### WaxahachieNOW

MAGAZINE

MARCH 2022

# The Crossroads of Texas Happens Right Here

Texas movies and bands put on a show in Waxahachie

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A classically trained musician gives back to the community

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Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Philip's Fences In the Kitchen With Callie Harrison



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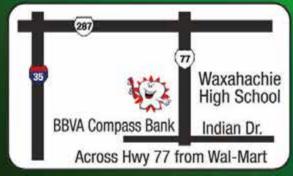
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### ON THE COVER

These boots will walk right to the Crossroads of Texas.

Photo courtesy of the city of Waxahachie.

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Once upon a time ...

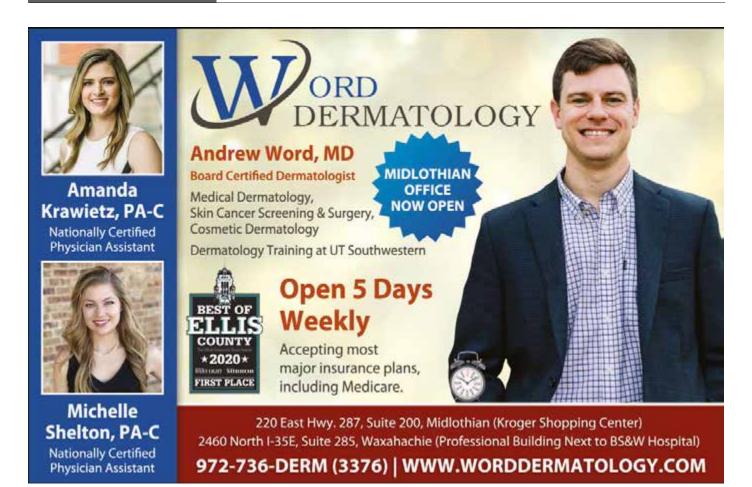
As a lover of stories, my ears perk up when I hear that phrase. Whatever follows will be fantastical and fun. It may be silly or dark. There may be ogres, princesses or fairy godmothers. Someone may prick their finger or dance till they drop down dead.

We think of fairy tales as children's stories, because they've entertained boys and girls for hundreds of years, generation after generation. But the best of them can be enjoyed as much or more by adults. No less a person than Oxford scholar C.S. Lewis wrote about how he loved them as a child, until trying to look grown up overtook him as a teen. As an adult, he rediscovered the joy and delight in these tales, learning to appreciate them on a new level. His opinion was that good children's stories could be enjoyed just as much by adults, and any story that couldn't, probably wasn't such a good children's story after all.

He also thought the fact that fairy tales can be scary is part of their value to children. Monsters are scary. But sooner or later, every child discovers that monsters are real. Terrible things happen in life, many of them done by terrible people. But children recognize them as monsters, because they first met them in stories, at a safe distance. And they can believe in heroes, or become heroes, because they met them in those same stories.

Maybe we need to add new stories, in the same vein, because those old stories didn't show enough heroic maidens. And our kids need to hear the fairy tales of other lands, so they know heroic Africans, Chinese, Indians and Arabs. While we're reading these stories to our kids, let's see what they have to entertain and educate us as well.

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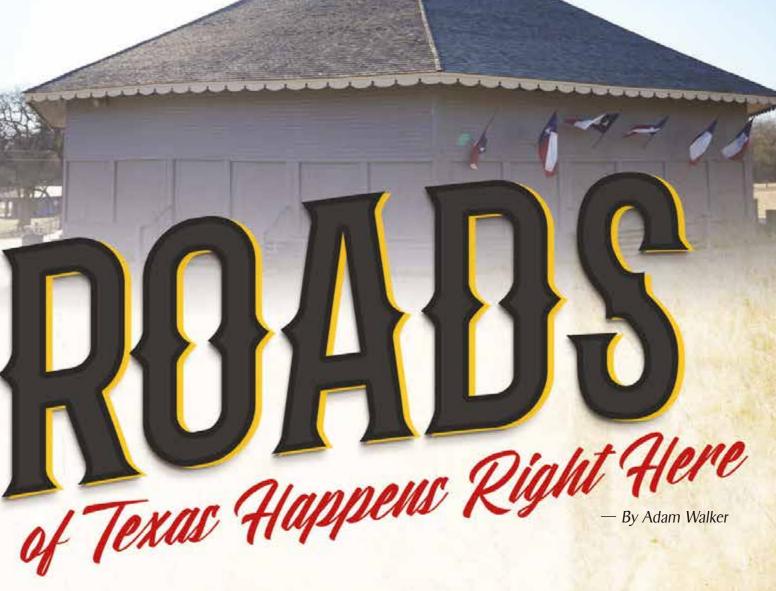






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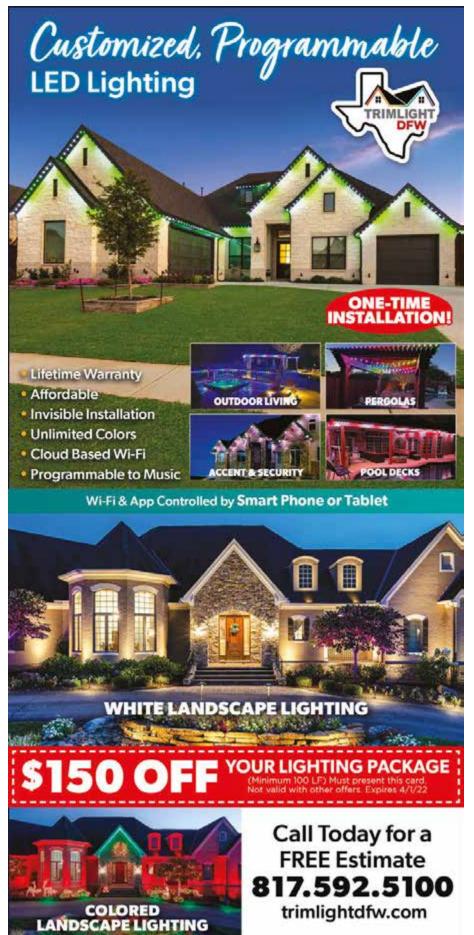




Waxahachie has a rich history in the film industry. Locals are well aware of parts of that history. But when Amy Borders and Laurie Mosley put their heads together, they decided to organize a festival that would celebrate all of Texas. The eventual result was the Crossroads of Texas Film and Music Festival. "We thought, Why not pay tribute to films made not only in Waxahachie, but in all of Texas?" Amy revealed. "When we started the festival in 2014, it was focused on films only, but in 2017, we officially enlarged to include Texas music as well. To my knowledge, we're the only festival that exclusively celebrates films and music made in Texas."

Places in the Heart is probably the most famous film shot in Waxahachie. Robert Benton, who wrote and directed it, is a Waxahachie native, and the story is loosely about his grandmother's life. But many other famous films and TV series have been produced here in the Lone Star State. *Urban Cowboy* was shot in Houston. *Varsity Blues* was filmed in the Austin area and *Lonesome Dove* was filmed around Del Rio. All four of these productions will be part of the lineup at this year's festival, which runs from April 28-30. The movies will be shown on Thursday and Friday, followed by concerts in the evenings. The entire *Lonesome Dove* miniseries will be screened on Saturday, with 15-minute breaks between episodes, followed by yet another concert in the evening.

"The festival was canceled the last two years, by the pandemic, and we're streamlining it a lot this year, but we're back," Amy stated. "This is our seventh year. It would have been our ninth. And it's going to be a great time. We're

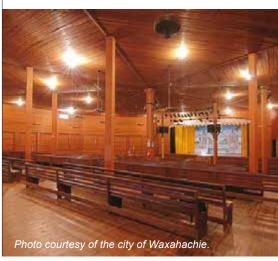




going to have cast members for Q&A sessions after the films, and we have a great lineup of bands playing this year. Every year the festival sells out, so anyone who wants tickets needs to act fast!" Amy advised. Ticket options include individual film screening and concert tickets, or the all-inclusive VIP pass is available for \$150. "You don't want to miss out. It's just so much fun! Every year, I hear from people who say, 'Why did I not do this earlier?""

Waxahachie has been the filming site of between 50 and 60 feature films, all of which were shot, at least in part, in and around town. That doesn't happen as much now, because the downtown area is a more vibrant place, with much more business activity, and movie makers prefer empty storefronts. But there are still a lot of smaller projects, like TV commercials being filmed here.

"That first year, we were celebrating the 30th anniversary of Places in the Heart. When we approached the Film Commission in Austin, they pointed out a lot of noteworthy productions, and





told us, 'Y'all could do a full-fledged festival.' We didn't know how to do that, but we learned. We aren't like other festivals. We don't accept submissions. We're fully curated by our programming committee. These films are valuable and should be celebrated," Amy emphasized. "I tell people all the time, that the stories that come out of Texas are so much richer than those from other places. We have more happen before breakfast here in Texas than happens in other states all day long! There are a lot of great writers from Texas."

Some of the films shot in Texas are movies you might expect. They tell Texas stories. Others like Spy Kids, RoboCop and Born on the Fourth of July, all shot in Dallas, and Transformers: Age of Extinction, which was partly filmed in the Hill Country, are movies that just found it convenient to film here, because Texas had what they needed from perfect locations, to a crew base, to hospitality and more.

"We're fortunate to be part of the Waxahachie Arts Council," Amy confessed. "They, and our local sponsors, really help to make the event possible. We're so fortunate to have the support of the community. Our citizens do a great job of taking care of our own, and they're extremely supportive of the arts. This festival brings a lot of tourism to Waxahachie. We've grown every year. Adding music to the festival was a great move. It's hard to say just what the future holds, until the pandemic is over, but I'm optimistic. We plan to keep growing and trying new things. We want to keep bringing in new people and getting bigger and better. It's the people who make it special." NOW





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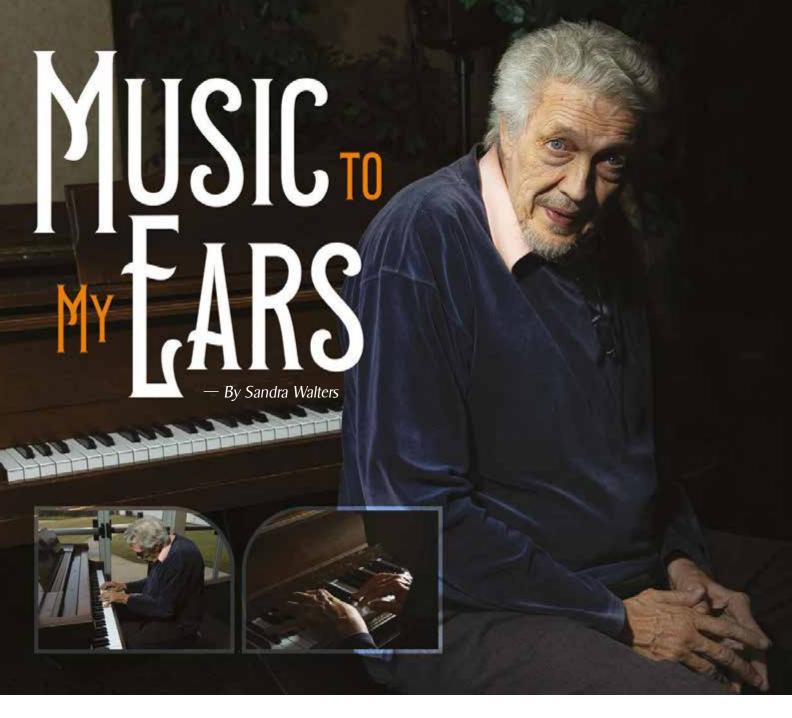
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"Both of my grandmothers were piano teachers. I started playing 'Chopsticks' when I was 2 years old. When I was old enough to sit on the bench without falling off, my uncle taught me how to play it," Jim Jordan explained. He was born with music in his veins.

This is where his passion for music started. He couldn't read yet, but as an auditory learner, he grasped the sound of music quickly. "Music is organized sound. I can't touch it, but I can feel it. I learned to play by ear, so improvising was easy as I grew older. I listened to records and developed a keen ear for music. I didn't take my first real piano lesson until third grade," Jim said.

During his journey to master music, his ability soared. By sixth grade, he could play Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue by memory. This piece is categorized as intermediate or advanced. At that time, Jim would have been deemed a prodigy. Others could see it clearly when his fingers touched the piano keys.

"I love adding the classics and jazz together. Ragtime was a precursor for jazz. Ray Charles is a perfect example of being able to play by ear and combining different genres. I remember him taking the Black gospel sound and integrating it with other styles," lim described.

As Jim continued to play and sing, he eventually fell in love with gospel quartet music when a friend loaned him a record. In high school, he and some friends created their own gospel quartet and went on the road singing songs like "This Little Light of Mine," "I've Got Heaven on My Mind," "He Knows What I Need" and more.

In 1967, he was offered a piano scholarship to Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas. While attending TJC for two years, his interest shifted. "I always loved singing as well as playing the piano. I transferred to North Texas State University [now University of North Texas] on a voice scholarship," he stated. Jim is gifted at playing the piano and singing, but he didn't desire to be a classical pianist for the rest of his life. Therefore, changing his major to voice was an easy decision. However, he only attended North Texas State for one year, after which he transferred to Dallas Baptist University, where he majored in church music. Being influenced by the Jesus Movement, as he learned more about his faith, he became even more interested in the Bible and theology. As a result of his quest for knowledge, he enrolled in courses to learn about God. In 1976, he received his bachelor's degree from DBU, went on to become a pastor and started a new church.

Currently, he serves as an associate pastor at Greater New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church here in Waxahachie, and he feels his first love calling him again. He recently created a community gospel choir and quartet because he said it is a lost form of music.

He practices two to three hours a day and is developing a curriculum for teaching music prioritizing ear training. "Music is a science as well as an art, and you must understand what you're doing. Theory is important. If you don't have keyboard skills, you are limited. You must learn scales and chords to create a piece easily. I believe music should be taught, studied and learned as a language." He designed his program using his experience of becoming a prolific musician. He learned music by ear first, and he progressed to reading after he could effectively play by ear. He felt like this was a genius concept, but music typically wasn't taught in that manner. He couldn't figure out why he hadn't thought of it earlier.

Jim quoted Louis Armstrong by saying, "Good music is good music, and it doesn't take a genius to know the difference.' I believe in pursuing excellence. Our community gospel choir practices at Soma Church every last Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Come and join us." NOW









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# **TEXAS PAT**

By Virginia Riddle

Born in Germany on April 5, 1801, Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was the oldest son of Emmanuel Sterne, who was an Orthodox Jew, and his wife, Helen, who was a Lutheran. At age 16, Adolphus was working in a passport office when he learned he was going to be conscripted into German military service. He forged his own passport and emigrated to America through New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1817. He found employment in a mercantile and studied law.

Having become a businessman with interests from New Orleans to Nashville, Tennessee, Adolphus made Nacogdoches, Texas, his home around 1824, and upon joining the New Orleans Masonic Lodge in 1826, he became one of the first Masons in Texas. He became friends with Sam Houston through business interests. Despite having taken the required Mexican government's loyalty pledges, Sterne assisted in Nacogdoches' 1826 Fredonian Rebellion by smuggling weapons for the War Dog rebels, a local militia group that was attempting to establish their own republic due to the political and cultural differences between the Anglo-Americans and the Mexicans.

Adolphus was tried for treason by the Mexicans and ordered shot. While his case was reviewed, he was incarcerated in the Stone House, now the Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches. The New Orleans Masonic Lodge interceded, arranging his parole. He was released, agreeing to never take up arms again against the Mexican government.

He helped in the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 but did not take up arms. In violation of the Texas Constitution of 1824, Mexican Colonel José de las Piedras ordered townspeople to surrender all firearms to his 300-plus troops. Instead, residents of Nacogdoches and surrounding towns formed a National Militia. The militia marched to the square where the Mexican army opened fire and hand-to-hand combat began. Sterne instructed the San Augustine Red-Landers how to outflank the Mexicans trying to flee. A peace treaty was signed, and Mexican troops were never again garrisoned in East Texas.

Attempting to raise funds and recruit fighters for the New Orleans Greys, who fought in several battles, including the Alamo, during the Texas Revolution, Adolphus spoke at their first rally. Volunteers filled the Grey's first two companies, and thousands of dollars were donated to support the cause for religious freedom and the establishment of the Republic.

Adolphus supported most of Houston's policies during the Republic's early days, except his Indian policy. Sterne commanded a militia company at the Battle of the Neches in 1839, expelling the Cherokees from East Texas.

Between 1840 and 1847, Adolphus became the Nacogdoches postmaster and a land agent. He served Nacogdoches County as court deputy clerk, associate

justice, justice of the peace, the board of land commissioners' clerk and the commissioner of roads and revenues clerk. In 1847, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served a second term. In 1851, he served in the Texas Senate.

He and his wife. Eva Catherine Rosine Ruff, had seven children. Adolphus enjoyed dancing, occasional drinking and playing games of that era. His published diary, with entries from 1840-1851, chronicles early life in Texas. He owned 16,000-plus acres of land worked by slaves. Self-educated, Adolphus was an interpreter in English, French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Portuguese and Latin.

After passing away on March 27, 1852, in New Orleans while on a business trip, Adolphus was buried there but was later interred in Nacogdoches' Oak Grove Cemetery. His home, built in 1830 at 211 S. Lanana Street in Nacogdoches, is now the Sterne-Hoya House Museum. Sterne, an early colonist, businessman and politician, hosted prominent guests, including Davy Crockett and Sam Houston. Sold to the Hoya family in 1866, the home was donated to the city of Nacogdoches in 1958. The museum and library hold the history of the early days of Texas, including Sam Houston's sword and Adolphus' published diary. NOW

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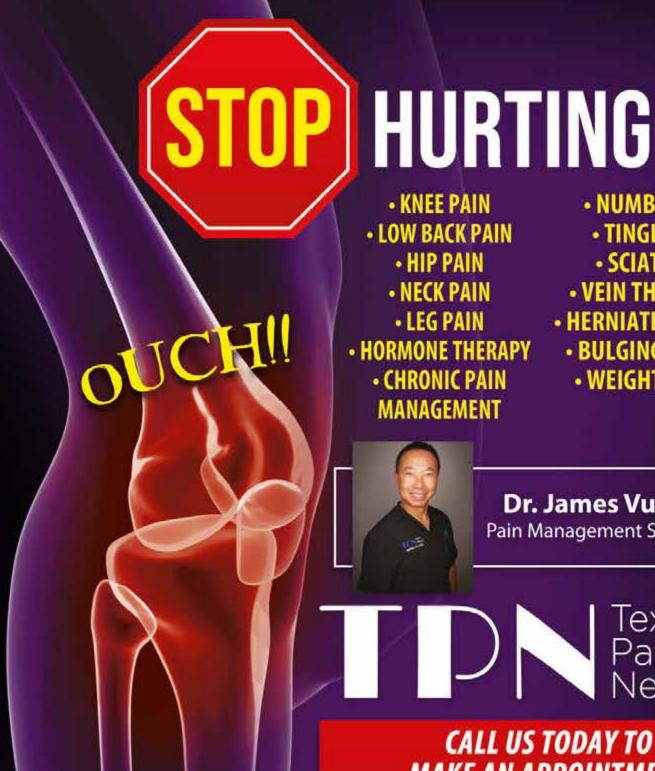
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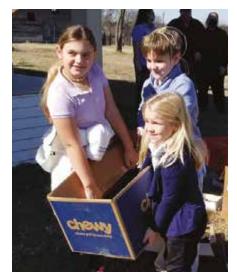
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### **Around Town**



Young volunteers help plant wildflower seed balls at the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm.

### Zoomed In: By Adam Walker

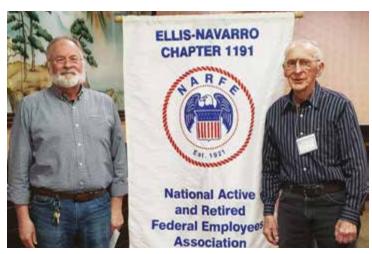
Autumn Helland, principal of St. Joseph Catholic School, was joined in her leadership role by kindergartener Ryann. "For years, we've held a yearly silent auction for the position of Principal for a Day. Ryann really got into it. She showed up in a wig and dressed like a professional. She joined me for lunch duty, visited the church office, and we had coffee together. Well, she had hot chocolate, and I had coffee!"

Autumn Helland and Ryann

Principal Helland had nothing but praise for her assistant. "Ryann has a spark about her that draws people. She's an emerging leader. When I was a little girl, my principal said something nice to me that started me down the road to this role. She'd make a good principal — if she chooses this path!"



Rick Orr at Video Station preserves Waxahachie's memories.



Rob Nelson, the Wedding Guy, is welcomed by Ralph Nelson, to speak to the members for NARFE Chapter 1191.



Supporters of the arts attend Waxahachie Community Theatre's Black & White Gala.

### NOW



Janell Jennings, a city carrier for Waxahachie Post Office, braves last month's icy weather to deliver mail.



Elias Carreon and Jen Graf pose with the Outlander, one of the Friends of the Sims Library.



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Thank goodness I was looking through our local MidlothianNOW Magazine and saw the ad for DSC. Not letting any of my family know, I decided to call and make an appointment, and it was the best decision of my life.

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### Philip's **Fences**

– By Adam Walker

Philip's Fences Waxahachie, TX (469) 309-9062 www.philipsfences.com Facebook: Philip's Fences

Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **Closed Sunday** 

If you find yourself in the market for a new fence, or needing to replace an old one that has fallen victim to a Texas storm or other calamity, the folks at Philip's Fences want to make the process easy. "We're family-owned and -operated," stated President David Spicer. "My brother and I started this company together 30 years ago, when we started doing fencing jobs and decided we liked it. We serve Ellis and the surrounding counties, installing and repairing fencing for residential backyards, field fencing and commercial fences."

"Just call us to schedule an appointment. We'll come visit your yard to talk about what kind of fence you need. We'll show you the different styles of fencing, measure and give you a quote. We can usually give you an estimate on the spot. Homeowners like that. They don't like having to wait days, or longer, just to get an estimate," General Manager Glen Byrd explained. Financing is also available for all credit types.

309-9062

"We return calls quickly, and we show up on time," Glen continued. "We specialize in wooden fences because that's what 90 percent of homeowners want. Quality and workmanship matter. That's why we only work skilled crews. David Patillo is in charge of all of our field operations, and he makes sure our work crews show up on time."

CEO Sam Spicer emphasized service. "Our clients know we care about them and their needs. Many of our customers come by referrals and word of mouth."

While they specialize in wood fencing, they also work with chain link, barbed wire, corral fencing and split rail. "We do wrought-iron fencing, including gates and automatic gate access controllers," David explained. "A lot of people like wrought-iron because, once it's installed, it's maintenance free."

> "Just call us to schedule an appointment. We'll come visit your yard to talk about what kind of fence vou need. We'll show you the different styles of fencing, measure and give you a quote. We can usually give you an estimate on the spot. Homeowners like that."

In addition to individual residential, rural and commercial fencing jobs. Philip's Fencing also does new builds in new housing developments and other large projects. "We have done several projects for the city of Waxahachie," David revealed.

Fences are not the only thing they do at Phillip's Fences. They also install decks and pergolas, to give you the perfect space for outdoor entertaining.

Glen makes sure that only the highest quality materials available are used. "Quality of customer care and service are important to us, as is the quick fulfillment of warranty repairs. We strive for immediate response to customer concerns."

CFO Brandie Harris agreed. "We treat you like we would want to be treated. It just works."

"It takes every piece of the puzzle to make it work," added Sam. "If you need a fence, we're the ones to call." NOW





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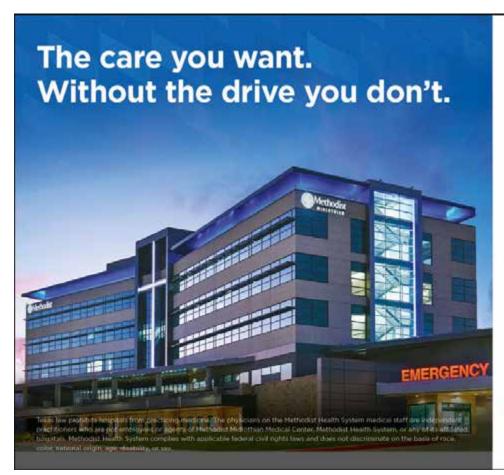
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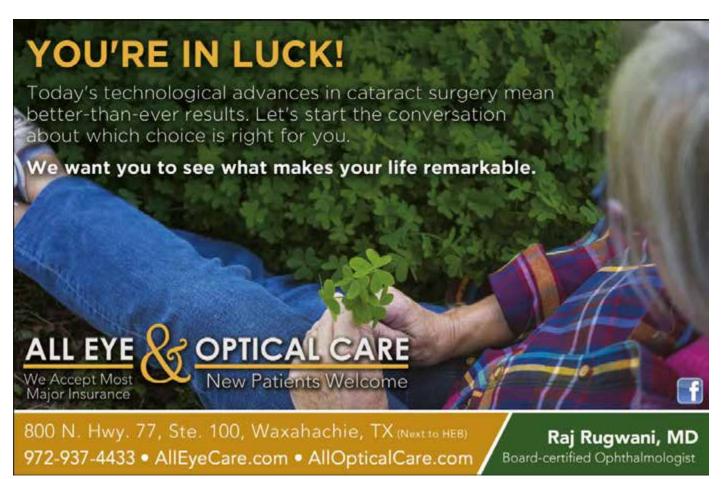


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For Callie Harrison, the kitchen is the heart of her home. "It's my favorite place to be. Preparing a home-cooked meal is an expression of love. It's so satisfying to experiment with different combinations of ingredients to create new flavor combinations or reinvent traditional foods."

The seasons drive her kitchen exploits. "In the cooler months, I crave hearty casseroles, baked goods and soups. The summertime lends itself more to grilling, fresh salads and lighter recipes."

One of her cherished possessions is a book of family recipes she received at her wedding. "My husband's grandmother, Beverly McCullough, put it together in a scrapbook binder for me. It includes many recipes that were passed down to her." While that's her go-to cookbook, she also loves to explore food blogs. NOW

### **Best Ever Cinnamon Rolls**

- I bag Rhodes frozen cinnamon rolls 1 3-oz. box cook and serve vanilla
- pudding (not instant)
- 1/4 cup salted butter, melted
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- **I.** Spray a 9x 13-inch pan with cooking spray; arrange the frozen cinnamon rolls in it. Save the icing packets in the refrigerator for later use. Sprinkle the dry pudding mix over
- each cinnamon roll; pour the melted butter over them. Cover tightly in plastic wrap. Note: In a warmer house, you will need to refrigerate overnight and then set out about 3 hours prior to baking to allow the dough time to rise. In a cooler house leave them out all night.
- 2. Once the rolls have risen and filled the pan, bake at 350 F for about 25 minutes or until golden brown and baked through.
- 3. While the rolls are baking, squeeze the refrigerated icing packets into a small bowl; mix with vanilla and cinnamon. While rolls

are still warm, spread the icing over them. Serve immediately!

### **Red Wine Braised Boneless Short Ribs**

- 4 lbs. boneless beef short ribs Salt. to taste Pepper, freshly ground, to taste Olive oil
- I shallot, chopped
- I medium yellow onion, chopped
- I cup celery, chopped (approximately 3-4 ribs)
- I cup carrots, chopped (approximately 3 large carrots)
- 3 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bottle (750 ml) good quality dry red wine
- 4 cups beef stock
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 bay leaves
- 3-4 sprigs fresh thyme (tied into a bundle with kitchen twine)
- **I.** Preheat oven to 325 F.

- **2.** Pat the short ribs dry; season generously with salt and pepper. In a Dutch oven, on medium high, heat olive oil (enough to lightly coat the pan). Brown the short ribs on all sides, in batches; transfer to a baking dish to catch the juices.
- 3. Discard all but about 2 Tbsp. of the fat from the pan; reduce the heat to medium. Add the shallot, onion, celery and carrots. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables become tender and begin to caramelize, about 10 minutes.
- 4. Add the tomato paste; stir into the vegetables. Continue cooking, stirring frequently. Add garlic; stir for another minute. Add the wine. Using a wooden spoon, scrape up any browned bits that have collected on the pan. Bring the wine and vegetables to a boil: reduce the heat to a simmer. Allow to simmer until the wine is reduced by half, about 10 minutes.
- **5.** Stir in the beef stock, tomatoes, Worcestershire, bay leaves and thyme bundle. Nestle the short ribs into the pot. along with any juices that accumulated with them. Bring the liquid in the pot to a boil. Cover the pot; transfer to the oven for 90 minutes. Remove the lid; continue baking, uncovered, for 1 hour more, or until the meat is fall-apart tender.
- **6.** Skim any excess fat off the top; remove the thyme stems and bay leaves before serving.

### Farmhouse Banana Bread

3 bananas, very ripe 1 egg 1/4 cup butter, melted 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract I cup granulated sugar

1 tsp. baking soda

I tsp. salt

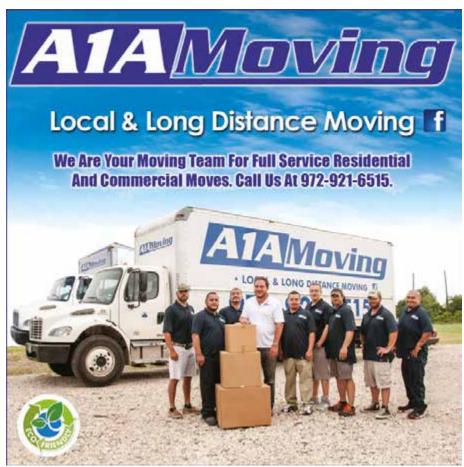
 $1 \, 1/2$  cups flour

**Cooking spray** 

1/2 cup dark chocolate chips or chopped walnuts (optional)

- **1.** Spray a loaf pan with cooking spray.
- 2. In a medium bowl, mash the bananas with a fork.
- 3. In another bowl, lightly beat the egg. Add to the banana, along with the melted butter, vanilla and sugar. Stir with a spatula. Stir in the baking soda, salt and flour until combined. Gently fold in chocolate chips or chopped walnuts, if using.
- **4.** Pour into the loaf pan; bake for 55-60 minutes at 350 F. A butter knife inserted in the center should come out clean when done. Allow to cool at least 30 minutes before slicing and serving.





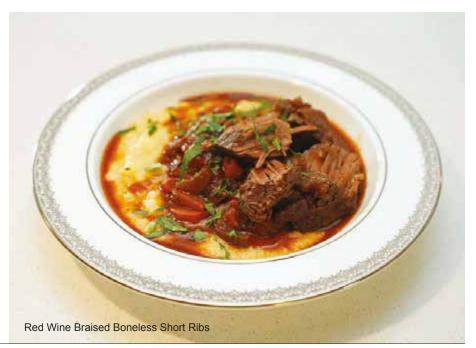
### Sausage Casserole

- I lb. hot breakfast sausage 2 pkgs. Lipton's Chicken Noodle Soup Mix
- 6 cups water
- I white or yellow onion, chopped
- I green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- I cup celery, thinly sliced
- I cup white rice, uncooked
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- **1.** In a pan, brown and crumble the sausage. Drain off any excess fat.
- 2. In another pot, add the soup mix and water; bring to a simmer.
- **3.** Add the onion, bell pepper and celery to the pan with the sausage. Cook the vegetables about 10-15 minutes, or until tender.
- **4.** In a large casserole dish, put the rice and almonds. Add the sausage-vegetable mixture and the soup. Bake, uncovered, at 350 F for I hour.

#### Chicken in Wine Sauce

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts 6 oz. sliced Swiss cheese
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup

- 1/2 cup dry white wine Fresh cracked black pepper, to taste 1 cup herb flavored Pepperidge Farm Stuffing Mix, crushed 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1. Flatten the chicken breasts between parchment paper until about 1-inch thickness throughout. Place the chicken in a lightly
- greased baking dish. Cover with cheese slices.
- 2. In a medium bowl, mix the soup and wine together; pour the mixture over the cheese. Add the pepper. Sprinkle the crushed herb stuffing mix on top; drizzle with melted butter.
- **3.** Bake at 350 F for 45-55 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through.



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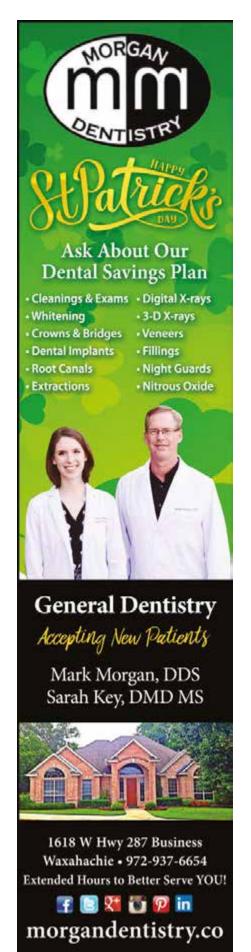


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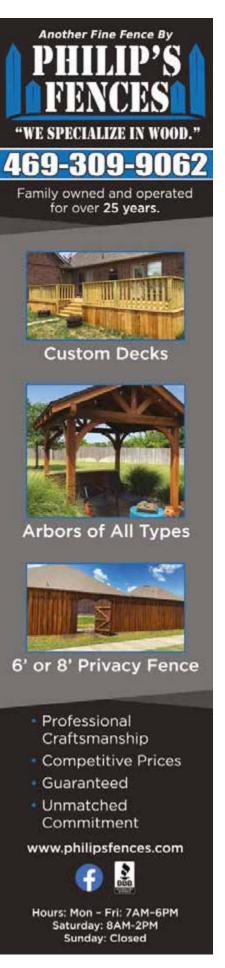
"Glenn had amazing customer service. Explained everything to me. Everyone was great. Definitely a place to take your vehicle. I would give this place 10plus stars. Definitely recommend to anyone." - Janet - November 2021

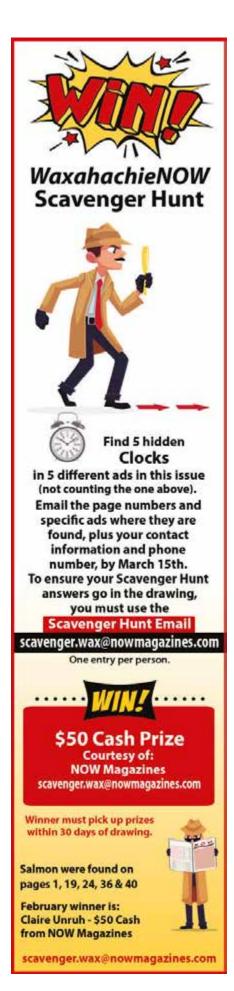
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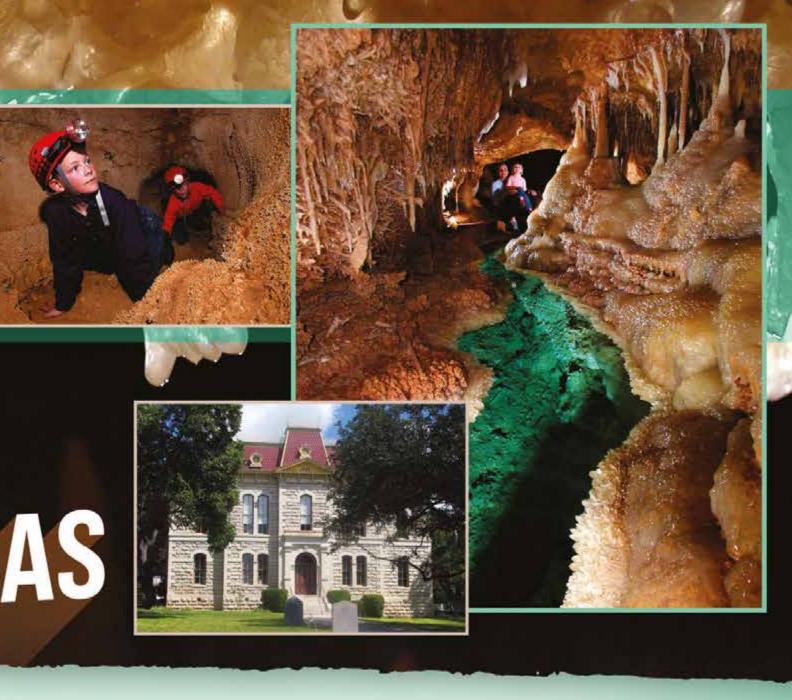
Enjoy Sonora, Texas, where western heritage is alive and well and adventure awaits you both above and below ground. Located where the Texas Hill Country meets the rugged Southwest, Sonora is rich with history and opportunities to explore. From downtown shopping, the historical district and museum to a 37-acre nature center and park, to the legendary Caverns of Sonora, you're sure to have an unforgettable experience. With lodging available at local hotels, area ranches and even RV parks, plus more than a dozen delicious restaurants, accommodations

are plentiful. At the crossroads of Interstate 10 and Highway 277, Sonora offers the best of both Hill Country and West Texas. Plan your visit today, and come experience the "Gateway to West Texas."

The Caverns of Sonora is located off Interstate I0 (exit 392), eight miles west of Sonora. Open daily, the caverns are called the most beautiful caves in the world. The caverns take you on an unrivaled journey through color, space and time, with miles of underground trails.

After seeing the Caverns of Sonora for the first time, National Speleological Society Co-founder Bill Stephenson said, "Its beauty cannot be exaggerated, even by Texans."

The Caverns of Sonora has a beautiful visitor center, built in 1961. It is a ranch-barn design with a vaulted ceiling and



exposed oak beams. Come in and taste the many varieties of authentic homemade fudge. The wonderful gift shop features many geological interests, including gemstones and fossils. The RV park and campground are nestled in the heart of a working ranch with 48 sites complete with drinkable water and electricity. Enjoy panning for gemstones, large and small.

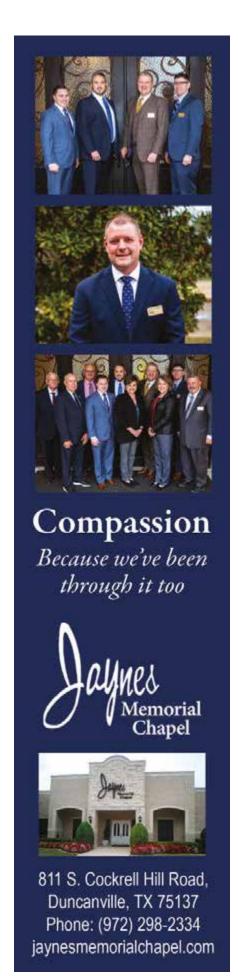
While the caverns draw most visitors, Downtown Sonora has plenty to offer. Learn about one of Sonora's first families, and take a step back in time at the Miers Home Museum, an authentic "Texas frontier homestead." Take a tour of the historic jail built in 1891. The recently restored Sutton County Jail played home to local lawbreakers and outlaws alike. Don't forget about the Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum, where you can learn about Sonora's heritage with ranching exhibits, artifact displays and the gun that brought down the famous outlaw, Will Carver.

For those who love spending time outdoors, take a walk on the wild side and learn about the natural history of the region at Eaton Hill Nature Center and Preserve. Enjoy 37 acres, complete with diverse hiking trails and habitat. Interpretive exhibits can be found within the walls of the Nature Center, a fully renovated centurion home. Learn about area wildlife, fossils, geology and more — and enjoy picnic-perfect views.

While in Sonora, take in a round of golf with wide-open spaces and challenging play at the Sonora Golf Club. A wonderful nine-hole golf course, Sonora Golf Club has been awarded the Best Nine-Hole Golf Course in Texas. An oasis set in beautiful, rugged West Texas, the course challenges the most seasoned golfer, while making rookies feel at ease. With so many adventures in this small town, plan on spending days where Hill Country meets West Texas.

By Donna Garrett Executive Director Sonora Chamber of Commerce

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.sonoratexas.org.



















# MAKING a MUDROOM

— By Angel Morris

The first room you enter in your home is typically a catch-all area for shoes, bags, sports gear and more. While some houses are designed with space for this clutter, other homes are in need of a designated junk drop area. Enter the DIY mudroom.

If you're on a budget and cannot add square footage for your own mudroom, it's still possible to create an organizational space within your home's existing footprint — particularly if your home has a laundry room or small entry off the garage. You can even take a bit of space from the garage itself to keep clutter from landing inside. Here are a few tips to get you started:

#### **USING THE LAUNDRY ROOM**

A blank wall in a laundry room is a great space to create locker-type storage for coats, shoes, jackets and more. Building locker-type shelves with storage hooks and a floating bench here makes it easy for the family to get in the habit of dropping items in their designated space when entering your home.

Beneath the floating bench is the perfect place for baskets that can house each family members' items, from schoolbooks during the school year to swim gear in the summer. Or each

person can have his or her own laundry basket here. If your laundry room is too small, but your home has a coat closet nearby, removing its door and installing these types of shelves, hooks and a bench inside the closet is another simple storage solution.

#### **USING AN ENTRYWAY**

While the same shelving and hooks suggested for the laundry room can also work in an entry, you do not have to rely on built-ins to create a mud space. Consider a bedroom dresser in a new light, by placing it in your entry and designating drawers for every family member. Once everyone becomes accustomed to using the dresser upon entering your home, clutter becomes less of an issue, and the search for those things you need when leaving home is less chaotic.

Atop the dresser is a great place to have designated holders for your keys and the daily mail, as well. A dry erase memo board hung above the dresser can make your mudroom a command central for family schedules and communication, too.

If space allows, a free-standing bench with baskets beneath it creates even more storage. A free-standing hat rack makes an entryway corner the designated jacket spot, or a clothing rack gives an industrial vibe to any entry.

Antique aficionados might find an old armoire to be not only stylish, but also functional as storage space. These often come with both a clothing bar and drawers, providing mudroom functionality without the mudroom feel.

None of these ideas require power tools or handyman skills, and all can be done using items you pick from other areas of your home or even find at yard sales, thrift stores or bargain outlets.

#### **USING THE GARAGE**

Perhaps the best mudroom space is that which keeps clutter from even entering your home. The interior wall of your garage is where you'll want to install your built-in lockers, shelving and bench. You may want to lay simple flooring or paint the cement to give a cleaner feel to this space.

Vintage lovers might consider using actual reclaimed school lockers against the wall for family cubbies. Basic wooden or plastic crates are inexpensive storage pieces that can be stacked or mounted to the walls to house anything from shoes to books, to sports balls and gear.

Metal shelves are right at home in a garage but are not just for tool storage. Why not give each family member his or her own shelf on which to create their own storage? Boxes, bins and baskets can all be used however each person sees fit to organize their belongings that need to be available upon leaving the house.

While not necessary, a dressing screen is a simple way to differentiate between your garage mudroom and your parking space if you want to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

So, if your home wasn't built with a pre-existing mudroom, it doesn't mean you're doomed to a life of entryway clutter. Consider where you can carve out an organizational niche, then put some storage solutions to use. Once storing mudroom gear becomes habit, it just may be your favorite space in the house.









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#### Across

- Andrew Carnegie and Alexander Graham Bell
- 6 Bonny girl
- 10 Case place
- 11 Fairy tale opener
- 12 Rite site
- 13 Like the "sisters" in "Macbeth"
- 15 Flunky
- "--- Only Just Begun" (Carpenters hit)
- 18 "Render --- Caesar ...."
- 19 Mint
- 20 Federal public lands agency
- 22 Assist
- 24 Exclamation
- 25 Stick up
- 26 Where the pews are
- 28 Unreturned opening shots
- 30 Evinces disdain
- 33 Challenged
- 35 19th century planist --- Schumann
- 36 Suggestive grin
- 37 Professional wrestler a k a Jeffrey Sciullo
- 38 Small whirlpool
- 39 Tapered tucks in dressmaking

#### Down

- 1 Con game
- 2 "Anything Goes" composer --- Porter
- 3 Facing a bigger army
- 4 Work out
- 5 Levels of society
- 6 Down in the dumps
- 7 Once again
- 8 Showcase for more analytical students
- 9 Waitron
- 14 Innocent
- 16 Lower part of the abdomen
- 20 Thin nail
- 21 Spot
- 23 Twisted?
- 27 Mexico's Pancho ---
- 29 He/she might fire off a lot of 28 Across
- 31 Brotherhood
- 32 Impertinence
- 34 Teetotal

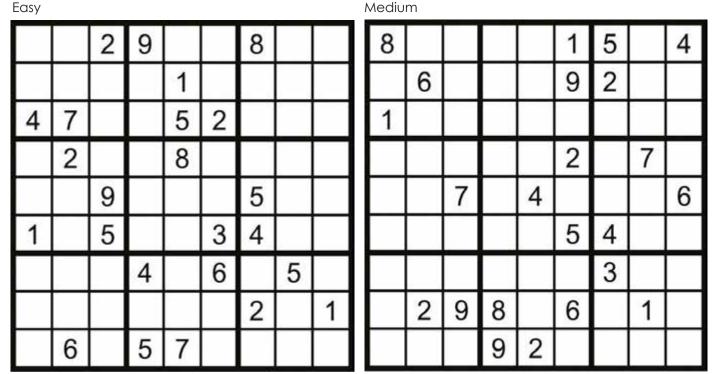
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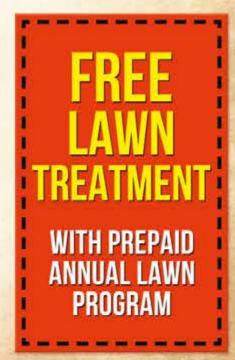
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Information on foster care and adoption. Also, virtual tours of the Foster Care Village in Itasca, where siblings in foster care live together and foster parents are neighbors. See website for times and details.

www.pchas.org/fosteradoptevents.

#### 3/5

#### Sweethearts and Orphans Car Show:

Come cast your eyes on classic cars of pre-1990 models, many from companies long gone and models that live in legend.
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#### 3/12

#### Battle of North Texas:

The United States Karate Alliance presents an all-style martial arts tournament with competitions in kata, weapons and kumite. Adults: \$5; children: \$3; under 5: free. 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Family YMCA, 100 YMCA Dr.

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**Spring Break @ Sims:** Register on the library website for fun crafts and games. Free. 3:00 p.m., plus extra activities

at 10:00 a.m. for 5- to 12-yearolds on Friday and Saturday. Sims Library 515 W. Main St.

#### 3/18-3/27

#### **Tulipalooza:**

Enjoy tulips, live music and food trucks while raising money for local charities. Adults: \$20; children: \$5; seniors: \$12 on 3/12 only. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

#### 3/24-3/26

#### Ellis County Livestock Show and Rodeo:

Come be a part of the living heritage of Texas. See ecyexpo. com/p/tickets for cost. Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 US-287.

#### 3/25-3/26

#### Old-Fashioned Singing:

Join Heaven's Front Porch for a trip down memory lane with gospel songs from 1900-1950. \$15. **Friday**: 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday**: 2:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

#### 3/26

#### **Homesteading Heroes:**

Get your landscape in shape with the Ellis County Master Gardeners Lawn and Garden Expo. Tickets: Free at community sponsors; \$5 at the door. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### **Saturday Morning Fitness:**

Come with your neighbors to put your health and well-being into focus and get Hachie Heart Healthy at community fitness classes at Railyard Park. BYO mat, water and sunscreen. Free. 9:00 a.m., 455 S. College St. For more information, call (469) 309-4051.

#### 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.







# Crossword Sudoku Solutions



Easy

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

Medium

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





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