

# Midlothian NOW

M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2025

## Hamming It Up

The Ellis County  
Amateur Radio Club  
serves the area

## In Defense of the Frontier

Fort Martin Scott was  
on the cutting edge

In the Kitchen With  
Amanda Randel

Also inside:  
Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

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Johnnie Showalter leads the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club's area efforts.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Angel*

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*Not-so-little lessons ...*

IT'S A GIRL! My lifelong friend is hosting a shower for her first grandbaby-to-be. It's been neat picking out tiny clothes and seeing all the new things available in the baby-sphere. At baby showers, each little bib and blanket reminds moms of feeding and cuddling their own children. Diapers and teething are memories of the challenges motherhood brings. And as the new mom opens her gifts, you think of all she doesn't yet know and everything she's about to go through ... abundant joy, terrifying uncertainty, love beyond measure and lots and lots of sleep deprivation.

You'd be hard-pressed to find a mom who would say it isn't all worth it. Bringing that little human into the world is the biggest accomplishment most of us ever achieve. And baby showers are a reminder of this sisterhood we mothers share.

All this baby stuff makes me miss the days when my son was little. You hear it all the time, but the saying is so true: "The days are long, but the years are short." To all you mamas in the midst of long days, I can't promise it will get easier. Just when you get the hang of one stage, those babies grow, and you're learning all over again. Then you blink, and they're teenagers, then young adults ... and there's more to learn still!

What a gift children give us in the opportunity to keep learning and growing together. And then, if we're lucky, perhaps grandchildren teach us whatever we missed with our own kids. Here's to showering mamas-to-be, to mamas surviving long days and to the babies that teach us so much — about them and ourselves — through the years.

*Happy Mother's Day!*

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A large yellow rectangular sign with the Gerdau logo and the word 'GERDAU' in blue letters. The sign is mounted on a stone wall. The number '300' is visible on the wall to the left. In the background, there are industrial buildings and a clear blue sky.

This year marks a momentous milestone for the Gerdau Midlothian Mill, as it proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary of making world-class steel products in Texas. The Midlothian Mill uses scrap metal to produce structural and special bar quality steel commonly used in nonresidential buildings, staircases, heavy-duty equipment and machinery, and decking. Steel is endlessly recyclable, and the Midlothian Mill is proud to contribute to the circular economy by serving as a significant recycling operation in the community.

The mill opened its doors in 1975, and has since stood as a symbol of strength, resilience, and innovation—not only in the steel industry but also within the Midlothian community it calls home. Gerdau acquired the mill from Chaparral in 2007.

Over the past five decades, the Midlothian Mill has forged more than steel; it has built lasting partnerships with local organizations, schools, and civic groups, while shaping a better future. These collaborations have fostered economic growth, job creation, and educational opportunities that have empowered generations of workers and their families. Gerdau is grateful to both the previous and current employees for their hard work and dedication throughout our 50 years.

With safety as its number one priority, the Gerdau Midlothian Mill is constantly evaluating and implementing practices to make the mill as safe and healthy an environment as possible.

In recent years, Gerdau Midlothian has made significant strides in sustainability, embracing cutting-edge technology and eco-conscious practices to reduce emissions and waste, including the construction of a 750-acre solar farm adjacent to the mill. These initiatives underscore Gerdau's commitment to responsible manufacturing and environmental stewardship.

With continued investments in modern infrastructure and employee development, the mill is well-positioned to meet the challenges of the next 50 years. Plans for digital integration and sustainable production practices are already in motion, promising a future where innovation will allow us to continue making steel products to serve our nation's critical infrastructure while contributing to the Midlothian community.

As Gerdau Midlothian celebrates this anniversary, it does so with pride in its past, gratitude for its present, and excitement for what lies ahead. Here's to 50 years of steel, service, and shared success—and many more to come.



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Thank you to all our 2025  
sponsors! See you next year!



A hand is shown holding a black radio device, possibly a handheld transceiver, against a background of vertical light streaks in shades of orange and red. The radio has some text on it, including "COMAX".

# HAMMMI IT UP

*Using radio frequencies to send and receive messages is known as amateur, or ham, radio. Participants use various types of equipment to communicate with other “hams” for both recreation and as a public service. Midlothian resident Johnnie Showalter became interested in amateur radio while growing up listening to a shortwave radio. When major winter storms hit North Texas in 2021, his interest in emergency equipment and radio re-emerged. “I joined the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club in November of 2022 and became an active participant in all the club’s activities. My particular interest is in developing emergency communication abilities through various club events,” Johnnie shared.*

Today, Johnnie serves as president of the ECARC. “This is a group of men and women who are interested in the hobby of amateur radio but also serving the community with communications during special events, or as needed in emergency situations,” he outlined. “Amateur radio was instrumental in lifesaving actions during the Hurricane Helene event in North Carolina.”

The club, which currently has almost 100 members, was organized in the early 1970s by five amateur radio operators who wanted to set up a repeater for use in the county. Repeaters are electronic devices which receive low-level signals, then transmit them at higher powers in order to reach stations normally obstructed due to equipment limitations or terrain. “Since its inception, the club has established no less than four active repeater sites in the county. These repeaters are used to retransmit radio communication over vast distances in the DFW area,” Johnnie explained.

Used not only by licensed radio operators, but by the National Weather Service during severe weather events, the equipment is purchased, installed and maintained by ECARC. Members are also trained as SKYWARN observers and use their

***“Amateur radio  
was instrumental  
in lifesaving  
actions during  
the Hurricane  
Helene event in  
North Carolina.”***

**NG**

— By Angel Morris



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communications equipment to report on local weather sightings.

“Amateur radio operators require a Federal Communications Commission license and the ECARC provides initial and follow-on training for people interested in obtaining the license. From the initial basic Technician license up to the highest level of Extra license, the club conducts classes and administers the FCC examination to new operators,” Johnnie noted.

Once a person is licensed, they need hands-on training which the club provides through monthly activation events called “Parks On the Air.” “New and experienced club members meet at Cedar Hill State Park and, using no commercial power, set up a working radio station that can communicate with other hams within the U.S. and foreign countries. This is a hands-on training event for new hams, as well as experienced ones who want to sharpen their skills,” Johnnie said.

ECARC members provide communication services to the community when requested. As members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, the club supported the city of Ennis during the 2024 eclipse by manning locations outside the city limits where crowds were expected to congregate. “Communications back to the Ennis emergency services center would be a direct reporting line in the event assistance was needed,” Johnnie stated. “The ARES teams can also be called on to assist other Ellis County cities during similar situations where extra communication resources are needed.”

The club annually supports the Tour d’ Italia cycle event held each June in Italy, Texas. “Using the club’s

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repeater system, members provide communications between the event coordination team, each rest-stop and roving vehicles known as SAG support, or Support and Gear. These roving vehicles are used to provide needed food, water, first aid, tools to the cyclists and, when needed, can transport riders who are unable to complete the cycle event," Johnnie said.

In addition to providing health and safety communication services for events, emergencies and disasters, ECARC offers public demonstrations and educational events for local schools and community organizations. Drawing members from across Ellis County, ECARC welcomes anyone who has an interest in radio communications and using their communication skills to support the county. "Amateur radio is not just learning about basic electronic elements, but proper procedures for using radio equipment and how it supports others," Johnnie underscored. "The group creates a positive, supportive environment for our members that promotes camaraderie and fellowship." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Information on club activities and meetings can be found on the website [www.WD5DDH.org](http://www.WD5DDH.org).*



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Photos courtesy of MISD Athletic Department





—TALES OF TEXAS—

# IN DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIER

— By Bill Smith

*The city of Fredericksburg will always be known as a historic community, especially considering its German heritage. At one time, it was certainly considered part of the frontier of the United States westward expansion, and Fort Martin Scott played an important role as the first U.S. Army outpost of the Texas Frontier. Now a Texas Historical Site owned by the city, the fort has an interesting history and is worthy of a visit by history buffs touring the Texas Hill Country.*

The fort's namesake was Major Martin Scott, an army soldier who died in 1847 during the Mexican-American War. Originally from Vermont, Martin Scott enlisted with the "Green Mountain Boys" during the war of 1812. Maj. Scott was well known for his marksmanship and spent his free time hunting wild game. Legend allows that one of his favorite feats of marksmanship was to toss two potatoes into the air, and when they lined up with one another, to shoot through both of them with a single shot. His bravery was unquestioned, and

he was cited for gallantry during a number of battles, including Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma and Monterrey.

Fort Martin Scott was established in 1848 and was named for Maj. Scott after an order to name frontier posts in honor of officers killed during the war. Prior to 1849, the fort was just known as the "camp near Fredericksburg."

The fort was originally established by Captain Seth Eastman of the First United States Infantry about two miles southeast of Fredericksburg on Barons Creek to protect settlers and those traveling the area from Indians. While Eastman referred to the fort as Camp Houston, the name was not well established, and the order to name it for Maj. Scott was well founded. The well-known treaty of 1847 between the German settlers and the Comanches went a long way to keeping peace in the area, and while the continued growth of settlers into the fertile areas led to small conflicts, there was not much that could be considered warfare.

However, by 1850, the influx of settlers, soldiers and travelers was creating enough tension with the Indians that an Indian agent was escorted by soldiers from Fort Martin Scott to meet with the Indians. The Fort Martin Scott Treaty resulted from the meeting and improved relations to the point that open hostilities were avoided.

The westward movement of the United States meant Fredericksburg and Fort Martin Scott were no longer a part of

the "frontier." The fort was functionally obsolete, and after being used as a forage depot for about a year, the fort was closed by the Army in 1853. It was used sporadically during the Civil War. Some records indicate it was occupied briefly by the Confederate Army, while others indicate it was never occupied, though it was considered "held" by the Confederates from 1861 until 1865. In 1866, General Sheridan ordered troops to the fort to once again calm any potential Indian uprising, but by the end of 1866, the fort was no longer used by the military.

After the property was abandoned by the military, many of the buildings were destroyed as local area residents removed lumber and stone to use as building material on their own property. The Braeutigam family purchased the property in 1870 and farmed the land for 90 years. The buildings left intact were repurposed by the family as living space and barns. Interestingly, the old officer's quarters were converted into a saloon. The city of Fredericksburg purchased the property in 1959. The historic site now displays one original garrison building that has been restored and three reproduction garrison buildings, as well as one late 1800's farm shed.

The Texas Rangers were an important part of keeping the peace along the Texas frontier as well and used the site of Fort Martin Scott as a camp both before and after the military occupations. Adjacent to the fort, the Texas Rangers Heritage Center pays tribute to these brave defenders of Texas. The exhibits include the Ranger Ring of Honor, magnificent bronze statues, a pavilion, amphitheater and the Campanile Bell Tower. The center is a beautiful addition to the attractions of Fredericksburg and hosts a number of special events throughout the year. **NOW**

Photos by Becky Walker.

Sources:

1. <http://www.ftmartinsscott.org/>.
2. <https://www.fbgtx.org/416/Ft-Martin-Scott>.
3. <https://www.fbgtx.org/927/Martin-Scott-the-Man>.
4. <https://trhc.org/visit-the-texas-rangers-heritage-center/>.
5. <https://www.fbgtx.org/924/Braeutigam-Farm>.



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SCAN ME



## Zoomed In: By Angel Morris Jaxon Salzman and London Coffman

Jaxon Salzman and London Coffman, students at The MILE, recently earned a spot at the national competition of Distributive Education Clubs of America. The conference brings together top high school entrepreneurs from across the country to showcase their talents, network with industry leaders and further develop their business ideas.

Jaxon and London have been part of the school's entrepreneurship program for two years, winning the final pitch competition in their Incubator class last year and earning \$7000 to further develop their company, Grippid. "Our product is designed for fitness enthusiasts and athletes who want to reach their peak performance while having hand and wrist protection during strength training," Jaxon described.

London added, "Our 2-in-1 wrist wrap and callus cover glove is a practical and efficient solution. By combining callus protection with adjustable wrist support, our glove is designed to help you lift heavier, train harder and stay comfortable during the process."



Turner Clark tries her hand at Nerf axe throwing with the help of her dad, Charlie, at Community Park.



Apricot Lane's Keyholder Maddi Mitchell, Assistant Manager Nikki Mitchell and Owner Donna Mitchell display their boutique goods at the Legacy Oaks Blossom Bazaar Vendor Fair.



Regular event goes, Richard Reno, Michael Bolder and Gerald Bonnell, enjoy each other's company at the recent community Play Day!



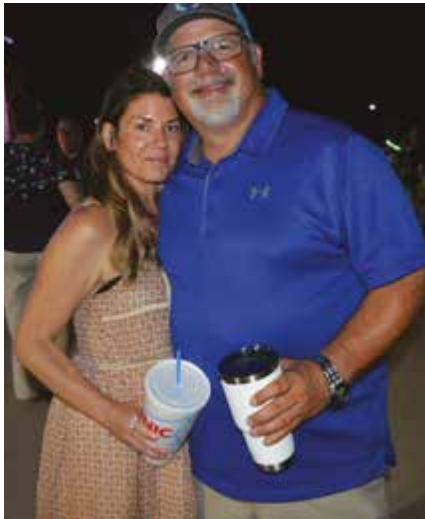
Liberty Cheer earns first place at NCA Nationals.



Worship Leader Scott Wadsworth helps lead the Revive Conference at Harvest Hill Church.



Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors of the first quarter, Cherise Burnett of NOW Magazines and Kilie Mason of Mason State Farm.



Married earlier in the day, Ryan and Craig Young enjoyed dancing to The Motion Band.

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# BusinessNOW

## Texas Ace Service – Heating & Air

— By Angel Morris

### Texas Ace Service – Heating & Air

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service@texasacehvac.com  
<https://texasacehvac.com/>  
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Texas Ace Heating & Air was founded by Jory and Teresa McDaniel in 2012. They became a trusted name in HVAC services, with a strong presence in the Commercial, Multi-Family and New Construction Residential markets. Additionally, they built their reputation in providing HVAC retail services, which includes residential and commercial



system replacements, repair, maintenance and indoor air quality systems to provide efficiency with superior comfort.

In 2024, Texas Ace (now formally known as Texas Ace Service — Heating & Air) took a significant step forward in their journey — being acquired by L&S Mechanical. Founded in 1985, L&S Mechanical has more than 35 years of plumbing experience and more than a decade of HVAC and electrical expertise, with a dedication toward streamlining the construction process by offering a comprehensive tri-trade solution of plumbing, electrical and HVAC services in the New Construction market.

Cort Rohr, CEO of L&S Mechanical, called the acquisition of Texas Ace Heating & Air a pivotal moment in the company's growth strategy. "We're excited about how this partnership enhances our capabilities and expands our reach within the Texas market. Texas Ace's strong reputation, particularly in HVAC services across Commercial, Multi-Family and New Construction Residential sectors, along with their focus on Residential Service, aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing high-quality plumbing, HVAC and

electrical solutions,” he outlined. “We look forward to the innovation and excellence this partnership will bring to the benefit of our customers and our combined teams.”

Jory said he is thrilled to join forces with L&S Mechanical. “This partnership is a natural fit, and we believe it will provide immense value to our customers and employees,” he said. “L&S Mechanical’s values resonate with our own. Our team is excited by what the future holds, and I am proud to have reinvested in the combined business.”

Texas Ace’s location in Midlothian provided an opportunity to expand service and support to the South Dallas

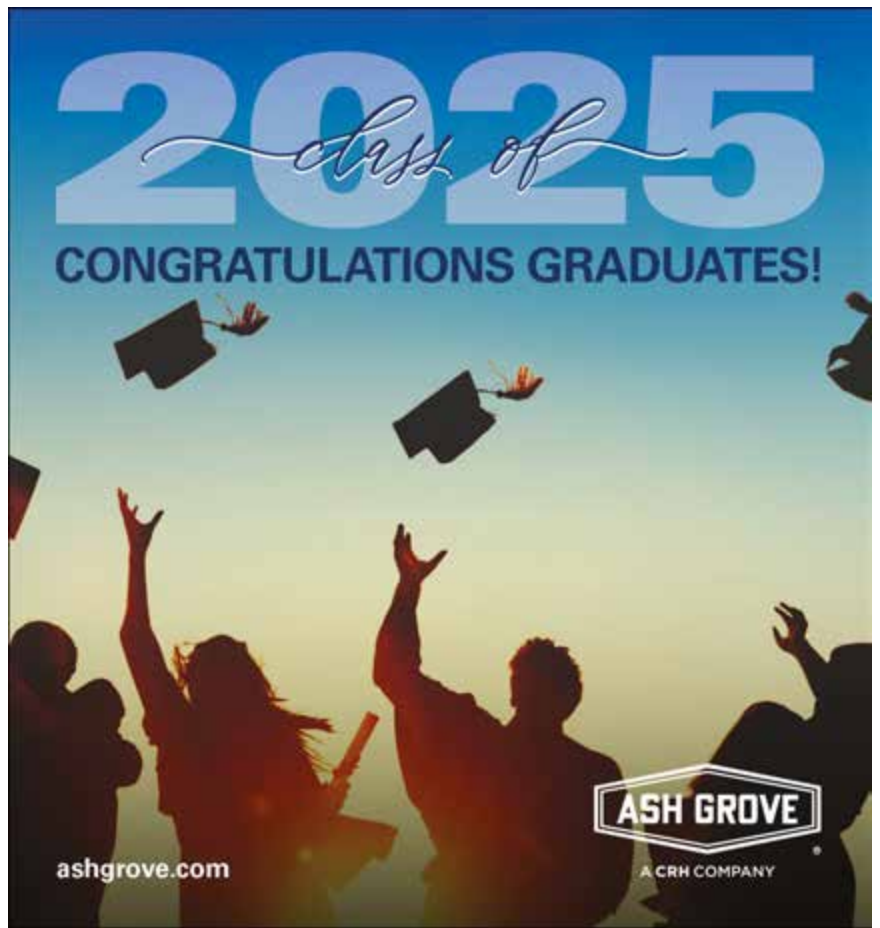
**“We look forward to the innovation and excellence this partnership will bring to the benefit of our customers and our combined teams.”**

market. “Known for our dedication to quality, integrity and customer satisfaction, we built a successful business by exceeding customer expectations through reliable and efficient service,” Jory noted.

The recent integration of Texas Ace into L&S Mechanical will allow both companies to leverage each other’s strengths, offering unparalleled service to the growing Texas market. With that, Texas Ace will take on a new look. “Starting with the Texas Ace brand foundation, we look to present a bold new image next to the L&S Mechanical brand to convey innovation and growth further into the DFW market,” shared Vice President of Retail Service Joel Ferch.

Texas Ace, along with L&S Mechanical, have said their goal is to become the HVAC services industry leader in quality, integrity and customer satisfaction for the Metroplex. “We couldn’t be more excited about the opportunities this acquisition brings,” Cort admitted.

Jory echoed the sentiment: “We’re confident that together, we will achieve even greater success and continue to build our reputation as the premier services provider in the industry.” **NOW**





Easy Pot Roast

## Lemon Loaf Cake

*Cake:*

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 3.4-oz. box instant lemon pudding mix
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tsp. lemon extract
- 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- Zest of 1 lemon

*Frosting:*

- 3 Tbsp. butter, soft but not melted
- 3 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. lemon extract
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line the bottom of a 5x9-inch loaf pan with parchment paper. Spray the pan and parchment paper with nonstick baking spray; set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine the first 5 ingredients.
3. With a stand or hand mixer, combine the remaining ingredients, except the zest. Mix until evenly combined.
4. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet, scraping the sides of the bowl. Add the lemon zest; mix until just combined.
5. Pour into the pan. Bake 55 minutes, or until the center is fully set, and a toothpick inserted comes out crumb-free.
6. Cool in the pan 5-10 minutes. Run a knife around the sides of the pan, invert and remove from the pan, removing parchment paper from the bottom. Finish cooling on a wire rack.
7. *For frosting:* Combine the butter, lemon juice and lemon extract with a hand or stand mixer. Gradually add the powdered sugar, beating until smooth and creamy.
8. Evenly spread over the loaf top. Refrigerate to set the frosting completely before slicing. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

## Browned Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 14 Tbsp. unsalted butter (divided use)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 egg, plus 1 yolk
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 4 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chunked
- Sea salt (optional)

# CookingNOW

## IN THE KITCHEN WITH

### AMANDA RANDEL

— By Angel Morris



Amanda Randel began baking at around age 12 and has appreciated it ever since. “I’ve always loved baking cookies. My grandma would make seasonal cookies with the grandkids when we were little, and we looked forward to it every season,” she recalled.

Amanda and her husband, Aaron, moved to Midlothian from Cedar Hill almost three years ago. The mom of two young daughters, she has been a hairdresser in Red Oak for seven years, sometimes gifting her clients with homemade treats. “My grandmother not only taught me to enjoy baking,” Amanda shared, “but also the joy of making delicious baked goods to share with others!” **NOW**

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Prepare 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Place 4 Tbsp. butter in a large mixing bowl; set aside.
2. Set a medium heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-high heat; melt the remaining butter, about 2-3 minutes, then whisk constantly until it begins to sizzle, then foam. The butter will become golden brown with a nutty aroma. *Note: Do not let it burn!*
3. Remove from heat; pour over the butter in the large mixing bowl. Stir until completely melted.
4. Add the sugars, salt and vanilla; whisk until combined. Add the egg and yolk, whisking until smooth, about 30 seconds. Let stand 3 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, in a small mixing bowl, whisk together the flour and baking soda.
6. Whisk the butter with sugar mixture for 30 seconds. Let stand 3 minutes.
7. Stir the flour mixture into the large bowl; mix until just combined. Fold in the chocolate chips and chocolate chunks.
8. Create balls of dough 3 Tbsp. in size. Place 6 cookie dough balls on each sheet, sprinkling with sea salt. Bake 12-14 minutes, rotating the sheet halfway through. Cool on sheets for 2-3 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

## Easy Pot Roast

- 1 2- to 3-lb. chuck roast
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Fresh ground pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup flour (divided use)
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2-3 large potatoes, chunked
- 3-4 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 2-oz. pkgs. onion soup mix
- 6 cups beef broth

1. Cut the roast into 2 pieces. Season liberally with salt and pepper on all sides. Coat with flour.
2. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the roast on all sides. Place in a Crock-Pot or Dutch oven.
3. Surround with the potatoes and carrots. Sprinkle the onion soup mix over the top. Add the beef broth until the meat and vegetables are just covered. Add the remainder of the flour; stir.
4. Cook on high for 6-8 hours or on low 8-10 hours in the Crock-Pot, or in the oven at 350 F for 3 hours or until the roast is tender.





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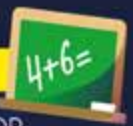
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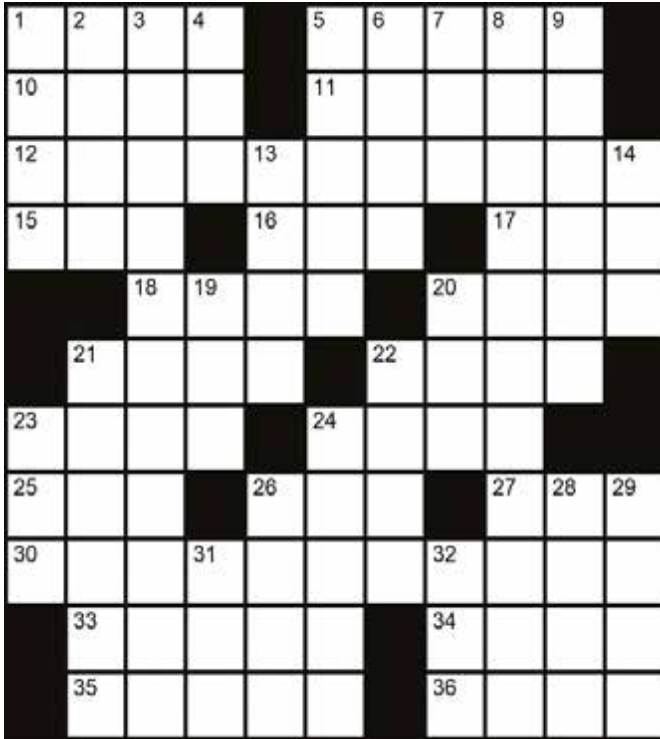


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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Wind-driven clouds
- 5 Facebook's home Park
- 10 Without accompaniment
- 11 Understand finer mess
- 12 Juice
- 15 A nickel short of a dollar
- 16 "I Guess -- Rather Be in Colorado" (John Denver)
- 17 It's about three-quarters of the Earth's surface
- 18 Had liabilities
- 20 Colorful-sounding name for a man?
- 21 Bud supporter
- 22 One-third of a 1970 Pearl Harbor movie

## Down

- 23 Exact double
- 24 Anger
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Easy-going airport?
- 27 "More info later"
- 30 Owned apartment
- 33 Sao --, Brazil
- 34 Jane Austen's meddling matchmaker
- 35 The Memorial -- Kettering Cancer Center
- 36 Citrus peel, particularly when grated
- 1 Citizen Kane's Rosebud, for example
- 2 Health menace E --
- 3 Stoic
- 4 John Lennon was murdered in this month
- 5 Stuck fast
- 6 Geraint's wife in "Idylls of the King" (Tennyson)
- 7 Packers' group
- 8 Duty-free hours?
- 9 Salsa brand
- 13 Not us
- 14 Mocking cry
- 19 Skin lump
- 20 Big bike
- 21 Pounces
- 22 Joni Mitchell's was big and yellow
- 23 Maintenance, perhaps
- 24 Manor reorganised a Spanish fellow
- 26 Barry Manilow's drunken showgirl
- 28 Mooches
- 29 "I -- a loss for words!"
- 31 Batman and Robin, for example
- 32 -- Percé (Northwest Native Americans)

Online versions and solutions available at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com). From our Homepage, click on the Features tab. Click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle to view solutions.

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# HAPPY Mother's Day

MAY

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.

5/3-5/26

## Scarborough

### Renaissance Festival:

Journey back to the court of King Henry VIII with food, jousting, dancing and more. Adults: \$38; kids 5-12: \$18; under 4: free. **Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day Monday:** 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie.

5/8

### Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps' ROSE Award Luncheon:

This fundraiser honors women who have made a difference in Ellis County. 11:30 a.m., 1888

N. 9th St. Purchase tickets at <https://elliscwjc.life/>.

5/10

### Eighth Street Dance:

Midlothian welcomes back Le Freak, "the greatest disco band in the world," for this free annual event. Bring chairs and blankets for lawn seating. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Downtown Midlothian.

5/14

### State of the County Luncheon:

Join the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce for the luncheon featuring Judge Todd Little

providing updates on the latest developments shaping Ellis County. Chamber members: \$25. Non-members: \$35. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr.

5/17

### Wildflower Walk:

One-half mile nature walk led by Texas Master Naturalists to learn about the wildflowers, native plants and animal life of the park. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. More information is available at [www.midlothian.tx.us/nature](http://www.midlothian.tx.us/nature).

5/31

### Kids Fishing Derby:

A fun, competitive event for kids ages 4 to 12 years old. Participants supply their own fishing gear and bait. Children should be accompanied by an adult, but volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and assist. Kids will compete by age divisions. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park Fishing Pond, 3601 S. 14th St.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [angel.morris@nowmagazines.com](mailto:angel.morris@nowmagazines.com).*

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