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# SouthwestNOW

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2022

## Being Intentional

Mayor Rachel Proctor  
invests in DeSoto

## Slap Shot

Four world records isn't  
enough for Cal Mees

In the Kitchen With  
Trinity Harrison

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

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Duncanville ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Smith hosts

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## ON THE COVER



Mayor Rachel Proctor  
enjoys serving DeSoto.

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**WHY HAVE SEASONAL ALLERGIES BEEN SO BAD THIS YEAR?**

- People are wearing masks a lot.
- Grass pollen counts have started to climb a little earlier in the season than normal.
- Warmer areas are going to have more pollen production.

**WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO TO DECREASE THEIR POLLEN EXPOSURE?**

- Keep windows closed during the night and day.
- Use air conditioners to keep the air cool.
- Change out outside clothes when coming inside and wash as soon as possible.

**WHAT ABOUT ALLERGY MEDICATIONS? ARE THERE ANY TIPS OR TRICKS TO REMEMBER?**

- Topical decongestants like Afrin (nasal spray).
- Nasal steroid sprays like Flonase or Rhinocort, which are available both over the counter and by prescription.
- Antihistamines, which work in a day or two after taking them.

**COVID-19 IS ALSO SURGING AGAIN—HOW CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALLERGIES AND COVID-19?**

People with allergies should NOT have a fever, and certainly not the high fever that you can get with COVID; nor experience the fatigue that's associated with COVID. REMEMBER that people who have allergic asthma can also develop respiratory symptoms during their allergy season, which can make it a little bit harder to differentiate.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

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*Be august...*



*Adam*

Adam Walker  
SouthwestNOW Editor  
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*August*, the adjective, isn't a word we often use. It's an old Latin word, which also gives us the name of this month, in a roundabout way. The adjective, *augustus*, means majestic, venerable, royal. Wouldn't it be nice to see more behavior that's majestic, worthy of respect and regal, rather than seeing so many people behave in ways that are disreputable, ugly and downright mean? Just look at the news, on any given day, and you'll see a parade of stories about just how cruel we can be to each other. Wouldn't it be better if we treated each other with respect and dignity? Couldn't we put just a little majesty into the way we act toward others ... especially those we disagree with?

*August*, the month, got its name because of vanity. See, the Roman month *Quintilis* (meaning the fifth one) was renamed *Julius*, for Julius Caesar, after he was murdered. So, when his great-nephew Octavian (whom he'd adopted as his son and heir) became the new emperor of Rome, he took the title *Augustus* (the Majestic One). Jealous that his uncle got a month named for him, but he didn't, he renamed the next month, *Sextilis*, for himself (and stole a day from February, so his uncle's month wouldn't be longer than his). That's the kind of behavior that has everything in such a mess. Augustus was proud, arrogant and only worried about his own glory.

We can do better than that. We have to, or we'll continue seeing the same kind of news we're getting right now. *SouthwestNOW Magazine*, and our sister publications, are dedicated to telling *good* stories, about *good* people, doing *good* things. Help us keep having stories to share.

*Keep doing good.*

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# BEING INTENTI

*Mayor Rachel Proctor has invested deeply in DeSoto. “I’ve been a DeSoto resident for nearly 33 years,” she said. “My family moved here when I was in third grade. I graduated from DeSoto High School. I went off to college, but I came back here to buy my first house, at the urging of my dad. I didn’t grow up in a political family. My dad was a pastor and a businessman, so we were always involved in the community. He pushed us to work hard to help other folks. That became native to who I am.”*

With roots like that, it’s no surprise that Rachel found ways to get involved. “When I moved back to DeSoto and got my first tax bill, I wanted to know where those taxes were going. I started getting involved in my HOA, committees at the high school and the library board. I was attending a gala hosted by the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce. Just the week before, I had decided to explore running for a place on the school board. However, in that





"As mayor, I  
want all our  
residents to  
feel **seen**  
and **heard**."

# ONAL

— By Adam Walker

event, the seed was planted to explore a city council seat that was opening up because the council member was moving out of that district. Up to that point, I had never thought about serving on city council. At a crossroads, I prayed, 'God, if you want for me to do this instead of the school board, make it the obvious choice to make.' I checked the boundaries of the open district, and the boundary line literally made a loop around my house! The line had changed just the year before. I thought that couldn't be a more obvious sign."

Rachel won that special election, and then served on the council for six years. During that time, she served as mayor pro tem for three years under the late Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. "Mayor McCowan was unique in the way she served the community. She was like family. That's one of the facets of her the community misses most. I learned from her that relationships count," she said. Rachel became Mayor





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Proctor in a special election in 2021, following Mayor McCowan's passing. She was elected to her first full term this past May.

"One thing I'm very passionate about is discovering who DeSoto is and 'who we want to be when we grow up.' Creating lasting change requires us to be more intentional with defining our identity as a community and creating a stronger sense of place," she explained. "Intentional has been my word for this year. I feel like we're a little behind on this, but we can catch up. The Hampton Road Redevelopment Project will be a big part of attracting the quality developments we want to see. Within the plans for the Hampton Road Redevelopment Project, we've embedded three distinct nodes to serve as centers of attraction. We are gaining momentum around a clear vision of building a walkable, downtown corridor that includes active outdoor spaces and unique developments where people want to live, work and play.

"Progress moves at the speed of relationships. So, we're actively negotiating for the kinds of businesses we want here."

DeSoto is not just focused on business, but is continuing its commitment to bolster cultural arts in the region. "Our public art mural is the first of its kind for our city, and its creation ties in to DeSoto's commitment to the arts. Culture and community are important to DeSoto. We aim to be the Mecca of arts and entertainment of the Best Southwest region. Our Artists Lab program has found new and creative ways to take the arts into our community.

"As mayor, I want all our residents to feel seen and heard," she continued.



"My family lives here, too. My mom and my siblings live here. I don't want residents to feel like they have to fight to be heard. I try to make sure the city government stays approachable and accessible. The decisions we make as local elected officials can impact people's lives immediately and for decades after. When I drive down the streets, I think about who lives behind those doors. They have real fears, and real hopes and dreams."

Most days in the life of a suburban mayor are reasonably calm, but disaster can strike out of the blue. "When Winter Storm Uri hit, my 'mamma bear' mode kicked in. I hadn't been sworn in a week at that point, and that was hard, but it really showed how resilient our community is. There was no way I could rest knowing what conditions the people of DeSoto were facing. I put out a call for water, and over a thousand bottles were donated in less than 24 hours. People working together got us through."

Mayor Proctor continues to focus on some of the same issues that first got her involved in city government, like the library. "Literacy is important to me. I'm a two-time published author, so it was exciting for me to support literacy in our city by hosting the summer reading program again this year. We always kick it off with a block party. This year, we had water slides and carnival games. But I'm also aware that not every child has someone to bring them to the library for an event. We're partnering with local churches, community groups and the ISD to hold events at locations out in the community to get more kids signed up for library cards, share resources to increase access to broadband internet and bring meals and resources where they are needed most."

Another way Mayor Proctor is serving the youngest residents of DeSoto is by encouraging innovative parks. "Ernie Roberts Park has an all-inclusive play area that allows children of all abilities to play alongside each other."

"There will always be challenges. Maybe it just comes with age, but one of the things that has surprised me the most about this job is that it's not as stressful as I thought it would be. Most mornings, I'm just excited to wake up, that I get to do this. I get to help people and make a difference." **NOW**

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# SLAP SHOT

— By Adam Walker



*Cal Mees grew up in North Dakota, so, of course, hockey was part of his life. “I was playing by at least age 6. In North Dakota, that’s just what you do in the winter. We would flood the back garden — soak and freeze, soak and freeze — until it became an outdoor hockey rink. I never played indoors until I was 14. Playing outdoors, the fathers were our Zambonis. They’d use snow shovels and water hoses while we were in the warming house between periods. At least once a month, we’d go across the border to Canada, to play the border towns.”*

Cal played on bantam and midget intramural teams as a youth. In high school, he lettered in football and track, but

not hockey. “The coaches hated me because I laughed about everything. I never played one second of varsity hockey!”

In college, Cal focused on his studies, his job in an antique store and woodworking. He married, had a kid and joined the North Dakota National Guard. Hockey was just a side hobby. “I still played, but it was just a bunch of guys getting together for fun,” he remembered. “While I was in the National Guard, I drove from Bismark to Fargo to take the ROTC classes I needed to get commissioned as an officer. Twelve of us from my graduating class became Army officers. One of them became a general.” Cal went on to active duty in the Army, where he became a field artillery captain. During his Army years, hockey was confined to mall ice rinks with his daughter. After leaving active-duty Army service, Cal became a stock broker and moved to Dallas, sort of by accident. “I came here at a friend’s invitation, intending to stay for six months and just stayed.”

Hockey wasn’t much of an option during his early days in Dallas. “When they opened the StarCenter in Duncanville, that’s when I started back up with eight engines!” The Duncanville Dr Pepper StarCenter eventually closed and was replaced by the Duncanville Fieldhouse, but by that time there



were other, less convenient hockey rinks around the Metroplex. Cal now plays for a number of local teams, including a couple of all-veteran teams, the Ft. Worth Patriots and the Dallas Warriors, a team of disabled veterans. "I play like 11 times a week," Cal revealed. "I'm the coordinator or captain for five different teams at the Parks Mall. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it. It's fun."

Cal has so much fun playing hockey, that he decided to go for a few world records. He currently holds certified world records for the most hockey leagues one individual has played for in a single year — that would be 33. The most hockey teams one individual has played for in a single year — that would be 90. The most hockey games played by an individual in one year — that would be 552. And the most consecutive games played — that would be 29 games in 31 hours at The Parks Mall in Arlington last year. "I had so many blisters! The last few games, I hurt so bad I could only watch the clock. I could barely stand!"

Achieving something like that has a cost. At the end of that crazy year, Cal required a few surgeries to put his body back together. "At that point, the pain of not finishing was greater than the pain of finishing, but I was wearing a shoulder brace, a wrist brace and both ankles were taped. I had four fractures and a torn rotator cuff. I had to have surgery on my wrist and my shoulder, but COVID-19 had put a stop to all elective surgeries, so I had to wait. I was so thankful when I could get my surgeries and get back to hockey!" The toll on his body wasn't the only cost. "I'm usually about 205 pounds, but at the end of that year I only weighted 175. I spent the equivalent cost of a small house achieving those four records and getting them certified. I don't think anyone will be surpassing my records, but if they do, I'll just recertify as the *oldest* person to do any of them. I'm 62."

You would think four world records would be enough, but Cal has plans for at least one more. "I'm going to try to be the first person to play an official hockey game in all 50 states in one year! I'm not quitting anytime soon. I have too much fun with this!" **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Quinique Wisner

By Adam Walker

Quinique Wisner is enjoying her job, providing friendly customer service with a smile at the DeSoto Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Store. "I'm a student at DeSoto High School, but I plan to keep this job after school starts back up. I've been here about three months already, and I really like working here. It's a lot of fun. I like the people I work with, and it makes me feel good working with them."

She is careful with food handling and getting orders to customers quickly and pleasantly. Quinique also enjoys having ice cream close at hand when it's time for a break. "My favorite flavors are birthday cake and rocky road. I can't decide which I like better!" Who says there's any need to decide?



Valerie Villacorta is the DeSoto High School Class of 2022 valedictorian.



Kyle and Jennifer Pennebaker enjoy a Duncanville High School Alumni Happy Hour event.



Local teens work hard in the Cedar Hill Teen Fire Academy.



Young elephants learn how they would run the zoo at First Methodist School.





Ford Blunt scores 1520 on his SATs.



The Duncanville library kicks off its summer reading program.



Havoc football organization holds a signing day for youth 4U-12U players at DeSoto's Meadowcreek Park



Roxanne Saldaña shows off her pickle snow cone!

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BusinessNOW

# Dermatology Associates of Uptown

— By Adam Walker

## Dermatology Associates of Uptown

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(972) 283-8979  
dallasdermatology.net

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday: Closed

Dr. Kent Aftergut and the team at Dermatology Associates of Uptown have been serving the skin care needs of their patients in Cedar Hill and the surrounding area for 20 years. “We treat all ages and skin types here. We provide medical, surgical and



cosmetic dermatology. We try to prevent skin cancer, but we have a Mohs surgeon on staff, Dr. Meredith Orseth, who can deal with removing complicated skin cancers in the facial area. We have three physicians on staff: myself; Meredith Orseth, MD; and Cynthia Robinson, MD; and a full-time physicians’ assistant, Joe Capasso, PA-C, who has a lot of experience. Because of that, you can usually get in to see us quickly. If you have poison ivy, you can’t wait three weeks for an appointment!”

Dermatology Associates of Uptown sees a lot of patients, and about one-third of those are for the treatment or prevention of skin cancer. The other two-thirds are for a wide variety of skin issues including vitiligo, psoriasis, eczema, acne and warts. “There are many less common conditions which we treat, including autoimmune conditions like lichen planus and lupus. A lot of skin conditions are caused by abnormal interactions between the skin and the immune system. Many people don’t realize that post-transplant immunosuppression



greatly increases the risk of skin cancer," he added.

One issue that has been in the news recently is the under diagnosis of skin cancer in patients with skin of color. "Skin cancer is less common in skin of color, and can be harder to diagnose, unless you know what to look for," Dr. Aftergut explained. "We treat a lot of skin of color here, and we understand that a lot of skin conditions look different in skin of color than they do in very pale skin. We all trained at Parkland, where you gain experience in all skin types."

"We treat all ages and skin types here. We provide medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology."

Dr. Robinson treats a wide variety of skin and scalp conditions including discoloration and hair loss. "We also offer cosmetic procedures like BOTOX, fillers, chemical peels, microneedling and platelet rich plasma therapy," she said. "I've been here for three years, and I love the diversity of this community. I'm able to build networks here. Sometimes, I treat three generations of the same family. We truly have experts here. We have great training and experience, and we work together as a team. If one of us is better at a particular issue, we step in, so the patient always gets the best care."

Dr. Aftergut agreed. "When we do cosmetic procedures, we stick to stuff that really works. We try to focus on procedures that are reasonably priced, since insurance does not cover cosmetic procedures — techniques that are effective and ones that are proven safe." Dermatology Associates of Uptown also offers a line of non-prescription products for sun protection, retinol treatments for wrinkles and lightening creams for dark spots.

"I may be biased," Dr. Aftergut confessed. "But I think we are the best at what we do. Our team has awesome skills within all areas of dermatology. We don't need to refer out for treatment." **NOW**



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Stef is excited to announce he has been installed as President Elect for the Cedar Hill Rotary Club. He will be serving alongside the newly elected President Denise Root.

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CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With* TRINITY HARRISON

— By Adam Walker

Trinity Harrison loves to get creative in the kitchen. “I love to experiment with fun tweaks and delicious extras. I love to explore new recipes. I’m interested in creating my own recipes, in anticipation of writing a cookbook soon. Cooking gives me a way to do something for others.”

She began baking five years ago, and her first cake was for her 12th birthday. “I like down-home, from scratch baking and gourmet baking. I learned a ton from my nana and my aunt, but I’m primarily self-taught. Learning is a challenge, and I love a good challenge. I get my inspiration from my parents. They push for the absolute best in me and my brother. They’ll always be my heroes.” **NOW**

### Enjoyable Pound Cake

**3 sticks butter, room temperature**  
**8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature**  
**3 cups sugar**  
**6 large eggs**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**  
**2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**2 tsp. salt**  
**Nonstick cooking spray**

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. With a mixer, beat the butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add the sugar; beat until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes.
- 2.** Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in the vanilla (or flavor of choice.)
- 3.** Add the flour and salt in two additions, beating until just combined.
- 4.** Generously coat a Bundt (or other) pan

with cooking spray; immediately pour in the batter. (The pan will seem full.) Tap the pan on a work surface to rid the batter of any large air bubbles.

**5.** Bake until golden and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out almost clean, 60 to 75 minutes.

**6.** Remove from oven; let cool. Enjoy with your favorite ice cream or fruit topping.

### Something Carmel Brownies

**1 12-oz. bag caramels, unwrapped**  
**1/2 cup condensed milk**  
**1 cup butter**  
**2 cups sugar**  
**2 tsp. vanilla**  
**4 eggs, slightly beaten**  
**1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**  
**3/4 cup unsweetened baking cocoa**  
**1/4 tsp. salt**  
**1 12-oz. bag semisweet chocolate chunks**  
**1/2 cup pecans, chopped**  
**1 tsp. vegetable oil**



1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Grease the bottom and sides of a 13x9-inch pan with cooking spray.
2. In a saucepan, heat the caramels and milk over low heat, stirring frequently, until the caramels are melted and smooth.
3. In a saucepan, melt the butter over low heat; remove from heat. Stir in the sugar, vanilla and eggs until well blended. Stir in the flour, cocoa and salt. Stir in the chocolate chunks and pecans. Spread batter evenly in the pan.
4. Gently and evenly drizzle the melted caramel over the batter, preventing large pockets of caramel and preventing the caramel from reaching the bottom of the brownie batter. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until set. Enjoy!

## Chewy Sugar Cookies

- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a cookie sheet with liner or nonstick baking mat.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together. Add the egg; mix until fluffy. Add the vanilla; mix to combine.
3. Add the dry ingredients; mix well.
4. You're ready to bake some good ole' sugar cookies. Spoon drop the dough about 1 inch apart. Bake for 5-8 minutes

## Vanilla Cupcakes

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 6 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. milk

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare a cupcake pan with cupcake liners.
2. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium-size bowl; set aside.
3. To a large mixer bowl, add the butter, sugar, oil and vanilla extract; beat together until light in color and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing until mostly combined after each. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.
4. Add half of the dry ingredients to the batter; mix until combined. Slowly add the milk; mix until combined. Add the remaining



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dry ingredients; mix until well combined and smooth. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed to be sure all the ingredients are mixed well. Do not overmix the batter.

5. Fill your cupcake liners about 3/4 full; bake for 17 minutes.

## Sweeter Potato Chess Pie

2 medium (about 1 lb.) sweet potatoes

4 eggs

6 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted and cooled

1/2 cup buttermilk

Zest and juice of 1 lemon

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 1/4 cups granulated sugar

1/4 cup light brown sugar

2 Tbsp. cornmeal

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1 piecrust (any kind)

1. Poke the potatoes all over with a good knife; microwave for 15 minutes until soft when pressed. When the potatoes have cooled, but are still warm, cut and scoop the flesh into the bowl of a food processor.


Mix until you have a smooth puree, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. Let the mashed potatoes cool.

2. When the mash is cool, add the eggs, melted butter, buttermilk, lemon zest and juice and vanilla to the sweet potato in the food processor. Blend until smooth, scraping down the sides as needed.

3. Whisk the granulated sugar, brown sugar, cornmeal and nutmeg together in a small bowl; pour it all into the bowl with the sweet potato mixture. Process until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl to make sure everything is completely combined. Pour the filling into the crust.

4. Bake the pie for 30 minutes; then sprinkle a little nutmeg over the top and return to the oven. Cook another 10 minutes. Let cool; enjoy!

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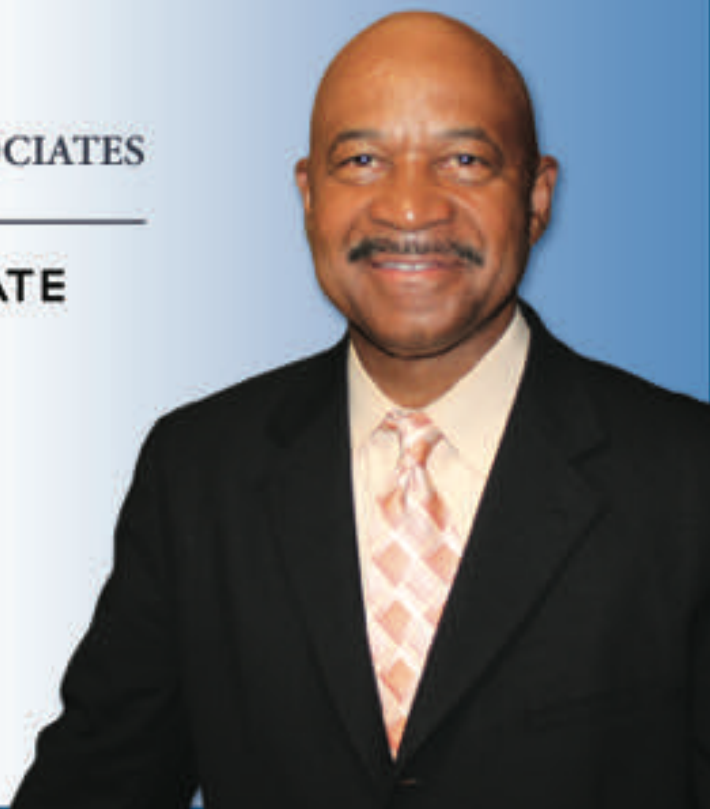
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# A SHIMMERING MIRAGE

— By Virginia Riddle

*The most interesting road to White Sands National Park winds through Cloudcroft, New Mexico, high in the Sacramento Mountains. From two overlooks, travelers can view snow-covered mountain tops above and white gypsum sands spread across the foot of the Andres Mountain Range. The two ranges form the Tularosa Basin, which encases the sands. After a 30-minute drive from mountain cool to desert hot, more surprises await.*

The best time to experience the park is in late fall to early spring due to desert temperatures. However, the park opens at 7:00 a.m., so an early morning visit before the daily

temperatures rise is possible. Glowing sunrise and sunset colors enhance the group walk/talks with park rangers. The White Sands Missile Range surrounds the park, which closes each week when nearby Holloman Air Force Base schedules tests, so call ahead.

Preparation is key to enjoying this park. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and sleds for everyone. Not the beach, digging in the sand isn't allowed, but sledding the dunes is a treasured pastime. Many Alamogordo area lodgings check out sleds, boards and wax for free.

At the park's entrance, stop at the adobe visitors' center. Built in the 1930s in the Pueblo Revival style, it's part of a national historic district within the park. Literature, interactive museum exhibits and a short video are offered along with the only potable water source in the park. Rangers offer tips, guidelines and information, or download the free NPS app.

While neighboring mountain roads need snowplowing, Dunes Drive in White Sands NP is plowed because the sand drifts constantly. Cleared parking areas accompany three



trailheads, the Interdune Boardwalk (handicapped accessible), Backcountry Camping Trail, Lake Lucero (a playa) and the amphitheater. Roadside exhibits, shaded picnic areas and restrooms are available. When hiking the trails, always carry water and keep landmarks in sight. It's easy to get lost among blindingly white dunes. Footprints disappear within minutes.

Covering 275 square miles, this is the largest gypsum field in the world, with gypsum left behind when the Permian Sea retreated and melting glaciers dissolved the mineral eons ago. Rain and snow continue dissolving the gypsum, while wind and sun separate and break down the crystals into sand. Water, lying just inches below the sandy surface, supports plant and animal life.

Animals, such as the bleached earless lizard and the Apache pocket mouse, scurry among the plants and visitors during early mornings, evenings and overnight. Adapted to life in the sands, they grew lighter than cousins living elsewhere. They are camouflaged and stay cooler. Early morning visitors might notice, on wind-stilled mornings, mouse tracks followed by fox tracks, two of many nocturnal animals.

Dune pedestals, created by shrubs such as the skunkbush sumac, shelter many animals. The soap tree yucca grows taller in the dunes, so new leaves stay above the sand. Desert flowers add beautiful color to the trails.

As Dunes Drive reaches its cul-de-sac turn, the surrounding dunes are clear of plants and ready to sled. After a challenging climb to a dune peak and waxing of the sled or board so it goes faster, visitors, young and old, thrill at sledding the dunes in tandem or solo.

People have been coming to this area since the Jornada Mogollon started farming in the basin during the Archaic Period. American Indians came in the 1600s, joined by Europeans and Americans in the 1800s as railways were built. White Sands NP was created in 1933, so visitors from around the world can continue visiting and enjoying this phenomenal natural treasure. **NOW**

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.

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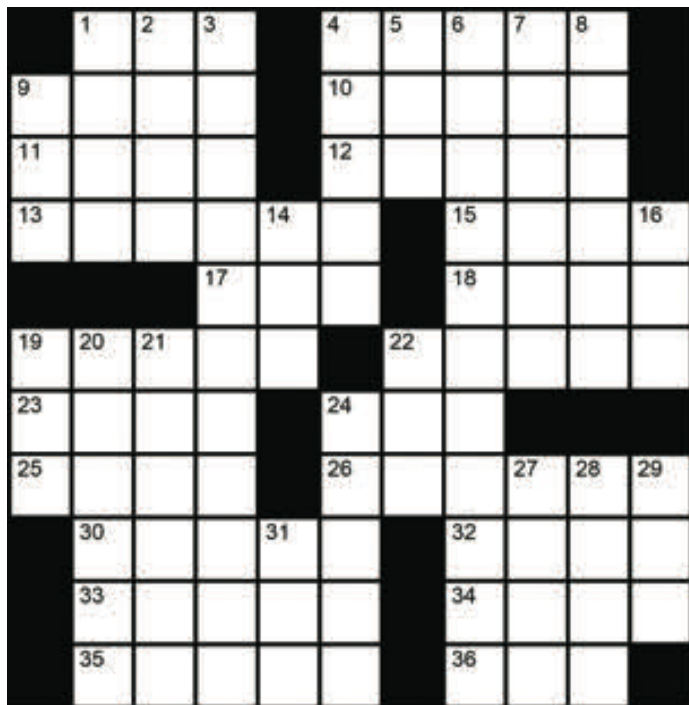


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- 10 In plain view
- 11 Approximately
- 12 More recent
- 13 Where landlubbers are found
- 15 Drink greedily
- 17 Rotation period
- 18 Wingless parasites
- 19 Sacked out
- 22 Al --- (pasta order)
- 23 Shuck
- 24 Short Egyptian boy-king?
- 25 "Avenger" Mrs. Peel
- 26 Birl
- 30 Gem State capital
- 32 Czech track champ --- Zátopek
- 33 Orange Muppet
- 34 Pestored persistently
- 35 Takes five
- 36 It can be the limit

## Down

- 1 Rowers in a boat
- 2 Angle
- 3 Bad places to build houses
- 4 Thin as a rake
- 5 Reverential salutation
- 6 Publications from special groups
- 7 Became shorter
- 8 Hard-and-fast
- 9 Former Portuguese colony in India
- 14 Backstabber
- 16 "Aw, heck!"
- 19 --- who must be obeyed
- 20 Surplus furniture
- 21 "Rum Punch" writer --- Leonard
- 22 Batman and Robin, for example
- 24 Corners
- 27 Out of control
- 28 In apple-pie order
- 29 Catastrophic occurrence (abbr.)
- 31 Command to Rover

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

Medium

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

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

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# Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL

## AUGUST

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

8/1

### Conservation:

#### Catch the Wave:

Learn all about animals with Cindi Cavalini. Free. 3:00-4:00 p.m., DeSoto Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

8/6

### Revive!Refresh:

Brunch and Workshop for Dementia Caregivers: Join Friends Place Adult Day Services for a morning of laughter and learning about caring for someone with Alzheimer's. \$10 (includes catered brunch). 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Friends Place ADS, 1232 W. Belt Line Rd., DeSoto.

### C.R.A.S.E.:

Learn about civilian response to active shooter events. Equip yourself with knowledge and skills to survive. Free, but registration required. Must be over 18. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

### Pretty Hurts:

Stop accepting society's definitions, and learn to love yourself. Content will be PG-13. \$25-35. 3:00-5:00 p.m., 112 Wes Jespersen Way, Duncanville.

8/7

**Back to School Bonanza:**  
Special Kids Service: 10:00

a.m.; family-friendly blowout for all ages after church with hamburgers, snow cones, water games, activities and giveaways. Please bring swimwear and/or extra pair of clothes: Noon-2:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th Street, Midlothian.

8/8

### Zula B. Wylie Public Library Talent Show:

Enjoy local singers, dancers and other performers at this family fun night. Free. 6:30 p.m., 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

8/8-8/12

### Extended Summer Camp:

Crafts, outdoor activities, games for ages 5-12. Bring your own lunch. \$75. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill. Call (972) 291-5130 for more information.

8/12

### Teen Movie Night:

Enjoy a movie with other sixth- through 12th-graders. \$10 (includes food and drinks). Sterling Enrichment Center, 458 E. Wheatland Rd., Duncanville.

8/14

### Back 2 School Bash:

Special guest, former Dallas Cowboys player, Quincy Carter,

gets you motivated for the new year. Free backpacks, supplies, haircuts and silk presses. Free.

1:00-4:00 p.m., Beauty of All Races Academy, 1615 N. Hampton Rd., Ste. 150, DeSoto.

8/18

### Local Author Spotlight:

Q&A with A. Walker Scott. Learn about writing science fiction. Free. 6:00-7:30 p.m., DeSoto Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

8/20

### Black Excellence:

Small Businesses Doing Big Business: Learn how to take your Black-owned business to the next level. Free. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Keller Williams Best Southwest, 2010 N. Hampton Rd., DeSoto.

8/27

### The Joke's on You Comedy Night Featuring Michael Shawn:

Come enjoy a laugh. 7:00-8:00 p.m., DeSoto Corner Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

8/31

### Kim Michele Richardson:

Join the author for a Zoom discussion of her *The Book Woman* series. Free. 6:00 p.m. Contact the Zula B. Wylie Library

for the QR code to connect.  
[www.cedarhilllibrary.org](http://www.cedarhilllibrary.org)

Fridays

### Music on the Patio:

Join Black & Bitter Coffee and Books and Mudhook Bar and Grill for live music. Free. 8:00 p.m., 100 S. Main St., Duncanville.

Last Fridays

### Poetry on the Patio:

Bring your best lines or just listen at this outdoor open mic. Free. 100 S. Main St., Duncanville.

Third Saturdays

### Duncan Switch Saturday Street Market:

The event includes vendors, food and fun. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Main and Center streets, Duncanville.

### Tri-City Animal Shelter Adoptions:

Come meet your new furbaby. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 100 S. Main St., Duncanville.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [adam.walker@nowmagazines.com](mailto:adam.walker@nowmagazines.com).*



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