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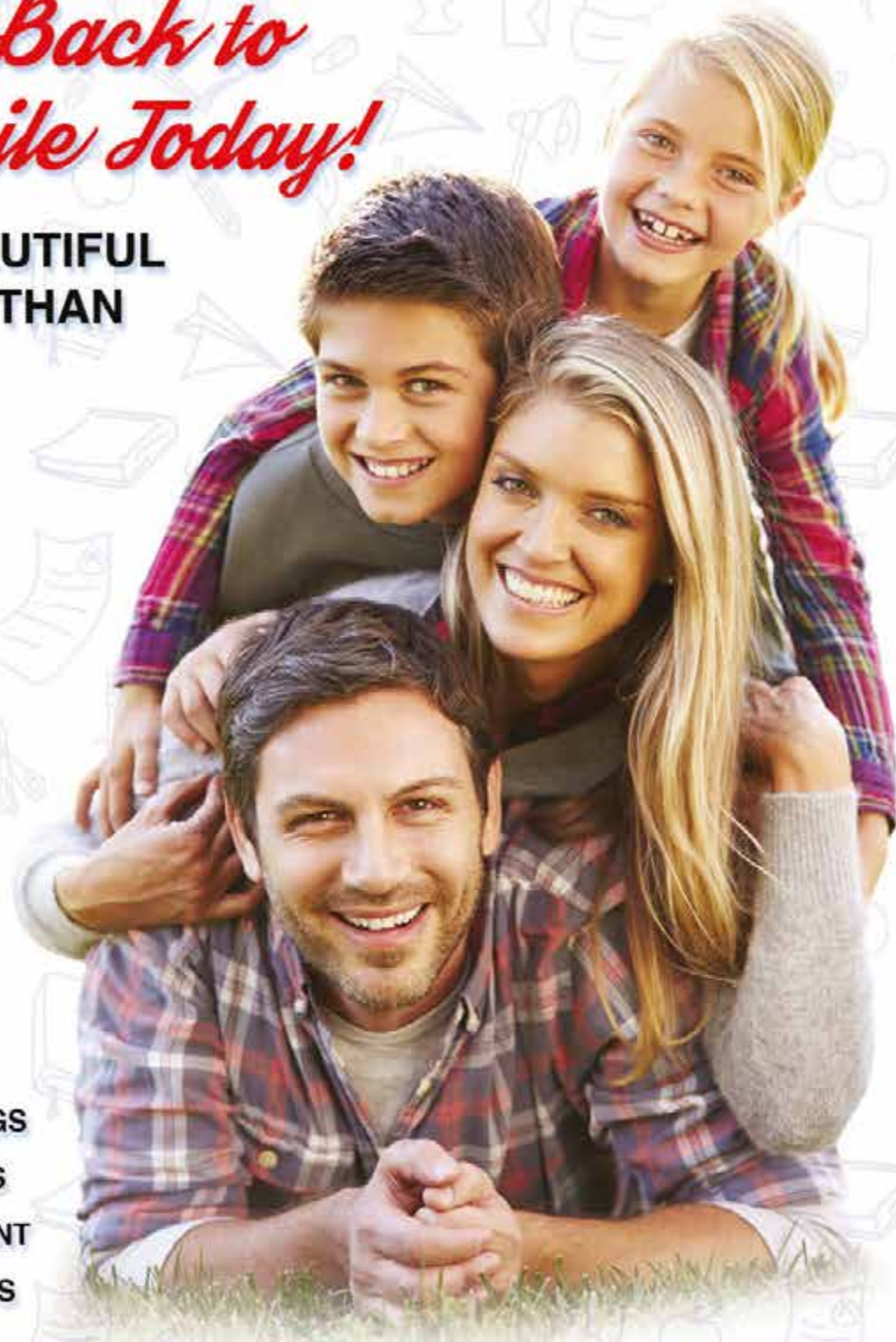
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ON THE COVER

*This Red Oak bowler proves
persistence pays off.*

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

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Are we there yet?

I sure miss life BC (Before COVID) and can only anticipate life AP (After Pandemic), but I feel stuck in this weird limbo between the two. I'm not sure where masks are mandatory, where they're simply encouraged or where they think you're namby-pamby if you're still wearing one. When people say, "I've had both my shots," my brain instinctively wonders, *Fireball* or *kamikaze*? until I realize they just want me to know they're vaccinated (and are totally cool with oversharing). Plus, I still have a little PTPSD (Post Toilet Paper Stock-up Disorder) when I find myself on the paper goods aisle at Wal-Mart.

Not to make light of the last year-and-a-half, but sometimes I have to laugh to keep from crying. Just when I think the end is near (in a good way, that is), I inadvertently stumble upon some report about variant strains, second waves or, worst of all, theories that it was all a sham. If you think breathing through cotton was tough, you should try it with your head in the sand ... that's where I'm becoming more and more comfortable these days.

So, like a '70s kid stuck to the vinyl seats of an Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser during summer vacation, I can't help but ask, "When will we get there? How much longer? Are we there yet?" as I picture Governor Greg Abbott turning to me in the backseat and saying, "We get there when we get there!" Until then, I'll count the miles 'til the end of this crazy road trip, and look forward to limbo being just for parties.

Enjoy the ride!



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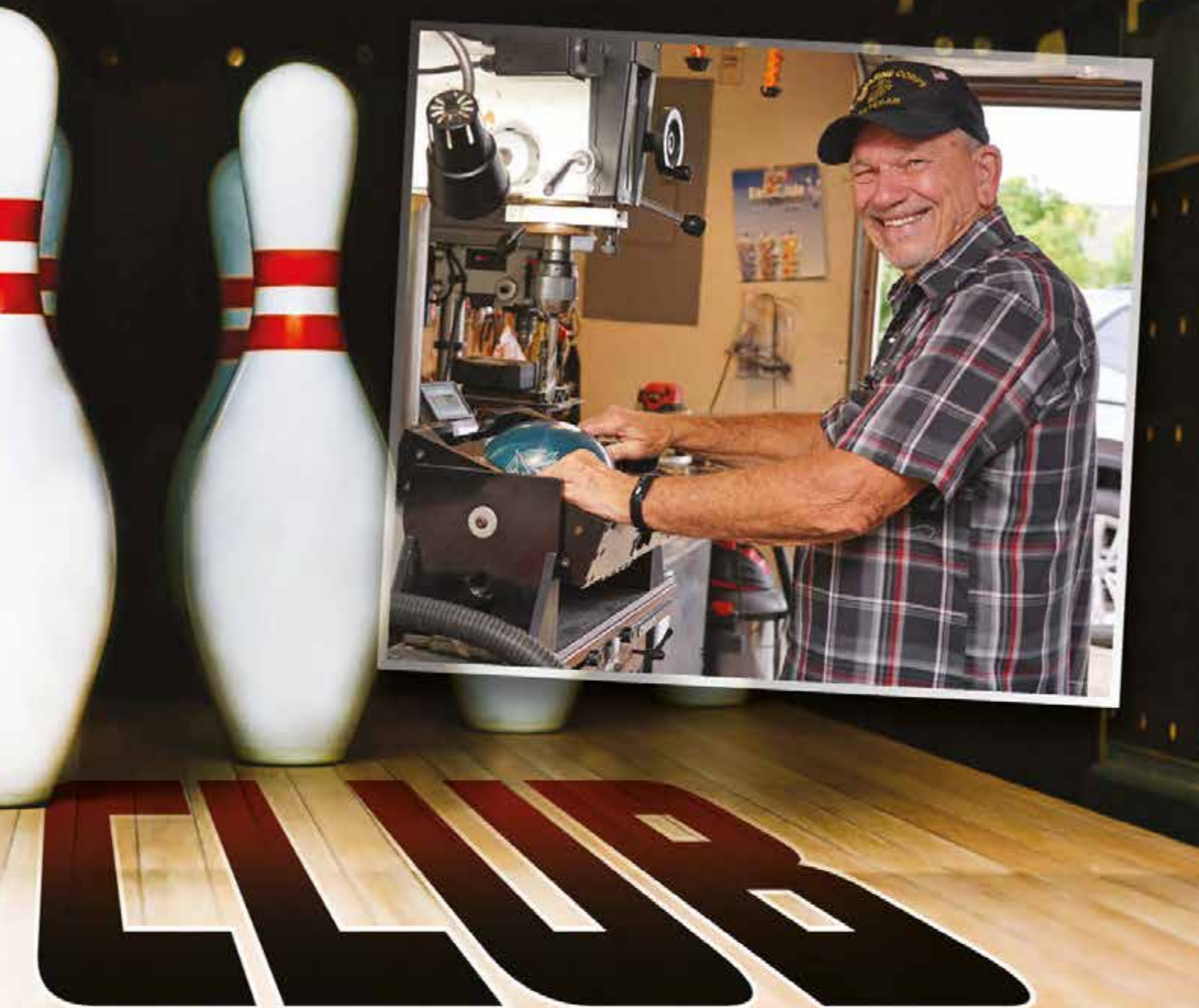


A winding road led Ray Mitchell to the perfect lane ... a bowling lane, that is. Bowling since he was a teen, it was 63 years before he'd play the best game of his life. "When I was 15, I had a friend who was a pinsetter at the local bowling alley. He invited me to come bowl for 10 cents a game, and I loved it so much I decided to stick with it," Ray recalled.

Born in Waco, Ray grew up in children's homes and orphanages in Dallas after his father left when Ray was only 3 months old, and his mother was not prepared to care for a child alone. At 17, Ray enlisted in the Marine Corps. "I loved giving back and serving our country," he said. "I was active in the Corps four-and-half years and was sent to Vietnam two times."

Even while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Ray bowled every chance he could. "There was no bowling alley on the Marine Corps base, so I went to the Air Force base to bowl," he remembered.

Once he returned to the Dallas Metroplex, Ray bowled everywhere from the Bronco Bowl to AMF Bowling Center. He settled in Red Oak in 1992 to "get away from city life and spend quiet time in the country. I was a truck driver, and with my odd hours, I had to be able to sleep whenever I was home from road runs. It was quieter in Red Oak," Ray explained.



— By Angel Morris

“I love the sport, and I love reaching goals, so it was great to finally achieve one I’d had for such a long time.”



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Nearby Hilltop Lanes, in Waxahachie, became Ray's preferred game spot, where he has played on several leagues. In 10-pin bowling, a perfect game requires strikes in each of the first nine frames, and three in the 10th, for a total score of 300. While Ray earned many high scores, the perfect game continued to allude him.

Plagued by injuries through the years, Ray wondered if he'd ever reach a 300-score game. "I had a bone spur between my last two toes on one foot. To remove it, the doctor had to remove my little toe and cut the bone spur off, then reattach my toe and use a pin to hold it in place," Ray explained.

As soon as that pin came out, Ray was back to bowling. "Then I tore the rotator cuff in my shoulder and had to have surgery to reattach the tendons."

At age 77, Ray was back to bowling after six weeks of physical therapy, and, despite the injury, he finally achieved his bowling goal. November 26, 2020, Ray didn't miss a single pin and earned his 300. "I'd had 16 or 17 strikes in a row between a couple games, but I struggled to get it perfect in one," he said. "I love the sport, and I love reaching goals, so it was great to finally achieve one I'd had for such a long time."

Unfortunately, Ray thought it might be his only perfect game after re-injuring his shoulder when a child jumped in

front of him on a lane. "I pulled back to keep from hitting the child and ended up needing a whole shoulder replacement, this time with a metal rod drilled down into the bone of my upper arm and a reverse ball and socket in the shoulder," Ray relayed.

Four weeks of physical therapy followed, and Ray got in the habit of lifting weights to build his strength. Within five months of his first perfect game, he managed to bowl 300 again in April 2021. "I have to give credit to God. Prayers were answered when it comes to my shoulder," Ray admitted. "I have to say, the doctor who did my shoulder surgery was a Christian, and he asked if I was a believer. I said I certainly was, and he started praying over me right there."

As Ray prepares for a second surgery on his foot, he believes his faith will keep him bowling for years to come. "Honestly, it all worked out because of the Lord, and I figure it will again," he said.

With the support and companionship of his wife, Bobbie, Ray is active at Lonestar Cowboy Church of Red Oak, where he works the cafe on Sunday mornings. A retired truck driver of more than 33 years, Ray remains busy at his pro shop, where he drills and repairs bowling balls.

He also enjoys long rides on his Can-Am Spyder motorcycle. "He works to live as healthy of a life as possible, so he can live longer and continue bowling," Bobbie noted.

While Bobbie has supported Ray throughout his injuries and encouraged his continued bowling, Ray has also been there for her. "After I suffered a stroke, Ray told me, 'You have to keep going, keep trying. Do not give up.' He took care of me, reminded me to believe in myself and pushed me to get back on my feet and bowling again myself," Bobbie credited.

As therapy or sport, bowling is an accessible activity, which makes Ray appreciate it even more. "Everyone bowls differently. It's about what you're comfortable with, making adjustments and focusing on hitting your mark," he instructed. "If you're not comfortable at one lane, move to another. The important thing is just to keep trying. Just never give up." **NOW**



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Oak Leaf's Lezlie Rozier visits with her granddaughter, Sofia, while vacationing in Maryland.

Zoomed In: Jase McMahon

By Angel Morris

High school senior Jase McMahon returns this month from 10 weeks of Basic Combat Training with the Army National Guard. "After graduation, I'll attend Advanced Individual Training to become a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist," Jase explained. In the National Guard, Jase will attend drill sessions one weekend per month until graduating from college. "My long-term goal is to get a law degree and possibly get involved with my local government as a politician," Jase predicted.

While Jase appreciated how basic training would undoubtedly improve his skills on the football field for Ovilla Christian School, he missed some things about home. "I enjoyed the obstacle courses and getting to know my platoon," he noted, "But I wrote my family multiple times, reminding them to bring Whataburger on family day!"



A young guest experiences his first visit to Real Philly Italian Ice.



Jaime, Zoe and Kalea Gallegos enjoy Now Magazines and a refreshing nutritional tea at the new business, Issa Vibe Nutrition in Red Oak.



The Ramer grandchildren celebrate summer with a Cousin Camp in Ovilla.



Landry, Isabella and Lindsey head to Ascension Dance Company auditions at RISE Performing Arts Center.



Penny Lopez and John Foster celebrate Independence Day at Oaks Church.



The Whitakers of Ovilla enjoy beachtime during their Florida vacation.



Glenn Heights resident Dawana Quintana shares her real estate expertise on air.



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For straight answers when it comes to your home improvement needs, StraightLine Consulting has got you covered. A self-employed contractor since April 2004, Kevin Swain officially began his business in December 2012, offering full-scale home remodeling and all types of roof coverings. “I will shoot you straight-talk and deliver what I say,” Kevin promised.

StraightLine Consulting is a family-owned and -operated business. “My family hails from Southern Ellis County, and I



began servicing the Southwest Dallas County area in 2012,” Kevin recalled. “I joined a few networking groups and started attending Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce events. Soon after, I began receiving referrals from local insurance and real estate agents. That is how I began my business and how I will grow my business.”

Kevin’s goal is to grow to offer all the improvement resources clients can imagine. “It’s not about the bottom line for me. I want to serve my community by providing quality service for a fair wage,” he explained.

From major remodels to landscape renovation, the services of StraightLine Consulting range from large to small. While specializing in roof coverings, the business’ services also include drywall, texturing and painting, flooring, fencing, concrete patio and driveway work, and some small handyman projects.

Going the extra mile is important to Kevin. “Two years ago, a friend had a tree fall on a corner of his house. He asked

me to come do some small repairs. In doing so, I saw he needed a new roof," Kevin recalled. "He filed a claim with his insurance, and they approved. We not only replaced his roof but upgraded it to hail-resistant material at no charge."

As a result, Kevin's client qualifies for a discount on his home insurance. "He was so happy. He told his agent how great I was. Now, that agent refers me to clients!" Kevin relayed.

"It's not about the bottom line for me. I want to serve my community by providing quality service for a fair wage."

Further building his reputation for customer service, Kevin shared the story of a special client with whom he has developed a relationship. "One particular client has had me come out every six months or so to do patch work on her roof, as that's how she could afford repairs. I made it a priority to replace her entire roof for what the cost of these small repairs were and am providing all the materials and labor at half rate," he said.

This work will be done for little to no cost, Kevin calculated, and will be at no profit for himself. "She needs this done badly, and it's something I can do," Kevin noted, saying he would complete the job as not just a gift for the client but a birthday present to himself. "What a gift to be able to help someone in real need," he noted.

With a heart for his community, Kevin donates to Meals on Wheels of Ellis and Johnson Counties, as well as Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. Providing honest work for honest compensation has built StraightLine Consulting's customer base. "When someone contacts StraightLine from one of my referral sources," Kevin promised, "... they can count on getting the red-carpet service package. I treat referrals as well as I treat my regular customers." **NOW**



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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* CALLIE DUHON

— By Susan Simmons

Cooking brings Callie Duhon beautiful memories of spending time in the kitchen with her great-grandmother. “She used to sit me up on the counter and let me help,” Callie reminisced. “Now, I pass that on by doing the same thing with my children.” Even though Callie is open to trying new cooking styles, she never messes with her family’s Cajun recipes, which have been passed down for generations. “I grew up in Louisiana, and I believe we have some of the best food in the world,” Callie said with pride. Her secret ingredient was taught to her by her granny. “She once told me that you can put love into everything that you cook, and I truly believe that to be true.” **NOW**

Eggplant Dressing

2 lbs. ground beef
Seasoning of your choice
3 cups water
2 cups rice
2 beef bouillon cubes
1 eggplant

1. Brown the ground beef; season the meat as it is browning.

2. Once browned, add 3 cups of water, uncooked rice and the bouillon cubes.
3. Peel the eggplant; cut it into cube-sized pieces.
4. Add the eggplant to the ground beef; let it cook until the rice and eggplant are done.

Beignets

3/4 cup water
1/2 cup whole milk

1/3 cup white sugar
1 1/2 tsp. active dry yeast
1 egg
2 Tbsp. butter, softened
1/2 tsp. salt
3 1/2 cups flour (divided use)
1 qt., plus 4 Tbsp. canola oil (divided use)
Powdered sugar, for serving

1. Add the water and milk to a saucepan; heat for about 1 minute or less until warm. Don't let it get hot. Keep it below 100 F.
2. Wisk in the sugar; sprinkle the yeast on top. Do not stir. Let sit for about 15 minutes to proof.
3. Add the proofed yeast mixture to a large mixing bowl; add the egg, butter, salt and 2 cups of flour. Mix together well, but do not overmix.
4. Add remaining flour; mix lightly. Place the dough on a clean workspace dusted with flour; flatten the dough out with your hands.
5. Fold the dough over itself about 4 times.

6. Roll the dough into a ball; place it back in the mixing bowl coated with 4 Tbsp. of canola oil. When you are ready to make the beignets, place the dough on a clean, flour-dusted workspace; roll out the dough into a square shape about 1/4-inch thick. *Note: I like to cover the bowl of dough with plastic wrap, leave it in the refrigerator overnight and remove it a few hours before I'm ready to cook them. Let it sit in a warm place to rise.*
7. Use a pizza cutter to cut it into square shapes. They don't have to be perfect!
8. Heat 1 qt. of canola oil in a deep pot to 350 F
9. Fry the beignets in batches of 3 for 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown.
10. When each batch is done, drain on paper towels.
11. Dust with powdered sugar and serve!

Blue Crab Cakes

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup pasteurized eggs
- 1/2 Tbsp. Old Bay Seasoning or Tony Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning
- 1/2 Tbsp. black pepper, coarsely ground
- 1/2 Tbsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 loaf white bread, crust removed, diced to about 1/4 inch
- 2 lbs. blue crab meat (use only fresh meat, not pasteurized)
- 3 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

1. Combine the mayonnaise, eggs, seasoning, black pepper, dry mustard, salt and Worcestershire sauce in a bowl to form a sauce base.
2. Mix the bread, crab meat and parsley in a separate bowl.
3. Gently fold the sauce into the crab meat mixture. (Be careful not to break up the crab.)
4. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours for the bread to absorb the liquid.
5. Once chilled, portion into 4-oz. cakes; chill again before cooking.
6. These cakes can be deep-fried, pan-fried or lightly drizzled with oil and baked in a 400 F oven.
7. Serve with tartar sauce; garnish with lemon and parsley.

Red Beans and Rice

- 1 lb. sausage of your choice
- 1 lb. red kidney beans
- 4-6 cups water
- 1 can Dr Pepper
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Onion powder, to taste

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Garlic powder, to taste
 Oregano, to taste
 Cajun seasoning, to taste
 Tony's Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning, to taste

1. Slice the sausage, cutting each slice into fourths. Pour the beans and sausage into a large pot or Crock-Pot; add the water.
2. Add the Dr Pepper and all seasonings. Set to high to boil; then turn the heat down to simmer. Cook 4-6 hours until the beans are soft.
3. Serve over rice or cornbread if you like.

Meatball Stew

2 Tbsp. garlic salt
 1 tsp. black pepper
 3 lbs. ground beef
 3 Tbsp. butter
 5 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
 1 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. black pepper
 1 14-oz. can beef broth
 1 bell pepper, chopped
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 medium potatoes, cubed

1. Add the garlic salt and black pepper to the ground beef; mix well.



Red Beans and Rice

2. Roll the mixture into meatballs.
3. Bake the meatballs at 400 F for about 30 minutes, or until done.
4. While the meatballs are baking, melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat.
5. Add the flour; stir quickly until the flour is fully incorporated into the butter with no lumps.
6. Continue to stir the roux while adding salt and pepper.
7. Continue to cook and stir the roux for about 5 minutes, or until it is a deep brown with a rich fragrance.
8. Continue simmering while adding the can of beef broth, stirring quickly until the roux is smooth with no lumps. Let simmer for another 3 minutes.

9. Add the bell pepper, onions and potatoes; simmer until all are tender.
10. Stir in 1 Tbsp. of the grease from the meatball baking pan.
11. When the vegetables are tender, add the meatballs. Serve and enjoy!

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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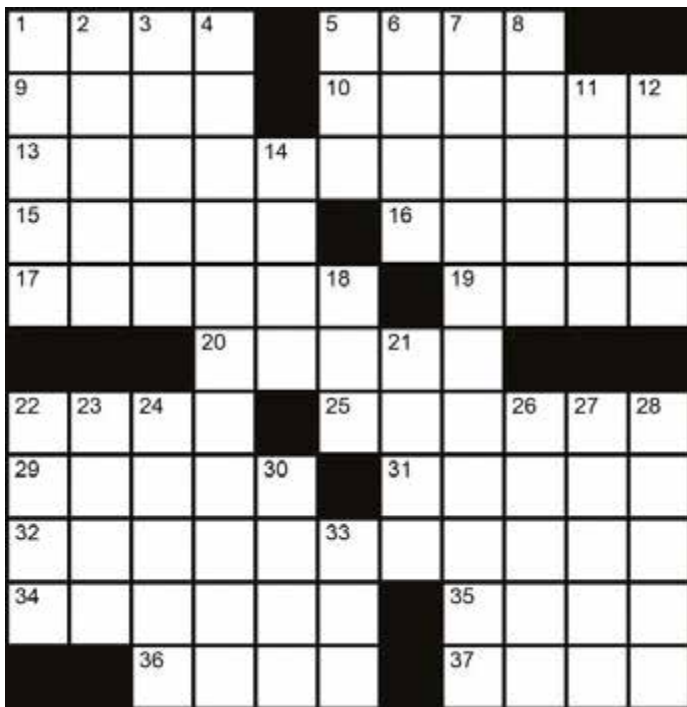
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Nagging fish?
- 5 Sisters
- 9 Composer --- Novello
- 10 There is one every year for many sports
- 13 Echo
- 15 Set of opinions
- 16 Scarecrow stuffing
- 17 Skylit lobby
- 19 Pianist Dame Myra
- 20 Range
- 22 Enfold
- 25 Shell lobster
- 29 Trustworthiness
- 31 Every golfer likes this kind of hole
- 32 Motley assortment
- 34 Often opposed to Venus on court
- 35 Houston university
- 36 Uptight
- 37 Like Sean Connery

Down

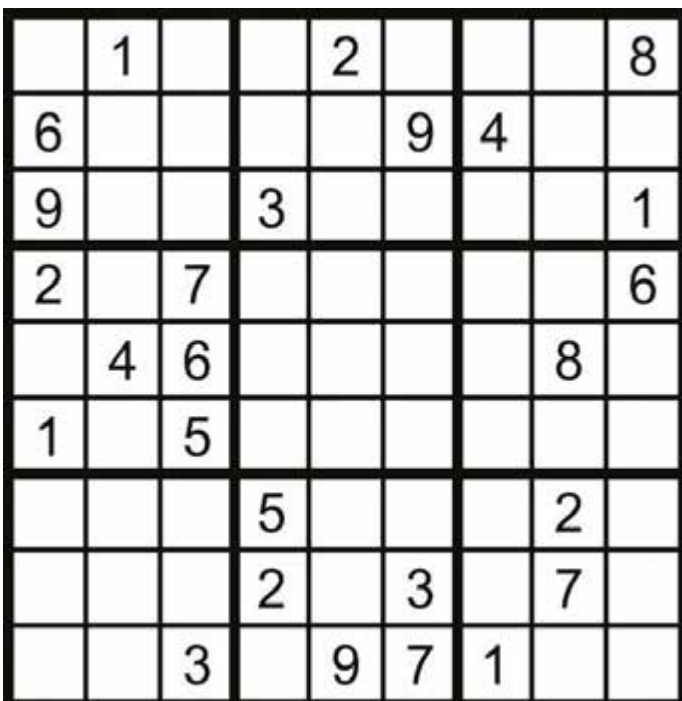
- 1 Roughly
- 2 Stave off
- 3 Random archery target
- 4 Inclined
- 5 Kernel
- 6 Applications
- 7 Yankees in Dixie
- 8 Superfluous
- 11 Airline guesses
- 12 The latest
- 14 Defeat soundly
- 18 Lady of the house
- 21 Vacuum
- 22 "--- sorry now?"
- 23 Hopped a freight
- 24 --- Agassi
- 26 Pick-me-up
- 27 Corporate conclusion
- 28 Steer a new course to start again
- 30 Told
- 33 Dissenting vote

Solutions on page 28

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

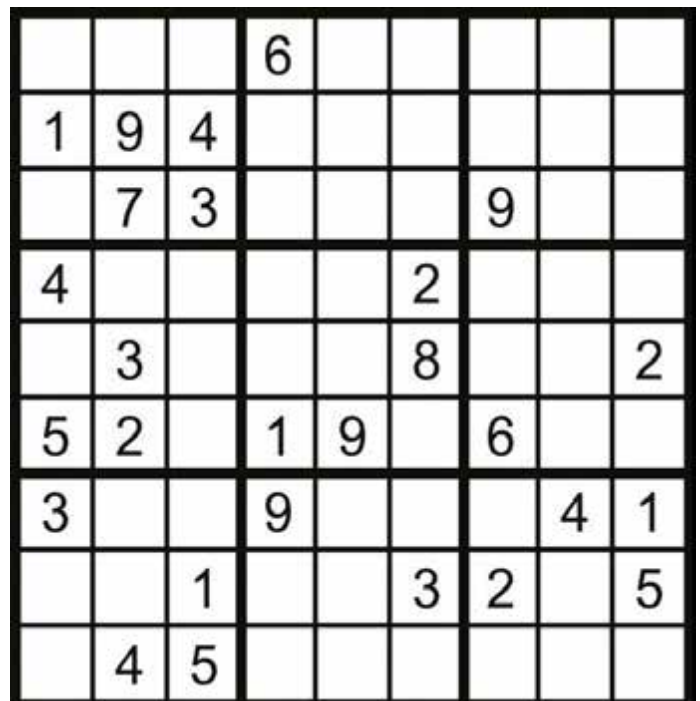
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



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Solutions on page 28



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Dr. Richard R. Knight, M.D.

Diana L., Arlington, TX

I've tried so many diet plans that just didn't seem to fit what I was looking for or just didn't work at all. I found myself feeling stuck at the same weight I was while I was trying to lose the weight.

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Since starting Diet Solution Center, I've lost a total of 25 pounds in just 13 weeks. I've never felt more comfortable with where I am! Diet Solution Center has given me more confidence. Huge thank you to Dr. Knight and Michaela for all their help and encouragement. Without that I wouldn't have results that I have today! Thank you to all the staff at Diet Solution Center.



BEFORE

AFTER



*Diana L. lost
**25 lbs. in
3 months.****

*Individual results may vary.

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AUGUST

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8/5

Job Fair:

Bring your résumé, dress to impress and meet your next employer. Free. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie. Contact Cassandra Carroll with the Waxahachie Economic Development Department at (469) 309-4122 or kcarroll@waxahachie.com.

8/6-8/8

Tax Free Weekend:

Save money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

8/10

Business Breakfast:

A great way to meet, greet and network with fellow Red Oak and North Ellis County business owners. 7:30-9:00 a.m., Denny's, 408 S. I-35 Service Rd., Red Oak.

8/13-8/14

Texas Truck Jams:

Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for more information.

Tuesdays

Children's Virtual Story Time:

The library may be closed, but stories, songs and more are

still happening on Facebook @redoaktx.org. 10:00-10:30 a.m. For more details, message librarian@redoaktx.org.

Third
Wednesdays

Lancaster Women's Connection Meeting:

Cost is \$15. Reservations due Thursday before the meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Country View Golf Course, Belt Line Rd., Lancaster. For more details, contact Dee Ann Ellis at (972) 921-6221.

Wednesdays

Weekly Devos:

Oak Church online devotionals hosted by Pastor Chris and Cara are available to everyone via YouTube under Oaks Online.

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through 9/3

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	C	A	R	P		5	N	U	N	S		
9	I	V	O	R		10	U	S	O	P	E	12
13	R	E	V	E	R	14	B	E	R	A	T	E
15	C	R	E	D	O		16	S	T	R	A	W
17	A	T	R	I	U	M		18	H	E	S	S
						20	S	T	O	V	E	
22	W	R	A	P		25	M	O	R	T	A	R
29	H	O	N	O	R		30	I	N	O	N	E
32	O	D	D	S	A	N	D	E	N	D	S	
34	S	E	R	E	N	A		35	R	I	C	E
						36	E	D	G	Y		
										37	S	C
											O	T

Easy

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

Medium

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

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SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER!



Jan Tucker was our June Scavenger Hunt winner. She was thrilled to receive the cash prize and is going right out to use the money toward new patio chair cushions. Congratulations, Jan!

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