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M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2025

Doing Hard Things

Gretchen Gray
makes learning fun
at Wedgeworth

In Defense of the Frontier

Fort Martin Scott was on
the cutting edge

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt
Crossword

Featured Business:
Hometown Chiropractic
and Rehab

Best of In the Kitchen:
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ON THE COVER



Gretchen Gray loves her Wedgeworth fourth-graders.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Libraries are important ...

I still have my first library card from 1975. I walked with my mom and baby sister from our apartment to the Garland Public Library. I talked to the librarian and got my card — a small rectangle of hard white plastic with the big, blue Garland G on it. It has several rectangular holes in it. They had just gotten their first computer and named it Jeremiah Johnson. The holes were for the punch card reader.

When I was in second grade, the Hampton-Illinois branch of the Dallas library gave me access to the NASA report on the Voyager encounters with Jupiter. I read every book they had in the kids' section on UFOs, bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster and such, before moving into the adult section for more books on my favorite topics.

In college, I practically lived in the library. When I didn't have a research paper due, I was learning about something I just wanted to know about because it was cool. I ended up working in the university library as one of my work-study positions.

When I worked in downtown Dallas, I would walk to the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library and hang out after work. I wore out some microfilm readers researching my family history.

Nowadays, libraries are much more than the best selection of books anywhere in the city. The Sims Library has been serving the intellectual and entertainment needs of the people of Waxahachie for 120 years. It's one of the oldest in the state. It has book clubs and teen lairs and story times for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. It has yarn clubs, chess clubs and robotics clubs. It has a bookmobile and genealogy help and tax forms.

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Adam

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DOING **Hard Things**

— By Adam Walker



Gretchen Gray enjoys her job. And why wouldn't she? She gets to spend her days with enthusiastic learners. "I enjoy teaching fourth grade. It's a critical year, when students transition from learning how to read to learning from their reading. But whatever grade I'm teaching, my favorite thing is the relationships I build with students and their parents. I'm at what I call the 'teacher grandma stage' now. My very first class of first-graders are starting to get married and have families."

After 18 years in the classroom, Gretchen has taught different grades, including one year at a small school in California, when she taught first and second grades together. "The administrators decided that there weren't enough students enrolled for separate grades, so they came to me, 'Gretchen, could you ...?' I always say yes. I got the first- and second-graders to work together, and by the end of that year, the first-graders were working at a second or third grade level, and the second-graders were doing third or fourth grade work."

Fourth grade is the one she has taught most often, and the grade she currently teaches at Wedgeworth Elementary. "I've been teaching for Waxahachie ISD for nine years, eight of those in fourth grade. I teach language arts and history, and we get to dig deeper into the content in fourth grade. My favorite unit is on the American Revolution. Students don't know about how our country formed, and I get to teach them about it. Then they can draw parallels to the Texas Revolution and how that happened. And I dress up as Benjamin Franklin. Tying history into everyday life is important."





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Dressing up to get inside the lesson is something that happens a few times in fourth grade. When the students read *Treasure Island*, they get to dress up as pirates. “It’s super fun, and we learn idioms like *shiver me timbers* and *walk the plank*, and students get to understand where those idioms come from. When we have our poetry unit, we read Langston Hughes and Sherman Alexie. I’m from Washington, and he’s a Spokane Indian. He has a poem about playing basketball, and how he hates the game because you have to keep score.”

Gretchen is always on the lookout for teachable moments when the outside world hands her ways to re-enforce classroom learning. “One year, we had just finished our unit on weather, erosion and earthquakes. As part of that unit, we read the Hawaiian myth about Kilauea. That volcano started erupting, and I was able to put up video of the eruption. The students could watch the same volcano they had just learned about, in action.”

Any teacher knows that teaching can be fun and rewarding, but it isn’t always easy. “It’s always challenging to get students to make connections between what they learned in a previous grade and apply that to their new learning. Getting them to capitalize their sentences is a challenge. And teaching them to believe in themselves. I tell them from day one, ‘We’re going to do hard things in here, but I’m going to give you the tools to do that.’ It’s fun to watch them celebrate when they succeed.”

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culmination gets delicious. “They learn about how food can bring families together, and then they get to bring foods from their cultures to share with the class. They have a writing activity in each unit that lets them show their understanding through writing. We have what I call artifacts of learning all over the room. I don’t take stuff down at the end of a unit. I keep it up, so we can refer back to it when it comes up again. And I can point to the walls and tell them, ‘See how much you’ve already learned!’” There are vocabulary words on the cabinet doors, and posters with important parts of a poem, like stanzas and lines.

“The very most important thing is that students feel loved and safe. On the first day of school, often the students already know me, because third grade is on the same hall as fourth grade. So, I’m not a new face. They’ve seen me in the halls. But on the first day, I tell them that I will always listen to them, and their classmates will always listen and be kind. It’s important for students to feel safe to ask questions and share their learning. Instead of telling a student their answer is wrong, I like to ask, ‘Who can add to that?’ I have students, who I taught as second-graders, who now write me letters from boot camp. For years, I went back to California for high school graduations when my elementary classes were graduating.

“I’m from Washington, and lived in Oregon before I started teaching in California. I love WISD. I felt drawn to this community. Even though Waxahachie has grown so much, it’s still a small town. I see my students and their families in the stores. When parents see their kids’ teachers in public, it helps them realize that we’re partners with their families. I love living here and teaching here.” **NOW**

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—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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Zoomed In: By Adam Walker Dominica and Isabella Luna

Dominica and Isabella Luna were at EVO Entertainment on opening night. "We're here for *The Chosen: Last Supper Part 2*. We're big fans of the series," Dominica informed. "I've seen seasons one through four five times! Our entire Bible study group from The Avenue is here today." She and her daughter, Isabella, came early to procure tickets for the group.

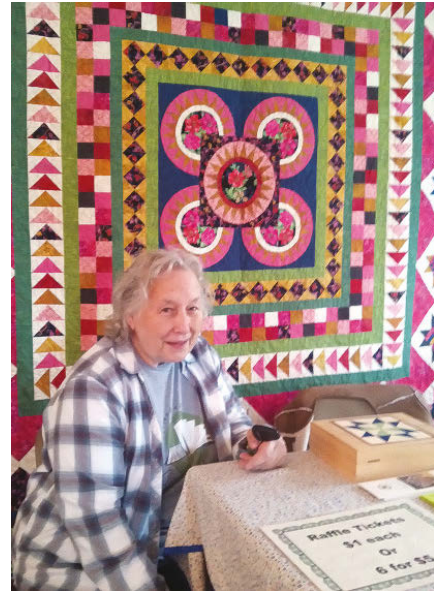
Isabella is also a fan. "I like Jesus, because he heals people." She's looking forward to the likely climax of season five, the death and resurrection.

Dominica has another favorite role in the series. "I like the character of Matthew. He's very particular. He's a very precise character. I find him really interesting."

Their group arrived, and Dominica and Isabelle started passing out tickets to their friends, excitedly anticipating the start of the show.



Grandmas Sharon Talton and Carolyn Campbell support Savannah Campbell and the Net Ninjas during YMCA volleyball season.



Pat Tidwell, who sewed the yellow band, poses with the Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County's raffle quilt.



North Texas Behavioral Health Authority helps Ellis County residents in mental health and addiction crisis.



Singer-songwriter Sarah Pierce hosts an open mic at White Rhino.



Dr. Leek introduces Jose Vasques, master of physical therapy and advisor to the Texas Rangers, as his new rehabilitation director at Eclipse Diagnostics.



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Dr. Natasha Maza brings over two decades of chiropractic experience to her practice at Hometown Chiropractic and Rehab. A 2004 graduate of Texas Chiropractic College in Houston, she began her career in Houston before relocating to Ellis County in 2006. Since 2012, she has proudly served the Waxahachie community.

“My journey into chiropractic began during my undergraduate studies,” she explained. “I had an uncle suffering from severe MS, and chiropractic care was the only thing that brought him relief. That experience opened my eyes to the many conditions chiropractic treatment can help alleviate, including fibromyalgia, arthritis, joint pain and common back and neck issues.”

Understanding the needs of her patients, Dr. Maza offers extended office hours — staying open until 7:00 p.m. — making it easier for those who commute from Dallas and all of Ellis County to schedule appointments. “Evenings are our busiest time,” she noted. “We’re open later than any other chiropractor in Waxahachie.”

Dr. Maza also specializes in treating accident injuries. “Even small collisions can cause long-lasting neck and back pain if left untreated. We have the experience to treat these injuries. We focus on identifying the root cause of your pain and developing a plan to improve your overall health and reduce the risk of future pain and injury. We accept most major insurance plans and Medicare.”

Beyond chiropractic care, Dr. Maza also offers physical therapy services and is launching a new allergy testing and treatment program. “Allergies are a major issue in this region, and I’m excited to offer this new service, which is covered by most insurance plans and Medicare,” she said.

“I REVIEW THE X-RAYS WITH EACH PATIENT, AND TAILOR THE TREATMENT BASED ON THEIR UNIQUE CONDITION.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Maza is opening Waxahachie’s first Pilates studio on the north side of town. “Pilates is a great complement to chiropractic care, by improving core strength, flexibility, posture and balance, as well as stress relief and enhanced body awareness.”

Her mission is simple: to help people live healthier, pain-free lives. “No, you don’t need to see a chiropractor forever, but I do recommend regular maintenance adjustments to keep your body functioning optimally.”

As a special offer, new patients who mention this article can receive their initial consultation, X-rays and first treatment for just \$27. Dr. Maza takes a thorough approach, requiring X-rays before beginning treatment (unless recent X-rays are provided) to ensure a safe and personalized care plan. “I review the X-rays with each patient, and tailor the treatment based on their unique condition,” she said. “I work with everyone — from newborns as young as 3 days old to seniors — always adjusting my methods to suit the individual.”

If you’re considering chiropractic care, Dr. Maza invites you to schedule a consultation. See how her personalized approach can help you feel your best. **NOW**



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NOW Magazines' Best of ...
Smoothies

Smoothies are a great way to start your day or cool off after a workout on a hot summer day. They are quick and easy to make and packed with good nutrition. Instead of reaching for an ice cream, why not try one of these cool treats? We have provided recipes from each of our nine magazines for you to sample. **NOW**

Rainbow Smoothie

Provided by Lovelea Lynch for the September 2016 issue of *SouthwestNOW Magazine*.

- 1/2 cup spinach
- 1 green apple, cored
- 5 raspberries
- 5 strawberries
- 1/4 cup oranges
- 1/2 cup canned pineapple
- 10 blueberries
- 5 cubes ice
- 3/4 cup apple juice
- 3/4 cup Greek yogurt

1. Wash and cut all fruit, including spinach; place in a blender.
2. Add ice cubes, juice and yogurt. Blend until smooth; serve.

Midday Smoothie Snack

Provided by Amy Wooten for the July 2022 issue of *BurlesonNOW Magazine*.

- 1 banana
- 1/4 cup ice
- 1 Tbsp. nut butter
- 1 scoop Just Ingredients protein powder
- 1/4 cup milk

1. Add all ingredients to a blender. Blend until smooth; serve.

Cherry Smoothie Breakfast

Provided by Paula Thedford for the January 2020 issue of *WaxahachieNOW Magazine*.

- 1 cup frozen cherries
- 1/3 cup light vanilla yogurt
- 1/4 cup tart cherry juice
- 1/8 cup artificial sweetener
- 1/2 cup raw oats

1. Blend all ingredients until smooth.

Peanut Butter Banana Cacao Smoothie

Provided by Amanda Grant for the November 2016 issue of *EnnisNOW Magazine*.

- 8-oz. raw whole milk
- 1 peeled, frozen banana, broken into pieces
- 1 heaping Tbsp. fresh ground, raw peanut butter (no sweetener added)
- 1 tsp. raw cacao powder or cocoa powder

1. Place all ingredients in a blender; blend well.
2. Serve immediately.

Fruit Smoothie

Provided by Melissa Rawlins for the October 2022 issue of *WeatherfordNOW Magazine*

- 1 cup fresh kale
- 1 banana
- 1 organic lemon, sliced into 1/4-inch chunks
- 1 avocado
- 1 organic apple, sliced into 1-inch chunks
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 cup pure water

1. Place all ingredients into a good blender, in the order given; cover tightly.
2. Press the chop button; process until the entire smoothie looks mixed.
3. Switch the speed to puree or liquefy; process for 30 seconds.
4. Pour into a large mug or travel cup; sip slowly until gone. Follow with another 16 oz. of pure water before eating other food.

Breakfast Smoothie

Provided by Lea Dominy for the April 2015 issue of *CorsicanaNOW Magazine*.

- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 scoop powder protein
- 1/4 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/4 cup fresh strawberries
- 1/4 cup fresh pineapple
- Handful of fresh spinach
- 8 oz. ice
- 8 oz. water

1. Combine all ingredients in a blender; mix well.

Organic Banana “Milkshake”

Provided by Athena Runyan for the August 2007 issue of MansfieldNOW Magazine.

- 1 whole frozen banana
- 2 Tbsp. organic almond butter
- 2 Tbsp. “yammit” (dried organic yams, which can be found at health food stores; or use organic corn flakes)
- 1 tsp. organic honey
- 1/2 cup organic soy milk
- 6 oz. crushed ice

1. Place all ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth. *Note: Makes 1 rich and creamy, but healthy, summertime snack.*

Power Smoothie

Provided by Stephanie Deese for the February 2019 issue of MidlothianNOW Magazine.

- 2 cups almond milk
- 2 Tbsp. peanut butter or almond butter
- 2 Tbsp. flax seed
- 1 scoop plant-based vanilla protein powder (I use Sprouts Pea Protein Powder Vanilla)
- Handful of fresh spinach

1. Blend until mixed, serve immediately.

Pineapple Green Smoothie

Provided by Bubba Walker for the July 2015 issue of North Ellis Co.NOW Magazine.

- 1/2 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 1/3 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1 cup baby spinach
- 1 cup frozen banana slices (about 1 medium banana)
- 1/2 cup frozen pineapple chunks
- 1 Tbsp. chia seeds
- 1-2 tsp. pure maple syrup or honey (optional)

- 1. Add almond milk and yogurt to a blender; add spinach, banana, pineapple, chia seeds and sweetener (if desired).
- 2. Blend until smooth. Enjoy!



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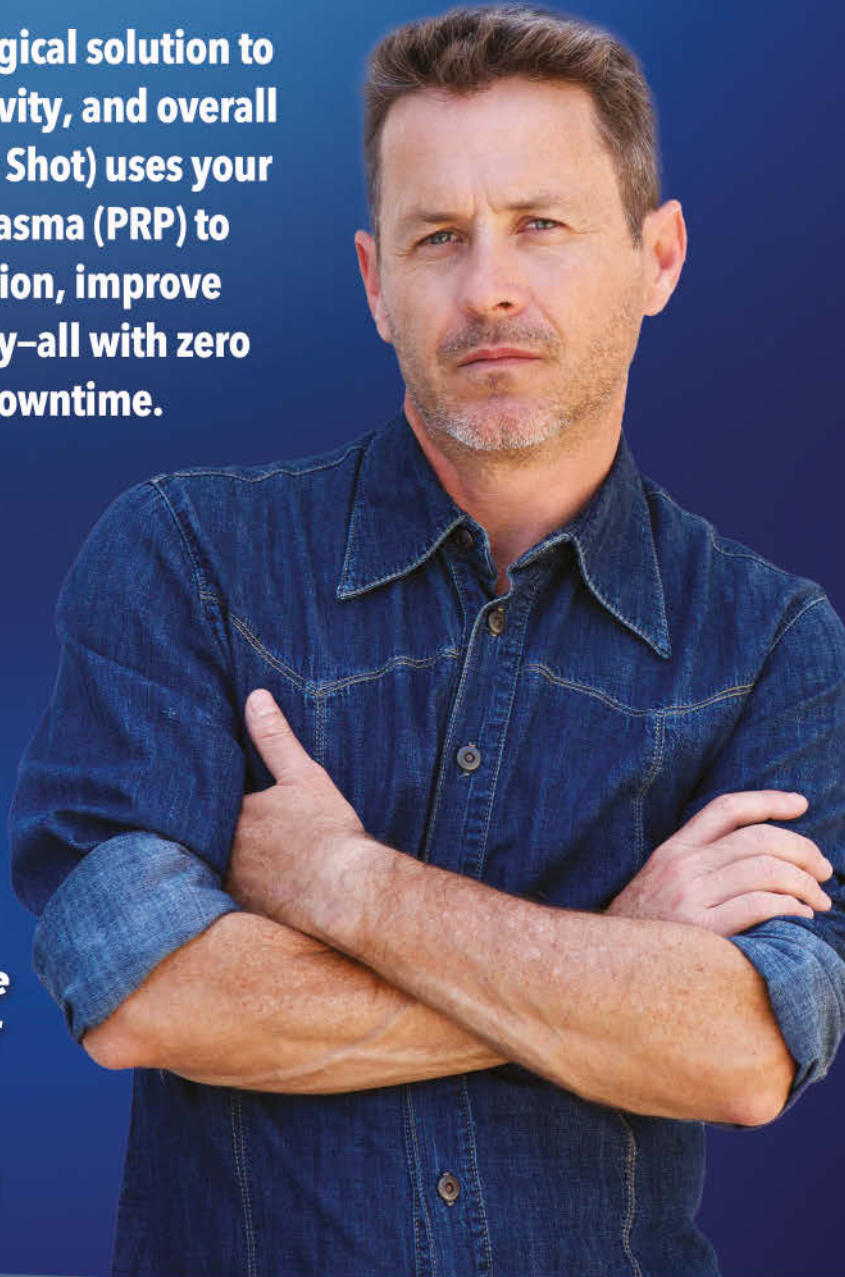
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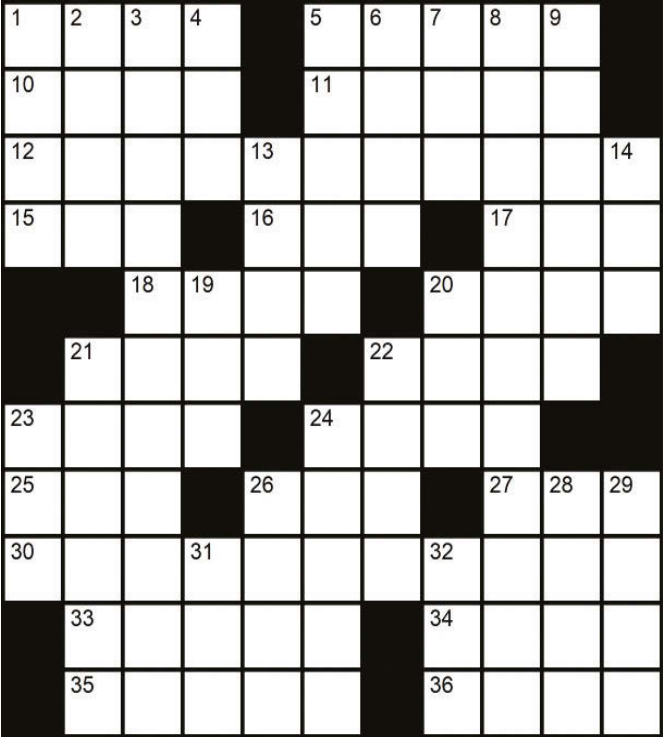


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Crossword Puzzle



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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. 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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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.

5/2-5/4

Something Rotten:

A play about a failing drama troupe. Seniors and students: \$15; adults: \$18. **Friday and Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Rd.

5/3

Cinco de Mayo Festival:

Live music, dancing, food and fun. Free. 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

5/3-5/26

Scarborough

Renaissance Festival:

Journey back to the court of King Henry VIII with food, jousting, dancing and more.

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5/8

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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 elliscwjc.life/.

5/17

AI Discussion:

Teens and adults, learn what AI is and how to use it ethically. Free. 2:30-4:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Texas Gypsies:

Enjoy a night of jazz, swing and big band at the Chautauqua. Adults: \$20; children: \$10. 7:30 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

5/18

King George's

Birthday Bash:

Celebrate George Strait's birthday with music, food and yeehaws. 1:00-4:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

5/19

What If Art Group:

They will be presenting to the Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County. 6:00-8:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave.

5/26

Memorial Day Dinner:

Everyone is welcome to join in honoring the fallen. Doors open: noon; dinner: 1:00 p.m., VFW Post 3894, 1405 N. I-35E.

5/30

Creature Teacher:

Join the ever-popular Creature Teacher to kick off the summer reading program. Free. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

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Woodcrafters Fencing is family-owned and operated and has been building quality fences for over 25 years. If you're searching for a fence contractor in Ellis County, TX or the surrounding area, contact the highly skilled team at Woodcrafters Fencing for an estimate!



Happy Mother's Day!

OUR SERVICES

WOOD FENCES

WROUGHT IRON
FENCING

FENCE STAINING

DECKS, PERGOLAS
& OUTDOOR LIVING

MOTHER'S
DAY
SPECIAL
\$150 OFF
170 LF or more

Testimonial

I recently had the pleasure of hiring Woodcrafters to replace my entire fence, and I couldn't be happier with the results. From even the first phone call talking to Glenn, the office manager, to get quotes, their customer service was exceptional. The owner, David, was even personally involved in building the fence, which demonstrated their commitment to quality. Special shoutout to Ryan, Gary, and the entire team for their professionalism and attention to detail. I highly recommend WoodCrafters for anyone in need of fencing services. It's is ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL!

★★★★★
AFI WILKINS



Hours: Mon-Fri: 7AM-6PM
Saturday: 8AM-2PM
Sunday: Closed



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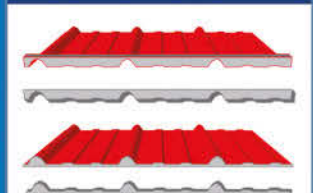


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