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JULY 2019

Homegrown Happiness

The Joneses know the power of hard work and growing your own food

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Crossword/Sudoku

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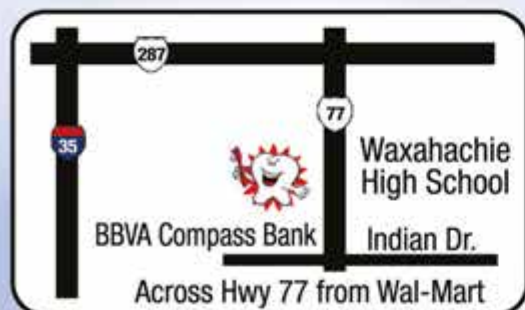
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ON THE COVER

Tommy and Shirley Jones have participated in the Waxahachie Farmers Market for nearly 20 years.

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Waxahachie ZIP codes.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50
per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O.
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Joy

Joy Horn
WaxahachieNOW Editor
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Hello, Waxahachie!

I hope everyone is enjoying the flip-flop weather! Sometimes, the Texas heat in July makes outdoor outings a challenge, but I've learned to stay in the shade and avoid the middle of the day as much as possible. Speaking of shade, there's a lot of it to go around in this town. One of the best shady spots my family enjoys is the famous Getzendaner Park, where you can chill out under 100-year-old oak trees and relish the natural world. If you venture out over one of the old bridges, there are great hiking trails and the perfect place for a family adventure. We love walking through the trees and tossing sticks into the creek to watch them splash and then float away. Also, if you're looking for a spot to take the kids to cool off, don't forget about the splash pad at George Brown Plaza behind College Street Pub. There are plenty of places for parents to sit in the shade and watch the commotion of happy, splashing kids.

Growing up a small-town girl, I never actually thought I'd stay around here, but I'm sure glad I did. Waxahachie is the perfect place for family life, which for me, is the best life. So often, I meet couples who are moving down from Dallas or from out of state to take advantage of all Waxahachie has to offer. The growth of our not-so-little-anymore town astounds me! I look around at the historic buildings downtown and think about how far we have come and how far we will go. There is no telling where life will lead!

Blessings to you all!



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HOMEGROWN HAPPINESS

— By Joy Horn

Tommy Jones has been blessed with the ability to grow his own food all his life. He inherited the precious skill from his father who was an Ellis County farmer while Tommy was growing up.



Since then Tommy has utilized this priceless knowledge on the land he and his wife, Shirley, made their home and where they raised their children and now grandchildren. Having been high school sweethearts and now married almost 50 years, they make quite the farming team.

"He is the outside man, and I am the inside man," Shirley laughed. She can be found helping pick at harvest time, but her specialty is canning and jarring.

"We eat a lot of what we grow," Shirley acknowledged. "One of the best things in the summer is tomatoes. I make a delicious tomato jelly that's great on meatloaf or meatballs."

Each year, the friendly couple can be seen at the Waxahachie Farmers Market welcoming customers with a smile as they sell their freshly picked fruits and vegetables. At their booth you will see a rainbow of colors ready to be devoured.

From onions, beets, cabbages, garlic, kale, broccoli, a variety of squash, radishes, peaches, plums and more, there is plenty to satisfy any taste. One of the couple's specialties, patty pan squash, is an unusual, oh-so-delicious vegetable that serves as the perfect side or even a main dish. It can be stuffed with meat and cheeses or simply sautéed or roasted in olive oil with a little salt and pepper.

Not only can Tommy give advice on how to prepare the vegetables he grows, he knows first-hand the flavor of his fresh crop and often enjoys fruits and veggies right out in the field. "If I am hungry, I just start eatin'," Tommy laughed. This is also a tool he utilizes to see what's ripe for picking.

On the farm, 3.5 acres are used just for the vegetable crops, but the couple also manages two separate orchards which include 225 pecan trees and a spread of peach, pear, cherry, fig and plum trees. Maintaining this level of farming requires diligence, determination and hard work.

Tommy said these qualities are imperative for future generations and can be attained by learning what he calls "the lost art" of growing your own food. "Everywhere you look, farms are going away. A lot of farmers are getting taken over by corporations," he said. "It is very important to train the generation behind us."



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Though farming and selling their crops at the Farmers Market is just a hobby for the Joneses, they are very passionate about passing on the knowledge to their kids and grandkids who often work on the farm or help at the Farmers Market. "It is a life skill everyone should know. You can take pride in what you grow," Shirley added.

The Joneses are dedicated to the life lessons their art is providing despite the challenges farming sometimes presents. Hard work is not something the family shies away from. "A lot of people don't realize what all goes into it," Tommy recognized. "Number one, you have to have the right equipment."

Keeping the equipment operational is a significant part of the job that often goes unrecognized by those who haven't experienced life on a working farm. "Knowing when to plant, making sure your soil is conditional, when to harvest, weed control, pest control and plowing and tilling are all very important," Tommy explained.

Though many modern farmers have discontinued the practice, Tommy uses 48-inch beds for planting. "They hold water better," Tommy said. "That's why they used them back in the day. It is more work, but if you've got a hot, dry summer without rain, they are very beneficial."

Some days the Joneses start their day at 4:00 a.m., especially in the summer. If anyone knows the power of the Texas heat, it's Tommy who does most the

work outside. He does what he can to escape it, but somedays has to work through it. "The sun is going to catch ya. Any farmer will tell you that. You just put on a straw hat and keep truckin'," he smiled.

The Joneses work year-round preparing for the opening of the Waxahachie Farmers Market and have been showing up for nearly 20 years. "It started with just the two of us," Shirley remembered.

Since then, their business has grown, so now their children and grandchildren pitch in to help on the farm and at the market which has become an enjoyable experience for everyone. "We love the customers," Shirley said. "They're like family."

Shirley also appreciates the comforting atmosphere the market creates. "You don't rush when you come to the Farmers Market. It is a relaxing environment."



There are many booths to visit and the list of goodies is endless. You can buy gifts like goat milk soap and plants, or ingredients such as farm-raised chicken, beef, pork, a variety of cheeses, homemade salsa, and of course, fruits and vegetables.

"The biggest thing I get from it is what it teaches the grandkids," Tommy said. "They learn so many things like how to work hard. I can see how my grandkids have grown since they started. Someday, they are going to run this." **NOW**

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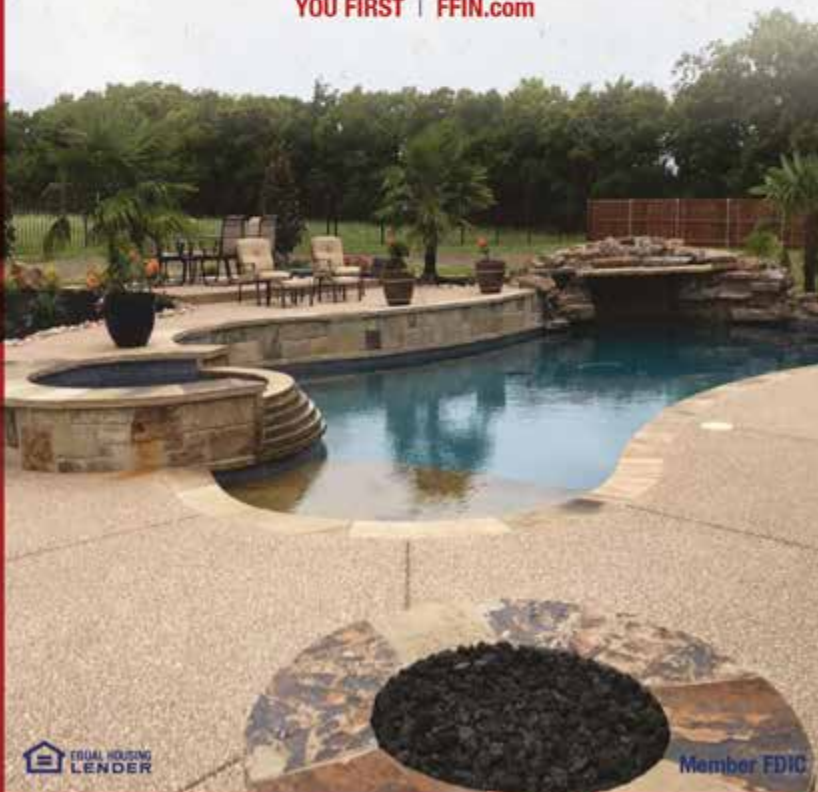
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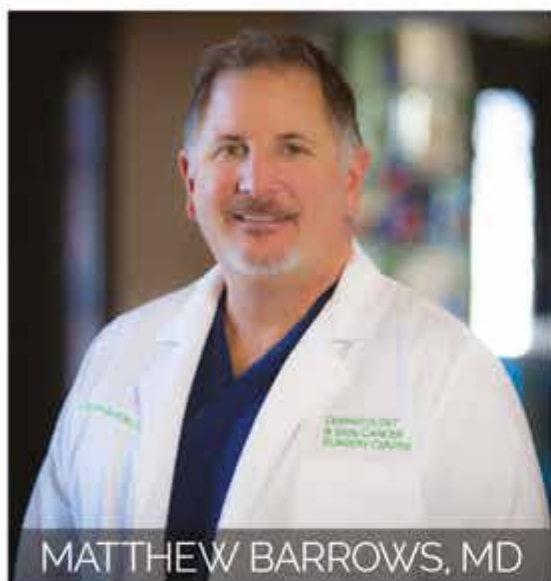
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A woman with short, grey hair and a warm smile is the central figure. She is wearing a bright orange long-sleeved shirt and white pants. She is seated on a wooden floor, holding a paintbrush in her right hand and a white palette with red paint in her left. In the background, there are several framed paintings on easels, including a portrait of a man in a purple shirt. The scene is set in a well-lit art studio.

MAKING THE CANVAS

Smile

— By Adam Walker

Art has always been meaningful to Mary Brooks. "I have always loved art. When my husband was alive, we traveled a lot, and we visited a lot of galleries and museums. I would always try to analyze the paintings, wondering how they did certain things, how they achieved certain effects in their paintings," Mary remembered. "My husband painted a little, and he always told me, 'You could do this, too.' But I insisted that I couldn't."

Mary's life had been on a more practical path. She was a registered nurse and spent her working life paying close attention to details and making sure things stayed in order. She also ran a business as an interior decorator, where she could indulge her love of strong colors, a love which shows in the vibrant walls of her current home-studio. The bare outline of what was forming is visible, but the true shape hadn't emerged.

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"In 2012, I was ready to retire as an RN. I took a trip to the Cayman Islands, and I got to thinking about how I had always loved art. So, I decided to study for a degree in fine arts. Not as an artist, you see. I couldn't draw a straight line! I just wanted to study the art. But it was a requirement of the degree to take a certain number of art classes. I took drawing and began to open up. Then I took a painting class and discovered my passion!"

Mary didn't think there was any connection between her first career and her new passion, but one of her professors told her that he could see something of the nurse in her desire to keep everything tight in her paintings, in the way she wanted to get the details right and go for realism. "I do landscapes and still lifes from time to time, but my passion is people and pets," she shared. "You can move a tree around, or arrange a still life however you want it, but you've got to get a face just right. The human face is so interesting. Understanding how all the muscles work — your face can go from scared to happy to surprised in 60 seconds. There are so many expressions. It's very challenging and fun!"

Mary has done many paintings since she discovered this passion and always seems to have a few canvases working. She has sold some of her work in galleries here and there and does work on commission, but she's also done many paintings as gifts. "I have a lot of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews, and I've painted a lot of friends' pets." As good as Mary is at capturing human faces and hands, she also has quite a knack



for dogs and cats that look like they could stand up and walk out of the canvas. “I work from photos, mostly, because pets and children don’t cooperate with sittings, and adults don’t have the time. I have jokingly said that painting is like old-fashioned Photoshop. You can change a background, remove a zit or move the goat closer to your niece.”

When people ask her how long it takes to do a painting, Mary has an answer that tells



it all. “I work really fast, and then very slow. This painting of a dog, I finished the first 90 percent in two days. But the last 10 percent may take two months to get just right! Leonardo da Vinci once said, ‘Art is never finished, only abandoned,’ and that’s true! My first painting — of a man in Venice, painting Venice — has been reworked five times!” Mary tends to start her paintings in acrylics, and then she finishes the fine details in oil. “It’s nice that I can work at home, but there’s also a social aspect to this. It can be both inside and outside. There’s plenty of variety.”

As Mary follows her passion, she keeps working to improve with each painting or class. “They say it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become an expert. I still have several thousand hours to go. Each new painting is about challenging myself to do something new. My next painting will be my first with four human figures in it — four kids at a wedding. It’s never too late to find your passion. I wish I had discovered mine earlier. I might have been really good!” Some would say she already is. **NOW**



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BusinessNOW

Dermatology & Skin Cancer Surgery Center

— By Joy Horn

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Dermatology & Skin Cancer Surgery Center is a medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology center offering a multitude of services. The Waxahachie location, recently opened the second week of January, provides high-quality care and options that didn't previously exist for people in the area. "We are excited to be here," Holly Glover acknowledged. "We



are not just a business. I want to make sure everyone in the community is taken care of."

Holly is a physician assistant currently working in the new Waxahachie location caring for patients each day. Joining Holly is Medical Director Dr. Matthew Barrows, a Board-certified expert in the field of dermatology. He is also one of only a handful of surgeons who perform the Mohs Micrographic procedure for skin cancer removal in North Texas.

The Mohs procedure, which will be offered at the Waxahachie office, is a specialized technique used to treat skin cancer. Mohs involves removing skin cancer cells layer by layer. This process allows the doctor to examine each layer for cancer cells and continue removing additional layers until the cancer has been completely removed. By using this technique, doctors can remove the cancerous site while preserving surrounding tissue, which results in better cosmetic outcomes and happier patients.

The practice also has an in-house Board-certified plastic

surgeon, who performs wound closures for many of the more complex cases. In addition to many other services, they also provide skin cancer screening, BOTOX and fillers. "Anything to do with the skin, hair or nails — that's us," Holly explained.

Another cutting-edge service provided at the office is SkinPen® microneedling. This cosmetic technique is used to help with fine lines, wrinkles and even acne scars. "SkinPen® helps improve skin tone and texture," Holly explained. The procedure involves making tiny punctures in the skin to encourage more collagen production. The great thing about SkinPen® is that it does not require the use of chemicals.

Not only does the center provide cosmetic services to keep skin looking beautiful, they also provide skin exams and services to keep skin healthy. Many people may not be aware of the importance of yearly skin checks, but making an appointment may protect you from harmful diseases. "We have the ability to prevent a lot of these issues," Holly said. "A full skin exam is appropriate for every age, every single year. Everyone should be getting their skin checked." She also recommends monthly self-exams and wearing sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher on any part of the body that is exposed to the sun, especially the face. For those concerned with sunscreen decreasing the body's ability to absorb vitamin D, Holly said that the benefit outweighs the risk.

Holly is passionate about serving her patients and becoming involved in the community. She always provides patients with the information they need before they walk out the door. "Research has shown that patients only retain 40 percent of what is discussed in an office visit. I always try to write everything down, so they can reflect on it later," Holly acknowledged.

Holly is committed to providing excellent care to her patients from the moment they walk through the door. "We try to create a warm and welcoming experience," she said. "From the billing department to the front desk, we want to provide the best customer service possible." **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Kyle Kelso

By Joy Horn

Kyle Kelso is a high school teacher and the grandfather of two sweet girls, 6-year-old Katelyn and 9-year-old Elizabeth Kelso. During the summer, the girls love spending time at Kyle's house, and sometimes, when it is not too hot, they come out to help him shine up his Kawasaki 1500 Nomad. He and Elizabeth, the oldest of the two sisters, like taking rides together through the country. "This is my hobby," Kyle said with a smile. "My brother and a buddy from work both have motorcycles, and we like to go riding on the outskirts of Waxahachie through the beautiful, winding roads."



Alaina and Brysen Ward get in some good summer fun at the George Brown Plaza splash pad.



Catherine Hinojosa happily gathers flowers for her garden.



Heather McCann and her two kiddos, Halen and Weston, dig into yummy bowls of rolled ice cream on a hot summer day!



Events by Rental Solutions cuts its Midlothian Chamber ribbon to celebrate its new store in Waxahachie.



Sara Mallord and Carlos Dominguez enjoy an afternoon out at Scarborough Renaissance Festival.



Loss Horn saves an alligator snapping turtle from Broadhead Rd.



Miss Justyce Moreland smiles while feeding ducks after school on a bright summer day.



Sydney Scruggs and Michael Bonillas go back in time at the Scarborough Renaissance Festival.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With THEO ACKER

— By Lisa Bell

English teacher, Theo Acker, is the life of the party, with her food as the centerpiece. “My mother is a cooking machine,” Theo said. “She finds solitude in the kitchen, and we’re all glad.” As a child, Theo and her sister learned to cook from their mother. She loves looking in her pantry, typing available ingredients into Google and finding new recipes. It’s one way she taps into her creative side.

In her spare time, she works on her book, writes poetry or submits articles to local newspapers. Though a pro at desserts, she learned from mistakes. Her first try at divinity cost her a mixer, bowl and spatula. “I didn’t quite have the experience I do now,” she shared. “The method I used seemed to be the exact one for making cement.” **NOW**

Cranberry-nut Coffee Cake

Cake:

- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups Bisquick baking mix
- 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup milk or water
- 2/3 cup whole cranberry sauce

Confectioners’ Sugar Icing:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 Tbsp. water

1. *For cake:* Mix all ingredients until well blended. Bake at 350 F until lightly browned and toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
2. *For icing:* Blend all ingredients until smooth. Spread on cake.

Nanny Fried Salmon

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 large can salmon (substitute two cans tuna, if desired)
- 1/2 cup crackers, crushed
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 Tbsp. cornmeal

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Shape into patties; fry in a small amount of oil until brown on one side. Flip and fry until brown on the other side.

Mandarin Salad

Makes 4-6 servings.

For Sweet-sour Dressing:

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar

1 Tbsp. snipped parsley
 1/2 tsp. salt
 Dash pepper
 Dash red-pepper sauce

For salad:

1/4 cup almonds, sliced
 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. sugar
 1/4 head lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
 1/4 bunch romaine, torn into bite-size pieces
 2 medium stalks celery, chopped (about 1 cup)
 2 green onions with tops, thinly sliced (about 2 Tbsp.)
 1 11-oz. can mandarin orange segments, drained

1. For dressing: Shake all ingredients in a tightly covered jar; refrigerate.
2. For salad: Cook almonds and sugar over low heat, stirring constantly, until sugar is melted and almonds are coated.
3. Cool almonds; break apart. Store at room temperature.
4. Place lettuce and romaine in a large plastic bag; add celery and onions.
5. Pour dressing into the bag; add orange segments.
6. Close bag tightly; shake until salad greens and orange segments are well coated. Add almonds and shake. Do-ahead tip: Before adding dressing, salad greens can be closed tightly and refrigerated no more than 24 hours.
7. Variation: For a pineapple salad, substitute 1 13-oz. can pineapple chunks, drained, for the mandarin orange segments and snipped mint for the parsley.

Divinity Candy

2 cups sugar
 2/3 cup water
 1 7-oz. jar marshmallow cream
 1 tsp. vanilla
 2 cups pecans, chopped

1. Boil sugar and water until it forms a soft ball.
2. Remove from heat. Add marshmallow cream, vanilla and pecans; blend well.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper or pour into buttered pan; cut into squares while still warm.

Fresh Fruit Dip

1 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese
 1 7-oz. jar marshmallow cream
 Orange juice (may substitute any juice)
 1 watermelon
 Blueberries, cantaloupe, strawberries and grapes (to fill watermelon)

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Fourth of July Trifle

1. Soften cream cheese to room temperature. Add marshmallow cream; mix well, adding just enough juice to reach desired consistency for dipping.
2. Prepare a watermelon by cutting it into a basket and scooping out the melon. Scallop the edges.
3. Add watermelon, blueberries, cantaloupe, strawberries and grapes into the basket you have created. Dip away.

Fourth of July Trifle

Makes 16 servings.

- 4 cups boiling water
- 1 pkg. (8-serving size) or 2 pkgs. (4-serving size) **Jell-O** gelatin, any red flavor
- 1 pkg. (8-serving size) or 2 pkgs. (4-serving size) **Jell-O** berry blue flavor gelatin

- 2 cups cold water
- 4 cups pound cake, cubed (I like Sara Lee in the frozen food section.)
- 2 cups strawberries, sliced
- 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip, thawed

1. Stir 2 cups of the boiling water into each flavor of gelatin in separate bowls for at least 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Stir 1 cup cold water into each bowl. Pour into separate 13x9-inch pans. Refrigerate 3 hours until firm. Cut each pan into 1/2-inch cubes.
2. Place red gelatin cubes in a 3-1/2-quart bowl or trifle bowl. Layer with cake cubes, strawberries and 1/2 of the whipped topping. Cover with blue gelatin cubes.
3. Garnish with remaining whipped topping. Refrigerate at least 1 hour or until ready to serve. Store leftover dessert in refrigerator.

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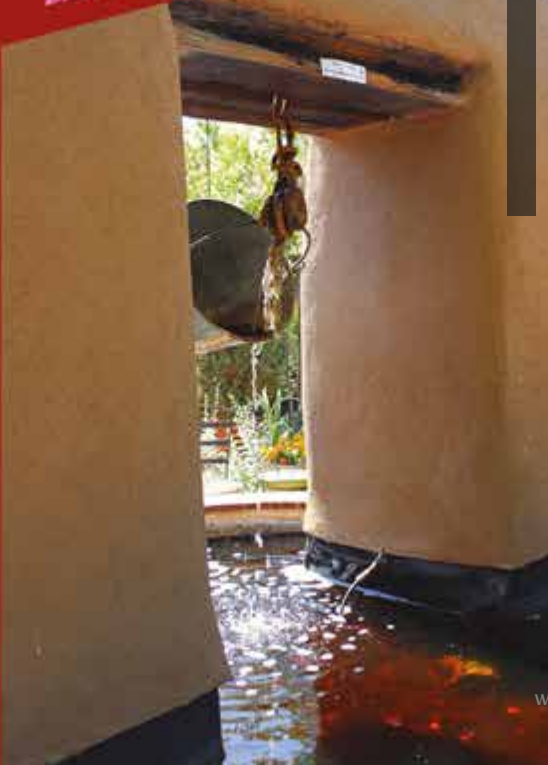
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— By Virginia Riddle

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The city sprawls and meanders, as does the Rio Grande, which flows through North Valley and South Valley. Interstate 25 and the Rail Runner Express commuter train (running from Belen, New Mexico's, Harvey House Museum, to Santa Fe) offer easy access to valley sites.

Founded in 1706 by Don Francisco Cuervo y Valdés in honor of the Duke of Albuquerque Viceroy of New Spain, the first "r" was dropped in later spellings, leaving the city nicknamed the "Duke City." Old Town Historic District's plaza, anchored by the stately walls and quiet spirituality of San Felipe de Neri Church, built in 1793, is surrounded by *placitas* (small plazas), home to residents, shops, galleries and historic sites. ¡Explora!, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and the Albuquerque Museum are sure stops.

In Spanish style, roads fan out from the plaza in all four directions. East to west, enjoy time travel back to the 1920s-1960s when much of downtown and the Nob Hill-Highland District grew up around the historic Route 66, which, in town, becomes Central Avenue. Iconic neon signs, vintage shops, period eateries and the beautiful architecture and gardens of the University of New Mexico campus, with its museums, bring back memories of when Route 66 was known nationwide as the Mother Road.

At the east junction with I-40, visitors can head north to catch the aerial tramway to the Sandias' peak. Moving farther east through the pass, visitors may exit to the Turquoise Trail leading to Santa Fe after a side trip to Tinkertown Museum and Sandia Peak.





Traveling westward from the plaza, the Albuquerque BioPark hosts an aquarium and botanical garden. Take the Rio Line narrow-gauge railroad to the zoo and Tingley Beach and hike or walk the 16-mile *Paseo del Bosque Trail*. Climb in the ancients' footsteps on extinct volcanos to view the petroglyphs carved between 1000 B.C. and 1600 A.D. at the Petroglyph National Monument.

Southward from the plaza, the Barales community hosts the National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico with its art galleries, performing arts venues, library and archives. Historic Barales grew up around a Rio Grande River ford near the Camino Real, the Spanish road connecting Mexico City and Santa Fe.

Travel northward from the plaza on Rio Grande Boulevard a few miles to the North Valley where fertile, irrigated farms, ranches and vineyards thrive. Hike along the river at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and visit the Unser Racing Museum.

Enjoy driving to the historic Village of Corrales, the state's self-proclaimed horse capital. Return to Albuquerque by way of 4th Street, which bisects the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque as a continuation of Route 66.

Then perhaps catch a hot air balloon ride at the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum, or delight in viewing skies dotted with colorful hot air balloons during dawns and sunsets while breakfasting or supping New Mexico-style Mexican food, featuring the state's largest crop, green chili peppers, on a restaurant's patio. With mariachis performing, it's the perfect way to relax. **NOW**

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Utilizing SPACE

— By Lisa Bell

Why do people store stuff in their garage and leave the car out in the driveway? Many simple solutions can use available space and leave room for vehicles. Although you can invest in inexpensive organizing systems, you don't have to spend a fortune in the process. Get creative.

Use the walls.

If you have open studs with space between, you have ready-made “closets” for storing garden tools, fishing rods, cleaning tools, etc. Simply cut two 16-inch x 16-inch pieces from scraps of 1/2-inch plywood. Screw them into

the back and front of the studs at a slight upward angle. Then slip in objects from the top down.

For a fishing rod organizer, all you need is a 3-inch diameter PVC pipe and a foam swimming pool noodle. Drill 1-inch holes spaced every 4 inches in the PVC pipe. With a sharp knife, cut slits in the noodle 4 inches apart. Line up the pool noodle on the wall so at least two slits sit over studs.

Pulling those slits apart, slide in a fender washer and screw the noodle to the wall using 2-inch screws. Finally, screw the PVC pipe to the wall beneath it at a comfortable height and insert fishing rods. This system prevents line tangles, as well.

Add hooks.

One of the best storage solutions comes in the form of various sizes of coated hooks. Attaching oversized





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hooks to studs becomes instant storage for garden hoses, extension cords and even bicycles or lawn chairs. Even more efficient, hang J-style hooks to the existing garage door track for a ladder, yard tools and spare lumber. Using canvas storage bags with the hooks can also be a great way to protect and store holiday decorations for all seasons.

Ceiling-mounted shelves.

Many ready-to-install versions exist that drop down from the ceiling to hold most anything. You can also build your own ceiling system using 2-inch PVC pipes and fittings. Glue them together and bolt the straight pipe to ceiling joists, which works to support heavy loads. Screwing angled pieces from the wye connectors to the cross brace helps stabilize the entire rack.

Ceiling track storage.

Another way to extend storage space from the ceiling incorporates big plastic storage bins with a few pieces of wood attached to the framing. While this system isn't great for heavy items, it is a good way to store light and medium weights.

Use 2x2s, cut to the appropriate length, and screw into the framing with 3 1/2 screws spaced every two feet. Then, center and screw 1x4 boards flat against the bottom of the 2x2s using 2-inch screws. When finished, slip the bins into place. The lip of the bin should just touch the center 2X2.

Take advantage of corners.

Some of the most unused space falls between the garage door and sides of the structure. Yet small corner shelves fit well in this area. With exposed studs, this area provides even more room. Either way, cut scrap wood to the appropriate size and shape, rounding or squaring the front corners. Use 1x1-inch cleats to support the shelves on both



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A native of Midlothian, TX, Jacque has worked in Ellis County for 17 years and understands the local real estate market. She handles a variety of escrow transactions, including residential and commercial purchases. Jacque considers it a privilege to share in a small part of her clients' life journey by helping them purchase their first home or start a new chapter in their lives. She has the knowledge and skills to provide efficient closings, while putting her clients at ease during what can be a stressful time. Jacque is married with three children, two grandchildren and a Shih Tzu named Gizmo. In her spare time, she enjoys antiques, reading and boating.

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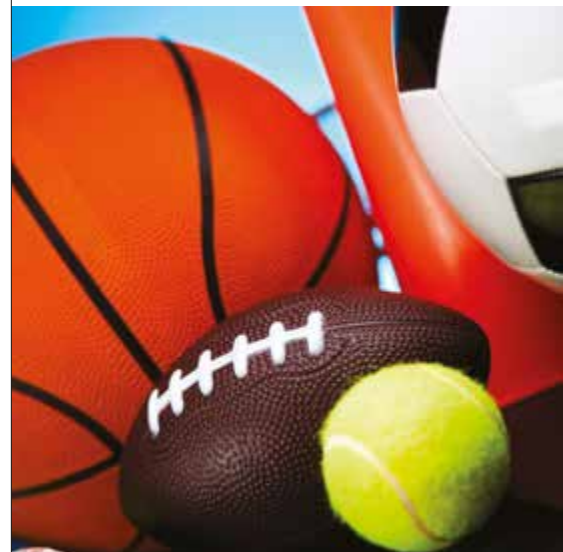
This is not a complete list of study requirements. Your doctor will discuss eligibility with you.

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sides. These small spots are perfect for holding smaller containers that get lost on larger shelves or in cabinets.



Simple ball storage idea.

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Simple holder for gloves and hats.

Use a scrap of wood and decorate it any way you desire. Attach wooden clothespins on the front, and using small eyehooks, attach a wire for hanging. Position the holder on a nail anywhere in the garage and clip up gardening or work gloves, caps, bandanas or any other accessory. This one might even be good for inside the house.

Creating new storage zones can be as easy or difficult as you want. But perhaps some of these ideas will spur you on to even more creative ways to get your car back in the garage. After all, isn't that what a garage is meant to protect? **NOW**

Sources: www.familyhandyman.com, www.cutediyprompts.com, www.hgtv.com.



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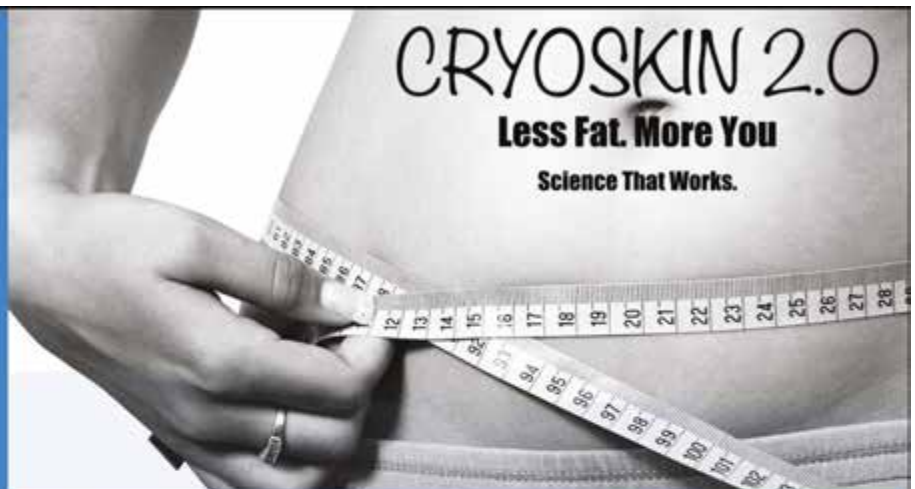
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Photo by Bill Smith



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TALES OF TEXAS

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— By Bill Smith

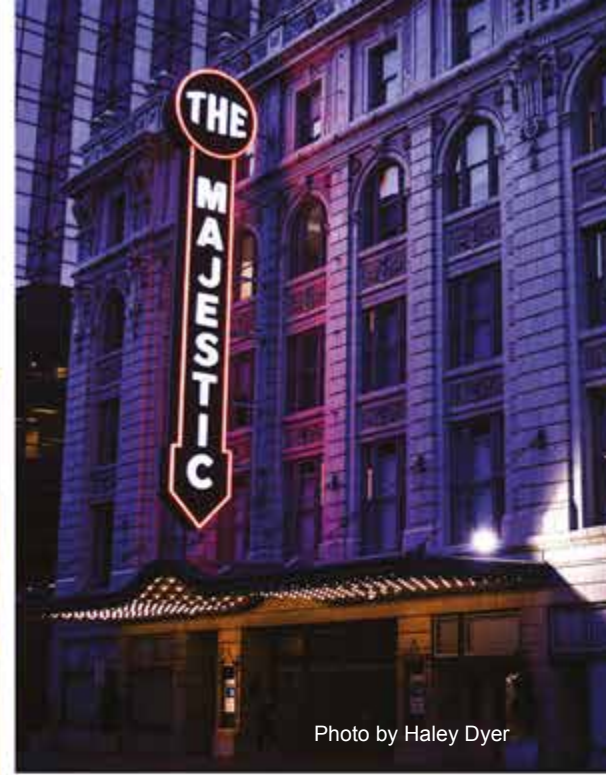


Photo by Haley Dyer



The theatrical amenities of the Majestic Theatre make it obvious that it was built for the exciting live performances of vaudeville rather than as a movie theater. One of the things one might notice as “missing” from the theater is a marquee. Vaudeville preferred the poster that presented much more detail about the scheduled entertainment, and the original poster is in the Majestic offices, announcing the opening night of April 11, 1921. Plans are already in the works for the Majestic’s centennial celebration.

Gazing out at the theater seats from center stage, one must wonder if Bob Hope, Houdini or perhaps Mae West from the vaudeville era felt the same nervous excitement as recent performers, such as the talented Elvis Costello or British comedian Eddie Izzard. Performers and patrons alike appreciate the intimate experience of the Majestic. The beautiful golden balcony extends over the floor seats toward the stage and brings the artist closer to his audience. The acoustics are so near perfect that it is like performing in a smaller space with fewer patrons, yet today a “packed house” would include more than 1,500 guests.

Photo by Bill Ellison



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Though the original marble floors and stairways have given way to plush carpet that complements the rest of the lobby, the original design continues to bring to mind the opulence of the stars and dignitaries who have visited this magnificent structure. The lobby, with its beautiful, gold leaf paint and dramatic crystal chandeliers, is like walking into a gold-filled room. The mirrored walls expand the room to remind us of the reflections in their history.

The Majestic was originally part of Karl Hoblitzelle's Interstate Amusement Company, which included theaters across the South. Dallas was the flagship theater, so imagine Hoblitzelle's horror when, in the 1930s, he returned from Europe after an extended stay only to find that his manager had painted over the gold leaf we admire today with colors of red and pink! He *immediately* ordered the original paint restored.

In 1973, the last movie was shown at the theater, and in 1976, the Hoblitzelle Foundation gave the Majestic to the city of Dallas. The building was the first in Dallas to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and today is overseen by General Manager Mike Schwedler. Mike's first view of the theater was looking out over the performance hall. He recalls saying, "OK, what do you want me to do? I'll take the job!" The Majestic makes its own impression when you see it for the first time.

The area out of public view is just as important in ensuring "the show must go on" as is the grandeur of the public areas. Backstage, the lights and the curtains are managed by an elaborate system of counterweights and pulleys for raising and lowering the modern theatrical equipment.

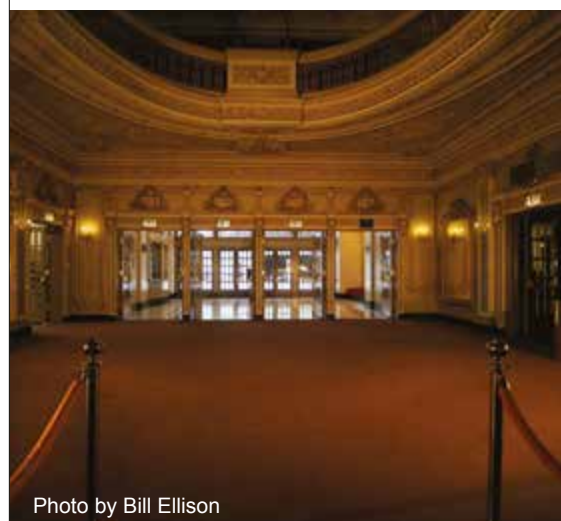


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Photo by Michael Schwedler

Mike explained, "If we have a performance of *Peter Pan*, we have all the equipment we need to make sure he can fly."

Deeper into the theater, a passageway follows a stairwell under the stage to allow a performer to exit stage right and then magically reappear to the delight of the audience from stage left. There are 16 dressing rooms for the performers' preparation, including two choral dressing rooms for large troops. Imagine passing by one of these rather simple, somewhat austere rooms and getting a glimpse of an upcoming act like the cast of *Man of La Mancha* preparing to go onstage. Use your imagination even further and maybe you can see Bob Hope in his dressing robe and the makeup artist taking the sheen from that famous nose that Bing Crosby likened to a ski-slope!

The revered history of this magical place continues to draw famous performers and great movies. It was certainly a piece of relatively recent nostalgia to see the original *Mary Poppins* screened in the Majestic just after the remake, *Mary Poppins Returns*.

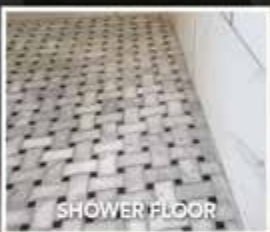
Mike offered this additional insight, "I am proud to have contemporary acts like Hall and Oates play here as they tour, but I am even more proud when a local school of dance books the theater for their recital. The parents and grandparents beam with pride, and the children have the time of their lives."

Visit the Majestic website soon and see who is playing there. It might be a performer that you saw in concert 20 years ago, or perhaps a world-famous contemporary artist. Attending the Majestic is to experience a different era of theater, one we do not want to forget. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Visit the Majestic at 1925 Elm Street in Dallas. Performance and ticket information is available at: <http://majestic.dallasculture.org>



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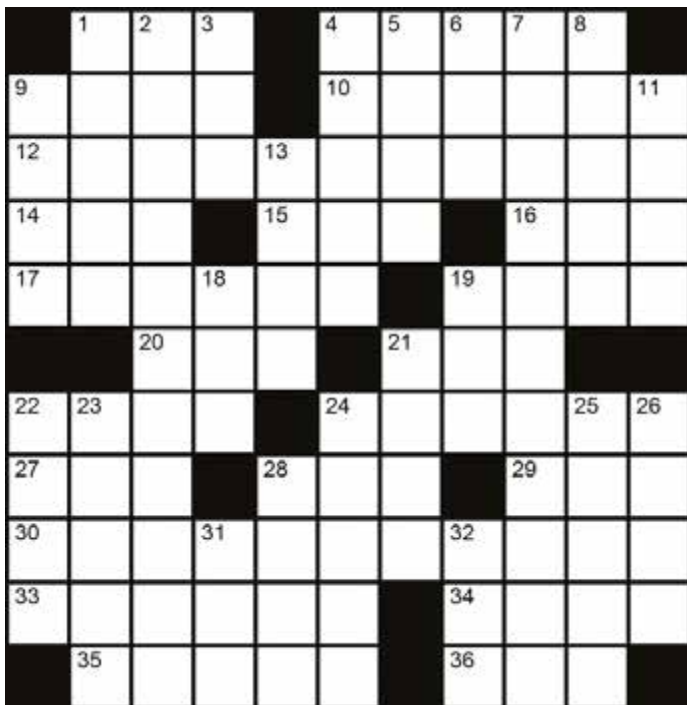
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- 10 Hawaiian Punch fruit
- 12 Lawsuit
- 14 Exclamation of contempt
- 15 Writing fluid
- 16 Blaster's material
- 17 Wedding vow sites
- 19 Sunday rite
- 20 Pro bono promo, briefly
- 21 Female sibling
- 22 Encourage in wrongdoing
- 24 Most pleasant
- 27 High rock
- 28 Rollaway
- 29 Dove sound
- 30 Impish
- 33 Skiers' haunts
- 34 Taverns
- 35 Gin
- 36 Append

Down

- 1 Words after make or close
- 2 Just the one
- 3 Long Island iced cocktail
- 4 Crosses
- 5 Writer for hire
- 6 Disposed
- 7 "Hey, that's not right!"
- 8 Film critic Jeffrey ---
- 9 Able was I ere I saw ---
- 11 Pangolin food
- 13 Old Italian money
- 18 Nova Scotia hours
- 19 It may be open at a bar
- 21 Location
- 22 Cash caches, perhaps
- 23 Prepares eggs
- 24 Din
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Fajita Meat, Skirt Flank Steak	\$9.00/lb.	\$11.00/lb.
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Brisket	\$5.00/lb.	\$8.00/lb.
Rump, Pikes Peak Roasts	\$5.00/lb.	\$6.00/lb.
Zero Steak, Stew Meat	\$5.00/lb.	\$6.00/lb.
Arm Steak	\$5.00/lb.	\$6.00/lb.
Ground Beef	\$5.00/lb.	\$6.00/lb.
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 60



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 Steve Griggs with Penny Gilly
 Kevin Robinson Show
 Elvis Tribute
 Marquis of Vaudeville
 Ghost Walk

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★ HAPPY ★ INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY

7/19-7/20

Home Quilt Show:

The Creative Quilter's Guild of Ellis County will be hosting an annual quilt show. **Friday:** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sokol Hall, 2622 Hwy. 34 Ennis, TX 75119.

7/26-7/28

Youth Summer Showcase:

Waxahachie Community Theatre is pleased to announce the production of *Looking Glass Land* (performed by ages 8-18). Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online through the theatre website. Showtimes: **Friday and Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m., University Church, 211 Solon Road. For more information, contact the WCT box office at (972) 646-1050 or email wct.texas@gmail.com.

Through 7/31

Hotter Than Blue Blazes:

A summer-themed art exhibit from the Pearce Museum's permanent collection.

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** noon-4:00 p.m., Navarro College, 3100 W. Collin St., Corsicana. Visit www.pearcemuseum.com/events-2/ for admission details.

Through 8/31

Music and Musicians in the Civil War:

A gallery exhibit displaying letters and artifacts from

the Pearce Civil War Collection. **Monday-Friday:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** noon-4:00 p.m., Navarro College, 3100 W. Collin St., Corsicana. Visit www.pearcemuseum.com/events-2/ for admission details.

Mondays

Bridge Club:

12:15 p.m., Waxahachie Senior Center, 122 Park Hills Dr. For more information, email Jeanee Smiles at smilestoremember@gmail.com or call (469) 309-4280.

Celebrate Recovery:

Dinner: 6:30-7:00 p.m.; meeting: 7:00-9:00 p.m., The Avenue Church, 1761 Hwy. 77 (972) 937-5301.

First Mondays

Friends of Sims Library:

This nonprofit group was created to foster a closer relationship between the library and the citizens of Ellis County. All meetings are open to the public. 10:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

**Second
Mondays**

School Board Meeting:

The community is invited to join the meeting. 7:00-8:00 p.m., WISD Administration Building, 411 N. Gibson St.

**Ellis County
Veterans Networking:**
Dinner and guest speaker. 6:00 p.m., IHOP, Waxahachie. Jim McKeever, (469) 258-7424.

Fourth Mondays

Texas Master Naturalists Indian Trails Chapter Meeting:

Business meeting: 6:00 p.m.; program: 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave. www.txmn.org/indiantrail.

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County Meeting:

6:30-8:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave. www.elliscountyquilters.com for more information.

Tuesdays

Happy Feet at Sims Library:

Children ages 1-5 are invited to dance and sing along in a guided music and movement lesson designed to improve social skills, stimulate brain development and create a musical literacy foundation to increase physical and literacy skills. 10:00-10:40 a.m. Email children@simslib.org for more information.

**Second
Tuesdays**

**Ellis County Republicans
Monthly Meeting:**

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

Wednesdays

GriefShare Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the Worship Center. For more information, call Dana Files at (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboyfaith.org.

**Second
Wednesdays**

Sarah's Laughter Infertility Support Group for Ellis County:

7:00-8:30 p.m., Gateway Church Midlothian, 555 N. Walnut Grove Rd. Midlothian. Contact amy@sarahs-laughter.com.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection Meeting:

Cost is \$13. Reservations are due **Sunday** before the meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Contact Barb at (214) 463-5064 or barb.jacobs19@yahoo.com.

Thursdays

Dig It! Gardening Club:

This club is for children ages 5-12. If you have an interest in



7/3-7/4

Crape Myrtle Festival:

Wednesday: Food trucks, live music, children's activities and fireworks at the Waxahachie Sports Complex. Tailgate: 5:00 p.m.; fireworks: 9:00 p.m. **Thursday:** A parade will take place downtown. 10:00 a.m., starting at Getzendaner Park

gardening, come for gardening-related activities and help maintain the Sims Library garden. **Tuesdays:** 4:00 p.m., **Fridays:** 2:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Second Thursdays

Lady's Night Out:

Local shops offer wine, treats, sales and more. 5:00-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Last Thursdays

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 Meeting:
All active, retired or former

Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave., Ennis. (214) 803-4954.

Fridays

Ellis County Democrats Coffee and Talk Open House:

8:00 a.m.-noon, Democrat HQ, 215 E. Main St. Visit www.elliscountymocrats.org for more information.

Saturdays

Farmers Market:
Every Saturday through **October**, visit the market for

delicious, locally grown produce, fresh baked goods, plants and much more. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., downtown at 410 South Rogers Street.

Super Science Saturday:

The Sims Library will be hosting a STEM-based program for kids 5 or older. Join the group every other Saturday during the summer. 10:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Second Saturdays

BOGO Sale:
Businesses in downtown

Waxahachie offer sales in their stores. All stores determine discounts.

Tail Waggin' Tutors:

The Sims Library will have trained dogs come to the Library to help kids love to read. The kids can read to the dog in a calm environment while strengthening their confidence and reading level. Noon, Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	R	T	4	S	H	A	W	L
9	E	D	I	E	10	P	A	P	A
12	L	E	G	A	L	A	C	T	I
14	B	A	H	15	I	N	K	16	T
17	A	L	T	A	R	S	19	M	A
20	P	S	A	21	S	I	S		
22	A	B	E	24	N	I	C	25	E
27	T	O	R	28	C	O	T	29	C
30	M	I	S	31	C	H	I	32	V
33	S	L	O	P	E	S	34	I	N
35	S	N	A	R	E	36	A	D	D

Easy

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

Medium

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

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