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M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2020

Pandemic Management

County Judge Todd Little
appreciates Ellis County's
response

In the Kitchen With
Sarah Johnson

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Edward Jones —
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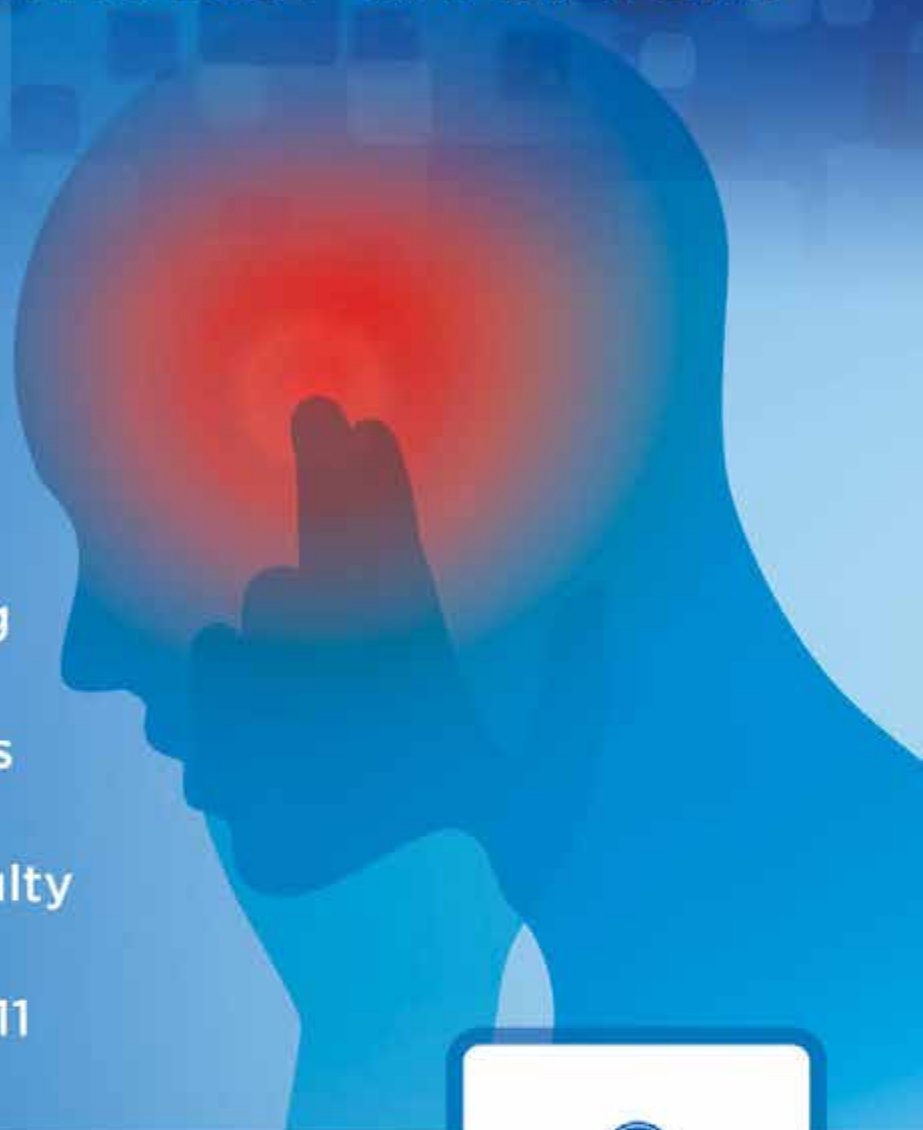
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Publisher, Connie Poirier | General Manager, Rick Hensley

EDITORIAL

*Managing Editor, Becky Walker
North Ellis County Editor, Rachel Rich | Writer, Bill Smith
Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell . Sally Fuller . Virginia Riddle*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato
Martha Macias . Anthony Sarmienta . Jennifer Spence*

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographer, Shane Kirkpatrick*

ADVERTISING

*Advertising Representatives, Cherise Burnett . Linda Roberson
Dustin Dauenhauer . Bryan Frye . Kelsea Locke . Linda Moffett
Lori O'Connell . Steve Randle . Keri Roberson . Joyce Sebesta
Melissa Stacy*

Billing Manager, Angela Mixon



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stays strong.*

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MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE



As we practice social distancing ...

During this COVID-19 pandemic, things have changed rapidly, necessitating companies make adjustments to how they do business, and we at NOW Magazines are no different. Like many of you, we are now officing from home, and our magazines may look a little different to you this month, due to some of the adjustments we have made as we navigate these challenging times. But we will get through these times together.

If you are like me, the events of the last couple of months have left you wondering what the future holds, but there is comfort in knowing our nation and the world have weathered many storms and come through OK on the other side. As I've pondered over this new reality, my thoughts have repeatedly gone back to one very brave lady named Corrie ten Boom. She and her family were Dutch Christians who lived in Nazi-occupied Holland during WWII. Their faith told them to love their neighbors as they loved themselves. So, they built a secret room in their home where, over time, they hid and saved nearly 800 Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. Eventually, they were betrayed, and the whole family was imprisoned in the concentration camps. Only Corrie survived.

In time, Corrie became an author and speaker with a worldwide ministry. Her message was one of forgiveness and reconciliation. While in college, I had the privilege of meeting Corrie's nurse, who cared for her during her last years. The stories about her life have always been an inspiration to me.

Corrie said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." Wow. So much faith and trust from someone who had experienced so much hurt, loss and tragedy. She lost her loved ones, her home and her job. But she never lost her faith, and it carried her through the dark times. And on the other side of the dark, was beauty again — full of life and hope and purpose. As we navigate the dark times our world faces now, we, too, can trust our unknown futures to God.

Beautiful stories are being reported of people finding ways to help, even in this time of social distancing. From a high school robotics class making face shields for medical professionals using 3-D printers and people shopping for neighbors in high-risk demographics to ministers holding online church services and entertainers live streaming concerts to add some joy to our lives, good is happening all around us, as people love others as they love themselves. What can you do within the guidelines our leaders have established to keep us safe and healthy? It may be no more than calling a family member or a friend, but hearing your voice might be exactly what that person needs at that very moment.

Is the future uncertain? Yes. But the truth is, the future is always uncertain. We never really know what the future holds. And it is always the best policy to live a loving, giving life.

We can know peace.

Becky Walker, Managing Editor · becky.walker@nowmagazines.com · (972) 937-8447



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As Ellis County Judge Todd Little addressed the county commissioners at their special meeting on April 3, he remarked, "The weight on your shoulders and my shoulders has been different this last three weeks than it has been the previous 15 months." Even though one of the budget line items that was created in Judge Little's first year on the bench was for emergency management, he admitted no one could have predicted that the COVID-19 pandemic would be the emergency.

"We prepared for natural disasters, an enemy we could see like water from a flood or buildings damaged by hail or a tornado. We put \$300,000 in the budget for emergency contingencies. We wanted to be pro-active and do things like draw up a map of all facilities in the county that house hazardous chemicals. I could still remember hearing the blast from the West, Texas, explosion as I shot hoops in my driveway. Having spent a career in insurance and risk-management, I knew emergency management was something that comes with the title of County Judge. We have emergency response companies that have already pre-bid their services if we have to respond to a chemical spill on the highway."

Everyone would agree that responding to a worldwide pandemic, which really does potentially affect everyone, required quick thinking and response. The timeline up to this point included just hearing about the virus during the first week in March, then responding quickly with a Disaster Declaration to begin protecting communities on March 17. That was a seven-day order. "I had met with county department heads on March 9, and convened what we call our 'task force' when the order was issued. The task force included the mayors and

superintendents of most of the cities in the county, and we stood together as one when we issued the declaration. On the evening after we issued the first order, we received notice from our County Local Health Authority identifying the first confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in Ellis County."

The school superintendents from around the county were looking to the county government for direction. "The schools were out for spring break, and if we did not act quickly, all of the students would be back in school with the potential of rapidly spreading the virus. The positive response from the schools has been great. The first order gave them authority to extend spring break for another week."

In every city across the county, there are trained emergency coordinators. All of them have training in the National Incident Command System (NICS). The Incident Command System is identified on the FEMA website as, "A management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure. ICS is normally structured to facilitate activities in five [sic] major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, Intelligence & Investigations, finance and administration. It is a fundamental form of management, with the purpose of enabling incident managers to identify the key concerns associated with the incident — often under urgent conditions — without sacrificing attention to any component of the command system."

Judge Little pointed out that most police and fire chiefs have this training. "Once an emergency happens, a process begins that is called the chain of command. While larger counties have a department of health, smaller counties generally do not have one, and Ellis County has never had one. While we might not have the same resources as a larger county to handle a pandemic, our communities here are strong and resilient, and together we will overcome COVID-19.

"Something Ellis County is blessed

with that most counties our size do not have is a strong medical network. This three-hospital network includes Baylor Scott & White in Waxahachie, Ennis Regional Medical Center and the new Methodist Midlothian Medical Center, which is scheduled to open later this year. That will make three full-service hospital emergency rooms available in our county."

The judge admitted that COVID-19 surprised a lot of us because it arrived so quickly. "Our close proximity to the Metroplex would have to be a contributing factor, particularly in our hardest hit communities, where so many residents commute to the large cities."

The economic effect of the virus will take a toll on the county, but not as severely as on the city budgets. "The cities depend more heavily on sales tax revenue, and closed businesses with the employees on furlough will be a drain. The majority of the county budget is from property taxes, and there is a long-term effect from the economic downturn that will potentially affect property values. In another proactive step, The Ellis County Commissioners' Court voted unanimously 5-0 to approve a resolution to go to the State of Texas for property tax relief, by freezing appraisal values at the 2019 limits.

Communicating accurate information to the citizens is a priority in the county, as rumors tend to spread quickly through social media. Residents are urged to follow the Ellis County TX Government Facebook page, where the information is timely, accurate and direct from the source. Today, the county page has more than 14,000 followers. Before the pandemic began, there were about 5,000.

"There is a lot of information on social media, but I would also direct people to the official county website, <https://co.ellis.tx.us> where residents can access the resources and the most recent COVID-19 information in Ellis County."

P



Photo by Elaine Baca.

ANDEMIC

M A N A G E M E N T

— By Bill Smith



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Besides the physical health impact and the economic impact of the pandemic, Judge Little also recognizes, and relates to, the psychological impact the virus is having on individuals and families. The judge explained, "Babies are affected because their mothers are affected. Young boys are affected because their fathers are affected. Perhaps this is the first time parents have been unable to go to work and provide the support they need. Grandparents and grandchildren are missing each other."

Of course, we all want to see a return to normalcy, we want things the way they were, but is it possible to see something positive as we stay at home? Judge Little mentioned how families were finding creative ways to relate, perhaps re-living some time before many of us were consumed by social media. "Just last night, my family and I sat around our dinner table, talking until 2:00 a.m. We just had a long conversation. There was no high school or Little League game to go to, so that's what we did instead. We were together as a family, and it was just us. Our church is in our home right now. We are all lifting each other up. We have to look for the hope in things.

"As a former mayor," Judge Little said, "I can tell you that every mayor I have met and talked with during this time has been interested in taking care of their individual communities. We are blessed in Ellis County to have mayors. All are very concerned and very considerate





Photo by Elaine Baca.

in caring for their populations. This has been a surprise for all of them, and they have been resilient. They have all shown strength, and I believe they understand the importance of taking care of their people. They've done a great job working with their first responders and their city councils to make it easier on their citizens. This has not been easy on anyone, but they work very hard to lift the burden from their citizens. They understand the emotional and financial drain people are feeling. I really believe they have a great sense of empathy for their constituents, and they have always been team players, working and finding solutions to COVID-19."

At times like these, people turn to their faith for strength, wisdom and guidance. Judge Little has been truly appreciative of all of the support, encouragement and prayers he has received from so many. Ellis County citizens have been doing a good job, cancelling events and festivals like the Polka Festival in Ennis and the Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie, and it is important to continue following the guidelines established by the governor and the CDC. Quoting II Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind," Judge Little indicated that he does not want citizens to live in fear, but to use wisdom in their daily activities.

"When this is over, things will be different," Judge Little said. "The economy will be different. I think we will see things based less on quantity and more on quality, and more hope, and more community action. And we can build momentum together into the future, and do it even better than before." **NOW**

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Edward Jones — Barry Moore, CFP

— By Rachel Rich

Edward Jones — Barry Moore, CFP

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Given current uncertain times, Barry Moore is there for his clients as a financial advisor. “Generally, market declines are normal, although they always feel unsettling,” he admitted. “My best advice to everyone during this pandemic is to not panic and take a long-term view of our situation. This, too, shall pass. Keep the faith! We are all going through this together. You’re not alone.”



With a calming personality and a subtle dignity about Barry, few can sit with him to discuss finances without feeling a sense of ease. Whether speaking to his office administrator, Kathryn Cantu, or to him directly, people will always get a smiling face and a friendly attitude.

“I’ve been with Edward Jones for more than 20 years,” Barry said. “I was the fourth office to open in Ellis County. Now, there are 23 offices. We’ve established our roots here since ’97.” After being located in Waxahachie, he resigned for a couple years, then returned to Edward Jones in Red Oak.

One of Barry’s objectives for each of his clients is helping them achieve their financial goals, like retirement or financial independence. “There are a couple of important details I watch for,” he explained. “First, I understand what is important to them. Second, we follow an established process, which tailors to personalized strategies that get them to where they want to go.” He compares it to a road map. He sees where his clients are today, and he looks at where they want to go. “We’re partnering with them throughout their lifetime. I call every client

every other month to update them on what is going on, things happening in the country that might financially impact them. They take comfort in that. We stay connected."


Barry attracts people needing more long-term financial assistance instead of quick investments, and he stays true to Edward Jones' motto, "Making sense of investing." He offers people the big picture, if that's what they need, or he can explain every detail. "We want to make the intangible tangible and help people understand why they should handle something a certain way," he shared. "I can project out how your money will play out in retirement, or how much you'll need to save. I help paint a picture of your finances."

One of Barry's objectives for each of his clients is helping them achieve their financial goals, like retirement or financial independence.

Barry finds great reward in working with Edward Jones. For instance, when a client comes to him explaining that they want to retire but are afraid they can't, he is there to help. "I love getting to tell hardworking clients they're going to be OK. We walk through that with them. We rejoice, and weep, with our clients."

One of Barry's favorite clients was in his 90s and lived in Waxahachie. "I had just started out with Edward Jones. This couple was so kind and warm to me," he reminisced. "He was a WWII vet, and he lost his wife. He would tell me all his war stories. We became good friends."

Barry makes numbers come alive for the people he advises. And, he works solely to make your financial dreams and goals possible. "The most important thing is building that trust. At the end of the day, we're helping people gain peace of mind about their finances." **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Cherise Burnett and Linda Roberson

By Rachel Rich

NOW Magazines representatives Cherise Burnett and Linda Roberson stay virtually committed to their work during this quarantine. But, they also find new enjoyments.

Cherise added that while social distancing for everyone's wellbeing, she misses being out in the community. "In the meantime, I've started a garden, cleaned closets and taken items to charities. I do miss seeing my son and my two grandsons, but we're all making the most of being home and staying healthy."

While Linda enjoys getting to know the wonderful local business owners, she admitted, "I also like having a flexible schedule that enables me to maintain a good work/life balance, so I can take care of my family of three."

Hence, both ladies are grateful and equally excited to help the community with any advertising needs through phone and email.



Kashton Muncy, age 6, likes working on school from home.



Dorothy Clyburn has tons of fun at Ovilla Service League's spaghetti dinner before the shelter-in-place orders.



Ferris Junior High Principal C.J. Lowery is still all smiles while working during quarantine.



First-grader, Gabby Gullett, makes the Red Oak Hawks proud with her diligence in education.



Anna, Aidan and Dallas step in to celebrate Ford's 5th birthday after having to cancel his party for safety reasons.



Six-year-old Marlee Wages teaches Katie, the family dog, first-grade science.



Hendrix is excited to learn about chickens and eggs.



Ivony Villarreal gets dressed up "to go talk to Jesus about this coronavirus."

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

SARAH JOHNSON

— By Rachel Rich

Ferris native Sarah Johnson is a busy bee, with a couple of business ventures — Ride My Vibe and Humpty Jumpy Rentals — and making glitter tumblers and wooden signs. But, her passions don't stop there. She loves to cook good food for great people. "My mother is French, and my father is Czechoslovakian," she shared.

"I get my cooking inspiration from my nanny, mom and stepmother," she remembered. "But Nanny was the first generation of my family born in the United States. I remember the smell of her chicken soup, made from scratch, filled the house. The door was always open, so we went to her house several times a day to eat a bowl whenever we wanted. When I smell the broth and taste the soup, it takes me back to Nanny's house." **NOW**

Baked Hot Wings

4 lbs. raw wings, cut into sections
1 cup Valentina hot sauce (with the black label)
Blue cheese dressing, for dipping

1. Place wings in a glass dish in a single layer. Bake at 375 F for 20 minutes on each side until the skin is crispy. Brush with hot sauce; cook an additional 10-15 minutes.
2. Flip the wings; brush with more hot sauce. Cook an additional 10-15 minutes. Serve with blue cheese dressing.

Nanny's Chicken Soup

Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
4 chicken thighs, bone and skin intact
2 stalks celery
1 carrot
1 yellow onion, skinned
1 tomato
6-8 allspice berries
3 bay leaves
2 garlic cloves
8 cups water
Egg noodles, to taste

1. Salt and pepper chicken thighs; in a skillet, brown chicken on both sides. While browning chicken, clean and cut up the vegetables. Add the vegetables and remaining ingredients, except egg noodles, to the pot. Bring ingredients to a gentle simmer for 2 hours.
2. Remove meat and vegetables. Strain broth through a fine mesh strainer; return to the pot, along with meat pulled from the thighs.
3. Cook egg noodles in the broth; serve hot.

Cucumber and Cream

2 cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced
2 tsp. sea salt
Pepper, to taste
1/4 cup white vinegar
1 tsp. fresh dill, chopped
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream

1. Place cucumbers in a bowl with salt, pepper and vinegar; mix well.
2. Let mixture marinate for 15 minutes, covered, in the refrigerator. Drain off all liquid.
3. Add dill and whipping cream; serve cold.

Nanny's Stuffing

- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 bags Pepperidge Farm Breadcrumbs
- 1 lb. sausage
- 1 lb. hamburger meat
- 2 stalks celery, finely diced
- 1 yellow onion, finely diced
- 2 Tbsp. fresh sage
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1 whole turkey (optional)

1. Combine eggs and chicken stock, whisking together; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine all remaining ingredients, except turkey; mix until everything is well incorporated.
3. Add egg and broth mixture; mix again until moist.
4. Place mixture inside a turkey; cook according to the directions on the turkey packaging, or pour the mixture into a baking dish and bake at 350 F for 30-45 minutes.

Roasted Chicken

- 1 whole fryer chicken, rinsed
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Rosemary, to taste
- Thyme, to taste
- Sage, to taste
- Bay leaf, to taste
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 yellow onion, peeled and cut into quarters
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter

1. Season chicken inside and out with salt and pepper. Stuff chicken with aromatics, lemon and onion. Brush with melted butter.
2. Cook, uncovered, in a glass baking dish at 450 F for 45 minutes.

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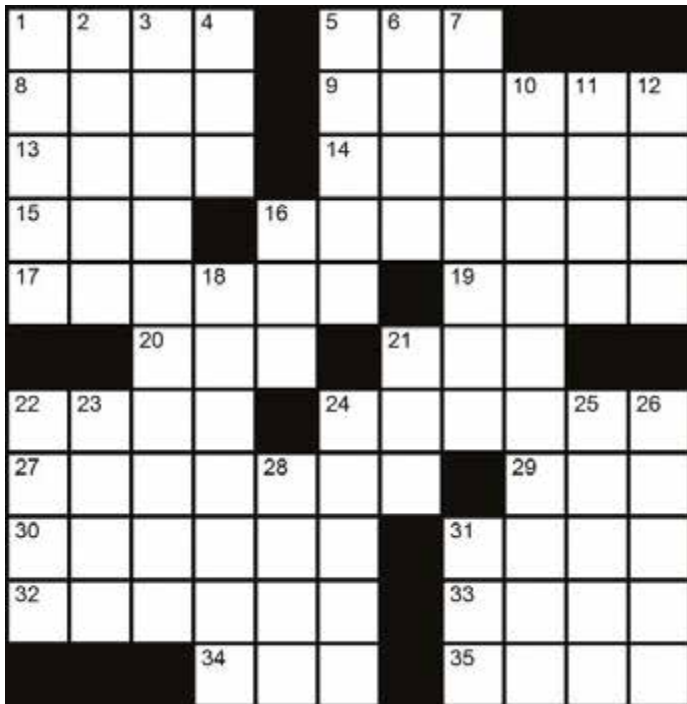


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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Greatest part
- 5 Pull laboriously
- 8 Fuzzy red monster
- 9 It's on top of the world
- 13 — Turing, of "The Imitation Game"
- 14 Dark
- 15 Abner's intro
- 16 Ladies' man
- 17 Scold
- 19 Basic unit of heredity
- 20 Average
- 21 Fondle
- 22 Supercilious manner
- 24 Discontinued Chrysler marque
- 27 Bewitched
- 29 One circuit
- 30 Deliver to a judge
- 31 Opportune
- 32 Not destroyed or lost
- 33 Way out yonder
- 34 Defiant exclamation
- 35 View from Los Alamos

Down

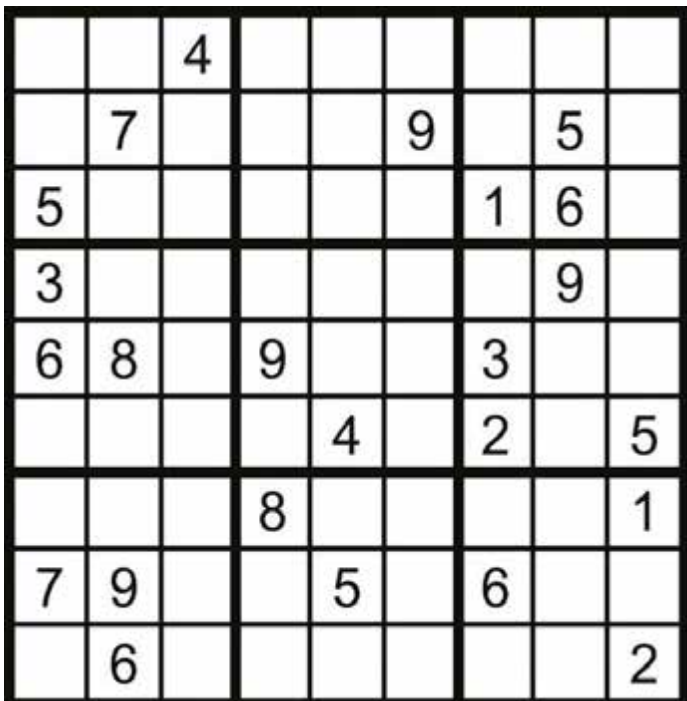
- 1 Soft, dry and friable
- 2 Skateboard maneuver
- 3 Contract details
- 4 Weight unit: may be long or short
- 5 Illumination
- 6 "Daily Bruin" publisher
- 7 Composer — Bizet
- 10 Perk up
- 11 So be it
- 12 Funerary bonfire
- 16 Amtrak unit
- 18 Urgent sale words
- 21 Write
- 22 His name is on a stadium in Queens
- 23 Large-screen format
- 24 Pool dimension
- 25 Spanish appetizers
- 26 Musical drama
- 28 Sushi option
- 31 Run into

Solutions on page 20

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

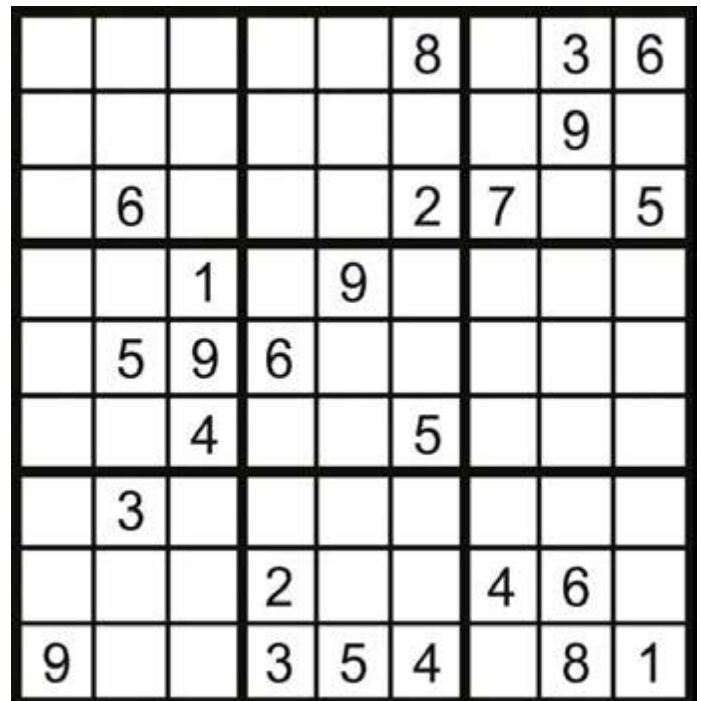
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

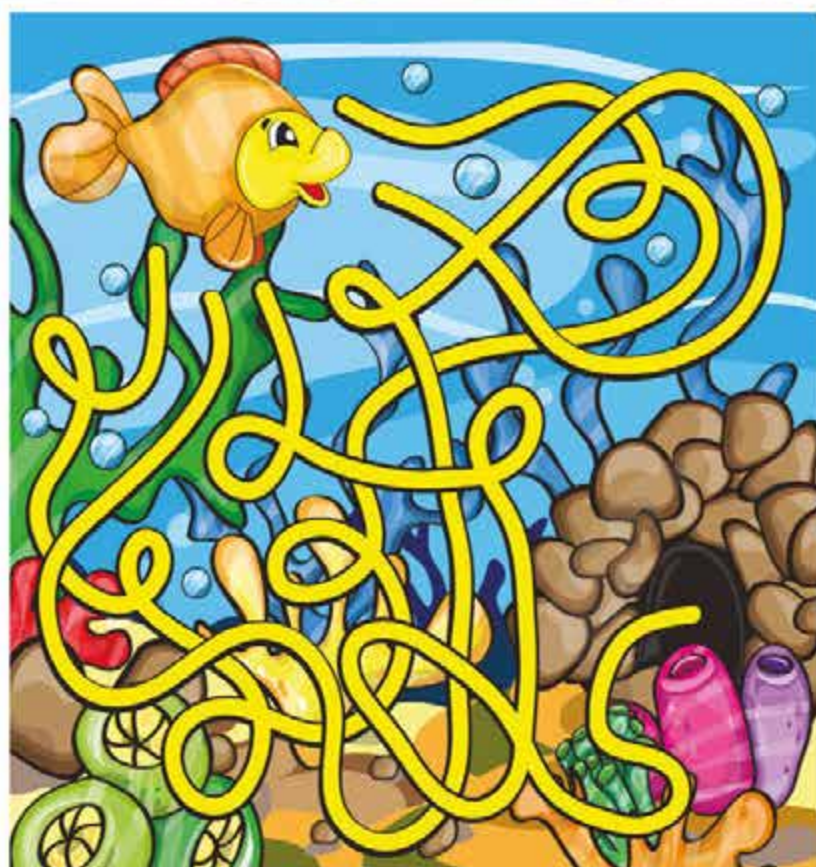
Medium



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Solutions on page 20

Kids' Fun Page



Help dog find his favorite food

??



Answer: ☐



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



SOLUTION: PLUM

APPLE
APRICOT
BANANA
BASIL
BLUEBERRY
CARROTS
CHERRY
CORN
EGG
EGGPLANT
MELON
PEACH
PEAR
PEAS
PEPPER
RASPBERRY
WATERMELON



MYSTERIOUS WORD: _ _ _ _



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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	L	I	E	U		5	T	I	S	
8	U	S	S	R		9	S	H	A	P
12	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	M	E	N
14	K	E	Y		15	T	A	P		A
					17	S	T	R	U	C
19	S	T	A	T		22	B	A	S	T
23	W	I	N	D		24	M	I	L	L
25	I	M	A		26	P	S	I		F
30	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	I	A	N
33	E	R	O	D	E	S		34	M	Y
					35	G	O	D		
									36	P

Easy

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

Medium

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



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