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JULY 2023

Hope in the Storm

Soul Sisters support each other through the grieving process

Also inside:

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of July*

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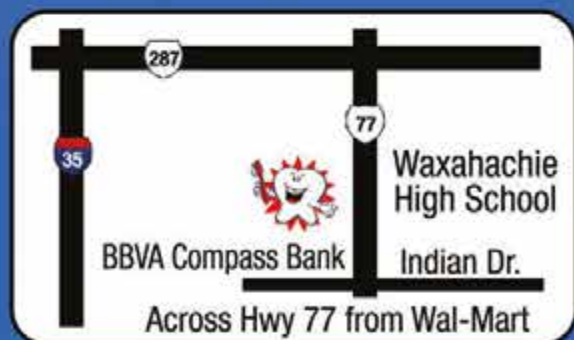
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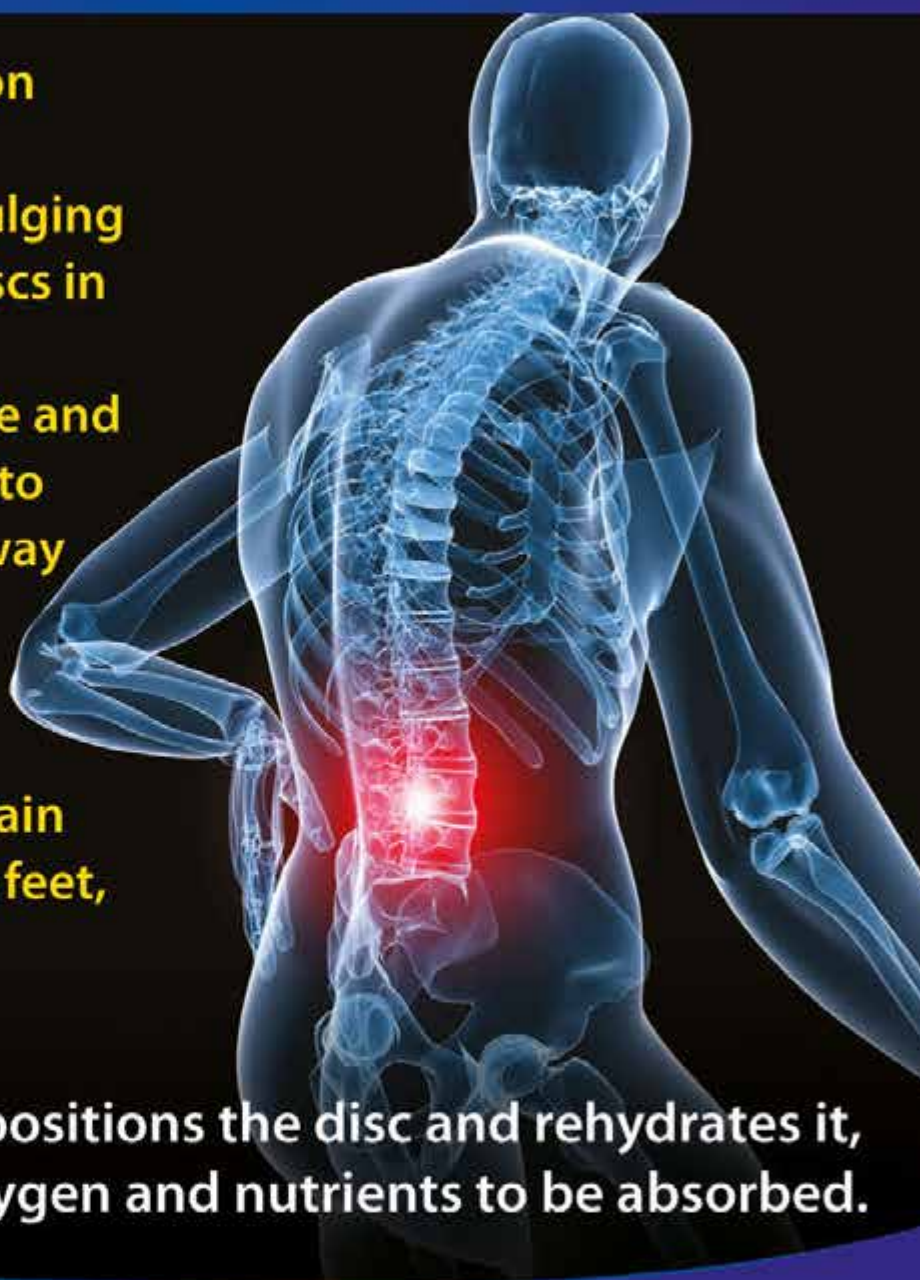
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ON THE COVER



Darlene Hardy and her Soul Sisters love and support each other.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The unexpected ...

Recently, I was outside with the dogs, feeding them a delightful dinner of kibble. I was sitting in the swing, reading a book of essays by Tolkien, as one does.

In an instant, the temperature dropped by several degrees, and the still air began to stir. Still I sat for a bit longer, as the sky darkened, and the tree above me began to sway and creak just a little. I would have stayed longer, but that tree has a habit of losing branches when the wind kicks up.

I decided, discretion dictated that I cut short my backyard sojourn. By the time I stood from the swing, the dogs were already at the back door. Perhaps they have a bit more sense than I. I collected their bowls and started across the yard to stow them in the kibble bin, just as the wind really started to whip the tree tops.

There is a crape myrtle in the side yard, by the driveway, that towers over the back of the house. As I opened the bin to toss in the dog bowls, a shower of lavender petals came swirling down off the roof surrounding me with a cloud of fluttering purple fairies. (I did say I'd been reading Tolkien!) The petals swirled all around and dusted the ground with lavender snow. It was a brief moment of magic.

By the time I was inside and writing this, the wind was knocking tree branches against the house and thunder was rumbling in the distance. The moment was past.

... fleeting beauty!



Adam

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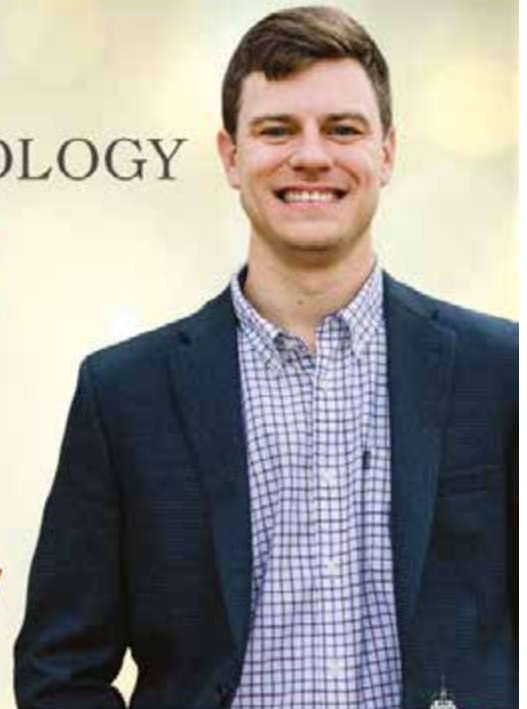
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HOPE IN

Darlene Hardy knows how life can take a turn. “My first career was in education. I taught school in Corsicana, Malakoff and Brownsboro. Then I moved to Cedar Hill where I was a school counselor and was later promoted to K-8 counselor coordinator and district testing coordinator. My husband, Paul, was a teacher at Cedar Hill High School. He taught engineering graphics, architectural graphics and multi-media animation. In the summers, and after school, he worked in the tech department. Paul was a certified Apple technician.

“When I retired, I opened a practice as a licensed professional counselor. When Paul got sick, we spent four months at Methodist Central. Then we transferred to big Baylor for a bone marrow transplant. He passed away one year to the day after his diagnosis. That was September 23, 2015. Christmas was only 93 days later. We decided to spend it at the Gaylord Texan because my kids felt it was too sad to be here without him.



— By Adam Walker

THE STORM

And thank God we did, because my house was destroyed by the tornadoes that hit the day after Christmas. The cement footprint was still here, but the house was destroyed. I was closing on a car at a dealership in Grapevine when my phone started exploding with calls. One of my former clients called and told me there were 40 people here trying to save anything they could. She had called LaQuinta and gotten me a room, so I had somewhere to stay.

“That was a difficult year. It was just one hit after another. My brother went into kidney failure and was placed on dialysis. My aunt passed away, and so did my oldest stepson. The week I moved back into the house after the six-month rebuild, my mother had a stroke. I was spinning. But my husband and I had had a habit. Every morning we got up and prayed and read the Bible together. Through it all, I had this supernatural peace. Even though all of this was happening, I was walking in peace. It was not easy. It was *hard*. But I got through.”

When life is that chaotic, it's easy to be overwhelmed by it all. But sometimes a small thing will speak to you out of the midst of the whirlwind. “After the tornado, I had a nursery come look at the tree by my driveway. It's a live oak, and the tornado had split it right down the middle. The man said the tree was dead, and it would cost \$8,000 to replace. My brother took a look at the tree and said, ‘No. There's still life in there.’ I was like that tree. Half of me was gone, and I was barely alive. But I watched my side of that tree get healthier. I watched it grow and spread and

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become normal. I thought, Wow! What a metaphor. I call it my Hope Tree."

Darlene understands the trauma and grief of widowhood both from her professional training and from her lived experience. She also understands the power of community, so in 2018, she started Soul Sisters to create a place of understanding and support for other women like herself. "I'm on the boards of a number of nonprofits, and one of those is Anchor Home, which serves homeless women. This isn't really their ministry focus, but they've been gracious to let us come under their covering all these years. We started with just eight women, and now we're 32 women helping each other. So, we're in the process of becoming our own nonprofit with our own board of directors. Currently, our meals are provided by Midlothian Bible Church, but as we grow, we are seeking additional sponsors."

The widows who make up Soul Sisters come from all over Ellis County and all walks of life. "Some of us are homemakers. Some are professionals. Some of us have been widows for a few months, some for a few years, some for decades. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, at 6 o'clock, in different houses or churches. We didn't want to get together and cry. Don't get me wrong, you can cry if you need to. But we're here to have fun. We learn macrame, play bingo and have volunteered with the Waxahachie Tour of Homes. We didn't like the term 'widow support group,' so we're Soul Sisters. We get you. We go to the musicals at the Granbury theater, and out to eat. At Christmas, we planned so many activities, but I got strep throat and couldn't go to half of them! We're





talking about doing an overnight event. You just pick and choose what you want to do. This last Valentine's, we had a Galentines dinner that Stan and Paula Baucum hosted at their house. Cindy and Andrew Burch from the Doves Nest in Waxahachie prepared the gourmet meal. It was amazing. We had beef loin. I don't know who paid for the food that night, but they wouldn't take a dime!"

These ladies are serious about having fun, but they're also serious about the support. "Soul Sisters exists to meet the social, emotional, spiritual and, when possible, the physical needs of widows. This group is helpful. The women keep coming, so it must be. The one thing we have in common is that we're there for each other no matter what. Everyone needs and wants that. Some of us don't have family here, so we need friends. There are practical things like helping each other find good repair persons and taking flowers to each other when we have surgeries. I don't ever want anybody to have surgery alone. It's hard to be sick without a spouse. I think we all learned a good lesson from COVID."

Darlene loves her Soul Sisters. "These are some amazing ladies. They are kind and loving — every single one of them. Not everyone comes and stays, but most do. I know there are other ladies in Ellis County who are alone, who need and want a group like this. This is a place where you are loved and accepted."

And that tree? The tree has grown back and is thriving again. There's now a swing hanging from one of the branches, where Darlene sits and enjoys her mornings. **NOW**



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RAVE ON

— By Virginia Riddle



The day was February 2, 1959. Buddy Holly was 22 years old, had 25 hit records already to his credit, was the lead singer of The Crickets and had assembled a group of musicians for the Winter Dance Party Tour across America's Midwest. By then, The Crickets included Waylon Jennings, Tommy Allsup and Carl Bunch. Other performers, Ritchie Valens, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and Dion and the Belmonts, were on the tour, too. It was a cold, miserable day in Clear Lake, Iowa, as Buddy chartered a small, private plane for himself, Waylon and Tommy. Waylon gave his seat to J.P., who was sick with the flu, and Tommy lost a coin toss for his seat with Ritchie. The plane took off, never to reach its destination. Buddy's famous black horn-rimmed glasses were found in the wreckage. As Don McLean's 1970s song, "American Pie" notes, some say that was the "day the music died."

Charles Hardin Holley was born on September 7, 1936, in Lubbock, Texas. His parents, Lawrence and Ella Holley, named him after his maternal and paternal grandfathers, but the name seemed a bit long, so his mother called him

"Buddy." The extra "e" in his surname was dropped by Buddy after Decca Records misspelled it on his first contract. Still very young, Buddy signed the contract *Buddy Holly* because he was afraid if he changed it, the opportunity would vanish.

In early childhood, Buddy enjoyed typical activities of the day — Scouts, fishing, baseball, drawing horses, leatherworking, clay modeling and woodworking. He created several guitar straps. His interests weren't scholastically inclined, but he did well enough to graduate from Lubbock High School.

Developing an interest in music at an early age, Buddy was encouraged by his musical family to play instruments in the country, gospel, bluegrass and rhythm and blues genres. While a student at Lubbock's Hutchinson Junior High, Buddy met Bob Montgomery. They started playing music together in 1949, mostly country western and Hank Williams songs. Hipockets Duncan, a local radio personality, started managing the group, which had added Sonny Curtis and Larry Welborn. They performed regularly at various locations around Lubbock including roller rinks, parking lots and the Cotton Club. They were on local station KDAV's *Sunday Party*, playing songs requested by listeners, and they opened for Elvis when he came to town on his second tour. By age 16, Buddy wrote in an essay, "I have thought of making a career out of western music if I am good enough, but I will just have to wait and see how that turns out."

He wasn't waiting long. In 1955, talent agent Eddie Crandall obtained a recording contract for Buddy at Decca. Buddy wasn't artistically happy with Nashville, so he sought out Norman Petty's independent recording studio in Clovis, New Mexico, near Lubbock. The original Crickets included Buddy, Jerry Allison, Joe Mauldin and Niki Sullivan. They named their band, according to folklore, because they heard a cricket sound at the end of one of those early recordings. The first successful single, "That'll Be the Day," was written by Buddy and Jerry.

The band toured the U.S., Australia and in 1958, toured



England, where they influenced The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Elton John, who were all just starting their careers. The Rolling Stones' first hit, "Not Fade Away," was a Buddy Holly song, and Elton John started wearing unnecessary glasses to be more like Buddy.

The Fender Stratocaster was Buddy's choice of guitars, but he also played a Gibson acoustical guitar. Buddy's Fenders are considered by some to be the "holy grail of rock 'n' roll." The great lyrics of "Peggy Sue," "Words of Love" and "Maybe Baby" were sung to Buddy's strumming on his Fenders.

On a New York City tour, Buddy met María Elena Santiago and proposed marriage to her the same day. They were married two months later on August 15, 1958. María Elena influenced Buddy's life and music from then to today as a supporter of the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock, where his glasses and other memorabilia are displayed. There and on the Buddy Holly Trail in Lubbock, visitors can enjoy Buddy's own unique rockabilly sound, which he created during the earliest days of rock 'n' roll. As it influences other artists, the music still lives on. **NOW**

Photos by Virginia Riddle, L.L.C.

Sources:

1. www.buddyhollycenter.org
2. www.buddyhollyarchives.com

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Zoomed In: The Rodriguez Family

By Adam Walker

Valerie, Marcus and daughter Jaide Rodriguez got in some fun family time at the Triple T Amusements carnival in front of Coleman Junior High. “I’ve been coming here since I was a little girl,” Valerie reported. “Now, I get to bring my daughter here. It’s literally the same rides I remember. Getting to share this with her is really special.”

While mother looked on, father and daughter attempted to navigate the hamster wheel inside the Wacky Shack, to the general amusement of all. The bright, flashing lights and cheerful swirls of color were the perfect accompaniment to all the sliding and rotating floors. Triple T has been coming to Waxahachie and delighting young and old generations for decades with carnival rides and food that bring back memories.



Cason Rogers runs for Life High School Waxahachie.



Scavenger Hunt winner Bonnie Lloyd shows off the WaxahachieNOW Magazine cover story displays that two of her friends made for her.



The Life High School Waxahachie Mustangs win the area championship for the second time in three years.



7 Brew opens their newest location in Waxahachie.



Steople Group holds a ribbon cutting at the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce.



Opening day brings the crowds to the Farmers Market.



Chloe Bell, Ryan Martin and Alexander Hansen help raise funds for United Breast Cancer Foundation.



Cynthia Ford leads boot campers Kirsten Seth, Natalie Horton and Tara Taylor in No Weigh Jose.

M-42864

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— By Adam Walker

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John Reagan of Reagan Wealth Management is a Certified Financial Planner who is here to help his clients manage their assets through investments and other strategies. “I work with a select group of individuals, families, businesses and institutions to build wealth and realize their goals. My mission



is to provide objective and timely financial advice and guidance with the highest level of professional service.”

John views each client as an individual with a unique financial situation. “I take clients through the process of looking at their current situation and identifying their specific goals. We look at their investments, retirement planning, annuities, life insurance and long-term care.

As an independent advisor, John values integrity. “Being independent matters. The major firms may push products that are good for them as a firm. As an independent, I offer an unbiased approach. That’s not something you get everywhere. Some people who come to me have been sold products they don’t need. It’s important to learn a client — where they are, where they want to be — so we can plan together to meet those goals. This is a relationship business. It always has been and always will be. You spend your whole life saving money. You want someone you can trust to handle your assets. If you don’t feel like you can trust your financial advisor, don’t. There’s no substitute for face time with a client,

but I do meet with clients virtually, if that's what they're comfortable with."

He helps clients with investment, risk management and asset protection, as well as legacy and estate planning needs. "I follow a disciplined process that always begins by listening to my clients when they speak. I learn about their past experiences, current situation and future dreams and aspirations. Then I go to work, studying and analyzing that information and modeling various ways to help them achieve their objectives. I explain my findings, recommendations and advice in plain, simple English with no technical jargon. You're paying me to guide you, but ultimately, it's your decision. So once we agree on how to implement solutions, I do so in an independent, objective, unbiased and cost-effective manner. Then I continually monitor and evaluate the plans that have been put in place, because market conditions change. So do tax laws and regulations. Changes also occur in the lives of my clients and their families. What I can offer here at Reagan Wealth Management is much more personal than calling an 800-number and speaking to a different person every time you call."

It's important to learn a client —where they are, where they want to be — so we can plan together to meet those goals.

John values Waxahachie. "I grew up here. My wife grew up here. My mom was a teacher at Dunaway. I graduated from Waxahachie High School. I went on to Abilene Christian University, and then worked for some very large firms in Dallas. I've been a financial planner for 25 years. I have big-city experience, but I'm glad to be back in Waxahachie. I was a deacon at Brown Street Church of Christ for 15 years, and I'm a longtime supporter of Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center. I'm also involved with Ducks Unlimited, which raises millions of dollars for wetlands conservation. I help organize the largest charity banquet in Texas for them each year. This place is important to me, and so are the people of Waxahachie." **NOW**



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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* ALIZA OCHOA DUGAS

— By Adam Walker



Aliza Ochoa Dugas is a self-taught baker who learned from magazines and bridal cake books. “My first big cake was my sister’s wedding cake that fed 400 people. She showed me a picture, and I said, ‘I can do that!’ After that, I started making wedding cakes for friends and family. They were my most stressful cakes because I never wanted to let the bride down with the look or taste of the cake. I over critique myself to the point that making wedding cakes became not enjoyable.”

Aliza inherited her love of cooking. “My dad was an Army kitchen supervisor and a great barbecuer. My mom instilled a love of cooking and baking for loved ones. Cooking is part of my life due to their example.” **NOW**

Gourmet Chocolate Cake

Baker’s Joy Cooking Spray
2 boxes Pillsbury Moist Supreme
Chocolate Fudge Cake Mix

1 1/2 cups water
1/2 cup dark coffee

6 extra-large eggs
1 cup oil

3 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia Cream Cheese
(divided use)

2 cups powdered sugar (divided use)
3 tsp. clear vanilla extract (divided use)
7 cups heavy whipping cream
(divided use)

1 10-oz. bag Ghirardelli 60% Cacao
Bittersweet Chocolate Chips
(divided use)

1 10-oz. bag Ghirardelli Semi-sweet
Chocolate Chips (divided use)

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray 2

9-inch round baking pans with Baker’s Joy; line them with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl using an electric mixer on low speed, combine the cake mixes, water, coffee, eggs and oil. Increase the speed to medium; beat for 2 minutes. Pour the batter into the baking pans, 3/4 full. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 35-40 minutes.

3. Cream together 8 oz. of the cream cheese, 2/3 cup of powdered sugar and 1 tsp. of the clear vanilla until smooth; place in a bowl. Repeat twice more, keeping each batch of cream cheese mixture in a separate bowl.

4. With a whisk attachment, beat 1 cup of heavy whipping cream until medium thick (2 minutes). Slowly add half of the cream cheese mixture from one of the bowls, in 2 batches (2 oz. at a time). Beat on the highest setting until the frosting adheres to the whisk (2 minutes). Remove from the mixing bowl into a storage bowl. Repeat the same process with the next 4 oz. of cream cheese mixture until you have 6 batches. Refrigerate.

5. To make the ganache, microwave half of both kinds of chocolate chips with 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream for 1 minute; remove and whisk until a smooth, glossy thick consistency; let cool for 10 minutes. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

6. Cool the cakes on a rack for 10 minutes. Flip out of the pan; slice the cakes in half horizontally; place pieces of Saran wrap between the layers as you stack them. Freeze for 6 hours; remove from freezer.

7. Place one layer on a cake plate; frost with 6 Tbsp. of ganache. Add a layer of the whipped cream mixture. Repeat with each layer; cover the whole cake with the remaining ganache. (You may need to make more.) Return to the freezer for 1 hour, then lay Saran wrap over the cake until ready. Remove the Saran wrap; let sit on the countertop for 1 hour before serving.

Gourmet Coconut Cream Cake

Baker's Joy Cooking Spray

2 boxes Pillsbury Moist Supreme White Cake Mix

2 cups coconut milk

6 eggs or 10 egg whites

1 cup oil

1 1/2 tsp. coconut extract

2 2/3 cups Baker's Coconut Flakes (divided use)

3 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia Cream Cheese (divided use)

2 cups powdered sugar (divided use)

3 tsp. clear vanilla extract (divided use)

6 cups heavy whipping cream (divided use)

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F Spray 2 9-inch round baking pans with the Baker's Joy; line them with parchment paper.

2. In a stand mixer, combine the cake mixes, coconut milk, eggs, oil and coconut extract; beat on low speed until mixed. Increase speed to medium; beat for 2 minutes. With a spatula, fold in 2/3 cup of coconut flakes; pour the batter into the prepared baking pans, 3/4 full.

3. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 40 minutes.

4. Cream together 8 oz. of cream cheese, 2/3 cup of powdered sugar and 1 tsp. of clear vanilla until smooth; place in a bowl. Repeat twice more, keeping each batch of cream cheese mixture in a separate bowl.

5. With a whisk attachment, beat 1 cup of heavy whipping cream until medium thick (2 minutes). Slowly add half of the cream cheese mixture from one of the bowls, in 2 batches (2 oz. at a time). Beat on the highest setting until the frosting adheres to the whisk (2 minutes). Remove from the mixing bowl into a storage bowl; fold in 1/3 cup of coconut flakes by hand. Repeat

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Gourmet Chocolate Cake

the same process with the next 4 oz. of cream cheese mixture until you have 6 batches. Refrigerate.

6. Cool the cakes on a rack for 10 minutes. Flip out of the pan; slice the cakes in half horizontally; place pieces of Saran wrap between the layers as you stack them.

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THE Beautiful Village

— By Virginia Riddle



The wind whistles gently through the washes, around sage and juniper and over low mesas. Coyotes howl, and the stars shine brightly in the dark sky after a blazing sunset settles over this World Heritage Site — one of only 24 such sites in the U.S. The roads leading to Chaco Culture National Historical Park are rutted and washed-out dirt or gravel, depending on from which direction travelers are coming, so it is not easy to get to these sacred lands, which are far from the nearest town of Bloomfield, New Mexico. Adventurous travelers to Chaco Canyon can view in the distance the occasional Navajo hogan dotting the landscape. This is a sacred place

of the Hopi, Pueblo peoples and Navajo, who believe the spirits of their ancestors live within the canyon.

Today's world is left behind at the end of the last paved road. Visitors are off the grid, away from modern services or traffic noises. The visitor center has potable water, firewood, required hiking permits and toilets. Primitive camping and RVs under 35 feet long are allowed to camp in a small campground.

The first record of man's existence in this area, which is arid and prone to seasonal extremes of heat and cold, is A.D. 850, when indigenous peoples made this canyon the center of their civilization. The Chaco people developed over 400 miles of elaborate roads reflecting their worldview of trade and religion and created a complex society. By the early 1100s, Chaco Canyon was a ceremonial and commercial center to dozens of great houses and more than 200 settlements in the region. Shells, macaw remains, copper bells and other items have been found during archaeological digs, proving that this civilization traveled to and from distant lands.

The easiest way to experience Chaco Canyon is to take the Chaco Loop by vehicle, but first, two trails can be accessed from the visitor center. Una Vida is an unexcavated great house with a vast view of the canyon floor's landscape and a petroglyph panel viewed by climbing the nearby talus slope. A longer hike takes visitors to Wijiji, a great house, built symmetrically with uniform-sized rooms.

The first stop on the loop is Hungo Pavi at the mouth of Mockingbird Canyon. A short hike through the plaza takes visitors to Chacoan Stairway, one of several stairways carved into the surrounding cliffs. Next, rising up from the sand, is the largest of the great houses and the core of the complex, Pueblo Bonito, built in stages over 300 years. A hiking trail east of Pueblo Bonito leads to Chetro Ketl, another great house.

Pueblo del Arroyo, a rare, round, tri-wall structure, has an unobstructed view through the South Gap toward Hosta Butte. Two hiking trail heads can be accessed from this point. The Peñasco Blanco Trail runs through the Chaco Wash with pictographs, petroglyphs and the Casa Chiquita and Kin Kletso sites along the way. At the 2.9-mile marker, the trail splits, so visitors can hike the short distance to Supernova, a pictograph under a cliff overhang. It is believed this may be a record of the Crab Nebula, a star that exploded in A.D. 1054. Kin Kletso's east wall, as well as other walls within the great houses, may have been situated to confirm the solstices and other celestial events. The other trail winds upward to the Pueblo Alto Complex.

At the base of South Mesa, the Casa Rinconada Community is the largest excavated great kiva in the park. From atop the mesa, one can access Tsin Kletsin, another ruin. As the day ends with the sun setting, it is the perfect spot to view the southern Chacoan roads, the Eastern Mesa and the great houses with their walls aglow. **NOW**

Sources:

1. National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Chaco Culture, 2016.
2. Huschke, Kai. 50 Hikes in Northern New Mexico, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, Vermont, 2007.
3. Off the Beaten Path. Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, New York, 2009.





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Prepping for Pets

— By Angel Morris



While pets can be a wonderful addition to your family, it is important to consider several things before making that commitment. Some initial questions include: Is anyone in your family allergic to certain animals? What type of pet will mesh with the various personalities in your family? Do you have a yard or space in which a pet can play? Plus, do you have the time and money required to care for a pet? After you've answered those important questions, let's look at how to best find a new pet.

Although you may have a particular breed of pet in mind, it is worthwhile to first consider adopting from a local animal shelter or rescue facility, where millions of animals are surrendered each year. Cats and kittens make up a large portion of pet rescue populations, but dogs, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs and more can also be found. Many shelters have websites and social media pages showcasing the available animals.

A significant amount of medical care is often provided

by shelters before adoptions, including spay/neuter surgeries, initial vaccinations, flea/tick/heartworm disease prevention and sometimes even microchipping. The adoptions themselves can be free or low-cost — just watch for adoption events, which have become popular in many communities. They are often hosted at places like Petco or PetSmart, by your local rescue programs.

A lesser-known benefit to adoption is the shelter will often provide long-term resources for you and your pet. Behavior support, landlord negotiations and even food assistance, should you need it, are some of the ways a shelter may be available to you post-adoption. Check with your local facility to learn all the perks they may offer. Sometimes, shelter workers will even recommend which pets best fit your family based on a simple survey of your lifestyle! It may take a few visits to find that perfect companion, but patience is sure to pay off in the form of a loving new furry friend.

According to humanesociety.org, decades of advocacy have made pet adoption more popular than ever, and the number of animals euthanized each year is at an all-time low. But, there are still thousands in need of a home each year. Adopting these animals is one way to fight puppy mills, factory-style breeding facilities that house moms and their puppies in deplorable conditions with little to no care. Dogs bought at pet stores, online, through classified ads or at flea markets are often products of puppy mills, according to the site. Should you decide that adopting from a shelter/rescue

is still not right for you, shelter workers can sometimes be a resource for other humane sources of finding a pet.

Before bringing an animal home, it is helpful to write down costs associated with pet ownership to ensure your budget can handle it. From medical and dental care to potential health emergencies, pet owners can expect some annual costs. Ongoing expenses include food and grooming supplies, not to mention collars, leashes, bedding, toys, etc. Training and exercise may be things pet owners can handle themselves, but be sure to budget for those, as well, if you are unable to manage them.

If your family thinks it can afford a pet, there are still steps to take before bringing one home. Gather those items for which you've budgeted and prepare a storage location for them, along with a safe space just for your pet, whether that is a crate, a fishbowl, bird cage or a comfy bed. Store away any items a young animal might damage or that might hurt them.

Have a family discussion about who is responsible for which of the new pet's needs, from exercising and feeding to training. Determine who outside the family can help when you are away — a trusted family member or neighbor — who you can introduce to your pet in advance.

Plan when and how it will be best to bring your pet home. Will someone be around all day for at least a few days to care for them while they acclimate to their new space? Make a vet appointment (if not adopting from a shelter that provides those services), making sure all vaccinations are complete, spaying/neutering is done, and microchipping is handled. Get started on obedience training right away by either researching online yourself or hiring a professional. With these tips in mind, you'll be better prepared to successfully add a new pet to the family. **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/top-reasons-adopt-pet>.
2. <https://www.petakids.com/save-animals/dog-adoption-guide/>.
3. <https://www.hillspet.com/dog-care/new-pet-parent/ten-things-to-do-after-adopting-a-dog?lightboxfired=true#>.



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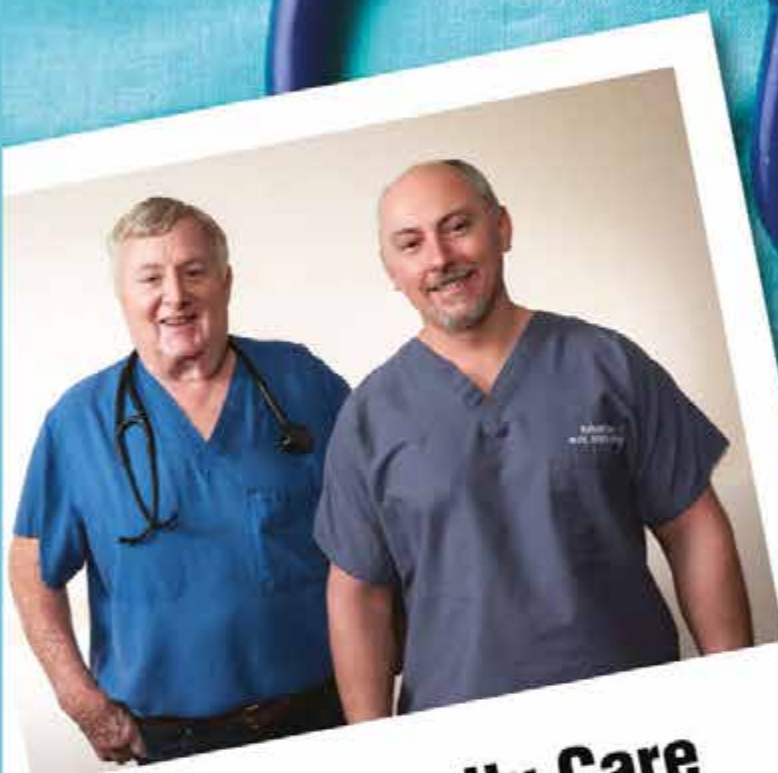


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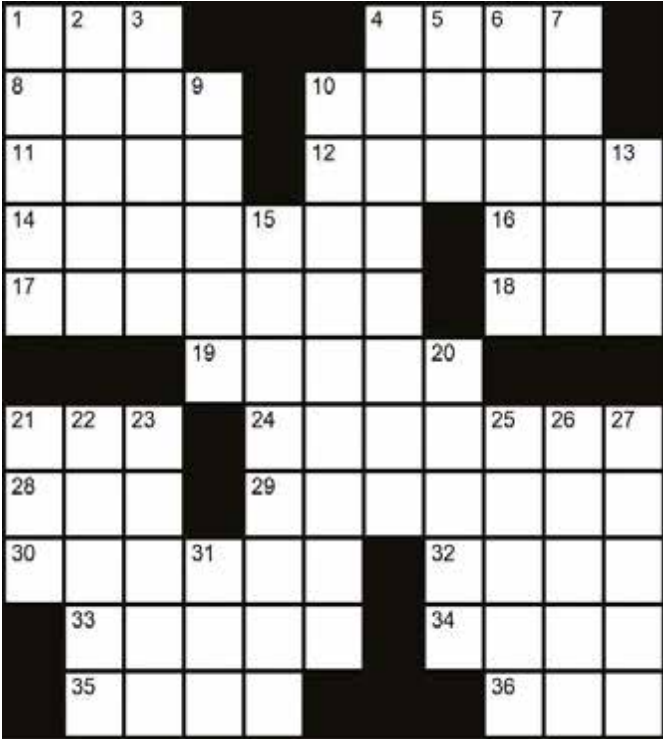
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Obsolete PC screen type
- 4 "--- the gods would destroy them first make mad" (Longfellow)
- 8 Rules
- 10 Historic Tuscan city
- 11 Go for --- in the sea
- 12 One of several English kings
- 14 Flat-tailed Everglades animal
- 16 Place for critical cases
- 17 Lead the way
- 18 Hold up
- 19 Ed Asner has seven
- 21 Breach
- 24 Pitt's C E O organized literary study
- 28 Part of a military address
- 29 Finished
- 30 In abundance
- 32 Shame
- 33 Bob ---, former Alabama Governor
- 34 "--- make a long story short ..."
- 35 Mary Lincoln's maiden name
- 36 24-hour Canadian sports channel

Down

- 1 Workbench gripper
- 2 It's not so good against stealth technology
- 3 Strong thread
- 4 Looking amazed
- 5 Chop
- 6 TV studio warning
- 7 --- Polo
- 9 Room
- 10 Initial funds
- 13 Provide with a soundtrack in a foreign language
- 15 Toughened up
- 20 Paces
- 21 One-liner
- 22 To pieces
- 23 Salk beat it
- 25 Utterly stupid person
- 26 The historic --- - Madison House, Washington DC
- 27 Bug
- 31 Well stricken in years

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Romans 8:1-4 NASB1995

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JULY

7/1

Red, White & Blue Country Bash:

Kick off your Fourth of July weekend with live music, food, drinks and fun! Free admission. 4:00 p.m.: 90 Proof (playing the best in '90s music). 8:00 p.m.: Barefoot Nation (Texas' only tribute to the one and only Kenny Chesney). 4:00-10:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

7/1-7/28

Waldo Waxahachie Scavenger Hunt:

Visit O'Brian's Bookshop inside Gingerbread Antiques for your stamp book. Then find Waldo inside local businesses to get your stamps. Free. Downtown Waxahachie.

7/3-7/4

25th Annual Crape Myrtle Festival,

Fireworks & Parade:

7/3: Madness Entertainment, concert by Seger System and fireworks display: 6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Sports Complex, 151 Broadhead Rd. 7/4: Hometown parade: 10:00 a.m., from Getzender Park down Main Street to Downtown Waxahachie.

7/18

**Postpartum Collective
Support Group for Moms:**
This is the first meeting. Come

help each other make the adjustment. Free. 6:30 p.m., 311 Spring Creek Dr.

7/29

Waldo Bash:

Dress as Waldo for a group photo, enjoy a DJ, snacks and vendors while waiting for the Waldo scavenger hunt grand prize drawing. Free. 10:00 a.m.-noon. Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

Last Sundays

Literary Ladies:

Discuss books and make friends. Free. 3:00 p.m., Paper Leaves Bookstore, 510 Water St.

First Mondays

Art on the Square:

See what local artists are up to. Free. 6:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

Tuesdays

Beginner Spanish:

Adults, get started on Texas' second language. Free. Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Second Thursdays

Canvas and Cocktails:

Come paint with your girlfriends. \$40. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Art on the Square, 113 W. Franklin St.

Last Tuesdays

Teen Anime Club:

Meet other fans and discuss your favorite anime and manga. Free. 5:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Write On!:

Improve your writing skills and get your message across. Free. 3:00-4:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

First Thursdays

Homeschool Hangout:

Enjoy hanging with friends. Free. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Chamber of Commerce Lunch:

Meet fellow entrepreneurs. Free, but limited seating. Noon-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 102 YMCA Dr. RSVP to sdunn@waxahachiechamber.com.

Saturdays

LEGO Club:

Build your dreams with everyone's favorite toy. 11:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Genealogy With Pat:
Get help tracing your family

roots. Free. 11:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

Saturdays Through September

Saturday Morning Fitness:

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Saturdays Through October

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