

# WaxahachieNOW

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2022

## Talk Like a Texan

How to use slang  
like a native

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

## More Than Serendipity

Waxahachie is saving  
lives in Kenya

Kids' Craft:  
Crafting Culture


In the Kitchen With  
Julie Harris

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David McSpadden is always asking, "What's next?"

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Adam*

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*The dog days are here ...*

Texas summers mean one thing ... hot. Just ask my dogs. They'll tell you. They still love to romp and wrestle. But their workout sessions have gotten very short and punctuated with lots and lots of trips to the water dish. I sometimes have to fill it three times in a single trip to the backyard. There's a new dog in the neighborhood. They don't like him. And joggers are still the worst thing in the universe. But even barking takes so much energy that water breaks are required. I'm going to start putting some ice cubes in their water, at least the first bowl. It's not easy wearing a Canadian fur coat in a Texas summer!

Murphy will come up to me, as I sit in the swing, look me right in the face with his green eyes, and just stare at me like, "Make it stop!" When he jogs across the yard with his tongue flapping, all I can do is sympathize.

Zach wants to sit his enormous self next to me in the swing. It's very sweet, but in these temperatures, happiness is *not* a warm puppy ... well, not exactly. He doesn't stay long. He needs another drink before another brief wrestling match with his brother.

When they come inside, it's nap time on the tile floor in the kitchen. It may be hard, but it's cool. That's why my shoes come off. This time of year, I wash dishes barefoot for the same reason Zach and Murphy sprawl on their bellies. That tile is cool. Literally.

*Stay cool!*



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# More Than SERENDIPITY

— By Adam Walker

*David McSpadden was just doing the things he does, when a stranger walked into his life with a new direction that would become his new passion. David is a longtime Rotarian here in Waxahachie. Last year, he was the international service chair for the local club.*

Samwel Otieno is from Bondo Awino village in western Kenya, in the Luo speaking area very close to Lake Victoria. He is a civil engineer, building bridges and roads for the government. He is also a Rotarian. He had become concerned about the lack of medical care in his area, so he built a small, private medical center in his village, but there were shortages of supplies, and he wanted more and better care for his area. So, he came to visit his niece who lives in Lancaster. She helped him find an apartment in Red Oak, and he started trying to make connections to build support for his efforts to put together a container of used medical equipment. He didn't have a plan. He just came.

That's when Sam walked into the Waxahachie meeting of the Rotary Club, and the first person he met was David. "He would have been directed to me anyway, because of my position, but God put me and Sam together," David explained.

Sam explained his goals, and David listened. "I did some math and looked at the logistics and decided that a container of used equipment wasn't feasible. So, I asked him what else they needed, and he answered, 'An ambulance.'" David got to work and put together a proposal to gain a Global Grant from the Rotary Club, and between the Waxahachie club, other local clubs and the national organization, \$48,000 was raised toward the \$66,000 needed to buy a Toyota HiAce ambulance van, train four operators and equip it with the initial supplies. "We're hoping to deliver the ambulance this year. In an area of 200,000 people, where most transportation is by foot or by motorcycle, this is *really* important."

By January, David and Sam had become fast friends. "We were meeting for breakfast or lunch every day. I had learned a lot about what Sam had accomplished. I asked him what else I could do, and he explained that many of the people he talked to thought what he was doing was a great idea, but then they asked him for a tax receipt for the gift they were considering, and he had no idea what they were talking about. I had just finished setting up the 501(c)(3) for the Ellis County Art Association, so I knew exactly what to do to help him. Now people can get their tax-deductible receipt, and









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we're approved for PayPal's giving fund and for North Texas Giving Day."

Sam invited David to be his partner and come to Kenya to see the work that is already being done. So David, and a group of his fellow Rotarians, did just that. "He asked me to come, so I flunked retirement, again. We toured the medical facilities at the clinic there. One building was just a metal shack. It was their maternity ward, where the midwife had delivered over 400 babies in the last year. It broke my heart. I said, 'Oh, Sam, we've got to do better than this.' We continued the tour and had a 30-minute interview with some of the people there. In that time, they had almost finished tearing the metal shack down and laid out a foundation for a new building. Sam owns a construction company, and he already had 15 guys there with picks, shovels and machetes! He handed me this 50- to 60-pound stone, and said, 'We'd like you to lay the cornerstone. Then he prayed and prayed while I had to hold that stone!' David tried to explain that maybe Sam had taken his words a little too literally, but Sam just explained that he was following what his father, a preacher, had taught him — when you see a problem, don't talk, just start. And that's how the Waxahachie Maternity Unit got started in Sam's home village. "When it's finished it will have two surgery rooms, a maternity ward and a nursery with an incubator, the first in that whole area."

Kenyan medical care is cheap, but it isn't. "The average Kenyan family earns between 50 cents and \$2 a day," David explained. "The Kenyan SuperCare medical card costs \$100 per year. With that, all medical care, even surgery, is covered with no co-pay. It sounds like so little, but no one can afford it. And without a medical card, you get tragedies like we witnessed while we



were there. A pregnant woman needed to get to the government hospital, so she got a ride on a motorcycle. When she finally arrived, she didn't have a SuperCare card or the \$50 to enter the hospital. So, friends and relatives started bringing money, until they had enough for her to get inside. Then the tech who should read her ultrasound had gone home for the day, so she had to leave and come back the next day. Once she returned and the tech decided there was a problem, her husband had to pay for everything needed for the surgery, not just medication, but the gloves and towels. While he was trying to get the money or argue them down to a cost



they could pay, she delivered the baby on the floor of the hospital, and it died. We're raising \$6,700 for an ultrasound machine for Sam's village hospital, so that never happens again."

David and his fellow Rotarians are organizing a return trip with a local OB/GYN and other doctors. "Dr. Morehead is our medical director. We have already set our itinerary for a 12-day trip, but we still need more doctors and nurses to sign up on our website. And we need people without medical skill to sign up for sorting the crowds who will show up when they hear American doctors are in the village."

A new medical center is growing from a "chance" meeting at the Rotary Club. "I don't believe in coincidences. I believe God has a plan way out ahead of us, and we're just trying to catch up. Sam has infected me with his 'start and God will provide' attitude. It's one thing to talk about miracles and another thing to experience them. My new favorite four-letter word is *next!*" **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Visit [RTCMissions.org](http://RTCMissions.org) for more information.*



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While every corner of the world may claim its own dialect, Texas goes big toward its own communication style. People from other parts of the country have probably heard many typical Texan phrases, while some slang is purely local. Here's a beginner's guide for any recent transplants trying to acclimate to the language of the Lone Star State.

**Howdy** — A less fancy way of saying, "How do you do?" the greeting, *Howdy!* is even the official greeting of Texas A&M University, the state's largest university with about 70,000 students. *Howdy* is often followed by the word, *y'all*, which leads us to ...

**Y'all** — A contraction that means just what it clearly says: You all. *Y'all* can address two or more people, but a very large group (or multiple groups) requires a pluralized plural. That's where *all y'all* comes in. (Yes, Texans know that means "all you all," but groups can be really, *really* big here, so we don't consider it redundant.)

**Fixin'ta** — Although foreigners might think you're about to repair something when hearing this phrase, it actually just means you are about to *do* something. Whatever you're about to do, however, never ever say it with a *g*. *Fixing* still means repairing something, even in Texas.

**Ain't** — A contraction meaning: I am not, I have not, he/she has not, we are not and that is not. Certainly not exclusive to Texas, but common for natives who ain't fixin'ta use more syllables than absolutely necessary. Used in a Texas sentence: "This ain't my first rodeo!" (meaning I've actually done this before/I'm not new to this). Further abbreviations include *y'aint* (y'all are not) and *aintcha* (aren't y'all?).

**Git** — Because get is just plain uppity, Texans slip *git* into all kinds of phrases: *Git-r-done* (meaning to accomplish something); *all git-out* (meaning very or extremely); or *git-to-gittin'* (meaning to get started). For example, a warning between siblings about chores: "You bes' git-r-done before Pa gits-to-gittin' home or he'll be mad as all git-out."

As those examples suggest, individual words are often partnered with other phrases for emphasis in Texas. Here are some common phrases one might use to show they are Texan through and through.

**Bless your heart** — While this one can be sincerely stated in regard to something bad happening to someone else: "Your horse got loose? Bless your heart!" it can just as easily be meant sarcastically: "You think you know what you're doin'? Bless your heart."

**Dadgumit!** — A Texan's way to curse around children, suitable for use wherever a swear word is intended. Derived from *darn it* or *dang it*, *dadgumit* works well in conjunction with *shoot fire* and *son of a gun!*

**Don't have a cow!** — While lots of Texas-centric language actually has roots in other places, this phrase is



originally attributed to a Denton, Texas, newspaper, where a writer quoted a subject saying someone would “have a cow” if they knew about something unacceptable he had done. When telling someone, “Don’t have a cow!” you’re telling them not to overreact. Similar cattle-themed sayings include: *Till the cows come home* (meaning for a long, long time); and *Take the bull by the horns*, encouraging someone to tackle something head on. And, let’s not forget ...

**All hat, no cattle** — Every state probably has its own version of Texas’ slang for someone who considers themselves important without reason. Perhaps a derogatory reference to city-folk imitating the fashion of actual cowboys, it can also describe a person who is all talk but little action. “That politician never keeps his promises. He’s all hat, no cattle.”

While many other words and phrases are commonly associated with Texas, the state’s unofficial motto may be the most famous of all ...

**Don’t mess with Texas.** Launched in 1986 as an anti-littering slogan, it is widely accepted as a reminder of a Texan’s toughness and a warning for anyone who might forget.

Portraying former President George W. Bush on TV’s *Saturday Night Live*, actor Will Ferrell reminded 9-11 terrorists they should not have messed with Texas. Further proving how iconic the reference had become, it is also listed in the Advertising Hall of Fame.

Ironically, the official motto of Texas is just one word: *Friendship*. *Tejas* was the Spanish pronunciation of *teyshas* or *thecas*, the Caddoan word for ally. So, while Texan talk may be full of swagger, it tries to keep that motto in mind ... as long as you don’t make a mess while you’re here. **NOW**

#### Sources:

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The Dan McClinton Veterans' Memorial Breakfast expresses Waxahachie's gratitude.

## Zoomed In: Tatiana and Micah B.

By Adam Walker

Tatiana and her son, Micah, stopped by the kids' room at the Sims Library, looking for books. "We homeschool," Tatiana explained, "so Micah is looking for books for his school projects. We also come here for the LEGO robotics class the library hosts each week."

Micah chose, *They Had a Dream*. "It seems interesting, because I have other books at home about MLK. I like all kinds of books," he declared. "It's fun to be here at the library. This is my regular spot. I also like to buy books from the buy room!" It sounds like Micah and the library are a perfect fit, with books to borrow and books to buy, to support the library's efforts to provide even more books to borrow.



Local youth march to celebrate Juneteenth.



As Jeremy Young joins the WaxahachieNOW team as an advertising rep, General Manager Rick Hensley welcomes him to the NOW family.



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Waxahachie youngsters beat the heat at the splash pad.

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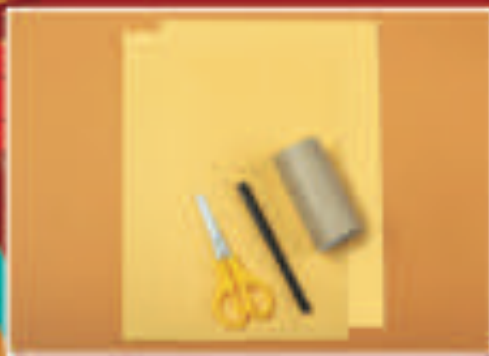
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# CRAFTING CULTURE

— By Angel Morris

*Those familiar with Western astrology know that there are 12 zodiac signs, each representing a 30-degree sector of the Earth's orbit around the sun. These signs represent different characteristics and, however non-scientifically, are thought to impact one's personality and behavior. A birth date determines one's zodiac sign.*

In a somewhat similar fashion, the Chinese zodiac cyclically correlates 12 animals to years, and a person's birth year is believed to impact his or her fate. In order, the signs are a rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

The Year of the Tiger, running through January 31, 2023, symbolizes strength and bravery, with tigers considered particular guardians of children. One way to introduce kids to celebrating other cultures is through craft-making. Here is a creative tiger activity to share ...

## **Making Marionettes**

### **What You'll Need:**

- 2 toilet paper rolls per marionette
- Orange and/or yellow construction paper
- Glue stick
- Small hole punch
- String or twine
- 4 beads or buttons per marionette, at least
- Black or brown marker

- Googly eyes (optional)
- Orange or yellow pipe cleaners (optional)
- Craft sticks

### **The Process:**

1. Place a paper roll horizontally atop a sheet of construction paper to measure the length needed to fully cover it. Cut to fit. Then glue the paper around the tube. This piece will serve as the marionette body.
2. Cut a second paper roll into thirds. Repeat step 1 with one of the thirds. This piece will serve as the head of the marionette.
3. Hole punch two holes, about 1/2-inch apart, on the front and back ends of your body roll (this will be the underside of your marionette, where strings go for the tiger's legs).
4. Hole punch a single hole directly opposite the leg holes atop the paper roll, again on the front and back ends. (This will be where your strings attach to the craft sticks for controlling the marionette.)
5. Loop string or twine through the two side-by-side underside holes on one side of your paper roll, pulling through enough string to serve as tiger "legs." Do the same with the side-by-side holes on the opposite end of your paper roll.
6. Knot beads or buttons to the ends of each leg to serve as paws. Beads may be painted — or use brown or black buttons — adding one per paw or enough to cover the entire leg (perhaps alternating between colors to serve as stripes).
7. Punch a single hole through the back of the top and bottom of the one-third paper roll that is your marionette head.
8. At this point, young crafters may use markers to draw stripes on their paper roll bodies and heads. They may draw the face of their tigers, or use additional construction paper, googly eyes, etc. to create its face. Construction paper or pipe cleaners can be used to make the ears and tail, as well, adding stripes with





markers, and attaching with glue or tape, or making additional small holes to hold them in the paper rolls.

9. You are now ready to run string or twine through the body's top holes. Measure two equal lengths of string. Insert one end of the first string into a paper roll hole, taping it to the inside of the roll. The string remaining outside the hole will attach to your craft stick for controlling the marionette. Repeat this process on the opposite end of your paper roll.

10. Attach the head of your tiger by running string on one end of the paper roll through the holes that were made in the one-third paper roll. Now you are ready to attach the strings on either end of your tiger's body to your craft stick.

11. String can be taped to or wrapped around either end of a single craft stick, or craft sticks can be glued together in an X formation, and strings can then be attached to the center of your sticks.

Consider creating these or other marionettes with your children while sharing different facts about the animals, figures or objects you design. Then let them show what they've learned with their own marionette show. **NOW**

Source:  
<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/>.

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CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

JULIE HARRIS

— By Angel Morris



After growing up in Waxahachie, Julie Harris moved to Red Oak in 2016, where she and her husband, Donald, are raising their family. “Baking is my favorite. My family gets excited when I make homemade treats out of the blue. They especially love my chocolate chip cookies.”

A mom of five, Julie’s youngest still anticipate what will come out of the oven. “My daughter is 9 and my twins are 6. Their faces light up to see what I’ve baked,” she said. “I love to play with decorations on cakes and cupcakes. My kids call my creations, ‘Mama’s treats,’ and I hope to have a baking business named that someday,” Julie admitted. “I’m not a professional yet. I just try to get a little better each day.” **NOW**

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

**1 cup butter, softened**  
**1 cup white sugar**  
**1 cup brown sugar, packed**  
**2 eggs**  
**2 tsp. vanilla extract**  
**1 tsp. baking soda**  
**2 tsp. hot water**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**

**3 cups flour**  
**2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Cream together the butter and sugars until smooth. Beat in the eggs, one at a time; stir in the vanilla.
2. Dissolve the baking soda in the hot water; add to the batter along with the salt.
3. Stir in the flour and chocolate chips.
4. Drop by rounded spoonfuls onto a baking

mat atop a cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes until the edges are nicely browned.

### Cheesecake

**16 oz. cream cheese, room temperature**  
**2/3 cup granulated white sugar**  
**Pinch of salt**  
**2 large eggs**  
**1/3 cup sour cream**  
**1/3 cup heavy whipping cream**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. In a large bowl, using a handheld mixer, blend the cream cheese until smooth and creamy.
2. Add the sugar and salt, mixing for 2 minutes and scraping sides of the bowl as needed.
3. Add the eggs, mixing until thoroughly combined.
4. Add the sour cream, whipping cream and vanilla until well combined.
5. Pour the batter into a round baking dish, smoothing mixture into an even layer. Place



the round dish inside a roasting pan filled with about 1 inch of water.

**6.** Bake for 45 minutes until the cheesecake is firm to the touch, not jiggly.

**7.** Remove the round dish from the roasting pan; place on a wire dish to cool for 1-2 hours.

**8.** Once cooled, place the baking dish into a freezer until the cheesecake becomes solid, about 2-3 hours. Serve chilled.

## Homemade Buttercream Icing

**1/2 cup softened butter**

**4 1/2 cups powdered sugar**

**1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**

**5-6 Tbsp. milk**

**1.** Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly; spread on the dessert of your choice.

## Oreo Cookie Balls

**1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**

**36 Oreo cookies, finely crushed**

**16 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate, melted**

**1.** Mix the cream cheese and cookie crumbs until well blended. Shape into approximately 48 dough balls; freeze for 10 minutes.

**2.** Dip the frozen balls into the chocolate; place in a single layer on a parchment-lined pan. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm before serving.

## Scratch Sugar Cookies

**3/4 cup sugar**

**3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened**

**2 eggs**

**3 tsp. vanilla extract**

**2 1/4 cups flour**

**2 1/4 tsp. baking powder**

**1/2 tsp. salt**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Using a hand mixer, blend the sugar and butter until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, blending well. Add the vanilla extract.

**2.** In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the mixture, one cup at a time, to the original mixture, forming one ball of dough.

**3.** On a lightly floured surface, knead the dough for about 1-2 minutes. Cover the dough with plastic wrap; refrigerate for 10-20 minutes.

**4.** Once chilled, place the dough on lightly floured parchment paper. Roll the dough out to 1/4-inch thickness. Use your favorite cookie cutters to cut shapes from the dough. Reuse dough remnants by rolling pieces into new 1/4-inch-thick pieces until all is completely cut and used.

**5.** Place the shaped dough on a parchment



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Chocolate Chip Cookies

paper-covered cookie sheet; bake 6-8 minutes. The center may still be doughy, but it will harden when you remove the cookies from the oven to a cooling rack. Once cooled, decorate with the icing and toppings of your choice.

## Soft Gingerbread Cookies

**2/3 cup unsalted butter, softened**  
**3/4 cup light or dark brown sugar, packed**  
**2/3 cup unsulfured molasses**  
**1 large egg, room temperature**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**  
**3 1/2 cups flour**  
**1 tsp. baking soda**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1 Tbsp. ground ginger**  
**1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon**

**1/2 tsp. all spice**  
**1/2 tsp. ground cloves**

- 1.** In a large bowl, using a hand mixer, blend the butter on medium speed for about 1 minute until completely creamy. Add the brown sugar and molasses, beating on medium speed until creamy, scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl frequently.
- 2.** Beat in the egg and vanilla on high for about 2 minutes, again scraping bottom and sides of the bowl frequently. *Note: The butter may separate, but that is OK.*
- 3.** In a separate bowl, slowly mix the flour, soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, all spice and cloves until combined. Combine the two mixtures. The dough will be thick and somewhat sticky.
- 4.** Divide the dough in half, placing each half

on a piece of plastic wrap. Wrap each half very tightly and pack down to create a disc shape. Chill discs for at least 3 hours or up to 3 days to bake later. Thorough chilling is a must for this type of dough.

**5.** When ready to bake, preheat an oven to 350 F and line 2-3 large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats.

**6.** Lightly flour a workspace, rolling pin and your hands and remove the chilled disks from the freezer. Roll the discs until 1/4-inch thick. Using cookie cutters of your choice, cut the dough for baking. Reuse dough remnants by rolling pieces into new 1/4-inch-thick pieces until all is completely used.

**7.** Bake for 5 minutes; transfer to a cooling rack. Cool completely before eating plain or decorating with your favorite icing. Cookies stay fresh at room temperature for about 1 week.

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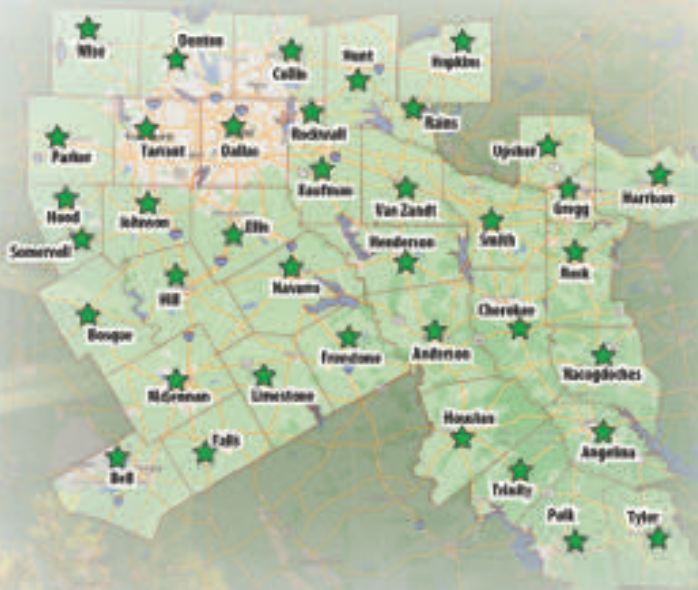




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# A SHIMMERING MIRAGE

— 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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# GOING GREENHOUSE

— By Angel Morris

*Whether you are a planting pro or a sapling novice, you may dream of creating an environment in which your flora and fauna is more likely to succeed. Greenhouses have surged in popularity as people seek hobbies that keep them close to home but still allow them to get outside.*

A greenhouse lets you control your plants' environment, and can be built from a kit, from upcycled materials or from the ground up depending on your skill level. Before deciding if a greenhouse project is for you, consider the following fundamentals that will be involved in constructing one.

**Choose a location.** Sufficient sun exposure, proper drainage and access to water are keys in site selection, with the ideal spot allowing the longer sides of your greenhouse to face east and west. Having electricity nearby is not a requirement but can be a bonus.

**Consider the construction.** If your intention is a long-lasting structure, you'll want to consider at least a ground contact-rated wood base if not a cement one. If you prefer not to lay a foundation, a portable greenhouse may be for you.

You'll need to clean and level your foundation site either way, and you might consider using landscape fabric, gravel or bricks as your greenhouse floor to allow suitable drainage and avoid muddy messes in your future.

For the greenhouse frame, popular options are wood, PVC piping or aluminum steel, and those choices will impact the material you'll use to cover your greenhouse. Common wall material for greenhouses ranges from glass paneling to polycarbonate sheets or even plastic sheeting, with each offering its own pros and cons regarding durability and expense.

Glass greenhouses are popular and can be built from ready-made plans or you can use your own creativity. For simplicity's sake, one could construct an A-frame roof with rafters, building the walls on the ground before raising them into place and installing tempered or safety glass walls.

**A greenhouse that's green itself?** A trendy DIY project is to collect and upcycle several old doors with their glass intact, securing them together to construct greenhouse walls. Because these walls will be heavy, a foundation of some sort is a must.

Once doors are fastened together, any gaps between them will need to be filled with sealant, and painting all the doors one color will beautify this DIY. A slanted roof can be made from some lightweight, waterproof material.

If this introduction to greenhouse options has your head spinning before you've even read step-by-step construction



instructions, a greenhouse kit may be a better solution for you. Assembly directions and supplies will be provided in each of many greenhouse kit sizes and styles, from wood, resin, metal and more.

**A kit leaves less room for error.**

Start by unpacking all the provided materials, comparing them to the supply list provided in the kit. Then, it's best to begin with the base and corner uprights of your greenhouse.

Next, you will likely attach your roof frame, then install wall uprights and the roof rafters. The manufacturer should describe the best order of construction to ensure a stable greenhouse outcome.

Wall panels, doors and supports will follow, with windows also offered in some kits. While you may have used a ready-made greenhouse design, you can still customize the space to your style with plant shelving, tables, benches, tool organizers and other gardening gear.

**There's no shame in starting**

**small.** If even a kit sounds overwhelming, you need not give up your greenhouse dreams. A number of mini greenhouses are on the market, as are several construction options online for these tiny plant homes.

One option is to cut PVC piping to your desired size, join them with PVC fittings and cover the structure with plastic sheeting. Lightweight and portable, the PVC greenhouse is a mini masterpiece.

Akin to the DIY greenhouse made of doors idea, a mini plant house can be made from six windows of the same shape and size. A wooden frame will need to be built to dimensions that will hold the windows, with an A-frame to support the roof.

Five of the windows should be attached to the frame, followed by the sixth window attached with a hinge on one side where you can open and access the plants you keep inside.

As with any project, detailed instructions abound online. Consider which greenhouse option is the best match to your construction skills and go from there. Whatever its size, shape or design, your plants will thank you by blooming as they've never done before. **NOW**

Source: <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-build-a-greenhouse/9ba683603be9fa5395fab905443ffce>.

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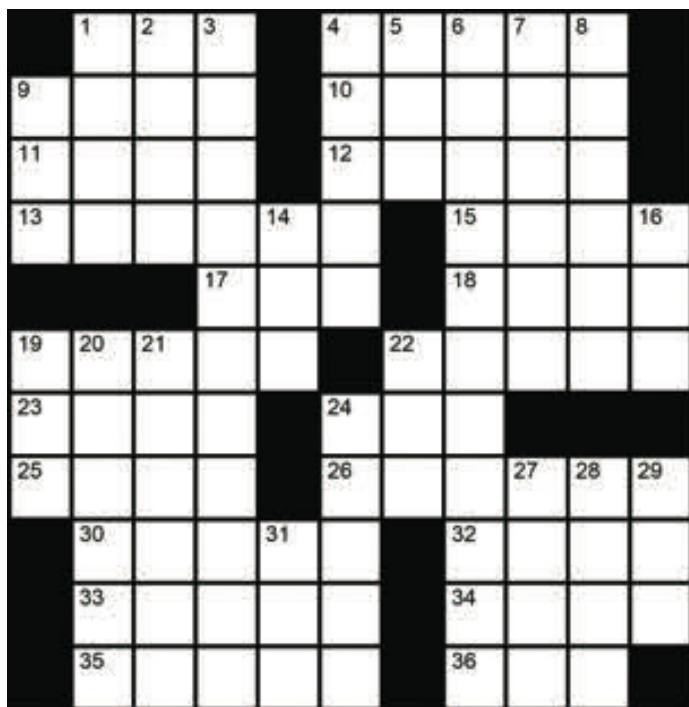
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Out of whack
- 4 Brass groupings
- 9 Running great --- Devers
- 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

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	

Medium

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

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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

### Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps' Fall Class Registration Begins:

Free courses include computer training, Bible study, money management, setting boundaries, résumé writing and interviewing. Classes are **August 30-November 17: Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** and **Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:00-9:00 p.m.**, 100 Chamber Circle, Ste. 1008. Learn more at <http://elliscwjc.life/> or by calling Lauri Henderson at (972) 937-6620.

8/6

### Operation First Day of School:

Backpacks, school supplies and services for economically disadvantaged students pre-K-12th grade. Enter at the back door. Free. 8:00-11:00 a.m., Clift Elementary, 650 Parks School House Rd.

### Back to School Bash:

Come out for fun and games to kick off the new school year. Free hotdogs, cold drinks and snacks, until they're gone. Frozen treats for sale. Free. 4:00-8:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

8/6-8/7

### Big Top Craft Show:

Explore handmade and manufactured items on offer from small Texas businesses.

Free. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

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.

8/20

### Waxahachie Fun Run Car Show:

Come see some cool cars. Free. (\$20 to register your car.) 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

8/26

### Sporting Clay Classic:

Benefiting the Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center, this event supports responsible, lawful, gun ownership and promotes safety and sportsmanship. 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Ellis County Sportsmans Club, 407 W. Sterrett Rd. Purchase tickets at [www.elliscountycac.org/events](http://www.elliscountycac.org/events).

8/27

### The Family Empowerment Expo: Queenish Professional Women's

Club presents live entertainment, a fashion showcase, Scholastic Books and speakers on homebuying, education laws, parents' rights and other topics. Free. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

### This Is My Story, This is My Song:

An Evening With Fanny Crosby: Dr. Shellie O'Neal explores some of the 8,000 hymns written by the blind songwriter. Free. 7:00 p.m., Central Presbyterian Church, 402 N. College St.

8/30-11/29

### Become a Texas Master Naturalist:

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Saturdays

### ESL:

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Third Saturdays

### Adult Crafts:

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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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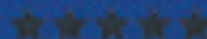
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## Kat H., Midlothian, TX

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I've lost 22 lbs. in 4 months, with 3 more lbs. to my goal weight, and dropped two dress sizes. My energy level has been amazing! No crashes in the middle of the day or wanting to go to bed way before bedtime.

Mika and Bailey in the Mansfield Office have been very friendly, kind and so encouraging. They give us recipes, info on brand names for sauces, toppings and even have ideas for easy sugar-free desserts. They also offer shakes, bars, cookies, chips and other snacks that are made with special ingredients to benefit weight loss.

I highly recommend Diet Solution Weight Loss Centers if you are looking for success, support, accountability and a lifestyle to keep the weight off.



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