WaxahachieNOW

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2022

Sharing the Love

Refel Rushing pairs ballads and good deeds

Holding Trust

Lt. Josh Oliver watches over Waxahachie's kids

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Phoenix Beauty Team In the Kitchen With Ginger Walson

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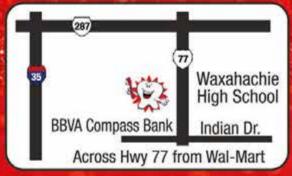
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8 SHARING THE LOVE

> Art, community and the environment fuel Refel Rushing's passion.

14 HOLDING **TRUST**

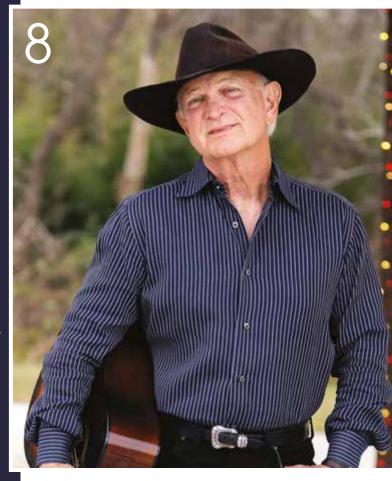
> The safety of WISD students is Lt. Oliver's duty.

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Throughout the year, enjoy this hidden getaway in the Texas Hill Country.



Fortunately for homeowners, most drywall damage can be easily repaired.



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ON THE COVER

Refel Rushing stops to enjoy life and a song.

Photo by Kobbi R. Blair.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Time and Tide ...

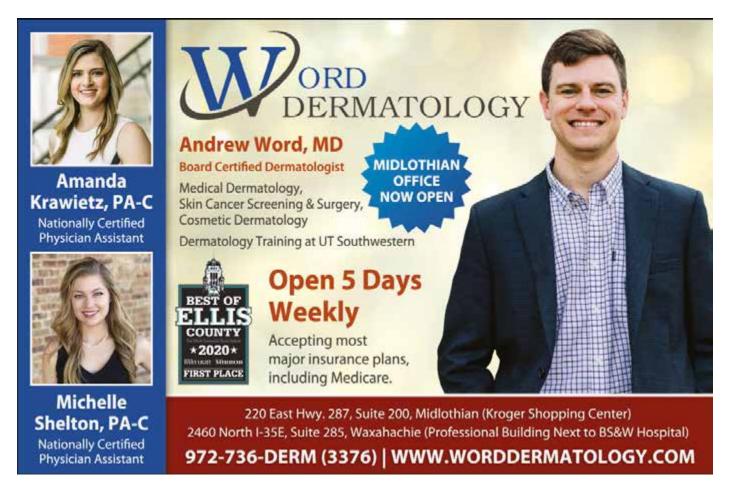
They say they wait for no man. But they sure do seem to slip away extra fast when you have too much to accomplish. So what about when you actually want time to get a move on? It can take a week just to get through a single day!

I am no fan of so-called Standard Time. I hate this sliver of the year when the clocks are off Daylight Saving Time and the sun sets so early. I could really use that extra hour of sunlight at the end of the day. In the morning, it does me no good. If I had my way, we'd stay on Daylight Saving Time all year long. And we seem to be creeping in that direction a little at a time. The time we spend off DST has decreased over the years. Several bills have been introduced to make DST permanent, and that's fine by me.

This time of year wears on me. Seasonal affective disorder makes the winter a long slog. The excitement of Christmas and New Year's Day are long past. Snow doesn't hold the charms it did when I was a kid.

Warm sunny days help, but the weather supply chain is unreliable this time of year. Almonds, chocolate and vitamins help. Exercise helps. But longer days (with more daylight at the time when I can use it) are the real cure. So I'm looking forward to the time change, when it comes, in the middle of next month. Meanwhile, the calendar keeps dragging its feet.

Here's hoping the days flow right for you!





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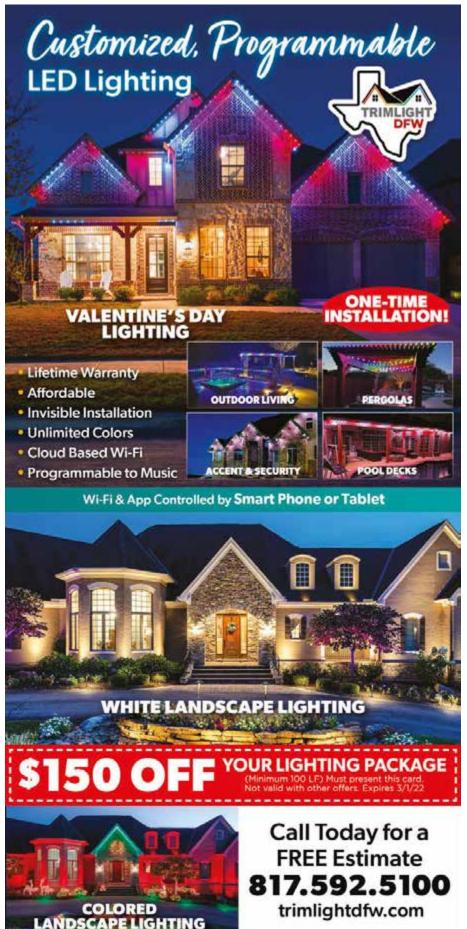
— By Adam Walker

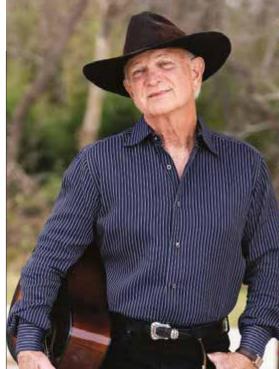
Refel Rushing once danced to the Wall Street drum, but now he's singing a different tune. Growing up poor in Harlingen, Texas, he learned the value of hard work. "My mother didn't have a lot of education, and my father died when I was 15. I was only able to attend college because a lady at the credit union made me a \$700 loan. I was still getting some money from my dad's Social Security death benefit, and I worked lots and lots of jobs." When he finished grad school, he was ready to make the big bucks. "I interviewed with lots of firms, and the one I hired on with sent me to Wall Street."

During his high school years, Refel was in choirs at school and church. "I learned that I had the ability to compose, but I never did anything with it. While I was living in New York, I'd seek out piano bars on the weekends and ask if I could sing with the pianists. I got two or three significant job offers, and I promised myself that someday I would get back to my music."

That promise had to wait a while. Refel moved to Dallas and joined with some partners revolutionizing the way student loans worked in Texas, a model that was copied nationwide. "That was my career. I sold my company and created a foundation with assets of \$300 million, which gives grants to organizations helping underserved students," he said. He also created endowments for three schools — business, engineering and music — at San Marcos, his alma mater.

Refel moved to Waxahachie in 2005, because of a horse. "I've always had horses, and I found a place to board my horse here, so I moved to Waxahachie," he explained. "I love this area, and I would not move back to Dallas on a bet. I still enjoy the arts and the restaurant scene there, but this is where I want to live. I bought a ranch in 2007. It had no infrastructure, except some 150-year-old barbed wire. I built a barn and bought some cows. In 2012, I built a





house and moved into it. Livestock has always been interesting to me. I started learning about monoculture, growing just one crop, and how it damages the soil. I looked at organic gardening, and in 2013, I attended a conference on notill drilling. Now when I plant a hay crop, I mow it for mulch. Then I plant the next crop right on top of that. It's much better for the soil. It gets back to the way it was when the buffalo roamed the prairie."

Over the years, poetry was part of Refel's life. "My poems are about introspection, about things and how they make me feel. I write about things I see and think are important. I like to be reflective, think deeply and put those thoughts on paper. I'm fascinated with the rose. Recently, I was in a hotel in San Francisco, and there was this rose in the room. I wrote something that's about a half-page long. It isn't really a poem. I guess it's prose, but it's about my thoughts."

His writing takes many forms from rhymed verse to free verse to prose poems. He mentions e. e. cummings and Carl Sandburg as poets he admires. He blogs about his ranch and favorite spots to write. "I started composing songs about life and love," he said. "I've been around for a while, so I have some experience. I want to express what people feel in life."

Refel is putting together an album of songs called Love Over Time. "This music is about the evolution of a relationship — from the longing for a

relationship, to finding someone special, to the relationship ending and starting the search again. I've experienced all the stages. And I think many people have had the same experiences — unrequited love, searching, hoping it works out really long term. Sometimes, it works out. Sometimes, it doesn't. My music and poetry just tend that way. I was just writing for me, but others related to my words and thought they were saying something they wanted to say."

Refel's album is structured in an unusual way. "I've been working with Jay Hinson. He's very mathematical, and a musical genius. He worked with Leonard Bernstein, and he met with Sondheim." Refel said. The album is structured with a musical introduction, three songs, an interlude, three more songs, another interlude, the final three songs and a postlude. "It's structured almost like a musical. It could almost be performed on stage, like The Phantom of the Opera or something. It tells a story. The music has strong hooks that Jay arranges and orchestrates to pull you along. Mostly the lyrics and music come to me at the same time. Then he writes down the chord structures. We can spend three days mapping that out. He goes and orchestrates the song. Then we go to the studio and lay down the tracks. We're not all in the studio at the same time. We may not even be in the same state. Then the master is produced."

He's running a little behind schedule because of COVID-19, but as each track releases, Refel is doing something for the community to celebrate. With the first track, he commissioned the new mural at Optimist Park. Another track was accompanied by a donation to the Friends of the Sims Library, and he is in discussions about an endowment for students at SAGU who find themselves in unexpected financial situations.

"I want to be more involved in the community here. I'm opening my ranch up, bringing in kids to teach them about the environment. I want to host poetry slams and plein air painters, at no charge. I want to have an area for concerts and bring in professional string quartets. I also want to build a pavilion for retreats. When you start thinking about the end of the road, it's about sharing. I want to keep helping as long as I'm walking around on the Earth." NOW





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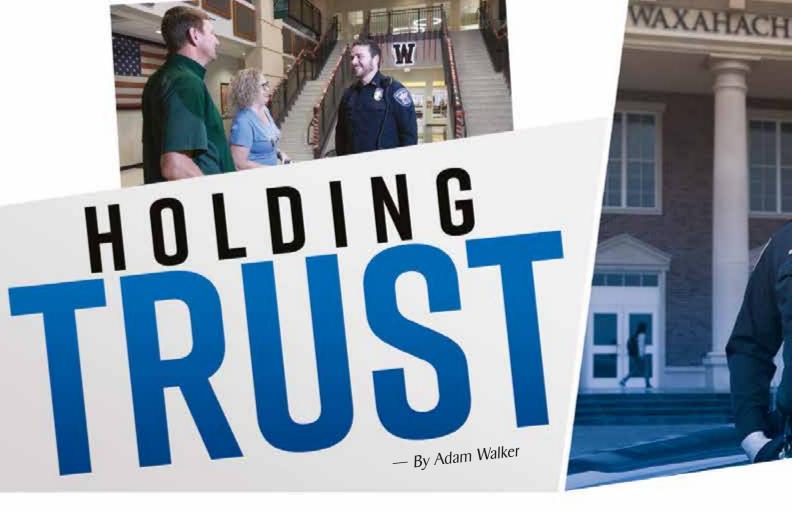


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Lt. Josh Oliver may have the perfect job. He's been a member of the Waxahachie Police Department for 13 years, which is a job he loves, but two years ago, it got even better when he was invited to head the school resource officer program. "I worked as a patrol officer and got promoted to patrol sergeant and shift supervisor. Waxahachie ISD had two SROs who worked for the district, but they wanted to expand the program. We needed our own supervisor because there were so many people in the program. I got to spearhead that expansion."

Young and tall and full of energy, Josh jumped in with both feet. "I used to work in foster care at the Texas Baptist Home. When I decided to become a police officer, I told my wife that I wasn't going to apply at a whole lot of places, but I was going to apply here in Waxahachie. I did well on the test and got hired. In the last eight to 10 years police have gotten a lot of bad press, and we've deserved some of it. But here in Waxahachie, we have a good relationship with the community. In my job, I get to hang out with kids, go to their classrooms, their football and basketball games. The kids look for us at their games."

The SRO program Josh oversees includes a resource officer

at every junior high and two at the high school, all the security guards in the ISD and all the crossing guards. "The ISD has about 10,000 students, that's about one-quarter of the whole population of Waxahachie."

The program has a three-pronged approach. "First, we teach. We cover drug awareness, the dangers of drunk and distracted driving and online safety. Second, we act as mentors. A huge part of what we do is building trust with the kids. We have a 'Shop with a Cop' program where we take kids to do their Christmas shopping. These officers have from two to 20 years' experience on the streets, but they have to be able to relate to kids, to sit down with a kid who's heading down the wrong path and work with them to keep them out of the system. Third, we're law enforcement. We are police officers. We just happen to be stationed inside schools. Nine times out of 10, if a juvenile commits a crime in Waxahachie, all you have to do is show the video to my SROs, and one of them will say, 'I know exactly who that is.'

"We want to change the mindset of our kids. We want them to look at us as safe guys. We pass out 'junior police officer' stickers, and the kids rush the officers, trying to get a sticker! As SROs, our No. I job is the safety of everyone in the schools, but our relationships with the kids are just as important. Conversations at lunch are one of my favorite things. The kids are willing to come up and talk. They want to sit and eat with us. They don't look at us as big disciplinarians with guns. They're willing to talk about whatever they need, even things like depression and suicide. When I go to the junior highs, I always buy extra tacos at Taco Casa, because there's always a kid who asks, 'Hey, can I have a taco?' If a kid has the courage

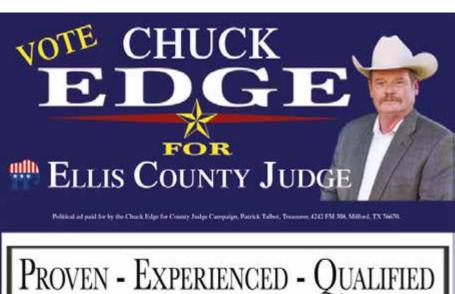




to do that, I'm going to have a taco to give them. It makes it easier for them to come to me if there's a problem we need to know about. We have the Tip411 line that any student can call to report anything anonymously. We get reports on everything from a classmate chewing gum in the hallway to athletes smoking dope to harassment because of a student's religion. We don't enforce school rules. We enforce the law. School rules are enforced by the administration."

As much as he loves time with the kids, that isn't all there is to his job. "My time is split about 50-50 between administration and time in the schools. There are a lot of committee meetings and events to help organize. The work side is the admin and meetings. The fun part is going into the schools."

Josh and his fellow officers hold a special trust. "We're responsible for the most precious commodity our city has — our children. I do everything in my power to keep them safe from crossing the street, to keeping strangers out. I motivate my officers, the security guards, the teachers and the staff to stay vigilant for our kids." NOW



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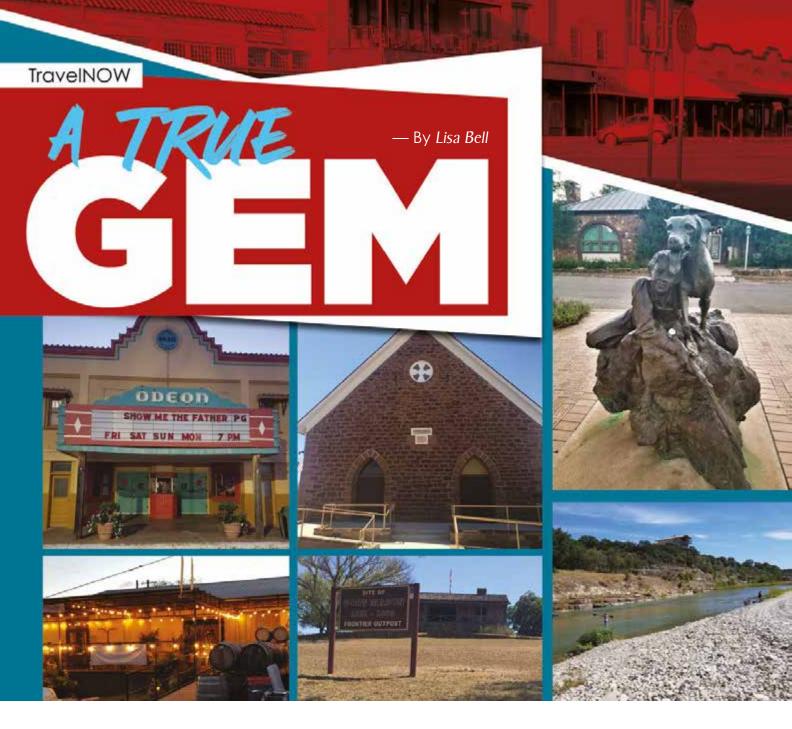
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Hidden in the Hill Country, the town of Mason, Texas, might surprise you with more than you imagined from a population of under 2,500. Don't let its size fool you, though. Throughout the year, visit this hidden getaway for adventure or simply to relax and discover a host of gems within the county.

In abundant deer country, avid hunters may already know about some treasures found in Mason. Located on the Llano River, the community loves visitors, but residents have no desire to become a smaller version of neighboring Fredericksburg. Content with the serenity of their town square, locals and visitors alike find plenty of entertainment without driving far. With several bed-andbreakfasts on the square, you might choose one of them and walk to multiple interesting places.

The square itself has a variety of shops, restaurants and wineries. The historic Willow Creek Café & Club and Gatling Gun Saloon & Grill are only two options, which also provide a robust nightlife on the square. Of course, if you drive a short distance, you can visit the original Cooper's Pit Bar-B-Q, established in 1953, or many other restaurants. Wine lovers may enjoy the ambience of Sandstone Cellars Winery, Art Gallery & Bar; sit outside at Robert Clay Vineyards or Parr Vineyards; or visit Murphy Creek Cellars or other nearby wineries and vineyards.

For another historic experience, visit the Odeon Theater. True to their heritage, the theater features first-run movies, concerts and other entertainment at admission and concession prices that take guests back in time. Check the Mason website for upcoming events at the magical theater.

History buffs can also enjoy learning about the area at the Mason Square Museum, Fort Mason and the beautiful Seaguist House, a Texas Landmark under restoration. At various times, the fort housed many great officers on both sides of the Civil War, including Robert E. Lee. Fort Mason proved a significant force in creating the town.

For lovers of the book and movie, Old Yeller, venture over to the Eckert Memorial Library, where a statue of the beloved yellow cur dog and his master, Travis, bring the story to life. Born in Mason, the author, Fred Gipson, captured the surrounding area in his novels. In the fall, the community hosts Old Yeller Day to commemorate both the author and the tale.

Inside the library, rotating exhibits feature local artists and information about area attractions. The interactive play area behind the library, Camp Discovery, makes a great place for children of all ages to stretch imaginations.

For the adventurous spirit, Mason offers camping, fishing and playing in the Llano River — or perhaps visiting the Eckert James River Bat Cave. Several ranches in the area also offer deer hunting. In months other than November-January, guests visit these ranches to hunt for Texas' state gem, the topaz. Usually found in streambeds, Texas topaz ranges from clear or brown to yellow, or sky blue. Known as the Topaz Capital of Texas, Mason County offers a unique experience in acquiring the treasured natural gem.

Check the city's community calendar for upcoming events, and take the short drive to this true beauty of Texas Hill Country. You may want to return often to enjoy all the area provides. NOW

Editor's Note: Visit www.masontxcoc.com for more information.







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Around Town



Jeff Smith begins preservation work on the chicken house at Ellis County Rural

Heritage Farm.

By Adam Walker

Sarah Licitra and Belinda Decker

Zoomed In:

Visitors to Waxahachie City Hall are likely familiar with employee Belinda Decker. "I've been working here as a human resource analyst for eight years," Belinda explained from her desk at the front window in the lobby. "Today, I'm training Sarah to take over for me. I'm moving on, and she's moving up!"

Sarah Licitra brightly welcomed visitors and directed their inquiries to the appropriate departments. "I've been working here for two years, but this is a new position for me, and I'm excited about it. I love Waxahachie, and I enjoy new challenges. There's a lot going on here, and all kinds of new exciting things coming to Waxahachie," she explained. It looks like citizens can continue to expect friendly greetings and helpful guidance at City Hall.



Evander Holbert gets in a competitive game of air hockey at ShowBiz.



Jennifer, Hannah, Josiah and Sarah Lapusan find some good reads at the Sims Library.



Stacia Lopez welcomes treasure hunters to the Red Barn.

NOW



Rhodie Rawls holds the dedication plaque to Rhodie's Room for play and visitation at the new CASA of Ellis County office.

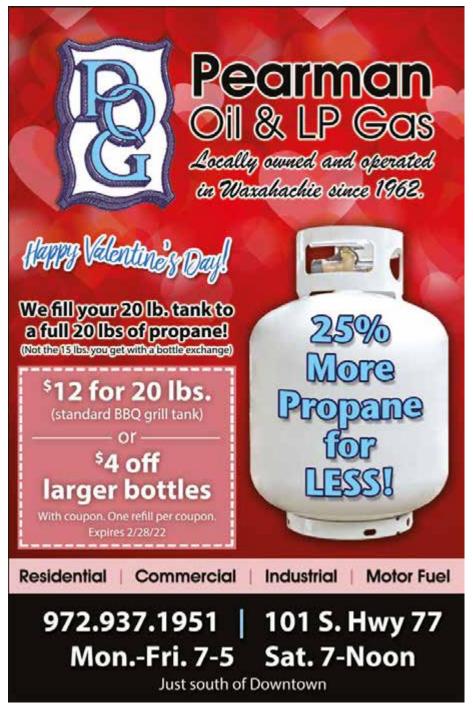


Becky Kirkland and Reana Teague work on tax returns at Simplified Business Solutions.



Victoria V. serves up hot drinks on cold days at The White Rhino.









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BusinessNOW

Phoenix Beauty Team

By Adam Walker

Phoenix Beauty Team

(214) 267-8356 www.phoenixbeautyteam.com jennifer@phoenixbeautyteam.com Instagram: @phoenixbeautyteam

Hours: By appointment, any day or time

What do you do when you have a special day coming up and you need the perfect hairstyle and makeup for your big event? That's when Jennifer Koehn and her associates at Phoenix Beauty Team of licensed estheticians and cosmetologists want to step in and help make your wedding, prom or other big event the special day you dreamed about.

"We do a lot of weddings," Jennifer explained. "As far as I know, we are the only beauty team based in Ellis County. We

started Phoenix Beauty Team in 2019 to give local brides a way to enjoy luxury at their local wedding venues. This allows the hairstylists that do specialize in salon services to keep that as their focus, while we come on-site for weddings and events to take care of multiple clients. This way, the bridal party doesn't have to go anywhere else the day of. We come to them. Events are what we do, so you can book us closer to the event, and we aren't leaving something else to come to you. We provide a great, luxury experience, so you can focus on your event and have a lot of fun."

Phoenix Beauty Team specializes in styling hair and doing makeup. They don't do cuts or color or nails. "We do up-dos, half-ups and other formal styles, but also simple styles for flower girls. We work with real hair, real hair extensions, weaves and wigs — anything that we're able to style with heat." If you need pearls and fancy combs in your hair, Jennifer has you covered. "We do a trial run for brides, ahead of their weddings,

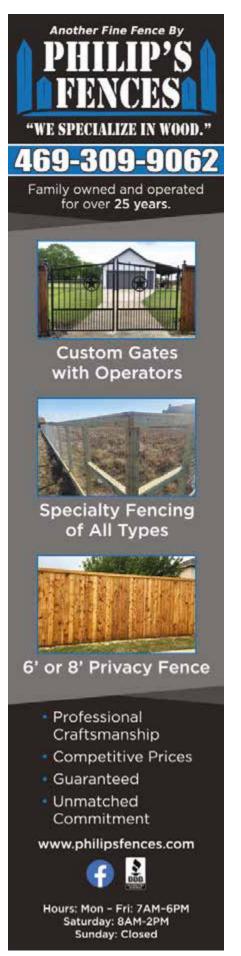
when they bring in their veils, hairpieces and any other ornamentation they want, and we work with placement. It can take two-three hours, building a look and experimenting, depending on how specific the bride is. Often, they bring pictures that they've found online or in magazines, and we work together to find the look they want. Sometimes, we do all of that, decide on a look, and then the day of the wedding, when we show up, the bride has totally changed her mind! It's the bride's day. It happens."

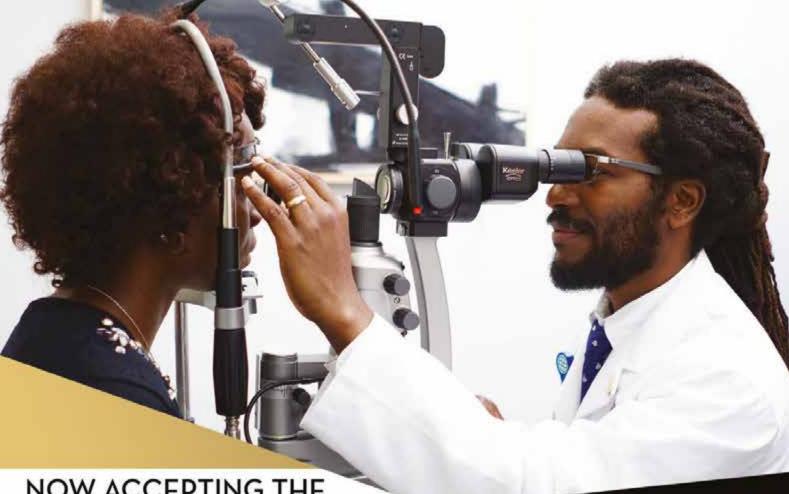
"We do up-dos, halfups and other formal styles, but also simple styles for flower girls. We work with real hair. real hair extensions, weaves and wigs anything that we're able to style with heat."

For big events, like weddings and proms, many women want a more dramatic look for their makeup than what they would wear for day-to-day. Many women today don't wear makeup at all, but want a special look for that big event. "We do subtle looks, and airbrush looks to hide skin flaws, but a lot of the women who come to us want dramatic. Recently, I did a wedding where the mother of the groom had vibrant red hair. The wedding party was supposed to wear green or black. Something had happened to her green dress, so she had to wear black. I suggested we try a dramatic emerald green for her eye shadow, to give her that pop of green she was missing. She loved it. We try not to ever make anyone look like the '80s, but there are lots of ways to do dramatic makeup."

Phoenix Beauty team also does hair and makeup for headshots, for both female and male models, camera-ready makeup and hair for indie films and any other big event. They are ready to assist when you need that extra pop. NOW







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Hablamos Español



For Ginger Watson, the act of cooking in the kitchen is rewarding. "You can make someone happy with a homemade casserole, cake, cookies," she shared. She especially enjoys getting her great-grandchildren involved with cooking duties.

Her "Favorite Pancakes" recipe is a fun one to share in the kitchen with her great-grandchildren, 10-year-old Korrie and 5-year-old Holden. They help crack eggs, stir and add different recipe ingredients. Although cooking with both of them can be a challenge at times, Ginger would not change it for the world. "They will never forget the fun they had with grandmother."

Ginger enjoys down-home favorites and baking sweet treats to share with family and friends. She is always looking for a great cookbook to read during her spare time. Now

Meatloaf

1 lb. ground beef

1 egg

I small onion, chopped

1/2 green bell pepper, chopped

2 tsp. Cavender's All-Purpose Greek Seasoning

Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste

3/4 sleeve Ritz roasted vegetableflavored crackers

I 8-oz. can tomato sauce with oregano, garlic and basil

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. In a large bowl,

combine the ground beef and the next 6 ingredients. Crush and add enough crackers to hold the mixture together. Mix well; shape into a loaf pan. Bake about 45 minutes.

2. Remove from the oven; pour tomato sauce over the top of the loaf. Return to the oven; bake an additional 10 minutes and serve.

Salmon Patties

1/4 cup, plus 1 tsp. olive oil (divided use)

1/4 cup red bell pepper, chopped

1/4 cup onion, chopped

1/4 cup jalapeños, chopped

1 5-oz. can pink or red salmon, drained

I egg, beaten

1/4 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

1/2 sleeve Ritz roasted vegetableflavored crackers, crushed

I. Add about 1 tsp. olive oil to a pan; sauté the bell peppers and onions until tender. Add the jalapeños; sauté about 2-3 minutes.

- 2. In a bowl, add the salmon, sautéed vegetables, egg and cheese; combine well. Mix in the cracker crumbs a little at a time until the mixture stays together.
- **3.** Add 1/4 cup olive oil to a pan at medium heat to cover the bottom. Fry the patties on each side until golden brown.

Chicken 'N' Asparagus Supreme

6 large boneless, skinless chicken breast halves Water, to cover Salt. to taste 1 tsp. celery leaves 1/4 cup onion, chopped 2 10.5-oz. cans cream of chicken soup 1 cup mayonnaise Grated rind of 1 lemon 1 tsp. lemon juice 1/4 tsp. curry powder 2 15-oz. cans asparagus spears, drained 1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated 1/2 cup buttered breadcrumbs

- **I.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Add the chicken breasts to the pan; cover with water. Add the salt and next 2 ingredients. Cover; cook over medium heat until the chicken is tender. Once cooked, drain.
- 2. In a large bowl, mix together the soup and next 4 ingredients.
- 3. In an oblong or square dish, place a bottom layer of asparagus spears. Cover with the cooked chicken breast. Pour and evenly spread the sauce on top of the chicken. Top with grated cheese; sprinkle breadcrumbs over the cheese. Bake at 350 F for 25-30 minutes until the sauce is bubbly.

Mom's Fruit Rolls

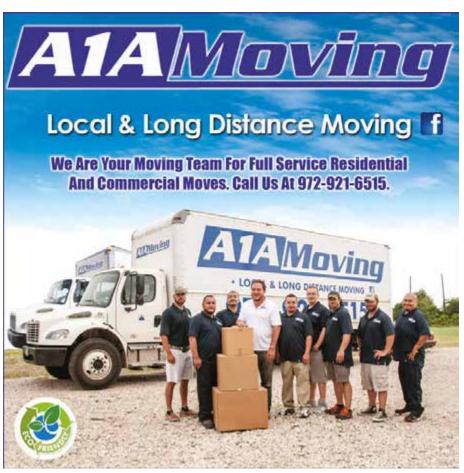
- 1 lb. box graham crackers (divided use) 1 lb. pecans, finely chopped 1 lb. miniature marshmallows, chopped 1 lb. candied orange halves, chopped 1/2 cup candied cherries, chopped
- **I.** Chop the graham crackers. Set aside 2 cups of chopped graham crackers; add the
- 2. Add the pecans and the remaining ingredients to the bowl; mix well.

remaining amount to a large bowl.

1 14-oz. can condensed milk

- **3.** Spread the reserved graham crackers onto a plate or baking sheet. Take about 2 cups of graham cracker, marshmallow and fruit mixture and roll it into an 8-inch log roll. Roll the log onto the reserved graham crackers, covering the entire roll. Continue the process until all of the mix is used.
- **4.** Wrap the log rolls with cellophane; chill.







Once chilled, slice the rolls into 1/4-inch pieces. Slice only as many as needed to serve. Keep the rolls refrigerated.

Favorite Pancakes

Makes about 12 dollar-size or 8, 4-inch pancakes.

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- I egg, beaten
- I cup milk
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil, melted shortening or bacon fat

- **1.** In a large bowl, sift together the flour and the next 3 ingredients.
- 2. In a separate bowl, combine the egg, milk and oil. Add the wet mixture to the dry ingredients; stir until the flour is moistened. The batter will be lumpy.
- 3. Bake at medium heat on a hot griddle.

Tea Cakes

- 2 sticks margarine, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup Wesson oil
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

- 5 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar or baking powder
- **1.** Preheat the oven to 325 F. In a bowl. blend together the margarine and the next 4 ingredients.
- 2. In a separate bowl, combine the flour and remaining dry ingredients. Add the wet mixture to the dry ingredients; mix well.
- 3. Using a tablespoon, scoop the dough and form it into balls. Place on a greased or parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Flatten the dough balls with a fork. Bake at 325 F for about 8 minutes; remove before they brown.

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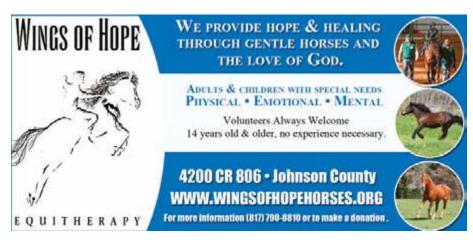


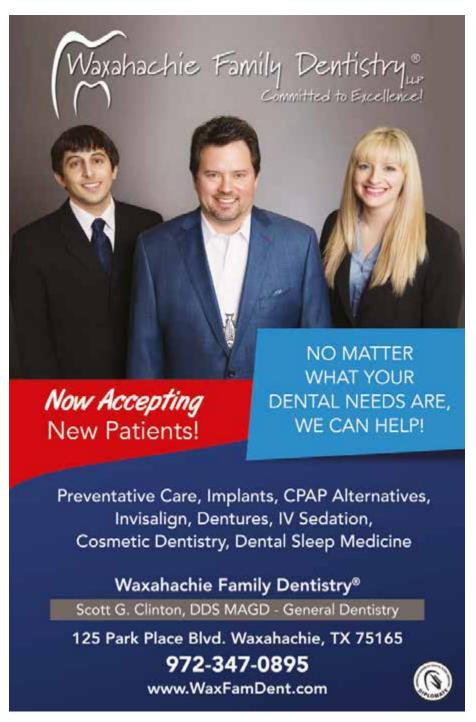
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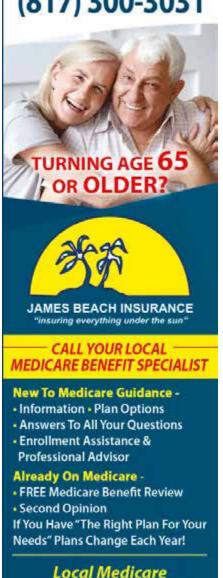
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Patching TUP By Bill Smith

Sooner or later, one of the walls in your home will probably suffer some kind of damage. Sometimes, cracks appear from your home settling. Other times, a hole may be made in the wall from children playing, or perhaps some minor damage will happen when you are moving a piece of furniture.

Small cracks, holes and dents in drywall may be repaired by simply removing any loose paper or drywall from the damaged area, spreading spackle over the damage, smoothing with a broad knife, sanding and repainting. Small, narrow cracks may require that you widen the crack to provide enough area for the spackle to adhere. Larger cracks and holes may require more extensive steps, but handy homeowners will be able to complete this repair. If the damage is not too extensive, a repair patch kit (available at most hardware stores) may include everything you need to fix the hole or crack up to the point of texture and paint.

Most drywall repairs require the use of a few basic tools, including a drywall knife, which may be referred to as a broad knife or putty knife. Drywall knives may have blades as narrow as two inches or as wide as 10 inches. You can buy premixed drywall compound, but if you

are making a larger repair and want to mix it yourself, you will need a mud pan. Various grits of sandpaper will be helpful, as you will want the finished texture of the repair to match the surrounding wall finish, but a finer grit such as 220 will probably provide the smooth finish for feathering the repair into the existing finish. Also, for larger repairs, you will need a utility knife and/or perhaps a keyhole saw for removing the damaged wallboard and for cutting the patch.

For larger repairs, follow these steps:

- I. Remove all the loose drywall and excess paper from the damaged area.
- 2. Mark around the irregular damaged area with a pencil so you can use a keyhole saw or utility knife to cut a square or rectangle area in which to fit a new piece of drywall for the patch.
- 3. Cut the patch to fit the hole. The patch should be small enough to easily go into the hole without having to use force.
- 4. If the hole is large enough that wall studs are exposed, screw the patch to the existing studs. If there are no exposed studs, insert a 1x4 and screw through the existing drywall into the 1x4 to hold it in place.
- 5. Screw the patch to the studs or the 1x4 that was installed. The patch should be inset a little from the existing wall. This area will be filled in to match the existing wall with drywall compound.
 6. Put self-adhesive fiber reinforcement tape

around the edges of the patch.

7. Apply the first coat of drywall compound with your broad drywall blade. Smooth the first coat with the blade and feather the edges. After it dries,





Presbyterian Children's Home and Services

PCHAS of Waxahachie serves single parents who need time to become strong and self-sufficient without worrying about food and shelter for their families. 300 Brookside Rd., Waxahachie, TX 75165, www.pchas.org, (972) 937-1319.

Daniel's Den

Daniel's Den provides transitional housing and emergency assistance for the homeless in Ellis County. 507 W. Jefferson, Waxahachie, TX 75165, www.danielsdenelliscounty.org, (972) 938-0103.

Campfire Creek Therapeutic Riding Center

CCTRC uses horseback riding activities to positively contribute to the lives of children and adults with physical, mental, behavioral, social and spiritual needs. 767 Bethel Rd., Waxahachie, TX 75167, www.campfirecreek.org, (972) 937-7265.

Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center

ECCAC provides justice, hope and healing to children and their families through a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse. 425 E. Ross Street, Waxahachie, TX 75165, www.elliscountycac.org, (972) 937-1870.

Ellis County Homeless Coalition

ECHC exists to come alongside the other nonprofits in our county to equip citizens with the tools they need to break the cycle of poverty and set them up for a better tomorrow. www.elliscountyhomeless.com, info@elliscountyhomeless.com, (214) 228-4280.





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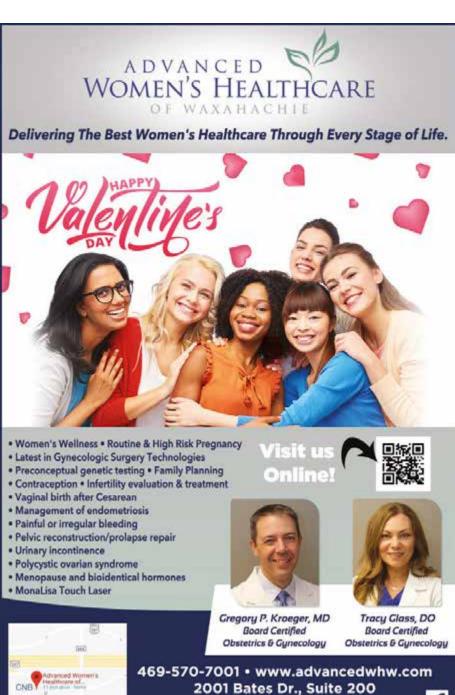
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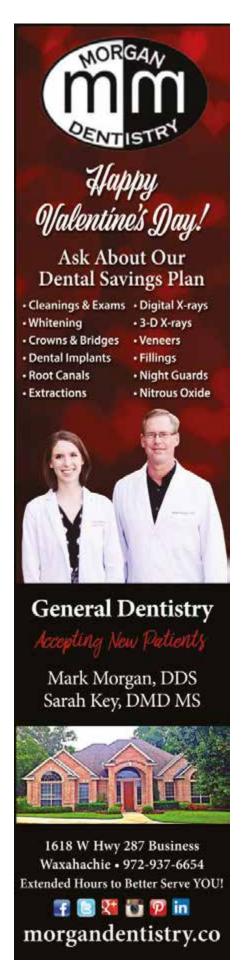
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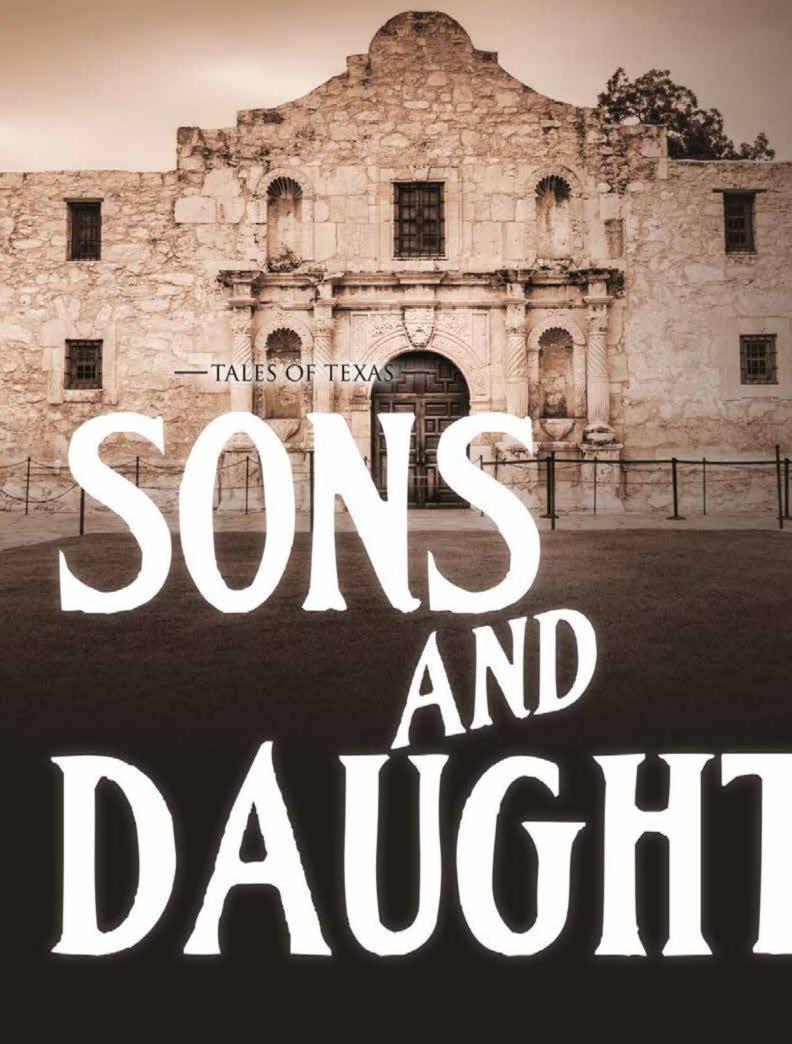
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As Texans, we grow up being enjoined to, "Remember the Alamo!" But how many of us know much about this thing we are supposed to remember? We probably know something about Lt. Col. William Barret Travis, James Bowie and his knife and Davey Crocket and his cap. But there were a lot more people in that battle than those three famous men. There were Mexican citizens. Black slaves, women and children inside the walls of the Alamo during the siege. How many of their names do you know?

There were only six native-born
Texans inside the Alamo during the
battle: Juan Abamillo, Juan A. Badillo,
Carlos Espalier, Gregorio Esparza,
Antonio Fuentes and Andrés Nava.
All of the native Texans who died
in defense of Texas' freedom from
Mexico were Hispanic. But 189 men
died that day. All the rest of them were
immigrants, either from other parts of
Mexico, from various U.S. states or from
European nations. And they ranged in
age from 16 to at least 57.

Seventeen-year-old Carlos Espalier and his 24-year-old cousin, Charles Despallier, were Mexicans of French descent and friends of James Bowie. Both of their families were deeply involved in the fight for Texas' freedom. Carlos, with the bravado of youth, was one of those who slipped out of the Alamo to burn the huts Santa Anna's army was using for cover, and then returned to the mission's defense. Charles was a signer of the Goliad Declaration of Independence. Both cousins fought in Travis' unit, and both died defending the Alamo, as did all the Mexican men in the Alamo, when it fell to the Mexican army under Santa Anna.

There are highly conflicting stories about the African-Americans inside the Alamo during the siege. The sources don't even agree on the number. But they were there — some slaves, some freedmen — at both the December capture of the fort by the "Texians," and at the March fall to the Mexicans. One of the freedmen was Hendrick Arnold. son-in-law of Deaf Smith, who helped scout the Texas victory. Another was Joe, who was body servant to Lt. Col. Travis. When Travis fell in the first barrage, Joe fired several times in defense of the Alamo, before being captured. He was sold to pay off Travis' debts, but escaped and walked out of Texas, across Louisiana, Mississippi and part of Alabama to get word to Travis' family about his death.

And it wasn't just brave men at the Alamo. Courageous women endured the battle as well. Most were adults, but

there was at least one 15-month-old girl inside the walls when the defenses collapsed. Her mother, Susannah Dickinson, and she were the only Anglo survivors of the battle, though Susannah never recovered from the trauma. Susannah is often noted as the only survivor of the Alamo, but that just isn't true. Another six Mexican women, and their children, also survived. These women were now widows whose husbands died in the cause of Texas freedom. One of these women. Andrea Castañón de Villanueva Candelaria, lived to be 113, and told her story to newspapers and others over the years. Her stories changed quite a bit during her long life, and historians now doubt she was actually there. But no one seems to doubt the presence of Susanna, whose stories also changed significantly over time.

The only woman to die in the battle was Sarah, a slave woman who was found dead between two of the cannons. Joe, the body servant of Travis, reported that Sarah became frightened by the battle and ran out of her hiding place to meet her death.

Texas has always been multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual. Many of the threads that make Texas what it is today can be found here in the cradle of her independence. But that tapestry has only grown richer over the years. Born Texans and others who got here as fast as they could fought side by side to make Texas what it is today. Remember the Alamo! NOW

Sources:

1. http://www.sonsofdewittcolony.org//adp/history/1836/blacks/durham.html 2. https://www.experiencerealhistory.com/blog/the-forgotten-women-of-the-alamo#: :text=Inside%20 the%20Alamo%2C%20the%20 women,anonymous%20for%20 nearly%20180%20years 3. https://www.thealamo.org/remember/history/defenders/index.html 4. http://www.houstonculture.org/hispanic/alamo.html



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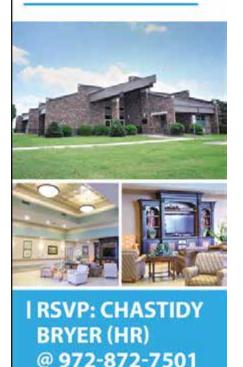
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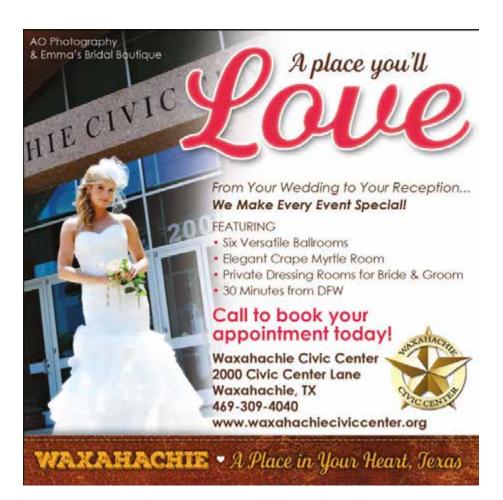
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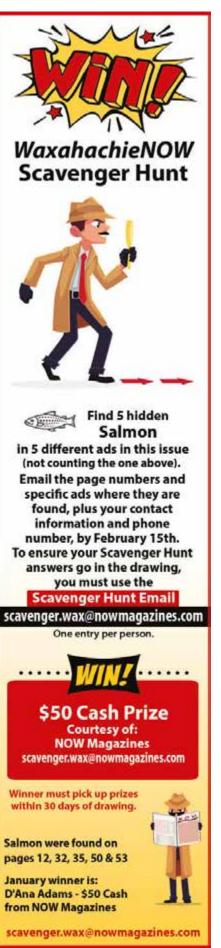
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Across

- 1 Form
- 6 Most of the US Army holds this rank
- 9 "Stick close to your desks and never go ---, ..." (Gilbert and Sullivan, HMS Pinafore)
- 10 His 'n --
- 12 Murder
- 15 That's ridiculous!
- 16 Reward for waiting
- 17 Reproduced without correction
- 18 Sushi wrap
- 19 What breadwinners bring home
- 22 Little ones are allegedly made of sugar and spice
- 23 Smoother
- 24 It sucks, in short
- 25 Recyclables container
- 26 Connecting
- 30 Classic jazz song Amy Winehouse's last recording, with Tony Bennett
- 32 Contemptible individual
- 33 Julia Roberts has been one since 2010
- 34 Welkin
- 35 Extra map section

Down

- 1 Male only
- 2 Render useless
- 3 Admin. aide
- 4 She played Snoop in "The Wire"
- 5 Start gently
- 6 Bilko's -- Silvers
- 7 Marshland
- 8 Meteorite pockmark
- 11 Hooch producer
- 13 Sort of fly
- 14 He played Dr. Foreman in "House"
- 18 Starts being effective
- 19 Crisp lettuce
- 20 Very funny
- 21 Buyable apartments
- 22 Female Indian Prime Minister
- 24 Rouge, rosé or blanc, on some menus
- 26 "The --- is a Tramp"
- 27 They are always charged
- 28 Au naturel
- 29 Surfeit
- 31 Jabber

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Solutions on page 52



Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

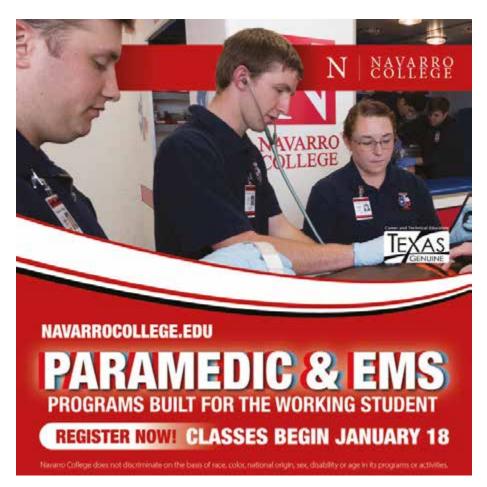
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2/8

Midwinter Concert:

WHS Concert Band, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble present their best. 7:00 p.m., Performing Arts Center, 3001 US 287.

2/12

Wine and Chocolate Stroll:

The Waxahachie Downtown Merchants Association invites you to sample their wares. \$30. 1:00-5:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

Annual Mystery Dinner:

Enjoy dinner, entertainment and a raffle while figuring out

whodunnit. \$25. 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave. For tickets, call (469) 585-7791.

2/18-2/20

Harvey:

Come enjoy Waxahachie Community Theatre's winter production. \$15. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 2:30 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Rd.

2/23

Soccer Little:

David Flores teaches your tiniest athletes the basics of soccer and literacy in this eight-week program. \$115 per child. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

2/26

Waxahachie Symphony Presents Pianist Steven Lin:

This phenomenal pianist presents some of the great works of classical music. Adults: \$20; SAGU students: \$8; Under-18: Free. 7:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Center, 499 East University Ave.

Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave.

Tuesdays

Bilingual Storytime:

Expose your toddlers to both of the major languages of Texas. Free. 11:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Homeschool STEAM:

Engaging science, technology, engineering, arts and math activities for your homeschool student. Free. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Last Tuesdays

Teen Anime Club:

Meet other fans and discuss your favorite animes. Free. 5:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Write On!:

Improve your writing skills and get your message across. Free. 3:00-4:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

First Thursdays

Tween Crafty:

Register in advance to learn neat crafts. Free. 4:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Thursdays

Canvas and Cocktails:

Come paint with your girlfriends! \$40. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Art on the Square, 113 W. Franklin St. (972) 937-3414.

Last Fridays

Book Rapport:

Drop in and discuss this month's read. Free. 5:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Saturdays

ESL:

Aprende inglés en esta clase gratis. Free. Noon-1:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Red Maple Riders Cycling Group:

Local family-friendly cycling group that rides every weekend for beginners through advanced. Free. 213 Pecan Tree Rd. For more information, visit their Facebook page: Red Maple Riders.

Third Saturdays

Adult Crafts:

Don't let the kids have all the fun! Free. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

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



Alan M. Taylor, II MD, FACP, FACC

Priscilla, Grand Prairie, TX

I started Diet Solution because nothing else was working. I signed up at two different fitness clubs, and I even attempted the Keto diet. However, I didn't realize that accountability is what I needed. I gained 60 pounds while pregnant with my son. Within the next four years, I only lost 20 of those pounds. My weight gain caused me to slip into a depression while I was wedding-dress shopping. I was no longer confident and mentally battled with my weight daily. A family member mentioned Diet Solution, and I noticed she had lost a lot of weight herself. I decided to give it a try. I was given the freedom to be able to eat most of the food I enjoy, and if not, DSC was able to provide me with the proper substitution. Weekly check-ins were quick and easy! It was a great feeling to know that you were losing weight and inches! Within three month, not only did I lose all the weight I gained, but I even got down two pounds lower than what I was before getting pregnant with my son. The best news is I am still keeping it off! I love how people all around me notice my weight loss. It has brought out the confidence that I lost. I recommend DSC to anyone that wants to lose weight, no matter how many different diet programs you have tried!



New Address

MANSFIELD

99 Regency, Suite 107 Mansfield, TX 76063 817-453-3438

BURLESON

821 SW Alsbury, Suite C Burleson, TX 76028

817-295-3438

ARLINGTON

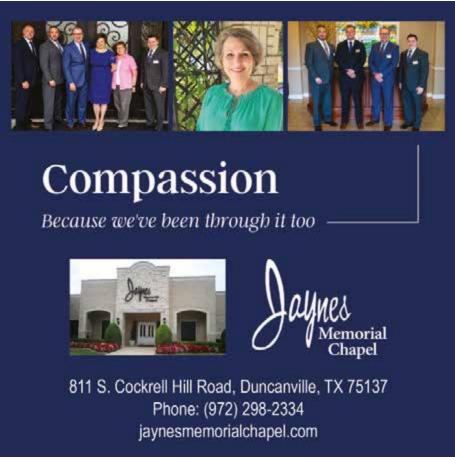
2542 W. Pioneer Parkway Pantego, TX 76013 817-277-3438

WAXAHACHIE

114 Park Place Ct., Suite 201 Waxahachie, TX 75165

214-980-1414





Crossword Sudoku Solutions



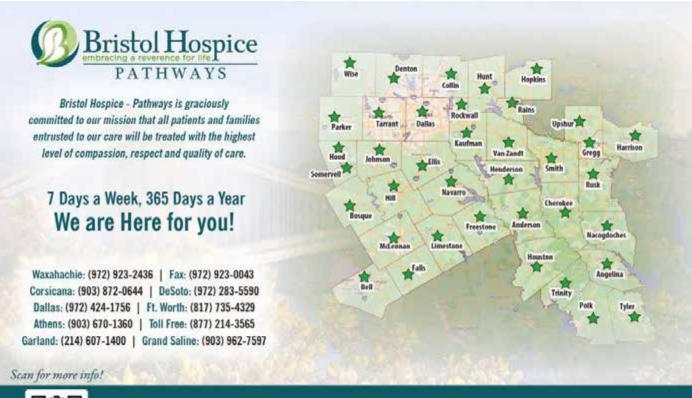
Easy

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

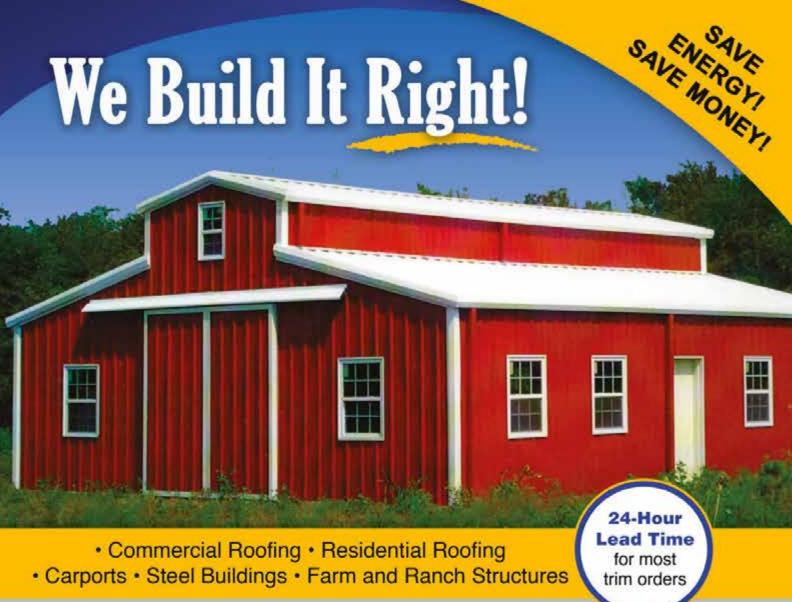
Medium

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











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