

# MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2019

## State of the Heart

At Home With Jason  
and Kari May

Also inside:

Kids' Fun Pages

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
RiverMist Pools and Spas

## K9 Cop

Wes Keeling trains  
rescue dogs for  
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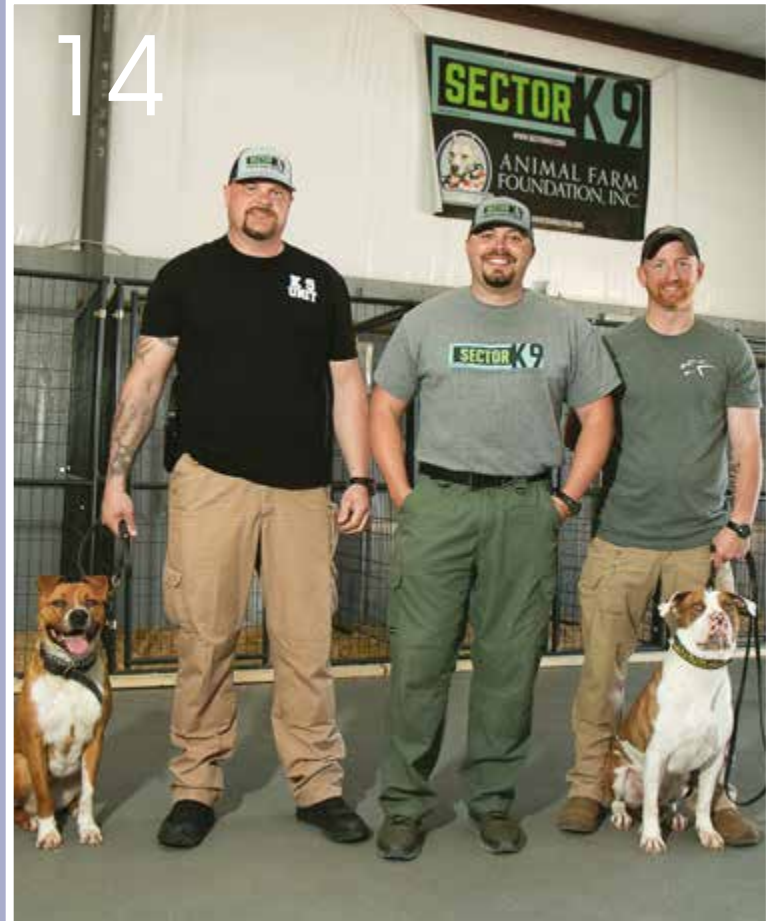


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## ON THE COVER

*Jason and Kari May bring the best of their hometowns to Midlothian.*

**Photo by**  
Bill Smith.

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*Angel*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Cheers, June!*

Join me, if you will, in a glass of iced sweet tea as I reflect on the memories this month brings. Ah, the simple summer days of youth: darting through lawn sprinklers and diving into pools; chasing fireflies with mason jars at dusk; recovering from sunburns under cool, crisp sheets at bedtime; entire days filled with nothing but serious playfulness, jumping from adventure to adventure, limited only by the games you could create in your mind. When you're a child, is there any better month than June?

Thank goodness we didn't realize then that summer break was but a fleeting part of childhood — that growing up would mean giving up three months of free time. Even the kids who someday become teachers spend much of the "break" in preparation for the next year. Only in childhood is June completely our time.

Fast forward to today, when this is just another month. Perhaps we get a few days off from work, perhaps not. It's hot. We're tired, and there's the added business of keeping the children busy if we have them. Maybe the memory of childhood in June makes the month a little tougher. Or maybe it helps us better appreciate that time — when waking up to spend another summer day exactly the same way as the day before was a happy thought. Perhaps, it can remind us that the chance to walk barefoot through pleasantly cool grass isn't limited to children.

Here's to you, June!



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AT HOME WITH JASON AND KARI MAY

# STATE *of the* HEART

— By Angel Morris





*When you combine the best of Oklahoma and the best of Texas, the result is the May family. Jason, originally from Duncanville, Texas, and Kari, with deep roots in Stillwater, Oklahoma, have lived together in both states, but have called Midlothian home for more than 15 years. "Midlothian reminds me of Stillwater. It's the same type of people I grew up with," Kari reminisced.*

Kari wasn't always as enthusiastic about the Lone Star State. A 1989 graduate of Stillwater High School, she continued her family's tradition of attending Oklahoma State University, then began an internship in Oklahoma City. Jason graduated from Duncanville High School in 1987, eventually following his calling into youth ministry in Duncan, Oklahoma. "I met Kari's aunt through the church, and she set us up on a blind date," Jason reflected.

Kari admitted feeling that Jason was "the one" after that date, while Jason took some convincing. "It took him about a year. Once he decided, he was all in," Kari recalled.

Engaged in February 1995, the couple married five months later, with Kari's grandfather officiating. The newlyweds made their home in Oklahoma for four years, until an opportunity to work with Young Life presented itself in Texas. "We came here, built a house in Longbranch and attended Midlothian Bible Church," Jason explained, but the couple wound up back in Oklahoma when the Young Life program was discontinued in the city. "Kari wasn't disappointed about the move back," Jason remembered.

Fate was determined to make a Texas fan out of Kari, however, and MBC would bring the family back not long after they left. "They were looking for a middle school pastor, so in 2004, we built our second house in Longbranch," Jason said.



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By this time, the Mays had two of their three sons, Nathan (now 20) and Noah (now 16). Nicholas (13) joined the family in 2006, and grew up in MBC, where Jason served for 12 years. During that time, the Mays built their third and current home, again in The Meadows at Longbranch neighborhood. "We considered looking elsewhere, but Noah's best friend's family was looking here, and we wanted to be neighbors," Jason said.

With three growing sons, the Mays designed a five-bedroom, 3,200-square-foot home to accommodate their needs only a few houses away from their family friends. The two-story home allowed for one bedroom and a large game space and living area upstairs, with the remaining living space on the first floor.

With Nathan away at college, his room now serves double duty as Jason's office. What is technically a formal dining space is put to better use for Kari. "It's my office, but, more importantly, it's costume storage," she said.

As owner of On The Move Dance, Kari houses outfits that are used during seasonal performances. "It's another reason we needed a bigger house," she admitted, noting they can now close the office doors and not have boxes taking over the house.

When a popular local dance studio closed its doors 11 years ago, Kari said opening her studio "was a God thing." The Mays are no strangers to God things, branching out in spring of 2017 to found Rock City Fellowship church, where Jason serves as lead pastor.

Initially gathering in Bella Woods Event Center, the church now meets at Longbranch Elementary. "We really want to be in the community more so than in a building," Jason explained. "We're



about relationships. That's why I actually office out of Smoothie Plus and Jack in the Box."

Jason's sense of humor is second only to Kari's, and he admits that shared laughter is what makes their marriage work. "She is so funny, and she will say what everyone else in a room is thinking. She finds the line, and she crosses it," Jason described. "She's my best friend, and we love hanging out."

Describing their home's style as "lived in," the couple makes every dollar count. Jason credits Kari's thriftiness with helping them overcome financial struggles life in the ministry can bring. Kari says having parents and grandparents who were farmers taught her the value of hard-earned money. "We have 12 years of college to pay for ahead of us, so being frugal is still the goal," she said.

With two sons in sports and one a musician, Jason and Kari make extra effort to balance work and family time. They love to travel and take a family vacation every year. "We watch OSU sports together, and we really enjoy traveling," Kari said. "Even though I work evenings, I try to be intentional about keeping one night a week sacred. We also take a couple's vacation every year."

The Mays also say building a swimming pool was one of their best family decisions. "Our backyard was worthless without it," Jason explained.

Other items of note in the May home include Kari's grandmother's piano and her framed lineage showing her relationship to Johann Sebastian Bach. Jason appreciates a replica cast of a footprint speculated to have been left by Big Foot in Midlothian. "He's sort of a conspiracy theorist," Kari laughed.

Jason also favors a stool from his time at Midlothian Bible Church. "I kept it as a reminder of all the great godly men who had preached from it for 35 years," he reflected.

Reflecting on the future, the Mays agree family will remain key. "We like our kids, and we think they like us. Raising good kids who love God is probably our biggest accomplishment," Kari mused.

Jason added, "Other than that, we just want to have an impact with people for the season God has given us in Midlothian." **NOW**

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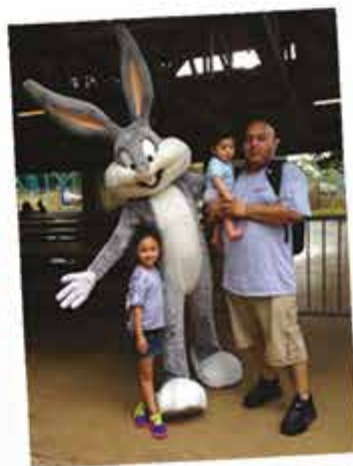
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# K9 COP

— By Angel Morris





*Wes Keeling knows dogs can be man's best friend, but even more so with the right training. That's why he is dedicated to teaching both dogs and their handlers, combining effective communication between pets and their owners with his life's work right here in Midlothian. With that in mind, Wes developed his dream career last year.*

With an interest in serving people in need, Wes became a police officer 14 years ago. Since then, he has served in various divisions including patrol, narcotics and SWAT. The idea to partner his own police experience with pet training resulted in his creation of Sector K9, which trains not only police detection dogs, but also everyday pets. "We received a grant that lets us train dogs to serve in K9 units along with their human police partners," Wes explained. "Because of this grant, we can donate the trained dogs to police departments across the country."

The grant came from Animal Farm Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides resources to welfare workers, such as Wes, who are "pioneering programs to train and provide K9 detection and service dogs," according to its representatives. "The mission is not only saving shelter dogs but making police K9s available to departments who might not be able to afford the going rate of a K9 or a department starting a new K9 Unit from the ground up," Wes explained.

**Wes leads K9 trainees and their handlers through a program, simulating experiences an officer encounters in the field.**



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The first step to finding service animals is observing shelter dogs, who are handpicked by Wes for training. Once selected, the dogs learn to detect guns and drugs. “K9s go on to work in communities and schools to keep guns and drugs off the street,” he noted.

This saves taxpayers about \$20,000 per service dog, AFF estimates, and allows police departments to connect with the community on a different level. “There’s no better public relations tool for a police department than a police K9,” Wes explained. “We offer the training as a donation to any qualified police department. That means 100-percent free!”

A bonus is that the program saves some animals from long-term shelter stays or potential euthanasia, according to AFF, which advocates against negative breed-specific stereotypes. “The dogs we get are shelter dogs, and as we all know, the most misunderstood is the Pit Bull breed. Most of the dogs in the donation program are Pit Bull or Pit Bull mixes,” Wes said. “The dogs are vetted to the extreme for aggression and other character flaws. Not all dogs are accepted into this program, which makes it one of a kind.”

Wes leads K9 trainees and their handlers through a program, simulating experiences an officer encounters in the field. Depending on a dog’s disposition, it may be better suited to track weapons or drugs, and each animal is trained accordingly. “I attest, as a professional police K9 trainer, that any dog with the right natural drives can be trained to detect odors. We train them to sniff



out narcotics and weapons both in buildings, vehicles and many other places," Wes described. "This process takes approximately six to eight weeks and sometimes longer. It all depends on the dog."

Wes not only focuses on preparing the dog, but also the training of the handler in a two-week program. Additionally, he trains personal protection dogs on a case-by-case basis and will even work with family pets on obedience training. Ultimately, however, his primary mission is preparing K9s for service with his fellow officers. "The dog and handler need proper training to become successful on the streets. We use reality-based training for the team, and we challenge them in multiple different scenarios," Wes explained. "It's important for these duos to be prepared to successfully work together within their own communities."



Wes and Sector9 have the potential to put Midlothian in the national spotlight. "We have people coming in for training from literally all over the country for an update on their detection dogs that were shelter dogs," Wes detailed. "Our trainers come from North to South Texas and are certified instructors with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, with years of experience training both dogs and officers."

In the end, Sector9-selected dogs benefit from their newfound homes within police departments, and Wes fulfills his mission on a new level. "They help officers to serve and assist in ways we otherwise might not be able," he said. "Everyone can benefit from having a four-legged police officer on the street." **NOW**

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BusinessNOW

## RiverMist Pools

— By Angel Morris

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Pool construction is a long-term financial decision, including ongoing maintenance. "We're committed to minimizing those recurring costs by implementing latest technology and sanitation techniques," Jeremy noted.

Being members of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals and attending annual conferences and continuing education classes keep RiverMist atop industry advancements. RiverMist has earned multiple regional and national APSP awards.



Two examples of RiverMist's best practices are: Complete Energy Efficiency Package and Advanced Oxidation Process. "These save \$50-\$80 per month in energy and chemical costs," Jeremy indicated. "Think how many years you own a pool, and consider the value of saving that monthly. Plus, it reduces time you'll spend servicing your pool instead of just enjoying it!"

RiverMist's Complete Energy Efficient Package allows pools to operate 24 hours per day at reduced costs compared to standard pools' six-eight hours daily. The old design used larger pumps to achieve turnover rate and minimize pump run time. Modern philosophy uses equipment and plumbing, so pumps run longer at low RPMs.

"Water that's sanitizing 24 hours maintains consistent chemistry. Our techniques achieve maximum benefit from variable speed pumps," Bill informed. "It'll probably be a while before competitors catch up to RiverMist's energy-efficiency standards."



According to Bill, days of salt pools are almost gone, and AOP's science lessens high-chlorine concerns. "AOP delivers the healthiest water and least amount of chemical additive. AOP's benefits exceed chlorine, salt or mineral sanitizer and can replace or upgrade existing systems."

According to Bill, RiverMist has become a leader in Ellis County. "It's good to know my company's driving the local pool industry to better products. You won't find another pool builder, within all of DFW, that implements more technology and excellence than RiverMist," he said.

Bill has a two-point operating strategy: Treat customers as he expects to be treated, and operate with integrity by doing exactly what they say they'll do. Bill promises, "We don't compromise proven construction methods just to offer cheaper prices."

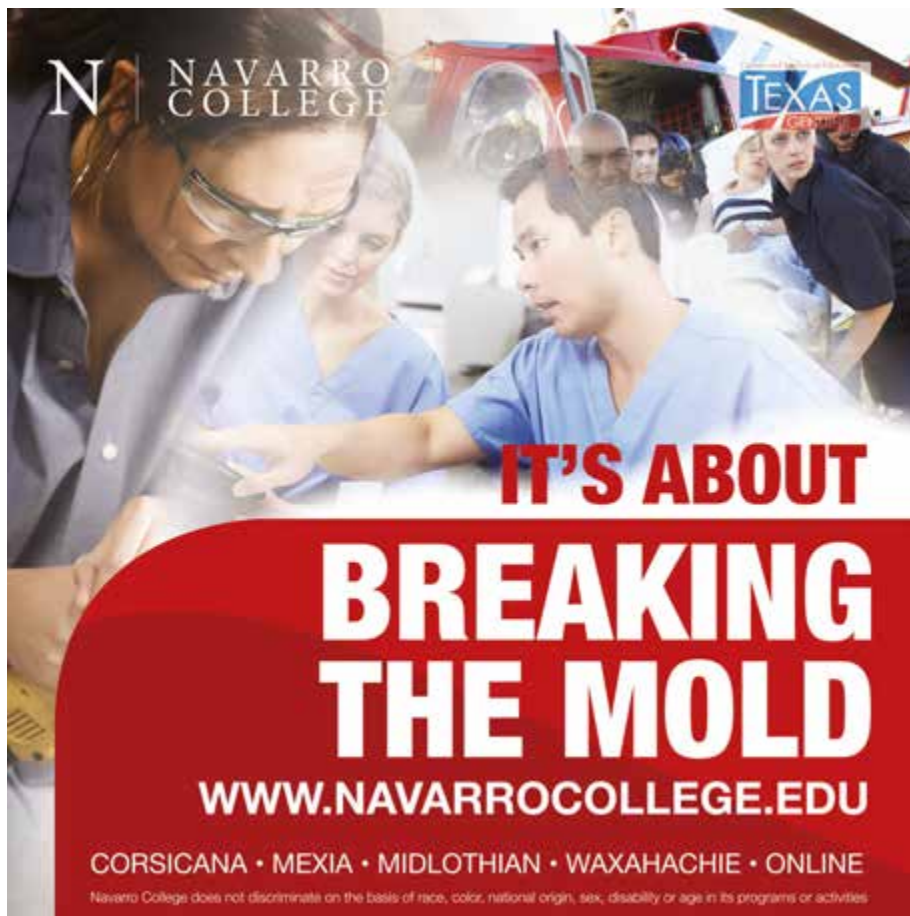
RiverMist maintains a staffed showroom in Midlothian Plaza, where Bill and Jeremy oversee daily construction and team members assist with design and customer support. Lead designer, Tim Taborsky, has extensive background in the outdoor living industry. With a keen ability to create purposeful design, Tim's skill and non-pressure approach is appreciated by clients.

Jeremy's wife, Christy, is office manager, and if warranty issues arise, she assists customers to resolution. "It's easy for companies to talk about warranty during the sales' process, but RiverMist backs its warranty claims with a paid staff position solely for that purpose," Jeremy noted.

The company's most recent addition as designer and sales representative is Jeremy's son, Landon. That makes three generations dedicated to helping customers.

In addition to pools, RiverMist designs and constructs spas, cabanas, outdoor kitchens and fire features. RiverMist's remodel segment is growing, with Bill revered in the area for his remodel expertise.

RiverMist now builds about 100 pools yearly. "We believe we're best in construction methods, technology, customer service and guaranteed cost," Jeremy outlined. "Once we contract a pool, our cost won't escalate unless there's customer-initiated change in scope of work. For anyone considering a new pool or remodel, contact RiverMist Pools, and allow us to *Prove The Difference.*" **NOW**



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## Zoomed In: Rachel Dixon

By Angel Morris

Rachel Dixon and Bubba Williams recently portrayed Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion at a Wizard of Oz party hosted by a local nonprofit group. The organization, For Maddie's Sake, Inc., coordinated the dance to promote inclusion of people of all abilities. The group was formed in 2010 to honor Rachel's niece, bringing together children with and without disabilities to encourage social acceptance.

Along with two free dances per year, For Maddie's Sake participates in March for Respect, microcephaly awareness programs, scholarships and providing resources for special needs families. Rachel said the dances are fun for everyone, and include deejay music, games and snacks. "Maddie's first dance is when I knew she was just like me," Rachel said. "She loves to socialize and dance!"



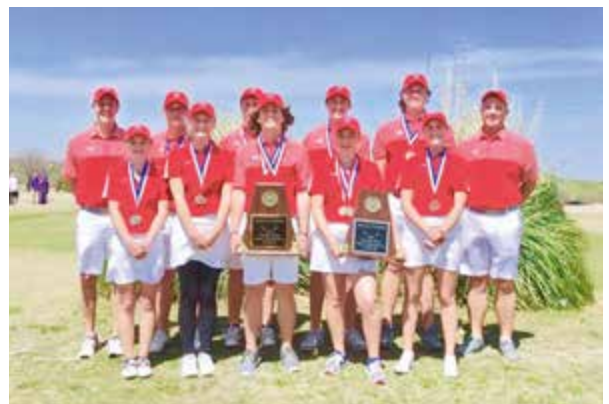
Dee Jones retires after 22 years of working with Dr. Davis Morgan.



Captain America teaches Christopher how to use his shield.



Parents enjoy the MHS Senior Breakfast.



Heritage High School's Boys and Girls Golf teams win a fourth straight district championship.





Dustin Slayton styles Michael Brackney's hair inside Lucky's mobile barber shop.



Kayla Franke and her son, Chris Franke, showcase products from their local ranch.



MHS Mentors Care Coordinator Sarah Martin and volunteer Jeanne Odle celebrate a successful year.

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**Ramon Olivero**  
Quality Manager (Right)

**Michel Moser**  
Plant Manager (Left)



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- Virginia Woolf



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Wintress Minter remembers watching her mom cook, and then cooking for her siblings when she became old enough. Today, Wintress tries recipes, then adds or omits ingredients to vary flavor or cut prep time. “My passion is cooking for anyone who’s hungry and in need of a little love,” she noted. “I get ideas from restaurants, cooking shows, even Pinterest.”

When not working at Morgan Orthodontics in Waxahachie, Wintress enjoys traveling with her husband, Rusty, and time with their blended family. Every fall, the couple operates a charitable haunted house called Creekside Manor, with a portion of proceeds going to a nominated individual or organization. “We have four beautiful, talented girls and two fun-loving, handsome sons,” Wintress beamed. “We enjoy giving back to the community that served our family!” **NOW**

## Confetti Pasta Salad

1/2 cup mayonnaise  
2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard  
2 Tbsp. sugar  
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar  
1 lb. boiled spiral pasta, cooked  
1 cup frozen peas  
1/2 cup red onion  
1/2 cup black olives, sliced  
3 celery stalks, chopped  
6 oz. cubed cheddar  
6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled

1/2 cup red bell pepper  
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Whisk mayonnaise, mustard, sugar and apple cider vinegar together for the dressing; set aside.  
2. Combine pasta with remaining ingredients; top with the dressing. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

## Spinach Artichoke Dip

1 14-oz. can artichoke hearts

1 pkg. frozen spinach, thawed  
6 garlic cloves, chopped  
1 block cream cheese  
1 cup mayonnaise  
2 cups mozzarella cheese  
2 cups Parmesan cheese  
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Mix all ingredients; bake at 350 F for 40 minutes. Serve with crackers or crostini.

## Man Dip

1 lb. bratwurst sausage  
(remove from casing)  
2 tsp. butter  
1/4 cup flour  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1 cup Shiner Bock beer  
1 pkg. McCormick Pork Gravy Mix  
1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded  
1 1/2 cups pepper jack cheese, shredded  
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F  
2. In a skillet, brown sausage. Drain fat; set aside.



3. Melt butter in a pan; add flour. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Whisk in milk, beer and gravy mix until smooth. Reduce heat; continue to stir until sauce is thick.
4. Stir in both kinds of cheese. Once cheese is melted, pour into a pie plate; top with sausage. Season with salt and pepper. Bake for 15 minutes. Best served with pretzels or chips.

## Chicken in Cajun Cream Sauce

- 4 chicken breasts
- 4 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream

1. Coat chicken breasts with Cajun seasoning on both sides. Sauté chicken in a pan with olive oil. Cook chicken breasts on each side for 7 minutes until firm; remove from pan.
2. Add onions and bell pepper; cook for 5 minutes. Add garlic, butter and flour to form a paste. Cook for 2 minutes. While whisking, add chicken broth and heavy cream, simmer while continuing to stir.
3. Once sauce is thickened, place chicken back into pan. Turn heat off and cover; let stand 5 minutes before serving. Good with rice, pasta or potatoes.

## Shaved Chicken Salad

- 1 lb. roasted deli chicken
- 2 tsp. chives
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 2 cups almonds, sliced
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Mix all ingredients together. Serve with croissant crackers or on top of a bed of greens.

## Cheese-stuffed Chipotle Meatloaf

Meatloaf:

- 2 lbs. ground chuck
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar

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Shaved Chicken Salad

**1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**  
**1 shallot, finely chopped**  
**1/2 cup ketchup**  
**1/2 cup chipotle sauce**  
**1/4 cup breadcrumbs**  
**Salt and pepper, to taste**  
**2 cups Monterey Jack cheese, shredded**

*Meatloaf Sauce:*

**2 cups ketchup**  
**1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**  
**1 Tbsp. brown sugar**  
**1 tsp. garlic powder**  
**1/2 cup water**

**1. For meatloaf:** Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix

all ingredients in a bowl, except for the cheese.  
**2.** Place half of the mixture into a meatloaf pan, making a well down the center.  
**3.** Place cheese in the well. Top with the other half of the meat mixture.  
**4.** Cook for 1 1/2 hours, spooning top with sauce as directed in step 5.

**5. For sauce:** Mix all ingredients together; spoon over meatloaf every 30 minutes during cooking process. This will form a glaze over top of meatloaf.

### Rosemary Potato Soup

**1 14-oz. pkg. Hillshire Farm smoked sausage, sliced**  
**1 large onion, chopped**  
**1 tsp. dried rosemary**  
**6 russet potatoes, peeled and cubed**  
**4 cups chicken broth**  
**1 stick butter**  
**1 cup heavy cream**

**1 tsp. salt**  
**1 tsp. pepper**  
**Cheese, shredded, to taste**  
**Chives, to taste**

**1.** Sauté sausage in a pot with onion and rosemary. Cook until onions are translucent and sausage is brown.  
**2.** Add potatoes to the pot; cover with chicken broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.  
**3.** Uncover; add butter, cream, salt and pepper. Simmer 5 more minutes, making sure potatoes are soft. Top soup with shredded cheese and chives.

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## Employee SPOTLIGHT

### Jennifer Maggard

Escrow Officer

A native of Grand Prairie, TX, Maggard entered the title industry in 1999. She started as a receptionist and quickly advanced to Escrow Assistant. Jennifer has been a resident of Mansfield since 2000 and a licensed Escrow Officer for nearly 20 years. She handles a variety of escrow transactions and takes pride in helping her clients navigate the closing process. In her free time, Jennifer and her husband, Heath, enjoy spending time with their children – Taylor, Hayley and Camden – and three Pomeranian pups. Jennifer also loves to travel any chance she can get. A die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan, she especially enjoys attending sporting events and concerts.

**Jennifer Maggard**  
Branch Lead/  
Escrow Officer

**Vanessa Briggs**  
Escrow Officer

**Amanda Warren**  
Escrow Officer

**Brittanie Cox**  
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**Robyn Barrere**  
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Marrakesh is one of the largest cities in Morocco and a common first stop, immersing visitors in local culture and cuisine. In this must-see mecca of beauty, orange trees decorate every corner of the city, while palm trees and cacti seem to reach the sky.

Visit the La Mamounia historic hotel to enjoy 200-year-old gardens and a place Winston Churchill called “the most beautiful spot in the world.” Balconies overlook the terra-cotta buildings of the desert-like city, while the snowcapped peaks of the Atlas Mountains create harmonious views. In the busy streets, motorcycles and people commuting by donkey give the city a primitive feel.

# EXOTIC PARADISE





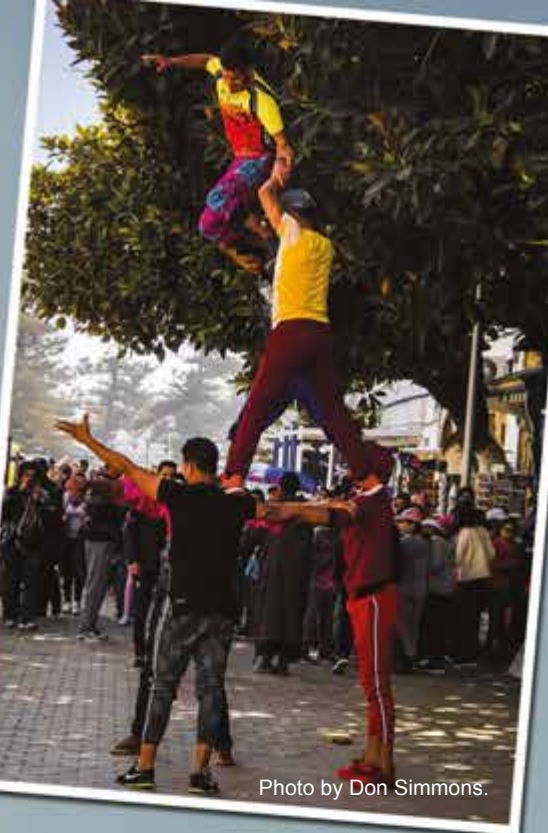


Photo by Don Simmons.

# SE

— By Joy Horn



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Freshly squeezed orange juice and mint tea are staples of Moroccan culture everyone must try. Visit nearby eateries to enjoy traditional dishes, such as tagine: a slow-cooked stew often prepared and served in a distinctive cone-shaped pot. The dish comes in many varieties including vegetables, lamb, chicken and fruit.

Other Moroccan delicacies include couscous, shish kabobs and roasted lamb. Exotic spices, such as cumin, saffron, turmeric, cinnamon and ginger, are used to enhance the flavor of fresh food and are sold at the market in heaping mounds of colorful displays. Sign up for a cooking class to learn the art of Moroccan cuisine.

Once the sun sets in Marrakesh, wander into the world-famous market called the Jemaa el-Fnaa, located in the old city, or medina, to experience live entertainment, such as dancing, snake charmers and magicians. Even with all the excitement, alcohol is never seen and not an element of the culture, although some restaurants serve alcoholic beverages.

Nearby, markets, or "souks," beckon shoppers or curious onlookers into a world of color, aroma and diversity. Treasures, such as leather bags, Moroccan-style rugs and brass hanging lamps, are among the loot that can be bought at a bargain.

One thing you must know when traveling to this area is how to barter. Additionally, though the official languages of Morocco are Berber and Arabic, almost everywhere you go people speak some English or Spanish making communication possible.

Photo by Don Simmons.







Photo by Don Simmons.

Venture out of the city for a change of scenery and trip to the mountains. For about \$130 plus tip, hire a driver to take you through beautiful farmland flourishing with orange trees and olive groves. Along the way, visit the Atlas Studios to see the world's largest film studio, home of shows such as *Ben Hur*, *The Mummy* and *Game of Thrones*.

Another attraction worth seeing is Ait Benhaddou, also known as "The Mud City," located in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. The buildings, made from clay brick, date to more than 1,000 years old. Throughout the countryside, you can also find Argan farms where the popular oil is harvested by goats who climb the trees.

If beach life is your vibe, there is plenty of coast to choose from, where life slows down compared to the frantic streets of Marrakesh. Stop into Essaouira, and go for a camel ride on the beach, or visit a local market to feast on freshly caught fish.

Seaport fisherman sell their catch for the day and throw carcasses to the birds while outdoor restaurants allow you to pick your own fish before cooking it to perfection. Visit the farmer's market to see tables piled with strawberries, oranges with the stem and leaves attached and blueberries arranged in huge mounds free from plastic containers.

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# Fruited CREATIVITY

— By Lisa Bell

*Jams, jellies and preserves have been around for centuries. These sweet concoctions provided a perfect way of preserving fruit. By preparing and keeping the fruits in jars, fruits lasted when normal seasons ended. Today, we can buy them already prepared, but it is also easy to create your own combinations of fruits, controlling the ingredients. Whether you create them for your family or to give as gifts, making your own jelly, jam or preserves may become one of your favorite hobbies.*

## **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

Before you start making this sweet treat, know which variety you want to produce. While all types are made from fruit, you decide on the final output. Jelly, made from only the juice and sugar, should be clear and firm. Jam typically comes from crushed or finely cut fruit. Jam spreads easily and holds its shape but is less firm than jelly. Preserves, similar to jam, incorporates whole or larger pieces of fruit. Often jams and preserves are more economical to make.







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## Start by choosing the right fruit.

Purchasing bulk fruit or gathering it from your yard is one of the best ways to begin. However, be sure the fruit is ripe or slightly under ripe. Overripe fruit may need additional acid to gel properly. Lemon juice makes a good addition to help with this process.

Fruits low in pectin, such as cherries, grapes and strawberries, may require additional ingredients to form the right consistency for jelly. These lower-pectin fruits can work well if mixed with higher-pectin fruits. Prepare the fruit by washing and cutting away stems or cores and peeling those requiring it.

## Select the best recipes.

Do you have a time-tested family recipe or one a friend gave you? Those are always great. The Internet also has many sites with recipes. Some even use juice or natural sweeteners instead of sugar, important for people on restricted diets or those watching calories.

The beauty in creating your own jelly, jam or preserves means you get to choose every ingredient. Once you learn a recipe, then you can try new flavor combinations and other adjustments to get truly creative with your homemade spread.

## Gather and inspect supplies for finishing the process.

Making sure you have all the correct equipment and ingredients prevents headaches and frustration. Some concoctions don't require a hot pack, but if they do, you need a water-bath

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You can reuse jars and rings, but always purchase new seals. The jars must be free from nicks, cracks and chips. Using a compromised jar not only makes a mess, but it can also cause serious burns. Because you are cooking the contents, preheating the jars is also critical to avoid breakage. Never use a jar that is larger than specified in the recipe. Use smaller jars, whether plain or decorative.

## Follow these tips for a better experience.

Make jams and preserves in small batches. The fruit cooks quickly, and you maintain the color and flavor. Generally use 3/4 cup of sugar for every cup of fruit. Four cups of fruit makes a manageable batch. However, refer to your recipe for the correct amounts, especially when using lower sugar. Cook slowly and stir often to avoid scorching. If your recipe requires added pectin, be sure to have a fresh package on hand.

Making your own jelly, jam or preserves is a wonderful way to enjoy fruit in and out of season. You can enjoy flavor options unavailable in prepackaged varieties, and use only preservatives you desire. When done correctly, you can store your creations for up to 18 months and wow your friends and family. Above all, have fun in the process. **NOW**

### Sources:

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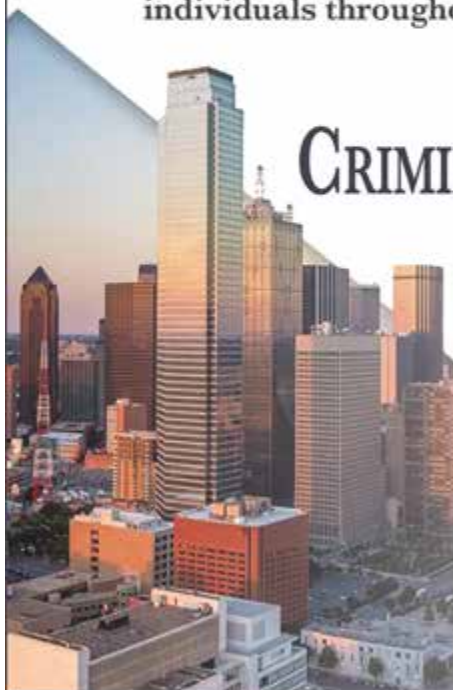
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# A DOG LIKE TEXAS

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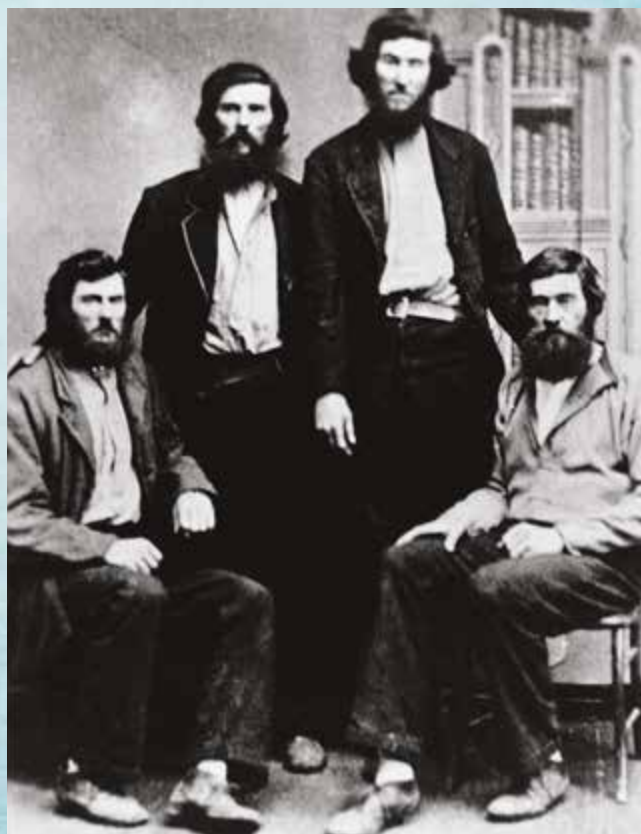
— By Adam Walker

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*If you grew up in Texas, you probably learned about many of our state symbols in school: the bluebonnet, the mockingbird, the pecan tree, the nine-banded armadillo, a bowl of chili. But you may not know much about one of the newest official state symbols, our state dog, the Blue Lacy.*

While the Blue Lacy was only recognized as the official state dog in June 2005, when Governor Rick Perry signed a bill establishing the title, this dog has deep roots in the history of our great state. Back in 1858, when Texas had been a state less than 13 years, the four Lacy brothers, George, Ewin, Frank and Harry, moved to the Marble Falls area of Texas from Kentucky. They were a family who bread cattle, hogs and chickens, and they kept dogs to work their stock. They are known to have owned Greyhounds and various scent hounds. Today's Blue Lacy is descended from these dogs — and something else.

Marlo Ondrej, a great-great-granddaughter of Frank Lacy, has researched the history extensively. "The Lacy





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brothers were big in government circles. They donated much of the pink granite for the capitol building," she said. "They also collected data on coyotes for the state and sometimes held them in pens on their land. At that time, there were still Indians living in the area, and they kept coydogs. Some people think the other element in the Blue Lacy is wolf. I'm pretty sure it's coyote, but officially it's listed as pariah dog."

For a long time, the breed was mostly known in the Marble Falls area, where they were just called Lacy dogs. As cattle ranching faded into history, the breed was nearly lost, but now they are going strong with breeding populations in other states and even internationally, though the majority still call Texas home. The Blue Lacy is a recognized breed in the *Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World*, and various kennel associations. It is the only breed created in Texas. They're big, intelligent, short-haired dogs, with lots of energy. And all of them, whether blue, red or tri-colored, carry the gene for blue fur, thus the addition of the word *blue* in the modern name of the breed.

They're all-around working dogs, used for droving, herding and for hunting. Blue Lacys, unlike many other herding dogs, are headers, not heelers. They control the cattle from the front, rather than from the back. According to Marlo, that means that they don't keep aggravating the cattle once the cattle are doing what they want them to do. This means they don't cause the cattle as much stress as some breeds of heelers do. Blue Lacys also make great hunting

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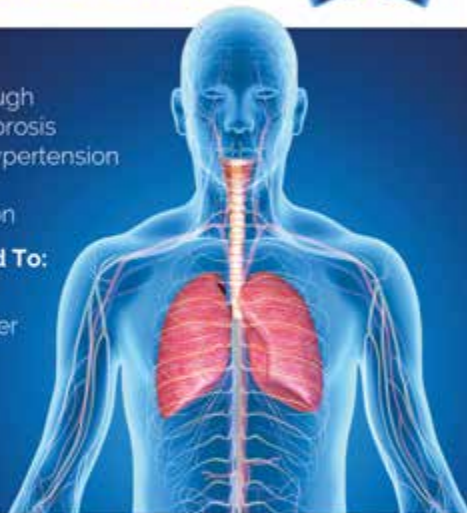


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dogs, who are willing and able to take on game as large as the wild boars that are such a problem in some parts of Texas today. But they are also smart enough to hunt wily raccoons and just about anything else.

Blue Lacys are very much a working breed, so they will find a way to occupy their time. If kept as a pet, they need big yards and owners with active lifestyles who enjoy taking their dogs for runs and playing lots of fetch or frisbee. "Lacys meet the needs of country life," Marlo explained. "They have to have outdoor exercise to be the dogs they were meant to be. And you need to be an alpha. You have to be their pack leader, or the dog will be in charge! They aren't a dog for the meek and mild. They have a big Texas personality."

Marlo, as a descendant of the breed's originators, held the files on the breed for years and led the fight to get these dogs the recognition they deserve as a Texas original breed. In 2001, the Texas Senate gave honorary recognition to the breed. Then in 2005, the Texas House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 108, stating:

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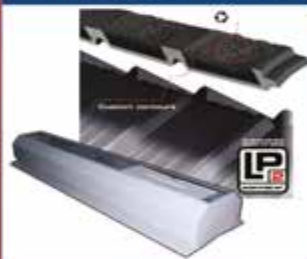
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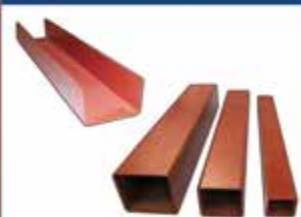


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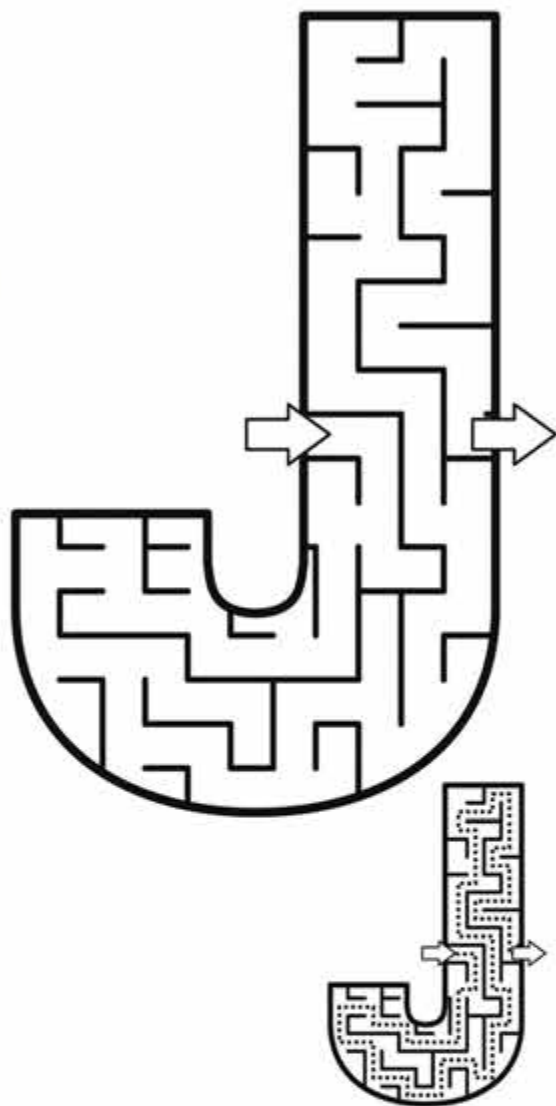
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R	L	L	I	P	I	O	N	D	A
N	F	U	T	A	D	R	Y	A	I
F	P	A	N	I	S	H	S	H	L
O	T	Y	S	Y	C	A	N	T	
R	O	E	L	L	M	U	M	E	H
G	N	E	V	A	G	L	A	D	I
E	E	H	T	F	O	S	U	L	O
T	M	L	I	L	Y	R	O	S	E

Find all the words from the word list (ignore spaces and dashes):

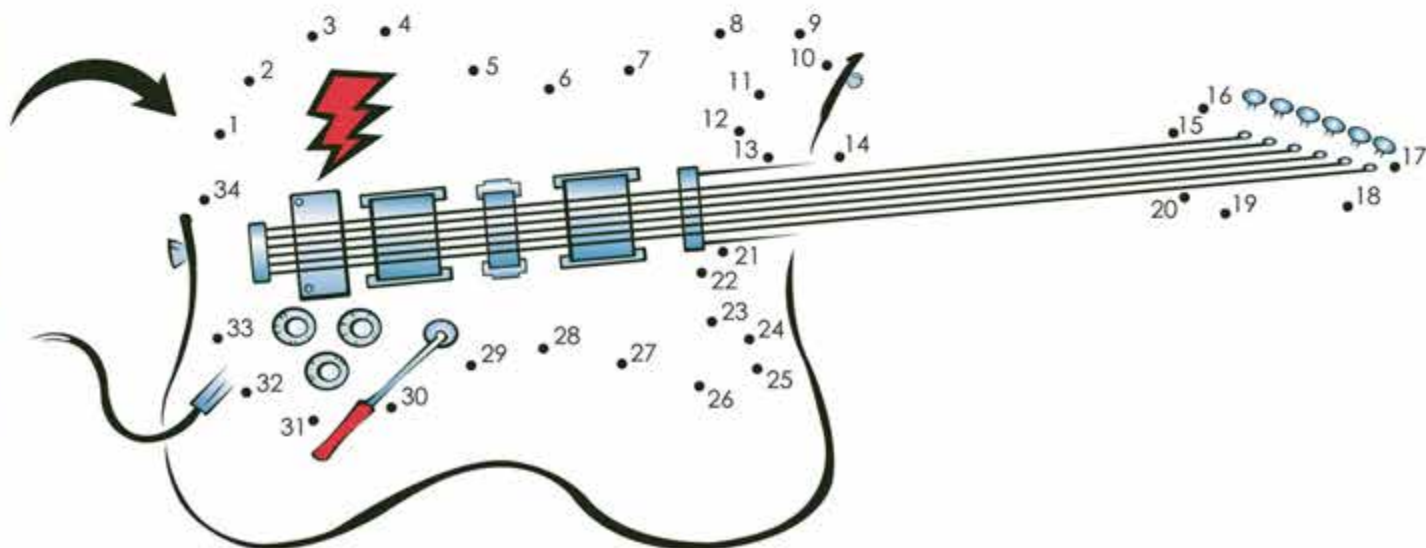
BLUEBELL  
CARNATION  
CHRYSANTHEMUM  
CORNFLOWER  
DAHLIA  
DAISY  
FORGET-ME-NOT  
GLADIOLUS  
LILY OF THE VALLEY  
PANSY

ROSE  
TULIP



This is a zigzag word search puzzle. Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.

ANSWER:





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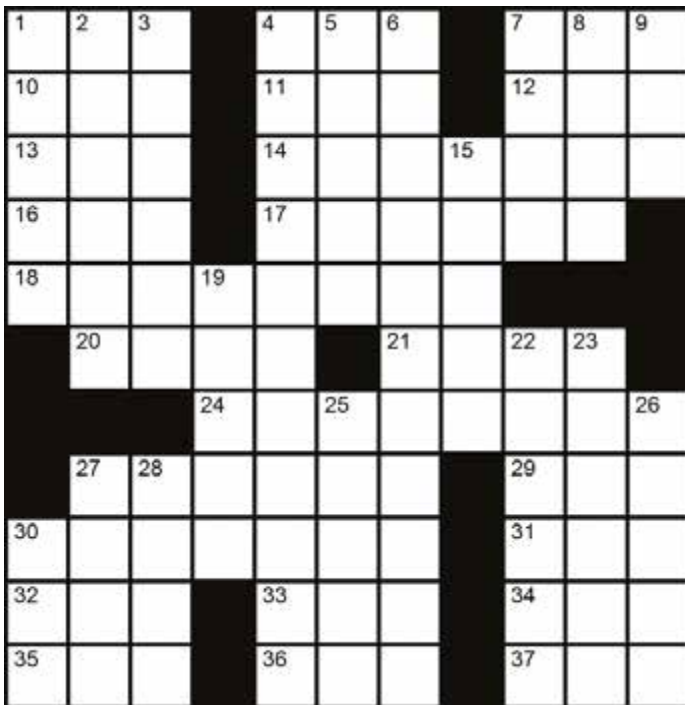
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# Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

## Across

- 1 In place of
- 4 Dashboard acronym
- 7 Ungentlemanly sort
- 10 Newsworthy N Y S E event
- 11 A Gershwin
- 12 Tint
- 13 And so on
- 14 Scooting
- 16 Old card game
- 17 Enthusiast
- 18 Fix-all material
- 20 Implement
- 21 Hazard
- 24 Deplored
- 27 Rock concert venues, often
- 29 Before in verse
- 30 Inner city areas
- 31 Nelson Mandela's party
- 32 Silver state
- 33 Anger
- 34 Meadow
- 35 Tony Blair and others, briefly
- 36 Spanish literary hero
- 37 Wily

## Down

- 1 Paddock
- 2 Decide to quit
- 3 Post-Baroque architectural style
- 4 Delaware's region
- 5 Italian designer Mario ---
- 6 Put-upon
- 7 With it, sartorially
- 8 Agatha, to Bertie Wooster
- 9 Acad. award
- 15 Connection
- 19 Property manager's sign
- 22 Purloins
- 23 Essence
- 25 Native New Zealander
- 26 Rot
- 27 "May I interrupt?"
- 28 Guns
- 30 Country's output, for short

Solutions on page 60

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 60

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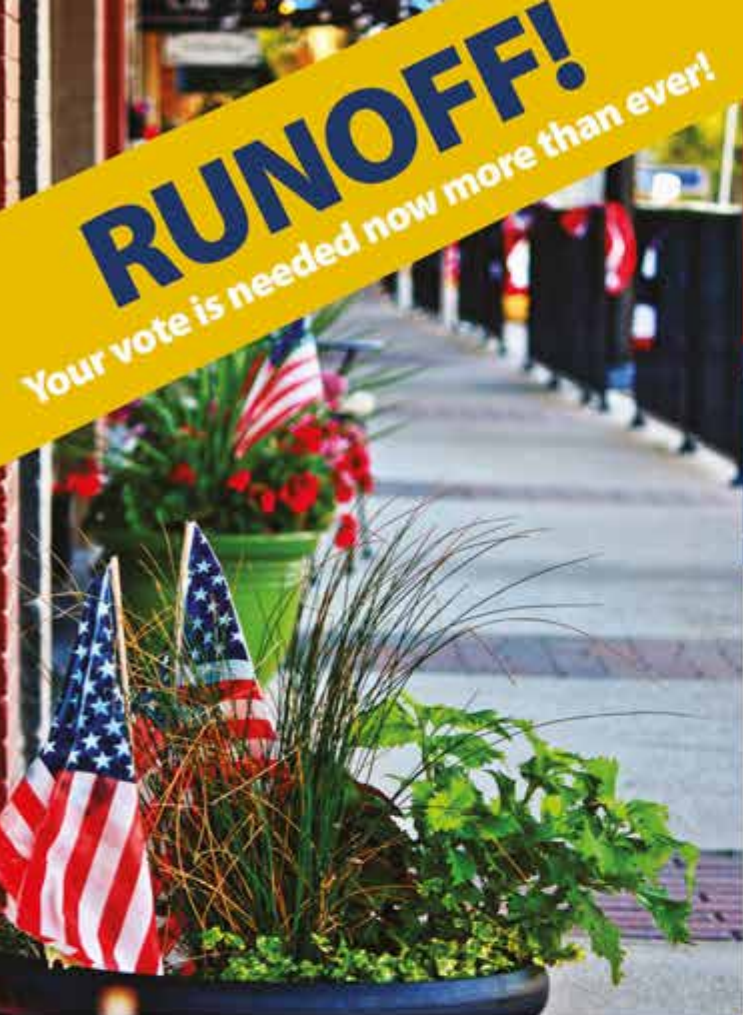


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# RUNOFF!

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Runoff voter turnout is traditionally low.  
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- Respects Property Rights
- Opposes Forced Annexation
- Wants to Reduce Taxes
- Is for Improving City Services
- Can Manage Growth Wisely

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**THANKS** for taking time to vote on May 4th for  
Mayor of Midlothian. We finished **FIRST** by a wide  
margin but just shy of the 50% needed to win, so  
now there is a **RUN-OFF ELECTION** on June 8th.  
I am grateful for your support, but must ask you to  
**VOTE ONCE MORE** to ensure that this  
election reflects the will of the majority.

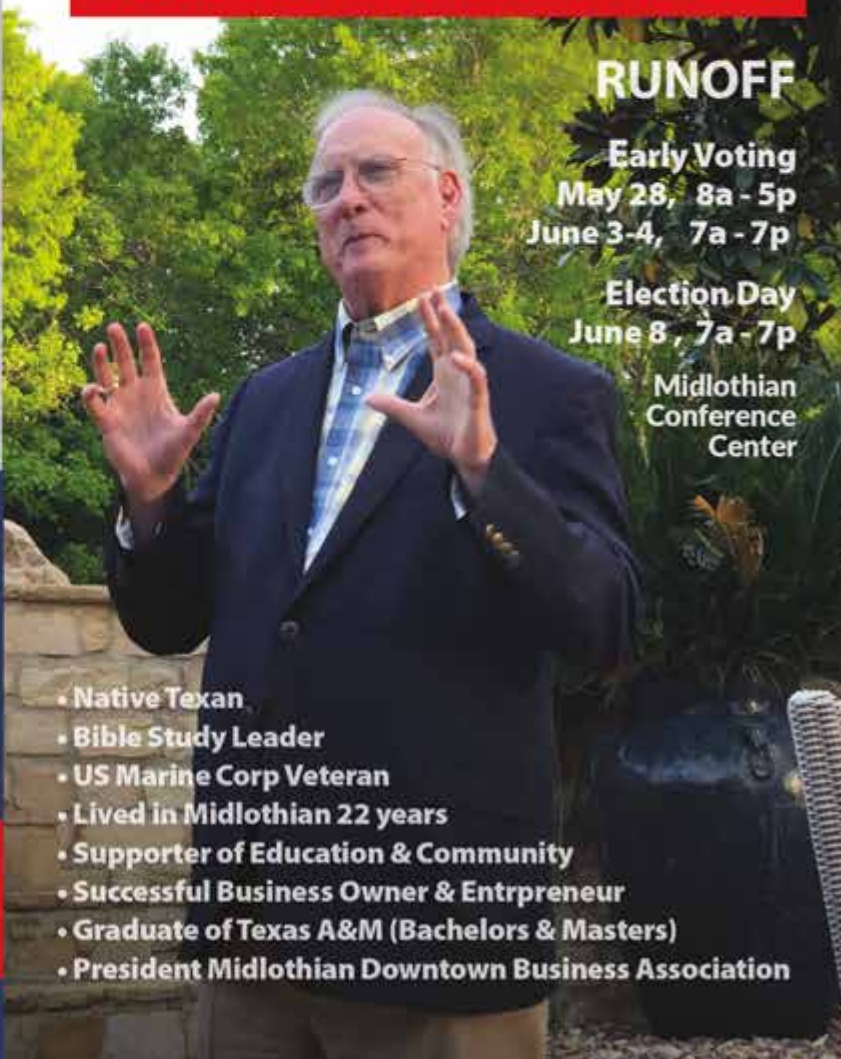
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June 3-4, 7a - 7p

Election Day  
June 8, 7a - 7p

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- Lived in Midlothian 22 years
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# JUNE

6/1

## Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In:

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For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).

## Third Annual Chili Cook-off:

Chili contest and tastings, yard sale and pet adoptions benefiting Hearts & Tails of Hope Pet Rescue. 7:00 p.m.-midnight, Reindeer Manor Halloween Park, 410 Houston School Rd., Red Oak. For more information, email [texas hauntedhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:texas hauntedhouse@yahoo.com) or call (214) 399-6425.

6/3-6/6

## MHS Panther Cheer Camp:

For students entering grades kindergarten-seventh. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Midlothian High School Turf Field, 923 S. 9th St. For registration and cost information, contact Amy .wright@misd.gs.

6/6

## Spirit Night:

Partial proceeds benefiting Hearts

& Tails of Hope Pet Rescue. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Palio's Pizza Cafe, 151 Walton Way, No. 110. For more details, email [info@heartsandtailsofhope.org](mailto:info@heartsandtailsofhope.org).

6/12, 6/19 & 6/26

## Summer Movies at the Library:

1:00 p.m., Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

6/13, 6/20, 6/25  
& 6/27

## Kids Summer Reading Programs:

The Tooth Fairy, *Space Jam* Movie Music, Ms. Maria Loves Reading and Galaxy Activities. 11:00 a.m., Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

6/21

## Longest Day Cookout:

Music, games and more to raise awareness for Alzheimer's Association. Noon, Midtowne Assisted Living and Memory Care, 910 S. 9th St.

Second  
Mondays

## Ellis County Veterans Networking:

Dinner and guest speaker. 6:00 p.m., IHOP, 1206 Dallas Hwy,

Waxahachie. For information, contact Jim McKeever at (469) 258-7424.

Second and  
Fourth Mondays

## Rag-Tag Readers Book Club:

Join lively discussions of books chosen by club members.

10:00 a.m.,

A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more details, call (469) 856-5211.

Third Mondays

## Writers' Circle:

Group is open to the public (18 years and older) to provide support, motivation and writing tips. 6:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, email [writerscirclemidlo@gmail.com](mailto:writerscirclemidlo@gmail.com).

Tuesdays

## Rotary Club Meeting:

Hear guest speakers and learn how Rotarians serve the community. Noon-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St.

First Tuesdays

## Midlothian Area Historical Society Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Community Room of CNB, 310 N. 9th St. For more details, contact Edwin Bateman at (972) 743-2379.

Second  
Tuesdays

## Ellis County Republicans Monthly Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Ellis County GOP Headquarters, 610 Water St., Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 923-9383.

First and Third  
Tuesdays

## Bluegrass Jam Session:

Everyone's invited to join in. Bring your instrument or simply relax and enjoy. 7:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th St.

Wednesdays

## DivorceCare:

Group sharing for those who have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. For more information, call (972) 775-3993.

Second  
Wednesdays

## Infertility Support Group of Ellis County:

7:00-8:30 p.m., Gateway Church Midlothian, 555 N. Walnut Grove Rd.





6/11

### A Universe of Stories!:

Kick-off for Summer Reading Program with Friendly Balloon Twister, Fun Faces face painting and Snow Shack snow cones. 10:00 a.m., Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

For more information, contact  
amy@sarahs-laughter.com.

### Thursdays

**Midway Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol/ US Air Force Auxiliary:**  
Cadets ages 12-18 and Senior Members 18 plus. 6:45-9:00 p.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr.  
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### Celebrate Recovery Meeting:

A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00-9:00 p.m., The

Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. For more information, email  
ambermessmer@gmail.com.

### Fridays

**Ellis County Democrats Coffee and Talk Open House:**  
8:00 a.m.-noon, Democrat HQ, 215 E. Main St., Waxahachie. For details, call (972) 937-9039.

### Second Fridays

**Downtown Business Association Meeting:**  
8:30-10:00 a.m., Woodrow's Coffee Shop, 116 N. 8th St.

### Saturdays

**Midlothian Market:**  
Outdoor market held Saturday mornings from May-October in Heritage Park. Local vendors sell a wide variety of merchandise throughout the morning and early afternoon.

### First and Third Saturdays

**Pet Adoptions:**  
The Forgotten Ones Animal Rescue hosts pet adoptions. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Petco, 2000 FM 663, #300.

For more information, email  
info@theforgottenonesar.org.

### Second and Fourth Saturdays


**Pet adoptions:**  
Hearts & Tails of Hope Pet Rescue event. Noon-3:00 p.m., Petco, 2000 FM 663, #300. For more details, email  
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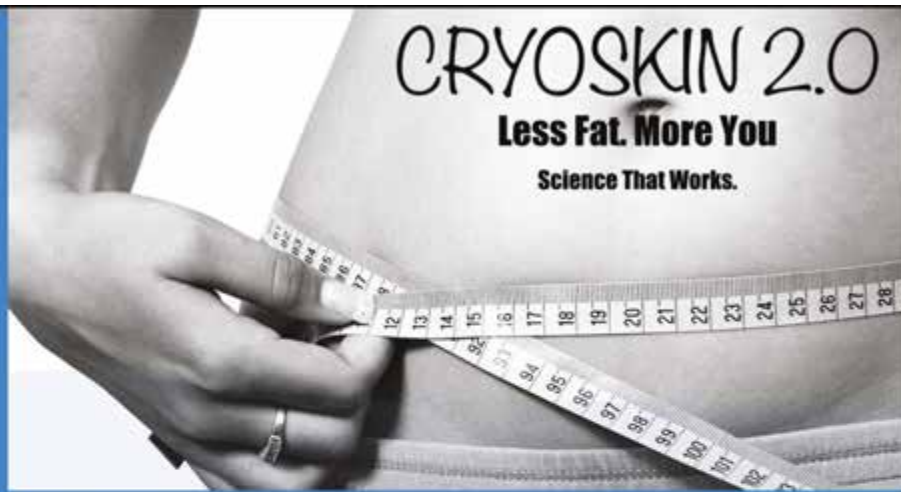
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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	F	2	O	3	R	4	M	5	P	6	H	7	C	8	A	9	D
10	I	P	O			11	I	R	A			12	H	U	E		
13	E	T	C			14	D	A	R	T	I	15	N	G			
16	L	O	O			17	A	D	D	I	C	T					
18	D	U	C	T		19	T	A	P	E							
20	T	O	O	L		21	R	I	S	K							
22						23	L	A	M	E	N	T	E	D			
24						25	A	R	E	N	A	S			26	E	R
27						28	G	H	E	T	T	O	S		29	A	N
30						31	N	E	V		I	R	E		32	L	E
33						34	P	M	S		C	I	D		35	S	L
36						37											

### Easy

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

### Medium

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



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