WaxahachieN MAY 2023 Rodeo Life Maverick Potter RESISTO is riding high The Architect's Crown James Riely Gordon Also inside: left his mark on Texas Scavenger Hunt Crossword/Sudoku In the Kitchen With Featured Business: Roderick Tasby Penfold Construction

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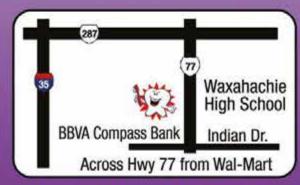
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Mayerick Potter lives for rodeo.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

May the Fourth be with you ...

As a lifelong nerd/geek/weirdo, May has a couple of great geeky days in it. *Star Wars* Day is on May 4th, for obvious super-punny reasons. It's as bad as Pi Day being on 3/14. But while I love pie, I'm not such a big fan of pi. Math gives me hives. But *Star Wars*? I've been a fan of *Star Wars* since I was a little boy. I had the bedsheets, the pillow cases, the bedspread and the curtains. I had a lot of action figures, including the Emperor Palpatine that you had to collect labels and send away for. And I had the Darth Vader head carrying case to keep them in. All of those disappeared along the way to growing up. But my sister got me a couple of replacements for my birthday a couple of years ago. Luke and Leia are mine again.

You may have to search a bit to find a participating venue, but you can always gather your friends for a backyard lightsaber battle. Or you can host a costume party, with some sci-fi inspired snacks. And with today's cell phones, snapping a few pics with *Star Wars* backgrounds and filters should be a ... snap.

Of course, silly days like this aren't for everyone. But those of us who enjoy such things are thankful for a day or two to meet other non-mundane people like ourselves! It's a great excuse for some cosplay. And since Free Comic Book Day is on the 6th, you can invite Superman and the Avengers along for the fun!

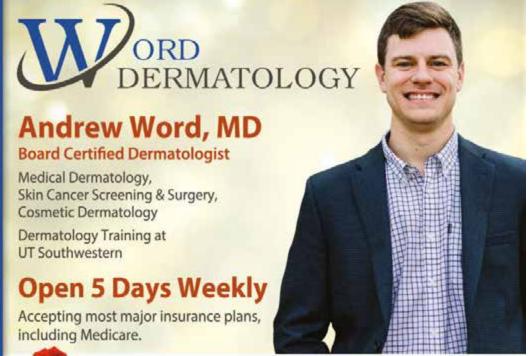
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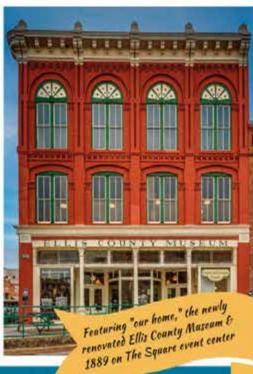
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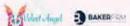


















RODEOLIFE

– By Adam Walker

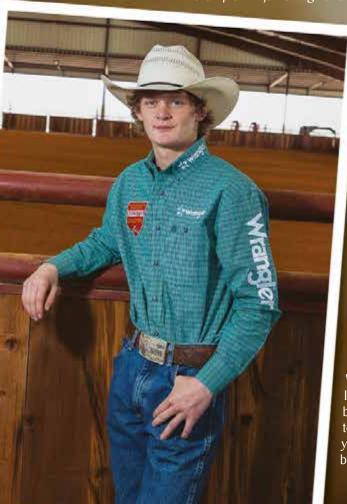
Maverick Potter has a name that conjures up cowboys and the Old West. His parents must have known something. Maverick's passion is rodeo, specifically bull riding. You might be surprised to learn that when you meet the slim, Resistol-wearing youth, but this boy is tough as nails.

"I wrestled since I was 4. I earned my first trophy at 45 pounds and kept wrestling until 110 pounds. I broke my wrists wrestling, but it helped make me what I am." He started riding bulls at 10. His dad and Uncle Rusty were both riders before him. His dad rode bareback and his uncle, bulls, like Maverick. "My mom grew up near Houston, around cows. She rode horses, but didn't do rodeo. My sister was a state champion in junior high and won the junior nationals. My girlfriend is a barrel racer."

Clearly, Maverick, who is now, possibly, the first professional bull rider from Ellis County, was born into the right family.

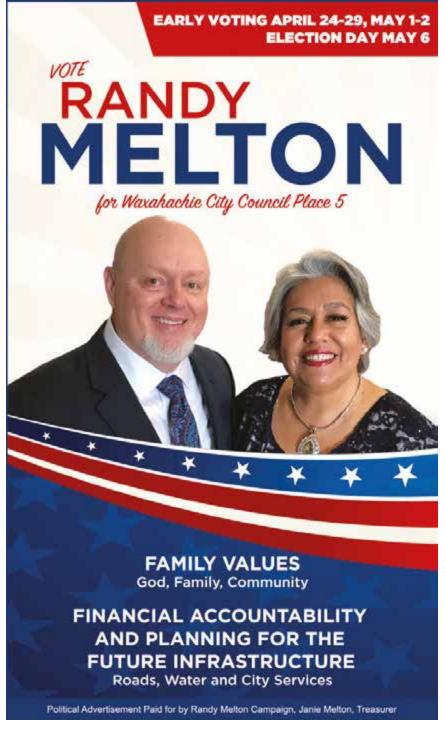
Rodeo is a sport where injuries are frequent, so those early wrestling injuries could be looked at as training. "I started with 400- to 500-pound steers. I got into rodeo late, but I was never scared. A bull kicked me once, and snapped my femur and ankle. My whole left leg is bionic! I have a rod in my ankle and one in my femur. Another time, one stepped on my thumb and clean broke it straight across. I have two pins in that. Horses don't intimidate me, but the bulls are more fun. It drew me like a magnet when I got on my first one." He may not be scared, but he's also had broken ribs, had his spleen removed and recently took a horn to the chest. "I'm sore right now from that," he confessed. "But I always wear a protective vest and a helmet. I want to last a long time! I'd feel lost if I quit riding. It's all I've known. Rodeo isn't a job. It's a lifestyle."

Despite his youth, Maverick is an old hand at this. He rode 150 bulls just last year! "I've been on so many bulls now, but that first time, I was nervous and scared. When I hit the ground, I couldn't believe it, but I knew I wanted more! There are some big guys in bull riding, but it doesn't matter how big you are, you aren't going to overpower a bull. In bull riding, you have to hold your own weight. There are different styles. I ride loose, but I don't quit until my head hits the ground."











Rodeo competition takes Maverick to rinks far and wide. "Texas has four of the biggest rodeos. Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston are all major rodeos. And San Angelo is up-andcoming. The Ellis County Rodeo is right here in Waxahachie." Despite the number of venues here in Texas, riding professionally takes Maverick all over. He'll spend the month of July riding all across the Northern states, and the Calgary Stampede in Alberta, Canada, is basically the Super Bowl of rodeo. "Calgary is my favorite. I got a little plague the first time I rode there. It was a big deal. And you get to take a victory lap around the arena." As glamorous as Calgary may be, Maverick rides in lots of less groomed arenas. "At this one rodeo, on my birthday, I was hanging off the side of my bull, and I fell into a whole patch of bull nettle. That stuff burns!"

People often have misconceptions about rodeo, especially about how the animals are treated. "The animals get treated better than us! If you cut one with a spur, you get a \$500 fine. There's always a vet on hand to treat them, and the stock contractors make sure the rodeo organizers have the

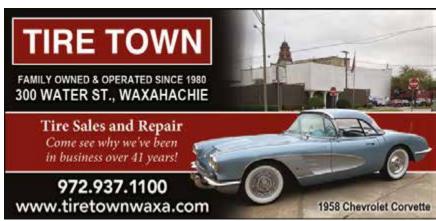
"I've been on so many bulls now, but that first time, I was nervous and scared. When I hit the ground, I couldn't believe it, but I knew I wanted more!



best food for their animals, and good facilities to house them, before they bring them. Without the animals, there is no rodeo. People think we tie their testicles to make them angry, but that isn't true. A flank rope is just cotton rope that goes around their torso. I have a ranch in Athens where I'm breeding bucking stock. I have 20 cows and 40-50 bulls. We train them to buck, but they're naturally aggressive. You watch them fight, and see all their muscles."

This is Maverick's fourth year as a pro. "My first year, I made it about a quarter of the way through. Then I broke my femur. The second year, I got halfway through and had to have my spleen taken out on July 4, in Vernal, Utah. I was in the hospital for a weekand-a-half. Last year was my first full year. I went to my first finals last year. I didn't do any good at finals. This year, I'm being smart about which rodeos I pick. We're limited to 115 rodeos a year. Last year, I rode in 98. I rode five bulls in five days at Calgary." Despite having only one full season as a pro, Maverick has already earned \$116,000. Of course, it's an expensive sport to participate in, so he's thankful to all his sponsors.

"You can't beat the family on the rodeo circuit. They make me feel at home, when I'm not at home. There's a lot of high-fives and clapping for each other. But it's rewarding coming home healthy and safe to family after a long run. I do get homesick when I'm doing bad and falling off my bulls. Some tuck tail and go home. I try to go harder. I plan to go until my body can't anymore!" NOW







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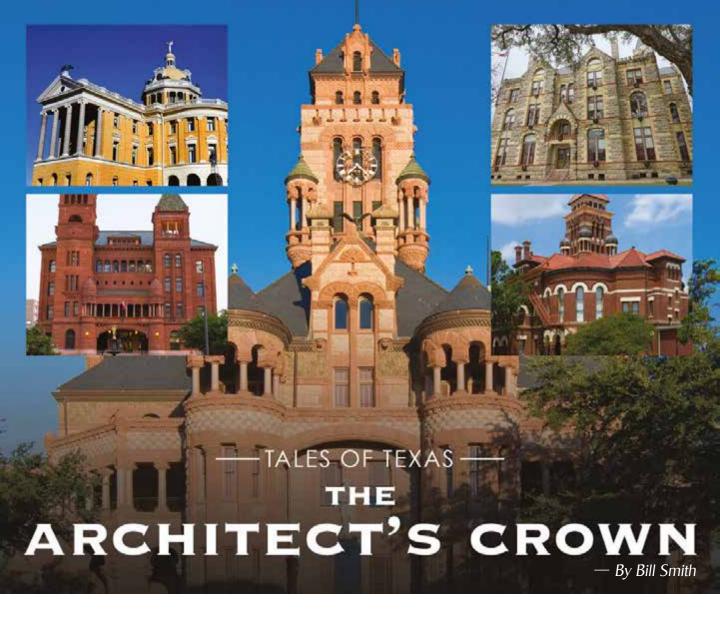
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The well-known Ellis County Courthouse, while unique in many respects, also has similarities with other Texas courthouses. Several Texas county seats can boast of their offices being housed in buildings designed by the nationally recognized architect, James Riely Gordon. Gordon designed as many as 18 Texas courthouses — 12 of them are still standing — plus a number of other government and commercial buildings and private residences throughout the state. However, when researching information on him, the first picture that appears in most articles is of the Ellis County Courthouse, often said to be his crowning achievement.

In the book, Texas, by James Michener, Gordon's Ellis County icon is referred to as "a fairy-tale palace 10 stories high, replete with battlements and turrets and spires and soaring clock towers and miniature castles high in the air. It was a bejeweled treasure, yet it was also a sturdy,

massive court of judgments, one of the finest buildings in Texas." As much acclaim as Gordon has for the edifice, he was never employed as architect by the county. Instead, his plans were sold to the county, and county officials hired Fort Worth architect Marshal Sanguinet as consultant and construction supervisor.

Gordon may have learned at least part of his craft from his civil engineer father, and after moving from his 1863 birthplace in Virginia to San Antonio, Texas, in the early 1870s, he joined the civil engineer corps of the International-Great Northern Railroad at age 14. Gordon never pursued a university degree in architecture, instead he began his career as a draftsman in 1881 for architect William K. Dobson in San Antonio and later J.N. Preston & Son. In 1884, he opened his own San Antonio office with established architect Frederick Shelton.

Being in the right place at the right time has probably influenced a number of great careers, and none is likely to surpass that of Gordon. In 1881, the Texas Legislature passed a bill allowing counties to borrow funds to build public buildings. Primitive courthouses around the state were often constructed of wood (even log structures) and subject to fire and storm damage. The bill passed in 1881 allowed counties to build larger buildings of much more substantial construction. Many of the buildings were enormous and attractive, contributing to the development of the courthouse squares and growth of the county seats.

From 1889 to 1902, Gordon designed 18 courthouses across the

Lone Star State. This was considered the golden age of Texas courthouses, and a nice road trip around the state could include a visit to these magnificent buildings. Besides Ellis County, your trip could include Bexar, Comal, Erath, Fayette, Gonzales, Harrison, Hopkins, Lee, McLennan, Victoria and Wise. Some of the buildings that are still standing have been repurposed. Others have been restored and still serve as the seat of their county government.

The Ellis County Courthouse is of Richardsonian Romanesque style, as was the 1894 Brazoria County Courthouse, which no longer stands. Other courthouses designed by Gordon were Romanesque Revival, Beaux-Arts or a blend of styles.

A beautiful home that Gordon designed in 1892 still stands in San Antonio. The George Kalteyer House is of Romanesque Revival style. According to sahouseregistry.com, "It is one of the most architecturally significant structures on this noted street. Gordon was best known as a super courthouse designer, but he was an excellent residential designer as well. This house, with its abundance of polychromed arches, reflects the architect's mastery of the Romanesque Revival of the 1880s. The fine interior finishes have been fully restored. The majority of Gordon's domestic work has unfortunately been long since demolished, making this specimen all the more important."

In 1886, Gordon's first major job was supervising the construction of the Federal Courthouse and Post Office in San Antonio, Texas. In 1892, he won a medal of merit for his design of the Texas Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His most important work outside of Texas was probably the Arizona Capitol in 1898.

The Texas State Historical Association indicates, "Gordon maintained several offices in Texas, one in Shreveport, Louisiana, and another in Phoenix, Arizona." However, in 1902, he moved to New York. His reputation as a great architect was well established, and he served as president of the New York Society of Architects. His career spanned nearly 60 years, with much of his most noted work still standing in Texas. Ironically, no mention of Texas was recorded in his obituary in *The New* York Times in 1937. NOW

Sources:

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Around Town



Cathy Le and Richard Worley from the animal shelter take Otis, who is looking for a home, out for some exercise.

Zoomed In: Heather Landry

By Adam Walker

Heather Landry held the launch party to celebrate the release of her new picture book, Butterfly ABC's, in the children's room at Sims Library. "I live in Waxahachie," she said. "I graduated from Southwestern, and I work for Waxahachie ISD. I've taught pre-K for 14 years, and I've always loved it. Every year I would order caterpillars for my students to raise and release as butterflies," she explained.

"I wanted a book about butterflies for my students, but they were all too busy, with too many words for pre-K. So I wrote my own, to teach kids important butterfly vocabulary. This was the first picture book my publisher has chosen to publish, so this is pretty exciting," she confessed while offering to sign copies.



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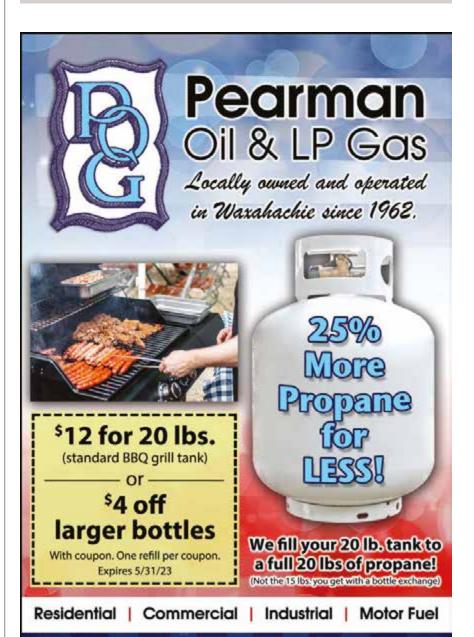


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BusinessNOW

Penfold Construction

- By Susan Simmons

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Paul Penfold and his wife of 42 years, Aleta, followed a vision God put into their hearts and moved to Ellis County 12 years ago to begin a construction company with trust and obedience to God. Paul had been in construction for more than 35 years when they arrived in Ellis County to begin Penfold Construction, LLC. Aleta is active in the planning, designing and decorating of all the projects the Penfolds purchase for restoration.

During the past 12 years, Penfold Construction has successfully restored several of the historic buildings in



downtown Ennis. "I feel that holding onto the history of where we came from is so important if we are to go where we need to be as a community and a society," Paul explained. "My favorite part of construction is seeing old buildings and homes being restored and repurposed into something that maintains the character of the original builders/designers but becomes functional for today's living and doing business."

In downtown Ennis, four projects that Paul and Aleta are especially proud of are the restoration of The Livery building, the Clyde's building, the Franklin Building and the 204 W. Knox building, where the city has their spirit store across from Minnie McDowal Park. Penfold Construction does not only do commercial buildings. In Waxahachie, they did a dramatic makeover of a residential house on North College Street. Recently, they performed a custom garage conversion to an apartment for a woman who wanted to live close to her son, as well as many kitchen and bath remodels and room additions.

Paul believes a critical component to a successful renovation is to build a real relationship with the owners of the project. "Listening to the ideas that are floating around in our client's head is the basis where everything begins. After we fully understand our client's ideas and needs, we make a plan or a blueprint, and then turn them into reality. It's the creation of something new and wonderful that our client is going to enjoy for years into the future that makes all the hard work so rewarding," Paul said passionately. "We are there for our client during the entire renovation process, listening and working together, and even after the project is long over, we continue to be there for them for the next project."

"My favorite part of construction is seeing old buildings and homes being restored and repurposed into something that maintains the character of the original builders/ designers but becomes functional for today's living and doing business."

Penfold Construction is a relationship-oriented business. "We are working with our neighbors, and we value and respect that immensely," Paul shared. "What sets our company apart is that we prioritize our relationships with all of the different teams we work with — from our employees and subcontractors to our suppliers, engineers and city officials. We respect them and try to always treat them with the same respect and integrity that we expect from them."

Paul and Aleta feel the move to Ellis County has been a truly successful one. "God knew exactly where we needed to be," Paul said. "We love living in Ennis and Ellis County. We love the smalltown feel, and the way the community comes together when needed. It is rare to find a county with both small-town attitudes and forward-looking city/ county officials, who have a real vision for where the county is going." NOW

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Dr. Maryam Raza

Dr. Raza is a Board Certified Physician in Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine practicing in the Dallas area since 2006. She completed her residency at Columbia University New York and has been medical director of the wound care program at Methodist Hospital Dallas since 2010. She is an ardent supporter of the concept of limb salvage and has developed a comprehensive program for healing diabetic foot wounds in a timely fashion. She is a member of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

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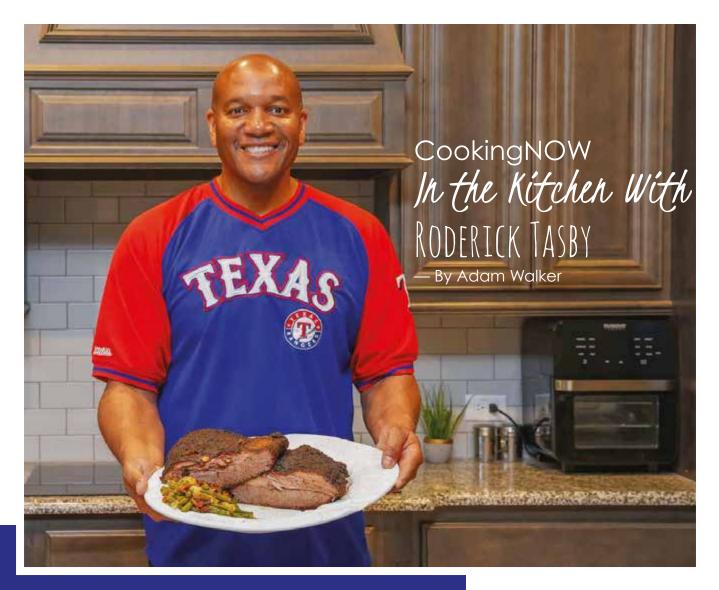
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Officer Roderick Tasby lives in Waxahachie and works for the DeSoto Police Department. His mother taught him to cook when he was 12. "I grew up in Oak Cliff with both parents and four siblings. We had a home-cooked meal every day, so we learned how to cook and bake by helping in the kitchen. My inspiration comes from my mother. She used to cook and bake, sometimes without a recipe, so you had to learn how to be creative. I enjoy down-home cooking, grilling and smoking, but baking is my favorite. It takes practice and patience. My mother wrote several of her recipes down, so we made a cookbook in her handwriting. Now I enjoy cooking for family, friends and my food truck, Tasmanian Mobile Kitchen."

Smoked Beef Brisket

- 1 12-14 lb. whole packer brisket
- 2 Tbsp. coarse kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp. coarse ground black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. garlic powder
- **1.** Refrigerate the brisket. (Cold brisket is easier to work with.) Remove the silver skin and excess fat. Trim down the crescent-shaped fat section, creating a smooth
- transition between the point and the flat. Trim any excess meat and fat from the point. Square the edges and ends. Trim the top fat cap to about 1/4-inch thickness across the surface of the brisket.
- **2.** Combine the salt, pepper and garlic powder. Shake over the brisket, evenly coating all sides.
- **3.** Preheat a smoker to 225 F using indirect heat and hardwood smoke. Place the brisket with the point end facing your main heat

- source. Smoke until an internal thermometer reads 165 F (around 8 hours).
- **4.** Center the brisket on butcher paper or foil. Wrap it, folding edge over edge, creating a leak proof seal all the way around. Return to the smoker, seam side down so the brisket crimps the paper wrap down tight. Maintaining 225 F, cook until the thickest part of the meat reaches 202 F (5-8 hours).
- **5.** Remove the brisket to a large cutting board; allow to rest for 1 hour before slicing against the grain. Serve immediately.

Super Easy Chicken and Dumplings

- 2 10.5-oz. cans Campbell's Cream of Chicken Soup
- 3 14-oz. cans Campbell's Chicken Broth
- 3 cups chicken breast, cooked and shredded
- 2 10-oz. cans Grands biscuit dough
- **1.** In a large saucepan, over medium-high heat, stir together the soup, broth and shredded chicken until it begins to simmer.

- 2. Cut each biscuit into quarters; gently stir into the soup.
- **3.** Reduce the heat to medium-low. Cover: simmer until the biscuits are no longer doughy in the center, 10-15 minutes.

Stuffed Bell Peppers

- 6 bell peppers, any color
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil, plus more for drizzling (divided use)

8 oz. lean ground beef Kosher salt, to taste

Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste

- I onion, finely diced
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- I medium zucchini, finely diced
- 4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and finely diced

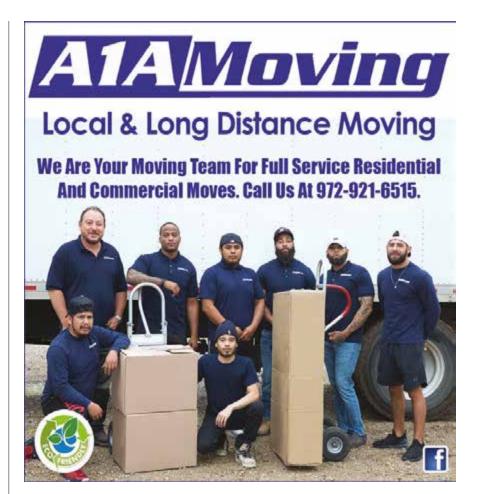
Red pepper flakes, to taste

- I cup long-grain and wild rice, cooked
- $1 \, 1/2$ cups pepper jack cheese, grated (divided use)
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- **2.** Cut the tops off the peppers. Finely chop the tops; set aside. Scoop out the seeds and membrane. Place cut-side up in a baking dish just large enough to hold them upright.
- **3.** In a large skillet on medium-high, heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Add the ground beef, salt and pepper; fry, breaking up lumps, until the meat begins to brown, 8-10 minutes. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate.
- **4.** Wipe out the skillet; add the remaining 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Add the onions and chopped peppers; cook until beginning to soften, 3-4 minutes. Add the garlic and zucchini; cook another minute. Add the tomatoes, salt and red pepper flakes. Cook until heated through; stir in the beef and rice. Adjust the seasoning. Stir in 1 cup of cheese.
- **5.** Fill the peppers with the rice mixture; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Pour a small amount of water into the bottom of the baking dish; drizzle the peppers with olive oil.
- 6. Cover with foil; bake 30 minutes. Uncover; bake until the peppers are soft and the cheese is lightly browned, 15-20 minutes.

Southern Collard Greens

6 small bunches collard greens

- 1 extra-large pkg. smoked ham hocks
- 1 Tbsp. bacon grease
- 1 Tbsp. seasoned salt
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- I tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 cup onion, finely chopped







- **1.** Tear the greens away from the stems. Roll the greens up; cut into ribbons. Wash them thoroughly with cold water to remove all grit.
- 2. Rinse the ham hocks very well. Add to a large pot along with enough water to fully submerge the ham hocks; cover with a lid. Cook over medium-high heat for 45 minutes or until the ham hocks are almost tender.
- **3.** Add the greens and enough water to just barely cover the greens (4-5 cups). Add the

remaining ingredients. Cook, covered, at least 2 hours, until completely tender.

Vanilla Buttermilk Pie Recipe

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla paste or vanilla extract
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. cornstarch

Pinch of salt 1 cup buttermilk 1 Pillsbury piecrust

- I. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
- **2.** To the bowl of a stand mixer, add the butter and sugar; beat on medium speed until light about 5-6 minutes. Add the eggs and vanilla in increments; mix until incorporated.
- **3.** Add the flour, cornstarch and salt, then buttermilk; mix until well combined.
- 4. Pour the filling into the crust; bake 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 F: bake for 60-70 additional minutes. Turn the oven off; allow to sit for 30 minutes. The pie should be golden brown, and a knife inserted should come out clean. If the crust is browning too quickly, add a pie shield or foil halfway through the bake time.



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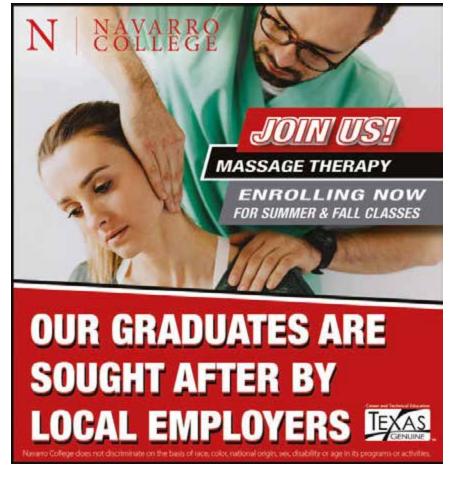
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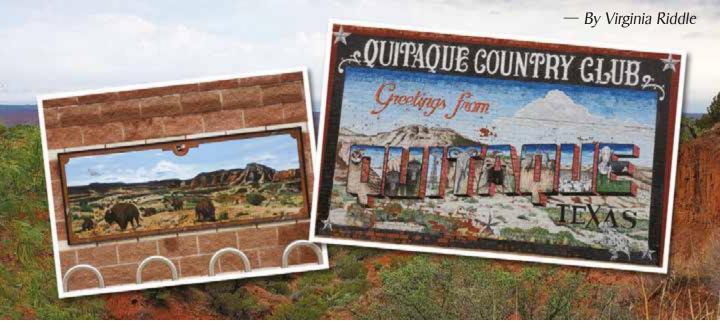
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GEOLOGYNACTION



Camp in Caprock Canyons State Park, and awaken to a glorious dawn, glowing on red, orange and white shale, sandstone and siltstone walls. Bison graze freely nearby in the park's almost 14,000 acres. Prairie dogs scamper around in "towns." Sheep, mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, porcupines, jackrabbits and birds live among the blue grama, buffalo grass, sideoats grama, Indian grass, yucca, wildflowers, cacti, cottonwoods, wild plum thickets and junipers that dot the park's many vistas.

Caprock Canyon was formed by two forks of the Little Red River, cutting into the Llano Estacado High Plains Escarpment for almost a million years, producing some rock walls over 1,000 feet high. Nomadic people, the Folsom, arrived in the canyon about 10,000 years ago. From the rock, they fashioned spear tips used to kill large animals. Huntergatherer groups followed. Permanent settlements began about 1,000 years ago, and the Spanish explorer, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, discovered the canyon in 1541. The Apache, Kiowa and Comanche occupied the canyon during the 1700s-1870s.

Anglo settlers arrived in the 1800s, when bison were being killed in large numbers by trappers, hunters, comancheros (traders) and the U.S. Army. Mary Ann Goodnight, who was co-owner of JA Ranch with her husband, Charles Goodnight, saved bison to prevent probable extinction. The Texas State Bison Herd is genetically descended from the Goodnight herd and is perhaps one of the last examples of native Texas bison.

Also unique to the park is an abandoned railway line that offers hiking, biking and an equestrian trail. The 64-mile trail crosses Quitaque Canyon to Estelline, running through the 742-foot-long Clarity Tunnel, home to Mexican free-tailed bats, and along many original trestles. Over 90 miles of multiuse trails exist ranging from easy to very challenging, and visitors can boat, fish and/or swim in Lake Theo. A lodge, as well as campsites with water or water and electricity are offered, and backpackers and equestrians can take advantage of primitive camping sites. Hands-on activities await visitors of all ages at the Children's Discovery Center, and the exhibits at the Interpretive Pavilion explain the canyon's geology and Native American history.

In this ranching country, the weather and terrain changes quickly, making for hardy residents. The town of Quitaque is near the intersection of the Cottonwood and Los Lingos creeks. Area attractions include Camp Resolution, one of four encampments of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition; the Valley of Tears; and the Comanchero Canyons Museum, which tells the history of the area with exhibits of artifacts



dating from the Clovis era through the 1800s. Dining, bed-and-breakfasts and hotel accommodations are available in Quitaque, Silverton, Turkey and Childress, Texas. Horseback riding is offered at the historic Pole Canyon Ranch and the Quitaque Riding Stables.

Internet and cell service are rare or nonexistent in the area, but that's not why people flock to Caprock Canyons State Park. The stunning vistas, geology, wildlife, adventures, bison and a return to ranching days of old where a handshake still means something are just a few reasons to visit. NOW

Sources:

1. Parent, Laurence. Official Guide to Texas State Parks & Historic Sites. 2018, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. pgs. 102-104.

2. "Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway." Texas Parks & Wildlife online.





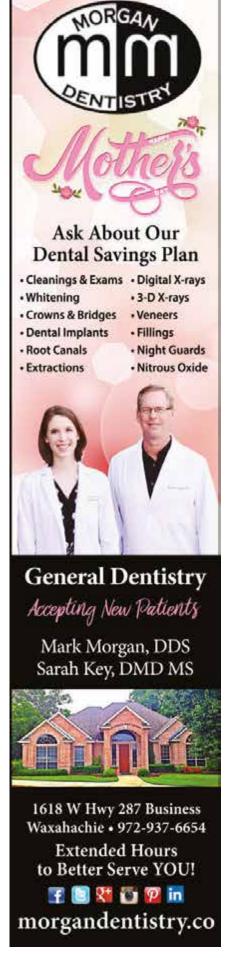














Whether you call it tic-tac-toe, noughts and crosses or simply X's and O's, chances are you have played this familiar game and find it particularly engaging with young children. It can be played almost anywhere if there is a pencil or crayon and paper handy, or perhaps a piece of chalk and a chalkboard. Some of the best games are played with chalk on a sidewalk!

Children have been known to cause walls to need some stout scrubbing or perhaps even repainting after drawing the familiar hashtag playing field in "unapproved places" around the home. Perhaps a DIY project is in order to provide a fun place for this popular game to be contested.

Who says the game has to be played with X's and O's? A party host could create a large board, 3 feet square, and mark nine sections with paint. The playing pieces could be anything seasonally themed — so long as they come in two different colors. Families will enjoy challenging one another to see who will be the first to line up three items in a row.

Painting the familiar playing space on just about any surface makes this an easily created project. An alternative to painting on wood is using a wood burning tool to make the design more permanent. Markers for the board can be as simple as picking up stones. Gather five stones for each player, just making sure that one player has large stones and the other has small stones, or perhaps one player has round stones and the other has flat stones. If you forget to bring the board you created, just draw the hashtag in the dirt!

Rock painting is a popular hobby for some, and they make excellent playing pieces. The rocks can all be the same size, just paint five of them red and the other five green (or any colors you choose). Or get more creative, and paint the rocks to look like bugs, bunnies or unicorns. Personalize the pieces for your children by painting them their favorite color or painting their name on their set.

Do your children enjoy molding shapes with clay? Make the playing surface out of four long, thin pieces of clay that have been rolled and formed, then have the kids make the playing pieces in their favorite shapes. If they create their pieces in the morning, when the clay dries in the afternoon, they will have their own playing pieces with which to challenge their young friends.

If you are interested in a little more creativity and a game that could be displayed as home decor and always available for play, consider building your game in the woodshop. There are any number of designs available depending on your woodworking skills. The size of the base is flexible. It could be as large as an end table, about 2 feet square, or small enough to sit on a book shelf, perhaps 6 inches square. Whatever size you choose, the board should be about 1/2 inches thick for this project.

The board should be cut square, then draw lines on it with a pencil, dividing the top into nine equal sections. Using a hand saw, cut the lines about 1/8 inch deep. You could invert the board and cut the shallow lines with a table saw. Drill holes in the center of each square about 3/4 inch deep. If you have access to a drill press, you can set the depth stop, but if you are drilling with a hand-held drill motor, wrap a piece of masking tape around the drill bit to mark the depth for consistent results.

Cut 10 wooden dowels 2 inches in length that will fit in the holes for playing pieces. Paint or stain the board and the playing pieces, and, of course, half of the playing pieces should be a different color than the other half.

Your personalized tic-tac-toe game can be as creative or simple as you want to make it. Then enjoy yourself, while keeping your kids entertained with a game that is fun and easy to play at every age! NOW







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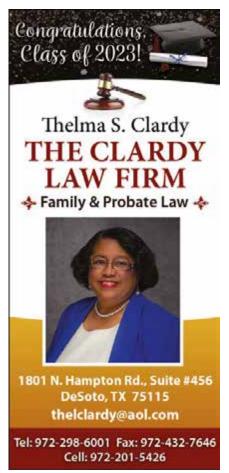




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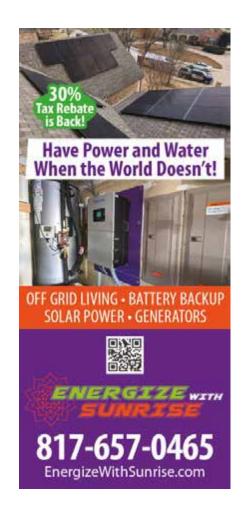
Crossword Puzzle

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

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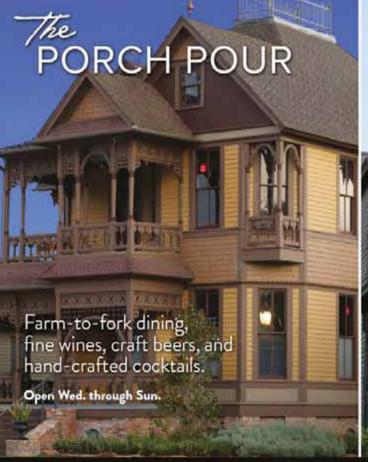


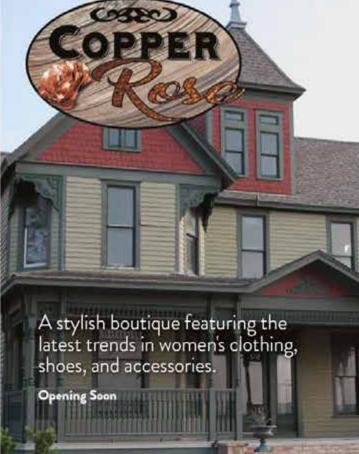
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5/5-5/7

Joseph and the Amazing **Technicolor Dreamcoat:**

Broadway musical presented by Waxahachie Community Theatre. Seniors and students: \$18; adults: \$20. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 2:30 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Rd.

5/6

Cinco de Mayo:

Come out for family fun, live music and food. Free. 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

Jazz Concert:

The Waxahachie Symphony Association presents baritone crooner Ken Salvin. Adults: \$20; college students: \$8; under 18: free. 7:00 p.m., Chautaugua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

5/11-5/14

Annie:

WHS Theater Department presents the classic musical.

See the high school web site for tickets. Thursday-Saturday: 7:00 p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m., Waxahachie High School, 3001, Hwy. 287.

5/13

Brisket/Rib/Pork Cook-Off:

VFW Post #3894 competitors' best meat and sides will be judged and sold to the salivating audience. \$10 a plate. Judging: 11:00 a.m., I-35 Service Rd. at Hwy. 287.

5/19

Night Hike:

The Indian Trail Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists hosts this exploration of nature

at night. 7:30-10:00 p.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd., Midlothian.

6/3

Pancake Breakfast Flv-In/Drive-In:

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