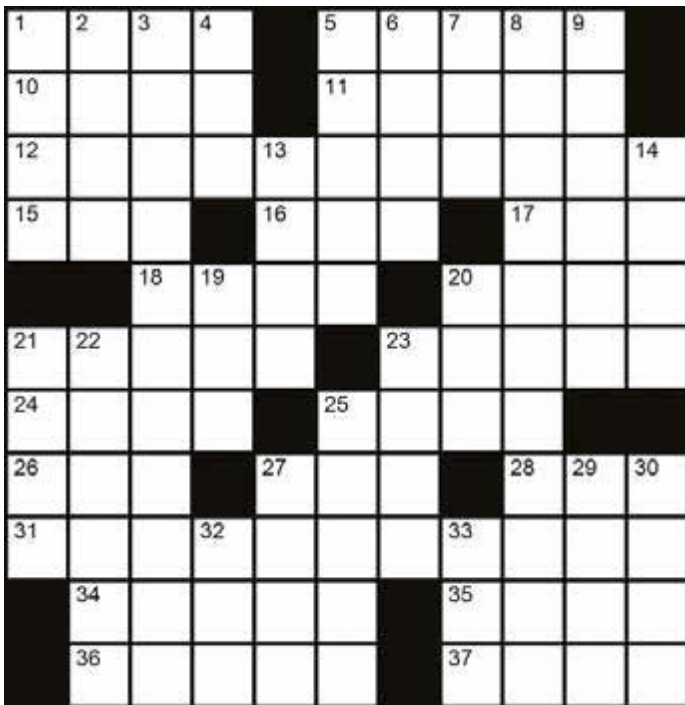


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# Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

### Across

- 1 First part of a Web address
- 5 Stylish
- 10 Via
- 11 Playful prank
- 12 Entrées
- 15 Ad follower
- 16 Classic Ford
- 17 --- -Man (arcade classic)
- 18 --- the crack of dawn
- 20 The Beatles' meter maid
- 21 Settled
- 23 Head of the line
- 24 Pile
- 25 Cuckoo
- 26 And not
- 27 Trim, in a way
- 28 Letters in an open slot
- 31 Temperature reading of a sort
- 34 Get to know
- 35 Love god
- 36 Old Democrat --- Kefauver
- 37 About

### Down

- 1 WWW code
- 2 Like tom yum soup
- 3 Feeders
- 4 Low form of comedy
- 5 "Ivanhoe" writer
- 6 She was urged to come into the garden (Tennyson)
- 7 Loan abbreviation
- 8 Hospital breathing machines
- 9 Dog rewards
- 13 Clothed
- 14 Hightail it
- 19 Vigor
- 20 Manipulate
- 21 "Say it ain't so!"
- 22 Persons in general
- 23 Deer in a petting zoo
- 25 Thugs
- 27 Bog
- 29 Rorschach test piece
- 30 Too
- 32 Southampton Insurrectionist --- Turner
- 33 Shooter ammunition

Solutions on page 44

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

For online versions, visit [nowmagazines.com](http://nowmagazines.com)

CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 44



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## SouthwestNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden rings in 5 different ads in this issue (not counting the one above). Email the page numbers and specific ads where they are found, plus your contact information and phone number by February 15th to [scavenger.swn@nowmagazines.com](mailto:scavenger.swn@nowmagazines.com). One entry per person.

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Hats were found on pages 15, 29, 36, 51, 59

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Tena Hehn - \$50 Gift Card from Frost Bank



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# HAPPY

# Valentine's Day

## FEBRUARY

2/1

**Daddy Daughter Dance:**  
The theme is "Glamour Night!" Admission includes dancing, dinner and professional photos. Space is limited. \$45 per couple; \$20 for each additional daughter. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill. Register at cedarhilltx.com/1956/February---Daddy-Daughter-Dance.

2/2

**Super Bowl Watch Party:**  
Pregame, game and aftergame party with food, dominoes and cards. \$10. Noon-3:00 a.m. (next day). Magnuson Grand Hotel, 1515 N. I-35 E. Service Rd., DeSoto.

2/6-2/8 &  
2/13-2/15

**A Texas Romance:**  
Duncanville Community Theatre presents this humorous story of love and murder. **Thursdays:** \$13; **Fridays** and **Saturdays:** \$15. 8:00 p.m., 106 S. Main St., Duncanville.

2/8

**Mommy and Me Pre-Valentine's Day Dance:**  
Boys and girls invited. \$10-\$25. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Cutiful Designs

and Crafts, 207 E. Camp Wisdom Rd., Ste. A, Duncanville.

### Beauty and the Beast Daddy Daughter Dance:

A magical evening filled with dancing, dinner, games and photos. Formal dress required. Tickets must be purchased in person at the rec center. \$50 per couple; \$15 for additional tickets. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Duncanville Recreation Center, 201 James Collins Blvd.

### Bow Ties and Tutus Father Daughter Soiree:

Dance off and a best dressed contest plus vendors. Ages 5 and up. \$55 per couple; additional daughters \$10. 7:00-10:00 p.m., Next Level Giants Event Center, 900 N. Polk St., # 170, DeSoto.

### Love Comedy, Volume 2:

Alberta the Exception hosts a night with multiple comics, a catered meal and DJ Zapp. \$5-\$25. 8:30-10:30 p.m., Grow DeSoto Market Place, 324 E. Belt Line Rd., DeSoto.

2/12-2/14

### Cedar Hill Valentines

**Pickleball Tournament:**  
Women's doubles **Wednesday**; men's doubles **Thursday**; mixed doubles **Friday**. Register by 2/5. \$15 per event. 8:00 a.m.-noon, Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

2/14

### My First Love:

Dinner Theater. The DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department presents a romantic comedy about a woman looking for love in all the wrong places. The night will include a 3-course dinner, 1 glass of champagne, theater and dance. \$75-\$80. Doors open: 6:45 p.m.; dinner: 7:15 p.m.; show starts: 7:30 p.m., DeSoto Corner Theater, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. [www.desototexas.gov/parks](http://www.desototexas.gov/parks).

### Twisted Singles Night Out V'Day EDT:

Seeking Adventures hosts a night of music, wine and painting. Grow DeSoto Market Place, 324 E. Belt Line Rd., DeSoto.

2/21

### 20th Anniversary Destiny Award Luncheon:

Taraji P. Henson will be guest of honor at this fundraiser for Christian education and other community causes. \$350. 10:30 a.m., St. Philip's School, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas. [www.stphilips1600.org/destiny.cfm](http://www.stphilips1600.org/destiny.cfm).

2/25

**Community Pancake Dinner:**  
Celebrate Shrove Tuesday

with the traditional pancakes. Everyone welcome. Free. 5:30-7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 128 N. Roberts Rd., Cedar Hill.

2/29

### Black History Month Youth Explosion 2020:

Family of Faith Church presents an evening of dance, prayer and praise. Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 434 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Duncanville.

### Second and Fourth Tuesdays

#### Cedar Hill Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Good Shepherd Church, 915 Straus Rd., Cedar Hill.

#### The World of Teens:

Live broadcast radio show on [xpriencerradio.com](http://xpriencerradio.com). 6:00-7:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

### Tuesdays and Thursdays

**After School Enrichment:**  
Science and social studies on **Tuesdays**, math on **Thursdays**. Ages 5-12. Free. 4:30 p.m., DeSoto Public Library.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [adam.walker@nowmagazines.com](mailto:adam.walker@nowmagazines.com).*



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# Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	H	T	T	P	5	S	M	A	R	T									
10	T	H	R	U		11	C	A	P	E	R								
12	M	A	I	N	13	C	O	U	R	S	E	S							
15	L	I	B		16	L	T	D		17	P	A	C						
					18	U	P	A	T		20	R	I	T	A				
21	O	P	T	E	D		23	F	I	R	S	T							
24	H	E	A	P		25	G	A	G	A									
26	N	O	R		27	M	O	W		28	T	B	A						
31	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	P	O	L	L								
			34	L	E	A	R	N		35	E	R	O	S					
			36	E	S	T	E	S		37	A	S	T	O					

## Easy

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

## Medium

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



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

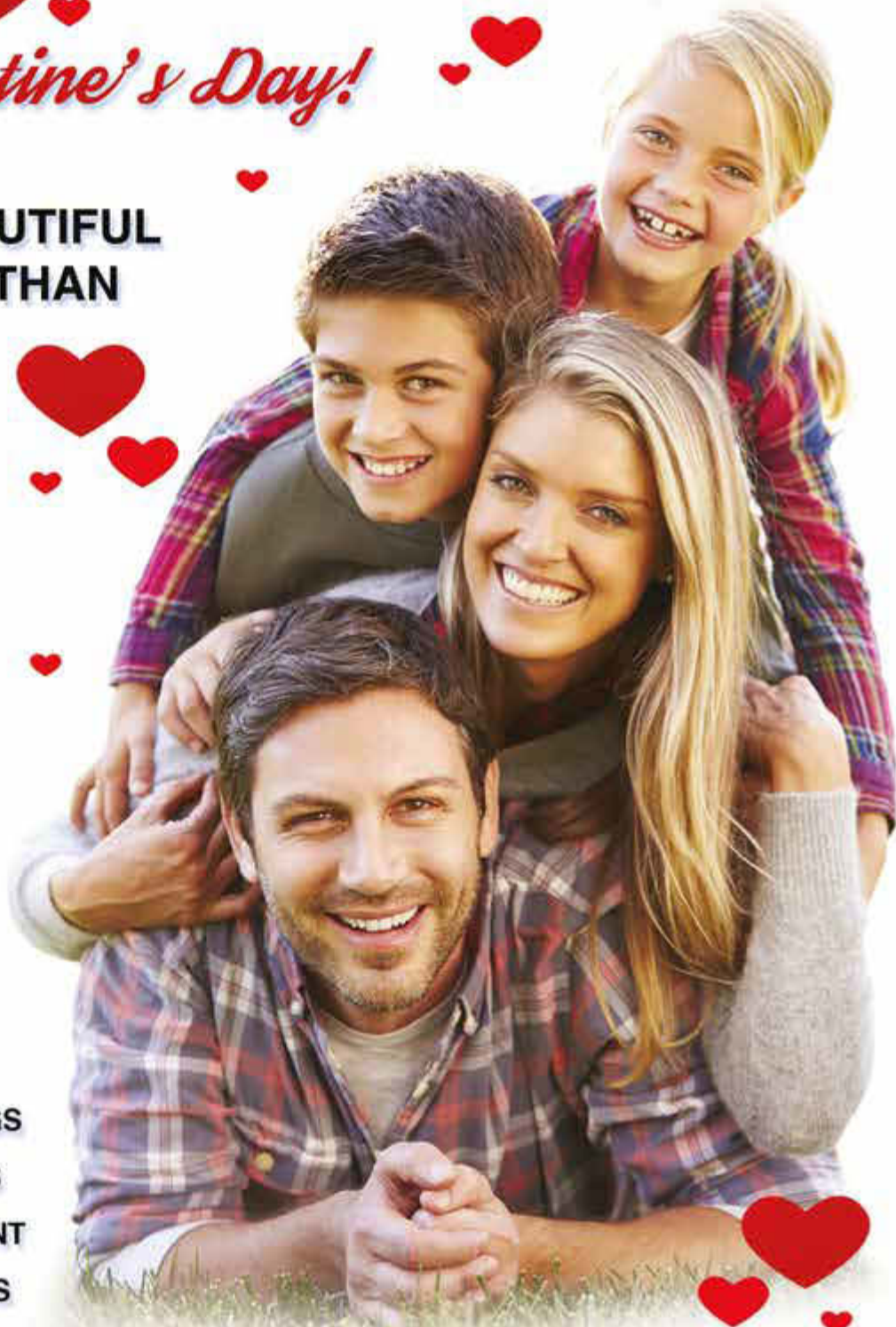
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