

# WaxahachieNOW

M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2025

## Writing Their Story

Lena Cummings and  
Adriana Morris let their  
imaginations soar

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washer when you need  
more than elbow grease

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

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Featured Business:  
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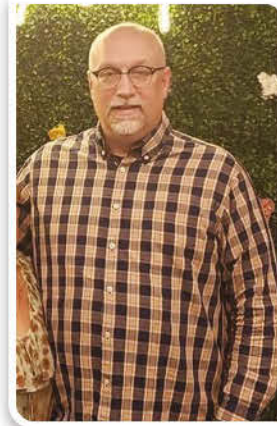
Dr. Alan M Taylor II

## Brad M., Midlothian, TX

I've always been fairly thin and never gave much thought to my weight. I ate what I wanted when I wanted, but this started catching up to me over the years, and became more pronounced when I started working remotely (at home) during COVID. My health status became more apparent to me while on vacation in Summer of 2024 when I couldn't do many of the things that I wanted to because of my weight.

When I approached Diet Solution Centers (DSC) in July 2024, I was told that taking the weight off wouldn't be a problem. DSC was confident yet caring and personalized the approach for what would work best for me to help me reach my goals. I had never been on a weight loss plan, so I was naturally skeptical. DSC reminded me and taught me about food as a good or poor source of the nutrients that my body needs, and how my body processes the foods and beverages that we consume. I soon found that my initial goals that I had set for myself were not aggressive enough. The staff at DSC were encouraging, resourceful, honest, and never shamed me when I didn't have a good week.

I'm now on maintenance and look forward to pictures, being with friends, new adventures, and keeping up with my grandkids. If you're even slightly thinking about weight loss, DSC is THE BEST!



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Adam

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

*Change is the only constant ...*

It's a saying you've probably heard. And it's almost true. Change is a constant part of life. We often say only dead things don't change. But that's not quite true either. Even rocks change. It takes a long time ... or a lot of force or really high temperatures, but they do change.

Life is always changing. Your body, when you're reading this, is not quite the same as when you woke up this morning. Some of your cells have already been replaced. And you've already had experiences that have changed the way you think — even if they only made you more certain that you were right about everything — or wrong about everything.

People come and go in our lives. Friendships begin and end. People move away. New neighbors move in. Bosses get fired. Co-workers get promoted. We change jobs.

First grade ends. Second grade starts. We change schools. Our favorite teacher goes out on pregnancy leave. The lunch lady retires and is replaced by the meanest person on Earth. We move away for college.

People marry, divorce and remarry. They have kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

We start hobbies and give them up. Our favorite restaurant goes out of business ... or removes our favorite item from the menu. Our favorite cloth store is murdered by a private equity firm. The gym develops a funky odor that lingers.

The kid who would eat nothing but peanut butter last week won't even touch it this week. And he never, ever liked it in his whole life. Ever.

Some change is good. Some is bad. Deal with the bad the best you can, and ...

*Embrace the good!*

June 2025  
Volume 22, Issue 6

## ON THE COVER



*Imagination knows no limits for these two girls.*

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A portrait of Makaylee M., a woman with long, curly brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a grey polo shirt. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

**Makaylee M.**  
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David Espinoza of Shepherd Roofing and Renovations wants to see your roof done right. "We offer roofing services for both residential and commercial customers. We can do everything from small roof tune-ups to full replacements. We do asphalt shingle roofs, tile, slate, standing seam metal roofs, synthetic wood shake, TPO. You don't see many tar and gravel roofs anymore, so we don't do those, and real wood shake isn't even legal in Texas anymore," David informed.

"Our roof tune-ups are \$199 with the coupon in the magazine. But pricing is on a case-by-case basis. So contact us for a free quote. We do free inspections. We use drones to see your whole roof. We even have a thermal imaging drone, to show where you have heat loss. We use the most up-to-date inspection equipment. We like to use advanced technology to provide the best answers to our clients."

Renovations are the other part of what they do. "We do a lot of storm restoration. We also renovate after plumbing breaks and fires. We are the preferred renovation company for several insurance companies when you have flood damage. We replace flooring, baseboards and cabinets. We do drywall, painting. We also install, replace and clean gutters and install leaf guards. We also do repair and replacement for wood and fiber cement siding, also called Hardie board."

David is proud of his team's years of experience in the industry. "Together, we

have more than 100 years of experience. My dad and my uncles were all roofers. I worked summers with my dad since I was a teenager, but I got into this full time in 2012. I think we have some of the best communication in the business. We email you our estimate, so you have it to look at. We text you, to let you know when we're on our way to your house or business. We send you pictures and videos of the job in progress, so you know what's happening, and so there's evidence of the work that's being done. We have one of the best workmanship guarantees out there. Most companies guarantee their work for three to five years. We guarantee for 10 years. We have a lot of quality control and check on our crews to be sure the work is done right. When we speak to you, we aren't giving you a sales pitch. We have a conversation about your roofing issues. We don't up-sell. We make recommendations, but then it's up to you. My philosophy is to treat our customers like as if it was my grandmother's roof. We find and diagnose issues and share what we know from our experience. We give you options, and let you make the decisions."

**"Together, we have more than 100 years of experience. My dad and my uncles were all roofers. I worked summers with my dad since I was a teenager, but I got into this full time in 2012."**

David looks at his business differently. "We're a small business with Christian values. I set out to always do the right thing. I have given free roofs to people in real need, like an elderly lady who had holes in her roof. She didn't have the money to fix it, so she just wanted us to tarp it. I decided to re-roof her house for free. We're a business, and we're about making money, but we're also here to help. I want to help my family, but also the community."



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# W





# WRITING *Their* STORY

— By Adam Walker

*Did you ever tell yourself, “One day, I’m going to write a book”? Well, one day came early for a couple of Wilemon STEAM Academy fourth-graders. Lena Cummings and Adriana Morris are classmates and “almost best friends.”*

The girls teamed up to enter the Author Publishing Contest sponsored by the PTO and run by Brownie Books. “We were sitting at the same table when I came up with the idea,” Lena remembered.

“It was a really good idea,” Adriana agreed. “We’re neighbors, so working together was easy. Collaborating was easy, but Lena said ‘no’ a million times.”

“I did not! I just agreed to everything,” Lena insisted.

The result of their hard work is a fantasy-comedy about a girl named Charlotte who falls into a magic well and finds herself in Mythic, a fantasy world ruled by the evil King Drake. Charlotte is aided by a creature named Emberley. “My favorite character is Charlotte, the main character. Her personality matches mine the best,” Lena explained. “She’s a little shy.”

“And she’s a little brave,” Adriana added. “My favorite is Emberley, Charlotte’s friend. Emberley is very brave. She’s a huenix. At first, Lena wanted a fairy, but we’re not that girly. We thought up the huenix, a human mixed with a phoenix, because we thought more boys would like the book if it didn’t have a fairy.”



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"Neither one of us really like fairies," Lena explained. "Our moms forced us to wear dresses to our book release party. Some dresses are really scratchy."

They only had a couple of weeks to write the book in time to submit it for the contest. Their first draft was way too long, so they had to cut it down. But when they won the contest, the publisher agreed to publish the long version as a chapter book. "We had to cut it for the word count, but we wanted to write more, so they changed it to a chapter book. It's better now," Lena said. "I think the comedy parts were the easiest to write."

"They were the funnest, but not the easiest," Adriana disagreed. The girls are hoping to write another book together. "We have ideas for a sequel and maybe a spin off about Chub and Dub, the comedy characters. We think people will want to know what happens next, because of the exciting ending."

When asked if they were excited about their book launch, "Very, very!" they answered as one. "I don't feel nervous at all. I'm 200 percent excited," Adriana proclaimed.

Lena one-upped her, "I'm 3,476 percent excited!" Both girls had been busy learning to write their names in cursive, so they could sign their book for the fans who came to the launch party. "We had to sign like 200 of them for the event!"

The girls have known each other for four or five years. "We met because we're neighbors, four houses down," Lena explained. "We're in the same class now."



“We’re way closer now because we’re in the same class,” Adriana added. “And we’re going to be in the same class again next year.”

Brownie Books is a bilingual publisher, so the text of *The Magic Well* was translated into Spanish as *El Pozo Mágico*, and the girls’ tale presented in facing-page format, with the English on the left-hand page and the Spanish on the right-hand page. “I think it’s pretty cool,” Lena stated. “Not all books are in Spanish, but people who speak Spanish can read this one.”

“People in Mexico can read our book!” Adriana added. Adriana is also the cover artist. “I drew the cover. Then they put the title on there and bam! The process is harder than you realize. We didn’t have too much time. There were a lot of Zoom calls. And the illustrations! It wasn’t just the writing and the printing. And we had to learn our signatures and prepare for events!”



Their launch party at D Restaurant Latin Cuisine saw long lines waiting to meet the authors and get their books inscribed with personal messages. At one point, Lena and Adriana took a break from signing to take center stage for a live reading of chapter 5 in front of the whole restaurant. The two authors took turns reading sections. Their clear, confident voices brought their tale to life with dramatic reading. They were like a pair of actresses, using emphasis and pacing to animate their tale.

“Talking about our book is fun,” Lena confided. “I hope we get to do another one. I like this a lot!” **NOW**

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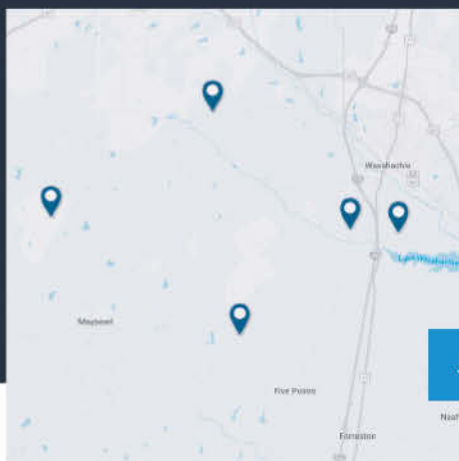
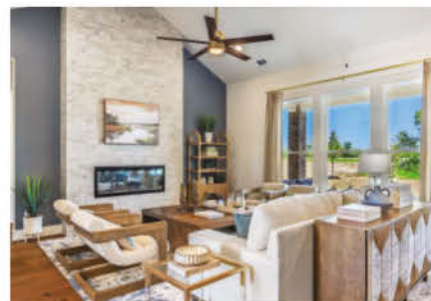
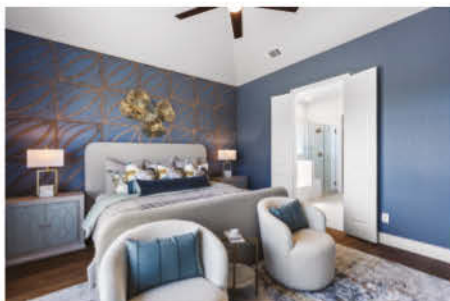
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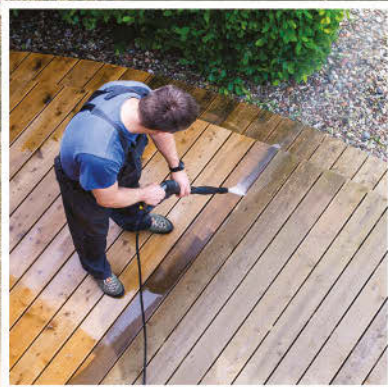
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# CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

— By Bill Smith



*Sometimes just a rinse with a garden hose is all you need to remove a little dust and debris from your front porch, and maybe some spray cleaner and a little elbow grease will take care of the exterior surface of your doors and windows. However, when the grime has been there for a while, or you want to clean porous surfaces, such as concrete or brick, your best bet may be to use a power washer.*

If the project is small and something you may be inclined to repeat several times each year, then purchasing a power washer may be your most economical route. Should your project be one that you seldom have to perform or one that would require more power than a consumer-size power washer can handle, the tools can be rented from your local hardware or home improvement store. Electric- or gasoline-powered models are available. Whatever route you choose, be aware that you may be working with higher pressures than you are used to, and you should follow the instructions carefully including the use of proper safety precautions.

Like most do-it-yourself projects, proper preparation will

make the job go smoother. Clear the space to be washed of anything that could be considered delicate or hazardous. For instance, if you are going to clean the patio, remove things like potted plants and children's toys or bicycles. Set patio furniture and grills to the side. If the area is large enough, plan to wash half of the area and move the patio furniture to the area that you cleaned when it is time to tackle the other half.

Sensitive plants and landscaping can be covered with tarps. Note where your outlets are and possibly tape over them with duct tape. Sweep the area thoroughly to remove any rocks or other debris that could become projectiles if caught up in the water pressure.

Depending on the size of the job, you can choose either a gas- or electric- power washer. For larger, heavy-duty jobs, a gasoline washer may be best because they are generally the most powerful. A typical gasoline washer may generate 3,000 pounds of pressure per square inch (PSI). For smaller jobs, such as cleaning outdoor furniture or grills, an electric pressure washer generating 1,300-1,400 PSI may be more appropriate.

Pressure washer nozzles come in different sizes. A smaller opening will generate the most cleaning power, so that should be a consideration based on what your project is. While some nozzles may be adjustable, the heavy-duty gasoline-powered washers will often come with several choices to attach to the spray gun.



Select the correct nozzle size for your project. Attach it to the spray gun, and attach your water hose to the washer. Make sure the connections are sufficiently tightened. Your home's water supply should be sufficient, but if you want to test it beforehand, a good indicator that it is adequate will be reflected if you can fill up a five-gallon bucket in less than two minutes.

Remember you are working with a significant amount of force. When you turn the power washer on, make sure it is on the lowest setting. Turn it up gradually, and you will feel the pressure increase. Do not use a higher setting than your project requires.

Begin cleaning using a pattern. Start at the top and move side to side. A wider nozzle opening will clean a larger area faster, but a narrower spray will provide deeper cleaning. You will find the "sweet spot" early into the project, but you can adjust it as needed if you find an area that needs more pressure to remove a stubborn stain.

Note that some power washers may include a heat option that creates steam. There are surfaces that may require this much power, but it can also be damaging to some surfaces like brick, concrete or masonry. Some people refer to a washer that generates heat as a "power washer" and one that does not produce heat as a "pressure washer." Others use these terms interchangeably, so again, refer to the instructions, and take the proper precautions. Probably one of the first rules of any do-it-yourself project should be to use the proper tool for each individual job.

After your job is complete, carefully turn off the water and release the pressure according to the instructions. Do not immediately remove the hose, as pressure may have built up. Turn the machine off. Now, step back and admire your work! **NOW**

#### References:

1. <https://www.homes.com/blog/2018/01/7-things-you-should-know-before-you-power-wash-anything/>.
2. <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-use-a-pressure-washer/9b683603be9fa5395fab9010ddcd7ab>.

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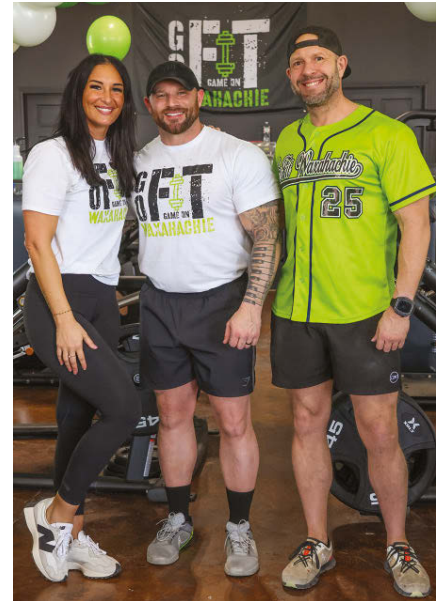












Brook and Daniel Treat and Christian James celebrate the grand opening of Go Fit Waxahachie.

## Zoomed In: Marco Pietrzak

By Adam Walker

Marco Pietrzak came to Getzendaner Park with his mom and siblings for the annual Cops & Kids Picnic. "I've been here all day," he shared. He won the last bike the Waxahachie PD was giving away in a drawing. "I'm excited. I don't know how to ride a bike, but it will probably only take me three or four days," he reported with a grin. "I had some fun at the bounce house and playing tag on the playground, because I'm fast. I ate hot dogs. I got to look at the firetruck and the SWAT truck. I also got a *Star Wars* book," he said, showing his free loot from the Sims Library's bookmobile. There was also face painting, airsoft fun and several local restaurants and food trucks that contributed to a good time.



Dress to impress when courting success at Scarborough Fair.



A group of runners from Waxahachie, Midlothian and Mansfield qualify to run the 129th Boston Marathon.



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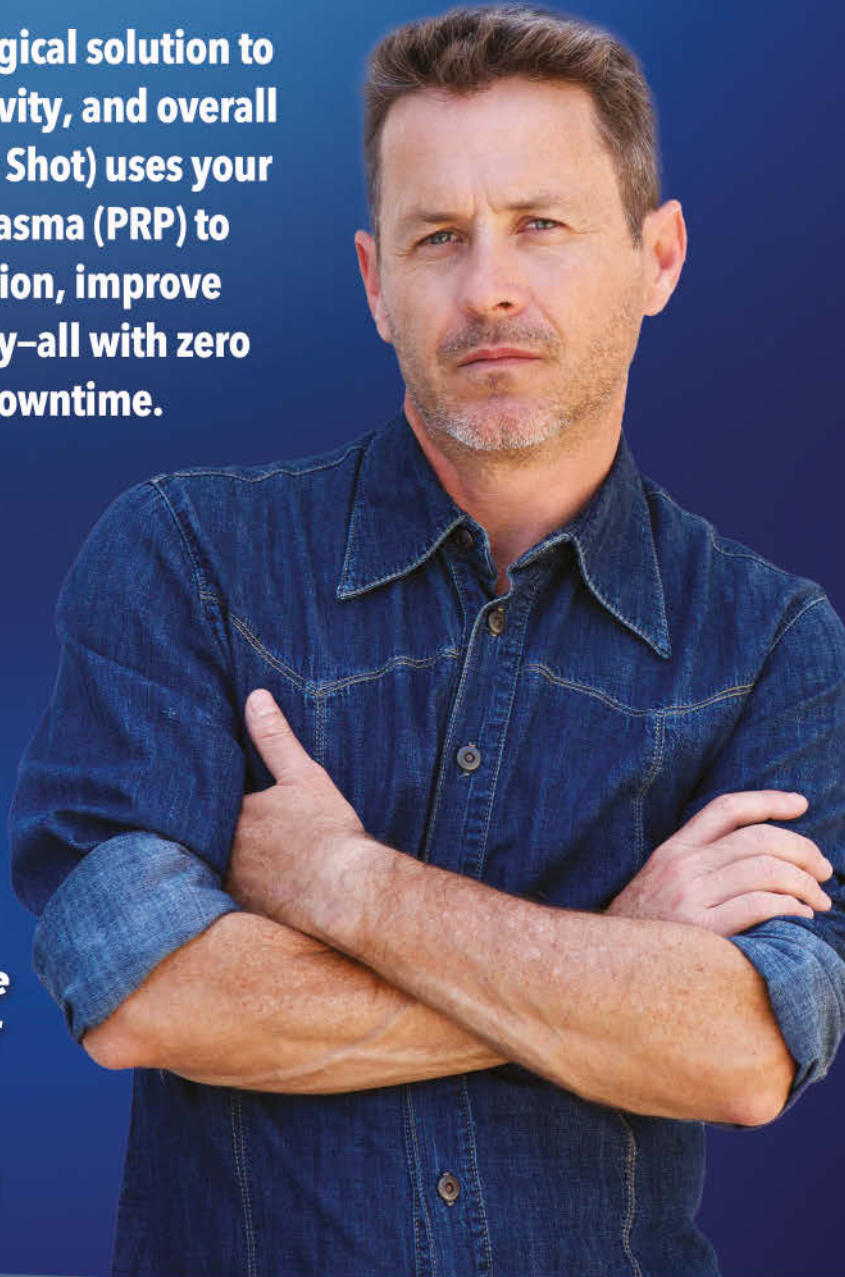
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BusinessNOW

# Omar's Mexican Cuisine

— By Adam Walker

## Omar's Mexican Cuisine

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**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 10:30 a.m.-midnight  
Saturday-Sunday: 8:00 a.m.-midnight

Omar's Mexican Cuisine has two locations in Waxahachie, downtown just off the square and on the north side of town off Hwy. 77, near Atwoods. Omar and Olga Alsadedein are proud of the food they serve. "It's more authentic Mexican



food, not Tex-Mex," Olga explained. "We have fresh, handmade tortillas."

With their long hours, they're one of the few places offering a late-night dinner. But breakfast lovers will be happy to know that they serve breakfast all day. "It's all day, every day," Omar explained. The breakfast offerings include favorites like steak and eggs, migas, chilaquiles, barbacoa and eggs, biscuits and gravy, omelets and chicken and biscuits. They also have weekly breakfast specials from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Monday through Friday, there are lunch specials from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. "We have dishes like salmon a la plancha, bistec a la Mexicana, birria, tacos of all kinds, fajitas, flautas and chimichangas, bone-in wings and lots of caldos, Mexican soups. Our brunch is very popular, and so is our freshly squeezed lemonade," Omar informed. Other dishes on the menu include carne guisada and carne asada, burritos, chile relleno, enchiladas, ceviche and nopales con puerco as well as appetizers like bacon-wrapped shrimp, chips and queso of several kinds, fried pickles, spinach



dip and fried calamari. The menu is extensive and also includes burgers and sandwiches, as well as a wide variety of desserts from cheesecake to churros and sopapillas to pancake tacos.

“We’re more of a family restaurant during the day and a bar at night. We transition around 9:00 or 10:00 p.m.,” Omar said. “But we have a full bar open all day, with lots of American and Mexican beers to choose from. We’ve been voted the best cold beer in town, and we have a daily happy hour. This is a great place for date nights, and we have DJs on the weekends. It’s more of a party atmosphere at night. It’s a fun vibe and more of a younger crowd.

“In 2023 and 2024, we were voted the Best of Ellis County. We sponsor several local schools and participate in the 4th of July and Christmas parades.”

**“It’s more authentic Mexican food, not Tex-Mex.”**

Their downtown location features exposed brick, brass and hardwood, fitting in with the historic area. It’s cozy and sophisticated. The northern location is brighter, with white walls and neon, giving a younger, energetic vibe. There are big-screen TVs for watching the games and cutouts of mariachi musicians for patrons to take fun selfies with.

“We do a lot of catering for local schools and businesses,” Omar said. “We provide breakfast tacos for The Avenue Church. Many people hire us to cater for their weddings, parties and other events.”

Omar is a 25-year-old entrepreneur who graduated from Waxahachie High School in 2017 “I love everything about Waxahachie,” he said. “This is my home. I started working in restaurants here when I was 15. Now I’m a business owner who enjoys helping the community. I thank the community for supporting this Waxahachie boy.”

Omar’s Mexican Cuisine aims to be the perfect family sit-down restaurant during the day and provide a party atmosphere at night. “We’re a mid-price restaurant, so we’re a good choice for everyone,” Omar explained.

“We have the best food and the best everything,” Olga opined. They look forward to serving you a plate of whatever catches your eye on their menu. **NOW**



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Oven baked chicken and brisket

# CookingNOW

## IN THE KITCHEN WITH

## KIMBERLY HOLMAN

— By Adam Walker



Kimberly Holman loves to cook. “I like cooking for my family. It brings me joy. I like to cook from scratch, but I keep it easy. I use fresh fruits and vegetables. My grandmother and mother taught me how to cook, and I started making meals for my family when I was 14. I do a lot of trial and error in the kitchen. If we like it, I write it down. If we don’t like it, I either tweak it or we just don’t make that again!”

Kimberly feels that food is an important part of a family’s heritage. “I taught my daughter how to cook. Now I’m writing down my recipes in a book for her. She’s getting married this year, and the book will be a gift for her.” **NOW**

### Oven Baked Chicken

**1 chicken breast, boneless and skinless**  
**1/2 oz. Liquid Smoke**  
**Pink Himalayan salt, to taste**  
**Other seasonings (optional)**  
**1 Tbsp. ghee or butter**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F
2. Season the chicken with Liquid Smoke, salt and any other seasonings.
3. Put the ghee or butter in the bottom of the skillet. Once the skillet is hot, place the seasoned chicken in the hot butter. Sear on each side.
4. Transfer to an oven-safe dish; bake till done, about 20-30 minutes depending on thickness. Let rest 5 minutes; slice.

### Brisket in the Oven

**1 pkt. Kevin’s Teriyaki Marinade**  
**Brisket of choice**  
**Liquid Smoke**  
**Pink Himalayan salt, to taste**  
**1 Tbsp. Red Rocks Hickory Smoke Seasoning**  
**1 Tbsp. ghee or butter**  
**Golds BBQ sauce (optional)**

1. Pour the marinade over the brisket; marinate at least 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 360 F
3. Remove the brisket from the marinade. Put a generous amount of Liquid Smoke on the brisket. Season with salt and Red Rocks Hickory Smoke Seasoning.

4. Set your skillet over high heat. Add the ghee or butter to the skillet. Once melted, place the brisket into the skillet for about 2 minutes, until the outside is browned. Turn and sear on the other side.
5. Remove the brisket; place it in an ovenproof dish; cover with foil. Cook till done. The cooking time will vary with the size of the brisket. For a small brisket, 45 minutes to an hour.
6. Remove the brisket from the oven; let rest in the juices for 5 minutes. Slice against the grain.

### Blueberry Banana Cream Pie

**1 8-inch graham cracker piecrust**  
**8 oz. cream cheese**  
**1 cup granulated sugar**  
**8 oz. Cool Whip**  
**2 bananas**  
**1 21-oz. can blueberry pie filling**

1. Prepare the crust.
2. Using a hand mixer, blend the cream cheese and sugar until smooth and creamy. Fold the Cool Whip into the cream cheese mixture until well blended.
3. Slice and layer the bananas in the bottom of the crust. Spoon the filling on top of the bananas, making it smooth. Pour and spread the blueberries on top.
4. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Keep leftovers refrigerated.

### Graham Cracker Crust

**2 sleeves graham crackers**  
**Butter, melted**

1. Crush the crackers.
2. Add melted butter a little at a time until the crumbs hold together.
3. Press into the bottom and up the sides of a pie dish.

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# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

— By Virginia Riddle

*A city just north of the Red River, Ardmore, Oklahoma, is a treasure trove of fun for the whole family. A nostalgic step back in time begins with travels through tree-covered, gently rolling hills whether by vehicle, RV or train service from Fort Worth. Historic treasures, including the train depot, line the downtown streets. Parks dot all areas of Ardmore, and Oklahoma's largest state park, Lake Murray State Park, is about a 20-minute drive from downtown.*

The city's heritage revolves around ranching in the Chickasaw Nation and the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1887. Before the turn of the century, Ardmore boasted the largest inland cotton market in the world.

Twice in the early 1900s, the city was nearly destroyed by fire and a gasoline explosion, but with oil discovered in 1913,

the city was rebuilt. The 1918 Santa Fe Railroad Depot has been rehabilitated back to its original use, and a walking tour of downtown is available. Catch Amtrak's daily, round-trip Heartland Flyer from the depot.

Museums and the arts abound. Greater Southwest Historical Museum exhibits showcase agriculture and petroleum aspects of the area. The Chickasaw Cultural Center connects visitors with Native American history. Vintage dolls line the walls of the Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum, and the Military Memorial Museum preserves military history and honors those who have served. The Charles B. Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts is a theater, dance, music and visual art venue.

Public events and galas are scheduled throughout the year. Visitors will find a full array of hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfasts and eateries for every budget and appetite since modern Ardmore lines Interstate 35.

If getting back to nature is the goal, visitors can hike more than 40 miles of trails, admire historical sites, enjoy water sports, swim, play miniature golf, ride horses or cruise the 700 acres of unmarked ATV riding trails at Lake Murray State Park. With 12,500 acres; a large sports facility for baseball,





Photo by Virginia Riddle, LLC.

softball, tennis and golf; and a large, clear water lake, Lake Murray State Park is a multifaceted gem. Be sure to book a spot on the pontoon boat's moonlit guided cruise around the lake.

One can also book a room at the lodge; an RV site; floating cabins; or one of the 56 cabins in the woods, which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s when the CCC and the Works Progress Administration worked together to create the lake and park. The lodge offers meeting rooms, a ballroom, catering and a restaurant.

Located on the southwest side of the lake, the Lake Murray Nature Center at Tucker Tower gives visitors a look at the flora and fauna of the area. Tucker Tower, built by the WPA, is a striking sight. Named for Fred Tucker, a state senator when the tower was constructed, it is believed the original intent was to be a vacation home for the state's governors. It never served that purpose, nor did Senator Tucker reside there.

Don't have your own sports equipment, horse or boat? No problem. The Lake Murray Marina rents wave runners, island cruisers and miniature golf equipment. The Lake Murray Riding Stables offers trail rides, weather permitting, and the golf course has a driving range, putting green, 18-holes and instructors.

Relax, drift back in time and into nature. Ardmore is a place where new experiences and memories can be made and shared. **NOW**

- Sources:
1. [www.achp.gov/preserve-america](http://www.achp.gov/preserve-america).
  2. [www.exploreadmore.com](http://www.exploreadmore.com).
  3. [www.travelok.com/state-parks](http://www.travelok.com/state-parks).

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# ATTIC OVERH

*If you need extra space in your home but do not want to move, perhaps an attic conversion is the answer. Whether you are looking for a secluded space for an office to work from home, a place for overnight guests or just more living space for your growing family, utilizing an existing attic is an option worth considering.*

First steps involve taking stock of the state of your attic. Is it full to the brim with boxes and bins of childhood keepsakes, holiday decor or discarded furniture? A complete purge will be required before you even consider an attic conversion. Only then can you start with a clean slate and truly analyze the structural state of your attic.

Once the space is empty, you should inspect the space for signs of termites, mice or other rodents, water leaks, rotted wood and mold. If you have a fireplace, what is the state of your chimney? Where are the air vents located?

You will also want to take measurements to compare your available space to the various city codes and requirements in your area. (Building codes may require a certain amount of available space and a certain height of ceiling in a particular portion of that space. Permits will be required for HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc.)

You will need to understand if your attic is framed with rafters or trusses for support, as rafters typically make a

conversion more doable. You'll also need to make note of the type of access your attic has, and how that would have to change to make this a livable space.

Flooring and insulation are additional considerations. Many attics feature exposed floor joists bridged by rafters designed to hold inanimate objects, and insulation quality is based on storage of such things. Finished flooring and additional insulation will be required for a livable, temperature-controlled attic space, as will proper ventilation, lighting and soundproofing.

It is a good idea to have not only a licensed contractor go through these items with you, but also a structural engineer, since changes to the attic can impact the stability of your entire home. Once you understand the state of the attic, you can determine your budget and move toward the renovation.

Fast forward several weeks (if not months) of construction, and there are a number of creative ideas for how to decorate an attic that may have odd ceiling and wall angles. Natural wood ceilings provide a warm, rustic touch, or they can be painted the same color as walls to open up the space. Consider low furniture or built-in shelves for sloped areas of the room.

Furniture placement is a key consideration: Place pieces like beds in low-ceilinged areas since you need not stand at full height while sleeping. Hanging beds and seating from rafters is also a fun option. Closets and desks — or showers if you are adding a bathroom — are better suited for areas where the ceiling is its highest.

Wallpaper can define the space toward its use, from a sophisticated office to a whimsical bedroom or playroom for kids. Exposed brick gives an industrial vibe, while shiplap can feel cozier. Vaulted ceilings allow you to play with lighting — from sleek to statement style — with anything from simple pendants to showy chandeliers.

If your attic was previously a dumping ground for keepsakes that you can't part with but have no room for in your main home, your attic conversion can be well-served with these items. Old furniture, wall art and other decor can take on new life in this space, saving you shopping time and money.

An old dresser is a great storage unit for office files or craft supplies. Mismatched chairs can fill a reading nook.





# AUL

— By Angel Morris



Children's artwork framed and attached to angled ceilings is a unique and sentimental display. If the space will still be for storage, consider floor-to-ceiling cabinets or shelves that make organizing simpler.

Whatever its use, an attic conversion can add valuable square footage to your home. Homeowners must weigh the cost of such renovations against the expense of moving to a new home to decide if an attic overhaul is the best solution toward gaining more space. **NOW**

Source: <https://www.angi.com/articles/convert-your-attic-living-space.htm>.



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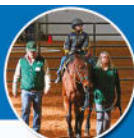
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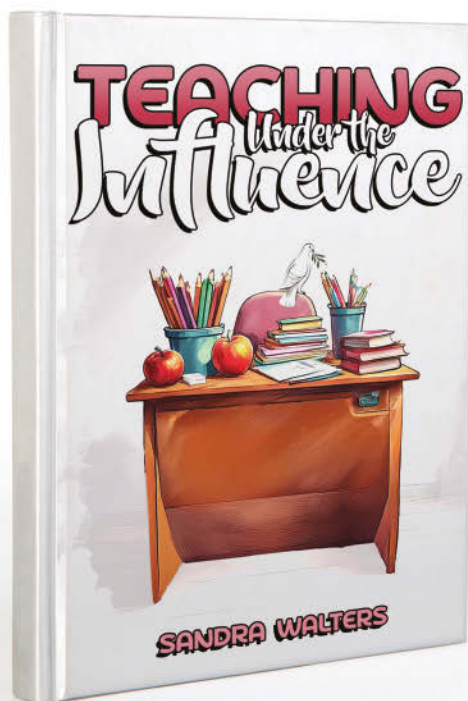
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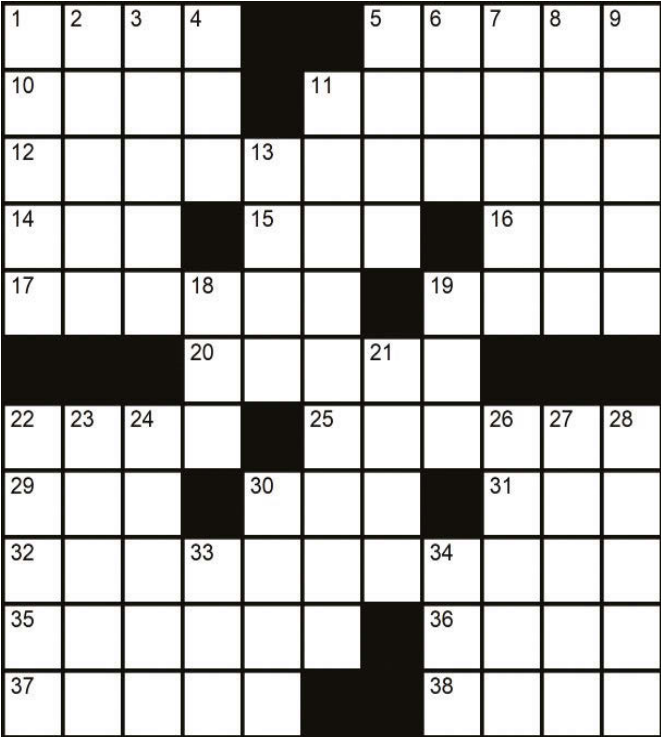
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Doe's beau  
5 Draconian  
10 Prolonged unconsciousness  
11 "It Started in Naples" star --- Loren  
12 Distorted caps trap oil for cosmetician's pencils  
14 --- Air, Los Angeles  
15 "Friends" actress Courteney ---  
16 Lair  
17 "Peekaboo, I ---"  
19 Coin  
20 Hidden

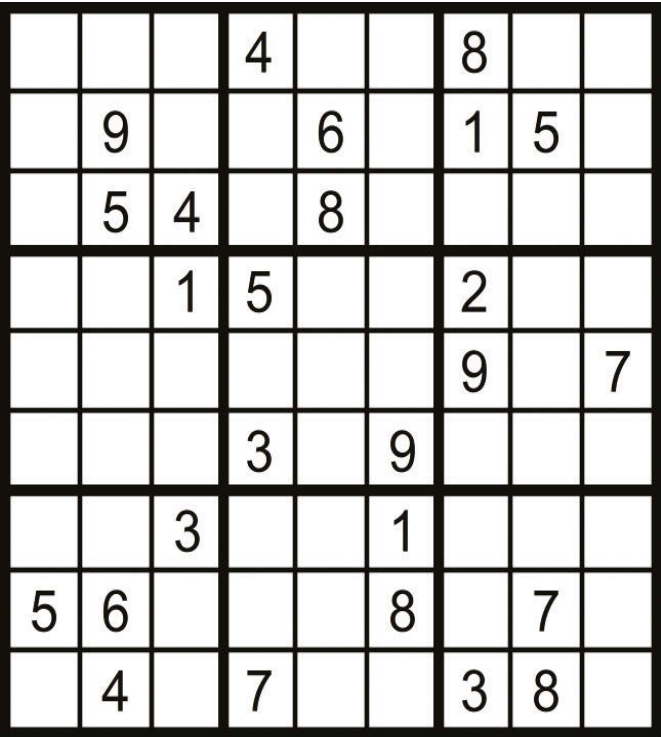
## Down

- 1 Signs of healing  
2 Pith sun helmet  
3 Plentiful  
4 "Has Anybody Seen My --- ?" (1920s song)  
5 Hoodwink  
6 Disposed  
7 --- Island Sound  
8 Seductively beautiful woman  
9 Is lacking  
11 Cruel dons whipped a dirty dog  
13 Clickable image  
18 "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" lyricist --- Harburg  
19 Old-style computer screen  
21 Long fish  
22 Self-satisfied smile  
23 Fabric woven from flax  
24 Embellish  
26 Rub out  
27 Christmas guy  
28 "Iron Mike" ---  
30 "Les États- ---" - that's us to a Quebecer!  
33 Cereal grain  
34 "--- a Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)

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.

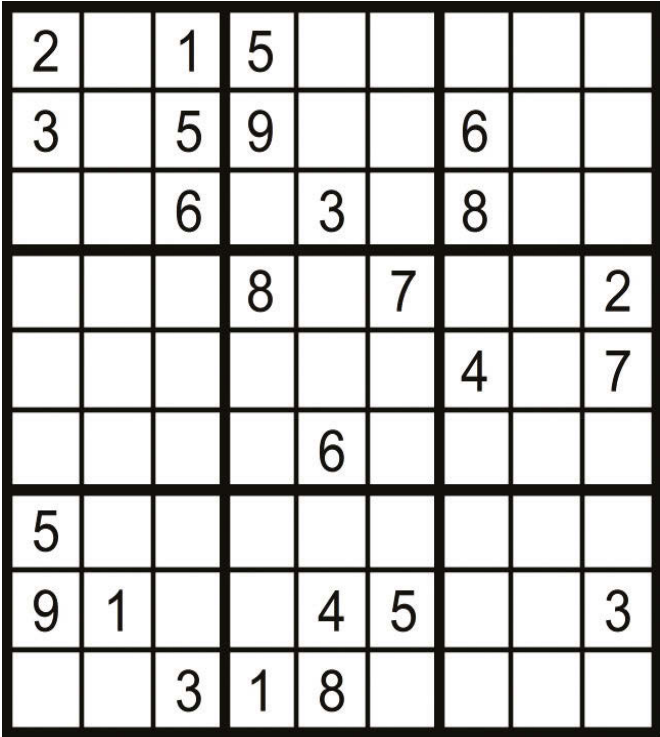
# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

## JUNE

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.

6/6

### Car Seat Inspection Event:

Make sure your child's car seat is really safe. Free. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center, 2201 W. Lampasas St., Ennis.

6/7

### Pancake Breakfast Fly-In/Drive-In:

Food, airplane and helicopter rides, classic cars, children's area. Free entrance and parking. Breakfast: \$8 over age 8; \$4 under 8. 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr., Midlothian.

6/7-6/8

### Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes:

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6/14

### Juneteenth Parade and Festival:

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6/16

### Waxahachie Purple Heart Community Designation Ceremony:

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6/27-6/29

### Paws for Hope Auction:

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7/3-7/4

### Crape Myrtle Festival:

Thursday's patriotic celebration starts: 6:00 p.m.; fireworks: 9:15 p.m. Friday: Parade starts: 10:00 a.m. Various locations. [www.waxahachiecvb.com/events/2025/crape-myrtle-](http://www.waxahachiecvb.com/events/2025/crape-myrtle-)

festival-and-fireworks22.

7/4

### VFW Fourth of July Lunch:

Everyone is welcome for pulled pork sandwiches and sides. Free. Noon, VFW Post 3894, 1405 N. I-35 E.

7/5

### Summer Soul Affair:

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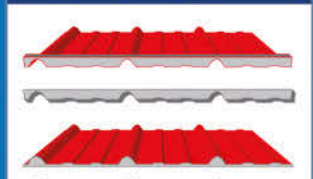


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