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More than a flag, the Rotary's program builds community spirit.



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NEIGHBORS AND FLAGS

— By Adam Walker

For well over 100 years, Rotary International has been working to make life better. Chris Wright is the new president of the Waxahachie Rotary Club. "Our motto is Service Above Self. I joined in 2017 after a tenant living in a property I own invited me to a meeting," Chris said. "He knew I was involved in a lot of service-oriented projects through the Texas Booksellers Association, as a scoutmaster and as a booster for the WHS basketball team, even though I haven't had a kid at WHS for the last 25 years. I went to the meeting and fit right in. I believe that donating time to my community is important."

Rotary Club is involved in many projects right here in Waxahachie, but through regional, national and international levels of the organization, local members are changing lives across North Texas and around the world. "The outgoing president of the Waxahachie Rotary Club had a strong connection with Waxahachie Care, so we did a lot of service projects there," Chris explained. "The president before that helped Dr. Jamal Rasheed with restoring and caring for one of the two cemeteries on E. Jefferson. We raised money for the inside restoration of the Ellis County Woman's Building. We also join with the Lions Club and the Kiwanis to build beds for kids in foster care through Sleep in Heavenly Peace."

Internationally, one of Rotary's major focuses is eradicating polio. This has been a longtime commitment that had driven this terrible disease almost to extinction. "By 1988, it was 99 percent eradicated by a simple vaccine, but it's been allowed to make a comeback. We're still pushing back," Chris informed. Rotary International is also committed to seeing that people have access to clean water.

"Rotary Club is truly international. Our new president is from Nigeria. A few years ago, a guy from a Rotary Club in Kenya showed up at one of our meetings here



"IT'S A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE PRIDE AND HONOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE VETERANS."

in Waxahachie. Where he lived was 60 miles from the closest hospital. Dave McSpadden spearheaded our effort to do something about that. We donated. Our district matched what we raised. Then the national organization got involved, and we bought them an ambulance. Now we're helping them build a hospital. When Ami Trull visited the construction site, she realized they didn't have a sonogram, so she went on Facebook Live and explained the need. We bought a laptop sonogram."

Everything from providing beds for foster kids to polio eradication and hospitals in Kenya requires money. Rotarians are generous with their time and their funds, but they also have a very visible fundraiser that helps with all the good they do from our own backyards to the other side of the globe — the flag program.

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You have probably noticed the American flags planted in people's yards and in front of local businesses all around Waxahachie at Memorial Day. Now they're back for our nation's birthday. "We put out around 20,000 flags in May, for Memorial Day and leave them up for Flag Day and Juneteenth. We put them up again in July for Independence Day. And then in September for Labor Day and leave them through 9/11. We have 32 different flag distribution routes around town, with anywhere from 10 or 15 flags up to about 100 flags. Some are rural routes with big distances. Some are in HOAs that want flags every few feet. The Boy Scouts and Special Olympics athletes help us put them out and gather them up. It only costs \$50 a year to enroll in the program," Chris explained. For that amount, citizens get to show their national pride and at the same time, help the Rotarians do all the good things they do. "It's a way for people to take pride and honor our country and the veterans," Chris emphasized.



When he started helping with the flag program, Chris was working with a Boy Scout troop. "Over the years, that troop got smaller and smaller. I was putting out about 200 flags all by myself, when a homeless man, Thomas Jordan, saw me and offered to help. He's not homeless anymore, and he's not a member of Rotary, but he still comes out every year to put out flags, just because he wants to help.

"The Waxahachie Rotary Club has about 80 members, making it one of the largest in the Metroplex. We also have Interact clubs at both WHS and Global High School. They have even more active members than the adults. Their big project is Trick-or-Treat

so Kids Can Eat, where they collect canned goods."

Now that Chris is president of the club, he's looking for projects he wants to focus on. "I love animals, and we just lost our SPCA. So, I want to help the city and county with animal services. I know we have a lot of other animal lovers. I also want to continue working with the hospital in Kenya and continue fighting polio. I'm hoping we can increase the scholarships we give out, and I'd really like to see us expand from just academic scholarships to include students going to trade schools, too. If helping others interests you, come check us out. We want more people to participate." **NOW**

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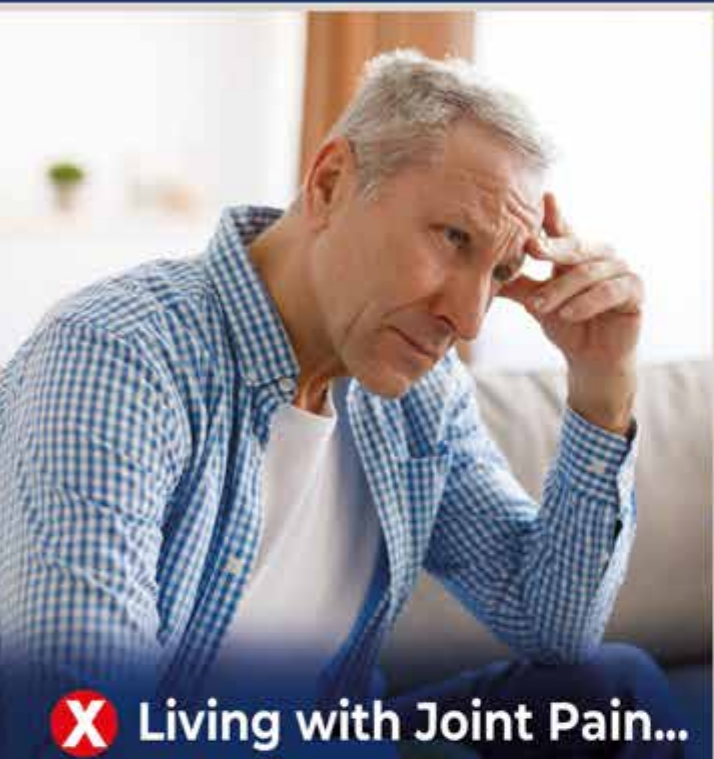
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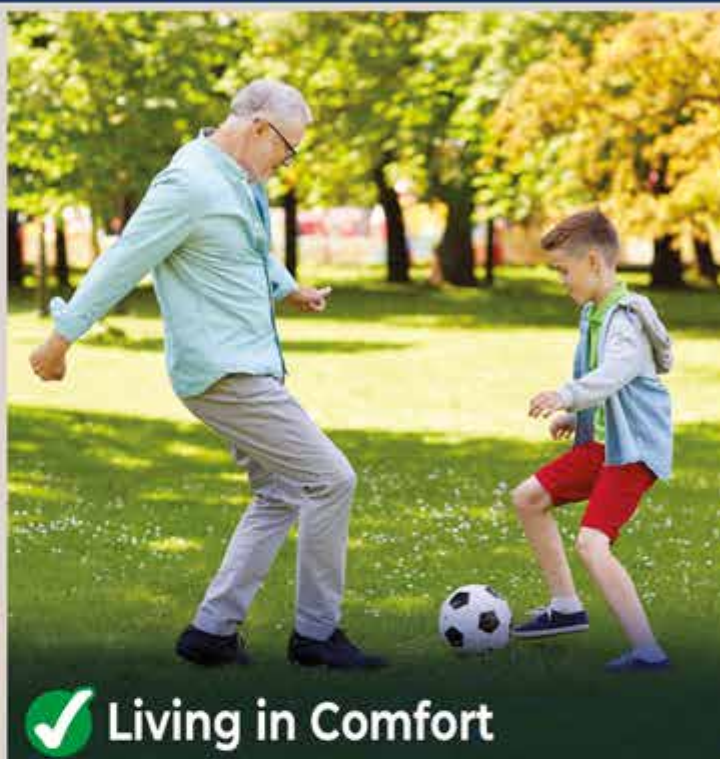
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FINDING YOUR PATRIOT

Two hundred and fifty years ago, ordinary people across the 13 colonies made the extraordinary choice to declare independence and create a new nation, and many of their descendants are still here. As Americans mark this milestone, millions are quietly wondering the same thing: Was my family part of it?

The good news is that this is one of the most answerable questions in genealogy. Here's how to find out.

Before opening any database, write out everything you know about your family, and talk to older relatives. Family stories aren't evidence, but they are excellent starting points. "Great-grandma always said we had someone at Valley Forge" is absolutely worth following up on.

From there, build a documented chain from yourself back through each generation. Every link needs a record to support it — birth certificates and marriage licenses for recent generations, then census records, church registers, wills and land deeds as you push back into the 1800s and 1700s. FamilySearch.org is free and a great first stop. Your local library may also provide free access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.

Here's something many people don't know: You don't need a soldier in the family to qualify as a Revolutionary War descendant. Both the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognize a broad range of qualifying service, including civil service roles, signing loyalty oaths, paying special war taxes and providing material support to the cause. Far more Americans have qualifying ancestors than they realize.

Two federal record collections are your most powerful tools. Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs) are searchable for free on FamilySearch and document roughly 80,000 individual soldiers from muster and pay rolls. But the real treasure is

the Revolutionary War Pension Files, available on Fold3 and Ancestry.com. Veterans applying for pensions decades after the war had to prove their service, so they wrote detailed narratives describing battles, naming comrades and often listing wives and children. A single pension file can answer years' worth of genealogical questions.

Also check the DAR Ancestor Database at dar.org and the SAR Patriot Research System at sar.org before you do anything else. A relative may have already proven part of your lineage, and an approved post-1985 DAR application can count as proof for the generations it covers.

The standard for proving ancestry is higher than just finding a promising name. You need evidence of the parent-child relationship at each generation, not just evidence that someone existed. Keep copies of every document, and note exactly where you found it. Family tradition, no matter how vivid, is not accepted as proof by lineage societies. The records have to do the talking.

Somewhere in the pension files and muster rolls, in old wills and church registers, your family's chapter in this country's founding may be waiting. All it takes is curiosity, patience and a willingness to follow the evidence wherever it leads. Happy hunting! **NOW**

Resources:

1. *Daughters of the American Revolution*. "Using the Genealogical Research System (GRS)." dar.org/research.
2. *National Society Sons of the American Revolution*. "Apply in 4 Easy Steps." sar.org/how-to-apply.
3. *FamilySearch Wiki*. "Revolutionary War Pension Records and Bounty Land Warrants." familysearch.org.
4. *Fold3*. "Revolutionary War Pension Files." blog.fold3.com.



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Zoomed In: Adam Walker

I moved to Waxahachie almost 10 years ago, returning to the hometown of my ancestors. For five years, I've been telling your stories. I've met some great people here: artists, athletes, city employees, ministers, quilters, cooks, business owners, students, teachers, community leaders, historians. I've interviewed fourth grade authors and centenarians. You work together to make a community I enjoy calling home.

This is my last issue of *WaxahachieNOW*, but I'm still here. I'll still see you at the grocery store, in the park, at the library. And *WaxahachieNOW* is still here to tell your stories and share your triumphs. Keep on being the great community you have been, and keep growing into something even better.

— Adam Walker
WaxahachieNOW Editor



Andres Moreno and Caylee Wilson take Daisy for a walk at Chapman Park.



Camp Gladiator keeps Waxahachie fit.



Kaitlyn Garcia and Gia stop by White Rhino for some avocado toast before going to the park for a walk.



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Zoomed In: Johnny Campbell

By Adam Walker

Johnny Campbell just finished fourth grade at Jimmie Ray Elementary. He cleaned up with all the awards. "I got the Principal's Award, honor roll, the Math Stars Award, the music award and the theater club award," he said. He was also a National Math Scholar Nominee. "I had to take a test to get resources for advanced math. It's a scholarship program. Math is my favorite subject. I enjoy geometry and algebra."

As much as he likes his accelerated math class, he has other scholarly interests. "My favorite thing in fourth grade was doing science experiments, but I'm looking forward to English class in fifth grade." Johnny is spending part of his summer performing in the Ennis Public Theatre production of *Into the Woods*.



Evelynn Smith is building a house and breaking trees.



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HAPPY
4th
of
July



Independence Day calls for outdoor gatherings filled with friends, family and festive foods that capture the spirit of summer. Whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue or heading to the park, these recipes can help make your Fourth of July picnic truly memorable. **NOW**

American Flag Fruit Cake

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
3 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 cup whole milk

Frosting:

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup powdered sugar
1 cup heavy whipping cream

Decorations:

1 cup fresh blueberries
2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced

1. For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 F; grease a 9x13-inch baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt.
3. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the vanilla.
5. Alternately add the flour mixture and milk to the butter mixture, beginning and ending with the flour.
6. Pour the batter into the prepared pan; bake for 25-30 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean. Let the cake cool completely in the pan.
7. For the frosting: In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth.

8. In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture until well combined.

9. Spread the frosting evenly over the cooled cake.

10. To decorate: In the upper left corner, arrange the blueberries in a rectangle to create the "stars" section of the flag.

11. Arrange the sliced strawberries in horizontal rows across the rest of the cake to create the "stripes." Leave white frosting stripes between the strawberry rows to complete the American flag pattern.

12. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Classic BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. paprika
1 Tbsp. garlic powder
1 Tbsp. onion powder
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
4 lbs. pork shoulder
1 cup chicken broth
1 1/2 cups barbecue sauce of your choice
12 hamburger buns
2 cups coleslaw

1. In a small bowl, mix together the first 6 ingredients.
2. Rub the spice mixture all over the

pork shoulder, coating it completely.

3. Place the seasoned pork in a slow cooker; pour the chicken broth around it.

4. Cook on low for 8-10 hours until the meat is fork-tender and shreds easily.

5. Remove the meat from the slow cooker; shred it using two forks. Discard excess fat; return the shredded meat to the slow cooker.

6. Stir in the barbecue sauce; keep warm until ready to serve.

7. Toast the hamburger buns lightly if desired. Pile the pulled pork onto the bottom buns; top with coleslaw. Cover with the top buns; serve immediately.

Baked Beans

6 slices bacon, chopped
1 medium onion, diced
4 15-oz. cans navy beans, drained
1 cup ketchup
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup molasses
2 Tbsp. yellow mustard
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. In a skillet, cook the chopped bacon until crispy; remove and set aside.
3. In the bacon drippings, sauté the onions until softened.
4. In a large baking dish, combine the beans, bacon and onions. Stir in the remaining ingredients.
5. Bake, uncovered, for 45-50 minutes until bubbly and slightly thickened.

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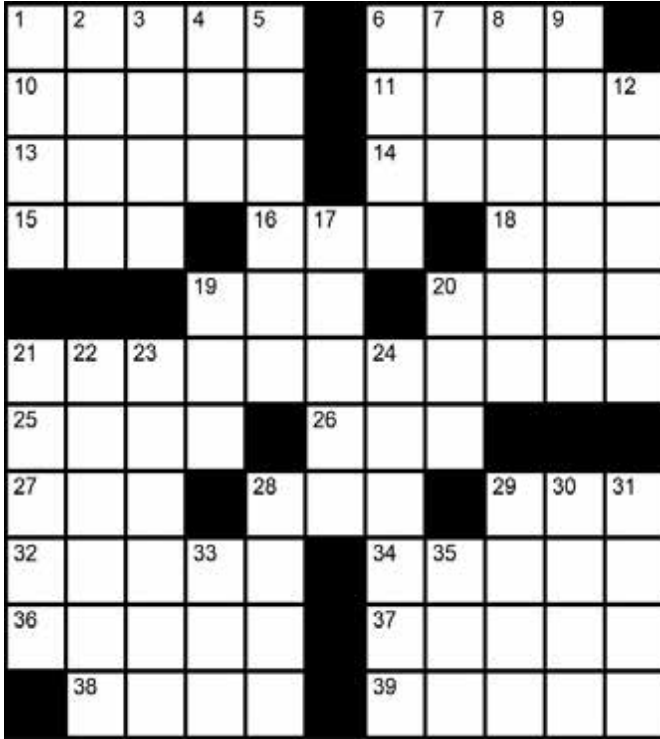


CATCH ISSUES EARLY



DOCUMENT EVERY PHASE

Crossword Puzzle



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Find puzzle answers within this magazine. Online versions and solutions are also available at www.nowmagazines.com.

Across

- 1 Nasal grunt
- 6 Against
- 10 Look attentively
- 11 Barnyard butters
- 13 --- Is Born (2018 movie)
- 14 Star ---, a culinary and medicinal spice
- 15 Little Red Book chairman
- 16 "Black" CIA activities
- 18 Write
- 19 He does give a hoot
- 20 Sound power units
- 21 Wrongly feign loss if breathing and moving

Down

- 1 Crawled, perhaps?
- 2 Organization which looks aloft
- 3 "The Simpsons" bus driver
- 4 "His Master's Voice" company
- 5 Tosses
- 6 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's --- ..." (The Rolling Stones)
- 7 Quebecer's turndown
- 8 Taiwanese capital
- 9 "Thou art the thing ---" (Shakespeare, "King Lear")
- 12 Inward feeling
- 17 Devious maneuvers
- 19 Single unit
- 20 Diner sandwich
- 21 Spills the beans
- 22 Positioned
- 23 Gerard goes out to fix the road
- 24 With justice
- 28 Funeral fire
- 29 "Animal House" party attire
- 30 Bad aroma
- 31 "--- of the D'Urbervilles" (Thomas Hardy)
- 33 Thermometric abbreviation
- 35 It's put down for a dance

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