## NorthEllisCoNOW

MAY 2021

MAGAZINE

## The Man With a Plan

Kyle Kelley advances parks and recreation

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: CSE Mobility & Scrubs

In the Kitchen With Dana Sosebee

GIR THEMS SOATEON & U GIM XT EALING COHEN TAMMEN

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WITH A PLAN

Our Parks and Rec director outlines facility plans.

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#### ON THE COVER

Under Kyle Kelley's direction, the Parks and Recreation Department continues to progress.

**Photo by** Shane Kirkpatrick.

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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Mother, May 1?

Thinking about the entertainment of my childhood, it's no wonder kids today are so enamored with video games. From Mother, May I? to Red Rover, the games of my formative years involved asking if I could move from one side of the playground to another. Heads Up, Seven Up meant moving from sitting to standing. Such riveting activity!

I'm not knocking these pastimes, but it's no wonder video games so easily captured our attention. Pong was basically a digitized version of the dull experiences we were used to — only this time, we were hitting an on-screen dot back and forth instead of moving ourselves. I, personally, was enthralled by Frogger, whose mission was (surprise, surprise!) getting from point A to point B. Are you sensing a pattern? Perhaps it was a simpler time.

My fellow Gen Xers were first to navigate raising children on much more sophisticated video games. The graphics, musical scores and plots are far richer than what we experienced, and the industry is estimated to be a bigger moneymaker than the global movie and North American sports industries combined. You can fact-check that — it blew my mind, too!

Out of curiosity, I asked my teen son about the plot of a somewhat popular video game, Overwatch. It seems one mode involves successfully navigating a cart from start to finish. While the game also offers much more complicated objectives, I recognize the spirit of my youth there. With summer gaming upon us, can you find some comfort in our own childhood experiences not being completely lost?

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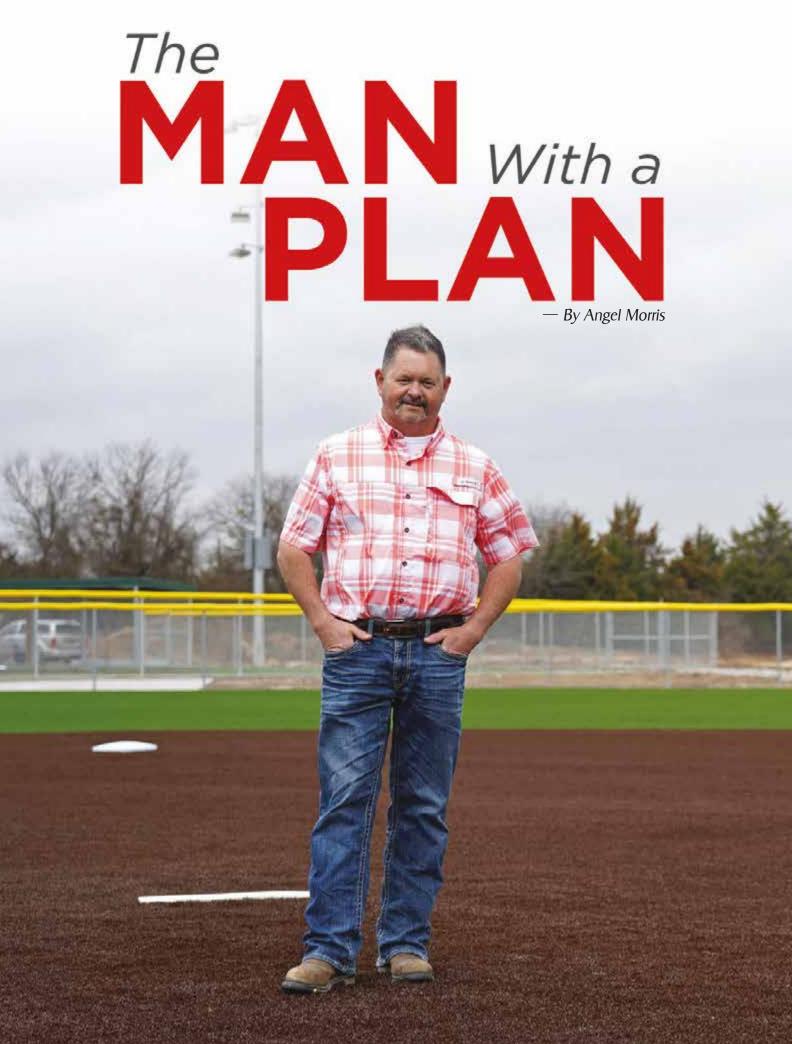




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Community pride drives Red Oak Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Kelley to bring something new to every project. Despite cancellations and setbacks brought about by the pandemic, the last 12 months have been productive for his department.

A splash pad, soccer field, baseball fields and a trout-stocking program round out Red Oak Park and Recreation offerings. Development at the eastern edge of Bear Creek Park is next. "Although plans haven't been etched in stone, the natural side of this facility will surprise people, as we don't always get to see natural springs and white rocked cliffs in most of our parks," Kyle envisioned. "We certainly want to protect the natural beauty and allow people a place to explore and rejuvenate their sense of nature."

Kyle is keenly qualified to walk the city through this goal, holding a bachelor's degree in recreation, park and tourism sciences from Texas A&M University, where he graduated in 1995. He worked in sports turf at Texas A&M's Kyle and Olsen Fields, then spent time with two minor league baseball teams and the Houston Astros as a groundskeeper. His most recent experience was as parks superintendent for Texas' Woodlands Township and Baytown, as well as parks director for Harris County Precinct 2. "These roles were in parks and recreation, mainly operations, park development and special events," Kyle noted.

Kyle met his would-be wife, Rhonda, at Texas A&M. Rhonda hailed from Red Oak, and Kyle moved here for a year while they dated. "I was glad to move back after we resided in Houston for the last 20 years," Kyle admitted. "The city of Red Oak is an excellent place to work. I really enjoy the employees, and the residents have been great to work with as well."

No time has this been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. "COVID-19 has offered challenges I would've never imagined, such as cancellation of annual events and gatherings. We follow best-practice guidelines and push on the best we can. I have three employees, and they are as productive as six," Kyle credited. "We've all learned to trust and protect each other by not putting the other at risk during the last year."

Kyle said city leadership has done an excellent job of protecting employees, while still allowing them to function as an organization. "The citizens in Red Oak may not realize how lucky they are to have the group in charge here that they do. They have found ways to constantly make things better for our citizens, despite the pandemic," he praised.

In the name of constant improvement, the city is updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for the next decade. "I feel like, in 10 years, people who don't live in Red Oak might want to, and the people living here will be glad they chose to. I want to be a part of something great, and I feel like we're on that path."

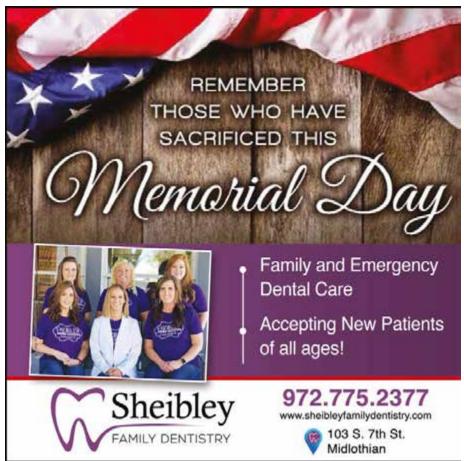












Inclusivity is also important to Kyle. "I want to provide something for everyone. My favorite part of any project is seeing the joy the kids or specific users have when they get something new and exciting to play on or with," Kyle noted.

Live Oak Sports Complex is one such amenity Kyle has helped develop. It offers six baseball/softball diamonds and a football/soccer field, with supporting facilities such as restrooms and concession stands. "The city worked on plans for Live Oak sports facilities well before I was hired. I feel fortunate to help the vision come to life," Kyle noted.

Kyle also gets to help continue Red Oak's involvement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Neighborhood Fishin' program, which brings easy-to-catch fish to Municipal Lake. "In mid-2020 we were able to get a slot in the trout stocking program and will continue to be a partner in this program in future years," Kyle said.

Kyle noted that the new Hargrove Park, 700 Pinehurst Rd., will be complete in early- to mid-2021 with five soccer fields, a walking trail, covered picnic area, playground and splash pad. Its soccer fields are used by Red Oak Soccer Association through a licensing agreement allowing them to provide recreational youth soccer to the community.

Some consider these projects a feather in Kyle's cap, but he credits city management and elected officials. "We have a dedicated park supervisor and two maintenance techs to thank for making things run smoothly. I thank all our other department directors and staff. Without these teammates, my job would be impossible," he commented.





Kyle said every project throughout his career has been special, but one was particularly memorable. "While working on the Juan Seguin Park near San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, I was able to get to know Juan's descendants and spent time with Albert, a greatgreat-grandson of Juan," Kyle reflected. "Through him, I was able to make sure Seguin's story was accurately depicted, and the family was able to approve the final historic monuments in the park," Kyle noted.

"Albert cried when we presented the park to the public, and that made me feel like I was able to give the family what Juan deserved as a key leader in the development of Texas. Albert will certainly be a friend for life."

Kyle maintains involvement in organizations that further his ability to bring value to the community, such as National Recreation and Parks Association, Texas Recreation and Park Society and the Texas Turfgrass Association. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional through NRPA and a TTA Master Certified Professional Turfgrass Manager. He is a Certified Angler Instructor with TPWD, as well.

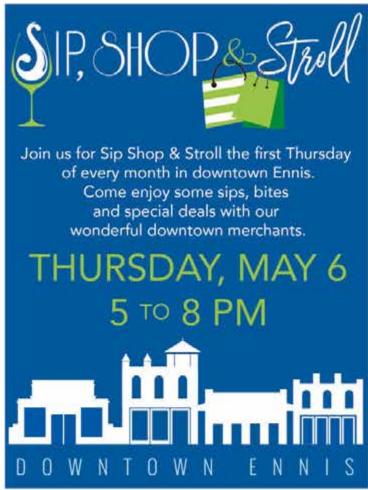
Outside his day job, Kyle enjoys minor league baseball and taking his children, Brooke (20) and Travis (16), fishing and hunting. "I enjoy time with my family, and that seems to be a good thing since COVID-19 has allowed me to get more of it," Kyle admitted. "I'm proud of my wife, Rhonda, and my kids, and glad they were willing to move to North Texas to allow me to pursue my dream. I'm the luckiest guy."

Lucky for Red Oak, Kyle's dream landed him here. "I want people to know that what we do here is for them," he underscored. "The mayor, city council, city manager and city boards all play a role in what is happening in Red Oak, and I'm glad to be part of the team that gets to make this happen." NOW































**BusinessNOW** 

## **CSE** Mobility & Scrubs

By Angel Morris

**CSE Mobility & Scrubs** 100 Plaza Drive, Ste. 300 Red Oak, TX 75154 (972) 757-7636 www.csemobility.com sales@csemobility.com

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 am.-6:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

At CSE Mobility & Scrubs, customers' independence is of utmost importance. The company is committed to ensuring no one feels stranded in their own home. "The purpose of our business is to help our customers achieve independence through mobility equipment," Manager Cole Spradlin outlined.

Mobility products, including wheelchairs, scooters and lift chairs, along with product service and installation, are CSE specialties. "We understand the vital role that this equipment

plays in your everyday life, and we know the difficulty going just one day without it can mean," Cole noted.

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The company also provides timely service for these and other similar products, either in the store or at customers' homes. "We are your service and installation specialists for power mobility products. We will service your equipment no matter where it was purchased," Cole said.

Established in 2010, CSE offers a vast assortment of brand name medical uniforms and devices, as well. "Currently, we provide the best selection of a complete line of scrubs, tops and bottoms and nursing uniforms at discount prices," Cole said. "We pride ourselves with providing high-quality medical uniforms to professionals around the world, striving to help medical field personnel look and feel their best."

Alongside scrubs, CSE's orthopedic products include: arm, elbow, shoulder, knee and ankle supports; carpal tunnel, wrist and back braces; and compression socks. "Come visit us, and you will be assisted by knowledgeable associates to help with your questions regarding these products for men and women," Cole provided.

CSE has also expanded to provide CBD products. Premium gummies, extract capsules, inflammation and pain relief creams, joint care, oils and bath bombs round out their CBD inventory.

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Much of CSE Mobility's inventory can be purchased online, alongside rental and used equipment pieces. Wheelchairs, transport chairs, scooters, walkers and trapeze bars are available for rent. Hospital beds and lifts may be rented, as well. "We rent most of the equipment that we sell in our retail store, and although we do not rent every model out there, we have comparable products available," Cole explained, noting that rental rates are listed on their website.

CSE Mobility stocks a great deal of new mobility equipment and parts but also sells some used products. CSE will deliver to most of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex for a nominal fee. With a selection that changes daily, Cole urges customers to call the store for more details on any equipment or service. "Our mobility specialists are trained to help you find the correct product for you. Often people do not know what items they need, and we can show you a product that you may not have known existed," Cole said.

Cole also said the company prides itself on providing the best shopping experience, exceptional service, quality, selection and value to its customers. "Please give us a call today if you are purchasing bulk for a team, unit, hospital, group or event," he urged. "Our employees are very knowledgeable about our products and can help you find exactly what you need." NOW







#### **Around Town**



Levi Sosebee, with proud dad, Matt, receives the Deborah Ann Mills Memorial Scholarship from Rafter M Roundup.

#### Zoomed In:

#### Alexandria Nodado By Angel Morris

Alexandria Grace Nodado got her first nursing-related experience through programs at Red Oak High School. Now she plans to pursue a career in the medical field. "I wanted to be in the nursing program because I want to help people. Being in this field will let me treat so many ... comforting them, giving them medication, helping them heal," Alexandria said.

Having lived in Red Oak for seven years, Alexandria attended Wooden Elementary and Red Oak Middle School. She starts her senior year at ROHS this fall and graduates in 2022. "I'm in Student Council, National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, and was manager for the girls' basketball team," she said. "I'm very proud to be a student at ROHS." Alexandria also enjoys painting, drawing and crafting.



Glenn Heights Police Department Interim Chief Lucas Benson receives appreciation treats from ROISD Assistant Superintendent of HR Michelle Ailara.



Representatives Meg Ritzman, Shanna Dunn and Landy Blackmore pose following a ribbon cutting for Arabella of Red Oak Senior Living.



Kevin Scarborough participates in the Praise Team of Eastridge Baptist Church.



Ashley Sanders and Julie Weyand welcome guests from Ovilla Christian School at the opening of Tiverton Bakeshop.



State Representative Carl Sherman's Office has presented thousands of masks to Glenn Heights and Ovilla first responders and senior centers.



Volunteer Deborah Essary loves on Oakley at Fostering Hope Rescue.









Dr. Richard R. Knight, M.D.

#### Lisa G.

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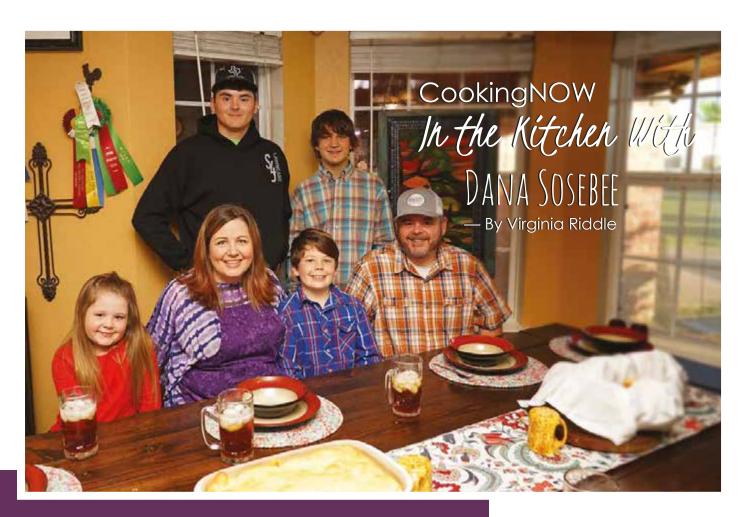


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A Red Oak ISD elementary music teacher, Dana Sosebee has been busy completing her master's degree. After long days teaching, including private piano, voice and theory lessons in her home, Dana and her family gather around their farm table that seats 10. "It's where most of our memories are made and all the important discussions take place," Dana remarked. "We don't allow electronics. The table is a place for us to connect and talk about our day."

Baking gives Dana joy and a way to surprise her family with unexpected treats. Memories of her Maw Maw's cooking inspire Dana. "Even at 97 years old, Maw Maw was cooking for us, because that's how she showed love. My family put together a cookbook of all her recipes. She knew who liked what and always had your favorite food waiting for you." Now

#### **Chocolate Chip Bundt Cake**

- 2/3 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 2 3/4 cups flour
- I tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- I cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla

- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 12-oz. pkg. semisweet chocolate mini-morsels
- Powdered sugar, to taste
- **I.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a small bowl, stir the first three ingredients together. Drizzle the mixture into a greased and floured Bundt pan.
- **2.** In another bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda and salt.

- **3.** In another bowl, beat the butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and vanilla at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric mixer. Add the eggs, I at a time, beating until blended.
- **4.** Add the flour mixture, alternating with the buttermilk. Begin and end with the flour mixture. Beat at a low speed until blended; add the chocolate mini-morsels.
- **5.** Spoon the batter into the Bundt pan; bake for I hour. Cool the cake in the pan on a wire rack for IO minutes. Turn the pan upside down; put the cake on the wire rack to cool further. Sprinkle the cooled cake with powdered sugar.

#### **Lemon Cookies**

#### Cookies:

- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- I cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 Tbsp. lemon zest
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 2 cups flour
- 3/4 tsp. salt

#### Glaze:

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar 1 Tbsp. lemon juice 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter

Lemon zest

- **1.** For cookies: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Beat the butter and confectioners' sugar with an electric mixer for approximately 2 minutes, or until smooth.
- 2. Beat in the lemon zest and lemon juice; add the flour and salt, mixing well.
- 3. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls; arrange the balls 1 inch apart on 2 baking sheets.
- 4. Gently flatten each cookie with a finger; bake for 12-14 minutes.
- 5. For glaze: In a bowl, whisk the confectioners' sugar with the lemon juice and butter until smooth.
- 6. Spread the lemon glaze on the cooled cookies; garnish with the lemon zest.

#### Chicken Salad

- 4 cups chicken, chopped
- 2 cups celery, chopped
- 2 cups apples, chopped
- 4 tsp. curry powder
- 2 cups grapes, sliced
- I cup pecans, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- **I.** Mix all the ingredients together; chill before serving.

#### Italian Cream Cake

#### Cake:

- I stick oleo margarine
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 5 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup sweetened coconut flakes
- I cup pecans, chopped

#### Icing:

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

1/2 stick oleo margarine

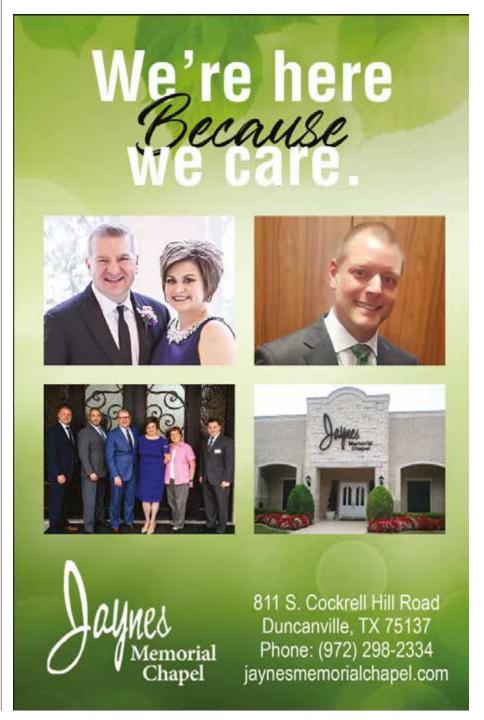
1 16-oz. box confectioners' sugar

I tsp. vanilla

I cup pecans, chopped

- **I.** For cake: Mix the oleo with shortening, blending well; add the sugar.
- 2. Separate the eggs; add the yolks to the oleo mixture.
- **3.** Add the flour; blend in the egg whites,





baking soda, buttermilk, vanilla, coconut and pecans.

- 4. Using pretreated layer pans, bake at 350 F for 25 minutes.
- **5.** For icing: Blend together the cream cheese and oleo. Add the confectioners' sugar and vanilla.
- **6.** Spread the icing on each cake layer; sprinkle the pecans over each layer.

#### Famous Chocolate Icing

Note: This is a birthday favorite.

2 cups sugar 3/4 stick margarine 2/3 cups milk or evaporated milk 1 tsp. vanilla 1/2 cup cocoa

1. In a heavy saucepan, mix all ingredients. Bring to a rolling boil while stirring constantly, about 2 3/4 minutes. Set aside to cool.

#### Shepherd's Pie

Note: Serve with cornbread.

2 2.64-oz. pkgs. instant gravy mix 2 cups hamburger meat, browned 2 tsp. instant minced onion

1 8-oz. can whole kernel corn, drained

#### 1 13.75-oz. box Betty Crocker Mashed **Potato Buds**

#### 1/4 cup cheese, shredded

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare the gravy per package instructions except use 1 3/4 cups water.
- 2. Stir in the hamburger meat, onion and corn; pour the mixture into a 2-qt. ungreased casserole dish.
- **3.** Prepare the mashed potatoes according to package directions; spread the potato mixture over the gravy mixture.
- **4.** Bake, uncovered, for about 25 minutes; sprinkle with cheese; bake again until the cheese melts.

#### Chicken Pot Pie

2 Pillsbury piecrusts (divided use) 1/2 16-oz. pkg. egg noodles 6 Tbsp. margarine

1/3 cup flour

5 Tbsp. instant chicken bouillon Dash of pepper

4 cups milk

1 14.5-oz. can mixed vegetables

2 12-oz. cans chicken, drained and rinsed

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Roll a piecrust

out on the bottom of an oblong pan; bake in the oven for 10 minutes.

- 2. In boiling water, cook half of the package of noodles. In a pot, combine the margarine, flour, bouillon and pepper; blend until smooth.
- 3. Gradually add the milk while stirring. Boil until the mixture thickens to make the white sauce.
- 4. Add the mixed vegetables, drained noodles and chicken. Pour the mixture into the pre-cooked piecrust.
- **5.** Top with the other crust; bake until the crust is browned.



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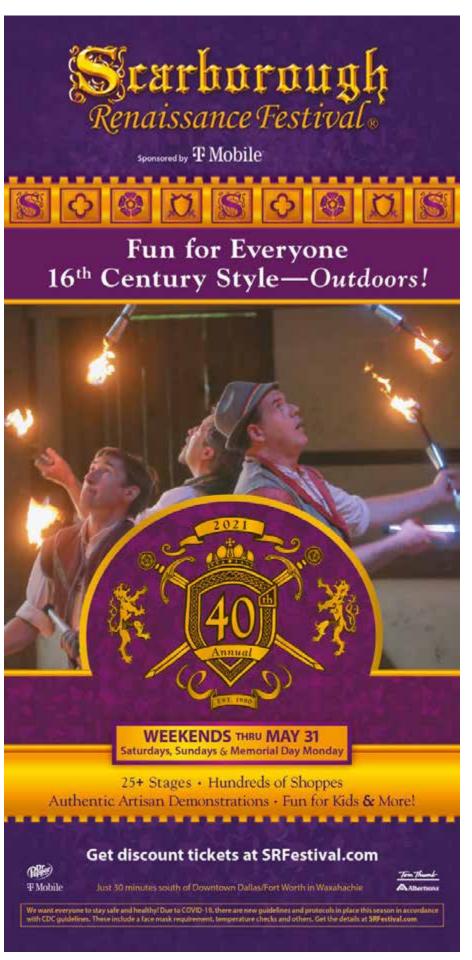


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#### **Crossword Puzzle**

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#### Across

- 1 London radio and TV network
- 4 "As --- alone, by blue Ontario's shores" (Whitman)
- 8 Miles of "Psycho"
- 9 Incendiary gel
- 12 Wide smile
- 13 Oscar winner --- Loren
- 14 Brush expert
- 16 Surgical procedures
- 17 Up and about
- 18 Assay
- 19 --- Hauptmann, the Lindbergh kidnapper
- 21 Twenty-four were baked in it
- 24 Overtake
- 27 Neuman's mag
- 28 Bay State capital's nickname
- 30 Native American village
- 33 Partiality
- 34 Executioner
- 35 Formerly, one sixteenth of a rupee
- 36 Woodpile
- 37 Stage joke

#### Down

- 1 He coined the comment "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore"
- 2 Cockneys, Liverpudlians et al.
- 3 Incredulous response
- 4 Trainers
- 5 Portuguese holy one
- 6 Software program, briefly
- 7 California border take
- 8 Computer monitor letters
- 10 Hot -- (MASH role)
- 11 Nuts
- 15 Respectful form of address
- 18 Carryall
- 20 "Forget it!"
- 21 Current units
- 22 Revere or Robeson
- 23 Best possible
- 25 Crockery
- 26 --- He (Chinese river)
- 29 Youth org.
- 31 Letters on some party invitations
- 32 Section of a race

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com



Solutions on page 28



#### Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium 

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 28





## other's Day Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

#### 4/10-5/31

#### Scarborough Renaissance Festival:

Features 16th-century performances, exhibits, entertainment, rides, crafts and artisan demonstrations. Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day Monday: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Learn more at srfestival.com.

#### 5/1

#### **ADRL Dragpalooza:**

Texas Motorplex, 7500 U.S. Hwy. 287, Ennis. For more information visit www.texasmotorplex.com.

#### 5/7

#### **Fundraiser Golf Tournament:**

Proceeds help Red Oak Chamber of Commerce in its mission to support local business. 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Thorntree Golf Club, 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., DeSoto. For more information, call (972) 617-0906 or email admin@redoakareachamber.org.

#### **Tuesdays**

#### Children's Virtual **Story Time:**

The library may be closed, but stories, songs and more are still happening on Facebook @redoaktx.org.

10:00-10:30 a.m. For more details, message librarian@redoaktx.org.

#### Third Wednesdays

**Ellis County Christian Women's Connection Meeting:** 

Cost is \$13. Reservations due Sunday before the meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Contact Marglen Kinikin at (918) 576-9035.

#### Wednesdays

**Weekly Devos:** Oak Church Online devotionals hosted by Pastor Chris and Cara are available to everyone via YouTube under Oaks Online.

#### **Fridays**

#### Virtual Book Chat:

Book summaries and recommendations on Facebook @redoaktx.org. 4:00 p.m. For more details, message librarian@redoaktx.org.

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



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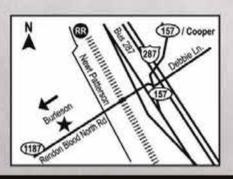
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## Crossword Sudoku Solutions

	B	B	3 C		1	S	6 A	, T		
<sup>8</sup> V	Е	R	Α		9 N	Α	Р	A	10L	11 <sub>M</sub>
12 G	R	1	N		13 S	0	Р	Н	1	Α
14A	R	Т	1	15 S	Т			160	Р	s
	17 A	s	T	ì	R		18 <sub>T</sub>	E	s	Т
			19 B	R	U	20 N	0			
21 A	<sup>22</sup> P	23	Е		24C	A	Т	25 C	<sup>26</sup> H	
27 M	Α	D			28 <sub>T</sub>	Н	E	Н	U	<sup>29</sup> B
P	U	E	31 B	"L	0		33 B	1	A	s
S	L	Α	Υ	Ε	R		35 A	N	N	A
		36 L	0	G	S		37 G	A	G	

#### Easy

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

#### Medium

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

Happy Mother's Day!

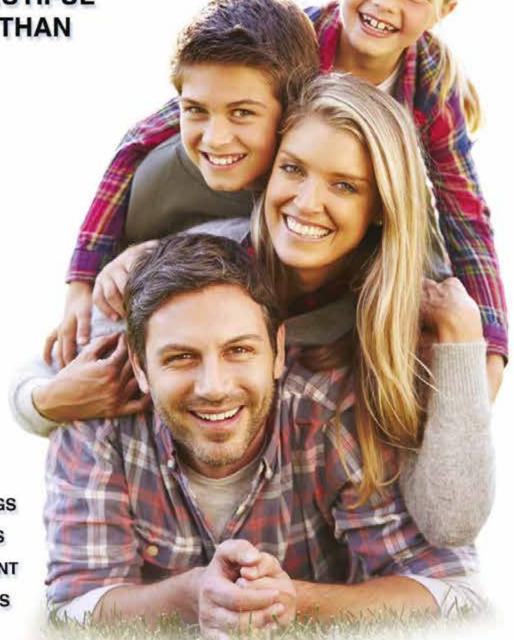
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