

NorthEllisCo.NOW

MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2025



The Perfect Shot

Madeline Roberts
aims high with 4-H Club

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

In the Kitchen With
Regina Allen



SHEPHERD

ROOFING & RENOVATIONS

David Espinoza of Shepherd Roofing and Renovations wants to see your roof done right. "We offer roofing services for both residential and commercial customers. We can do everything from small roof tune-ups to full replacements. We do asphalt shingle roofs, tile, slate, standing seam metal roofs, synthetic wood shake, TPO. You don't see many tar and gravel roofs anymore, so we don't do those, and real wood shake isn't even legal in Texas anymore," David informed.

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Renovations are the other part of what they do. "We do a lot of storm restoration. We also renovate after plumbing breaks and fires. We are the preferred renovation company for several insurance companies when you have flood damage. We replace flooring, baseboards and cabinets. We do drywall, painting. We also install, replace and clean gutters and install leaf guards. We also do repair and replacement for wood and fiber cement siding, also called Hardie board."

David is proud of his team's years of experience in the industry. "Together, we

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"Together, we have more than 100 years of experience. My dad and my uncles were all roofers. I worked summers with my dad since I was a teenager, but I got into this full time in 2012."

David looks at his business differently. "We're a small business with Christian values. I set out to always do the right thing. I have given free roofs to people in real need, like an elderly lady who had holes in her roof. She didn't have the money to fix it, so she just wanted us to tarp it. I decided to re-roof her house for free. We're a business, and we're about making money, but we're also here to help. I want to help my family, but also the community."



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EDITOR'S NOTE

August's reminder ...

The eighth month on the calendar is officially recognized as "Back to School Month," and it's a great time to reflect on some of the best lessons we were ever taught. The book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, by Robert Fulghum, is a compilation of short essays published in 1986 that stands the test of time. Its initial story focuses on lessons from that first year of school and reminds us how much better the world could be if we, as grown-ups, recalled what we studied way back then. Celebrating August, here's a brief reminder of those kindergarten ideals, credited to Mr. Fulghum (and his teacher, of course) ...

"Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life — learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together."

Angel Morris
North Ellis Co.NOW Editor
angel.morris@nowmagazines.com
(972) 533-7216

Angel

Angel Morris
North Ellis Co.NOW Editor
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August 2025
Volume 20, Issue 8

ON THE COVER



Red Oak middle schooler, Maddie Roberts, helps keep 4-H Club alive with the help of her dad.

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EDITORIAL
Managing Editor, Becky Walker
North Ellis County Editor, Angel Morris
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Editors/Proofreaders, Rachel Rich
Virginia Riddle

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
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PHOTOGRAPHY
Photography Director, Chris McCalla
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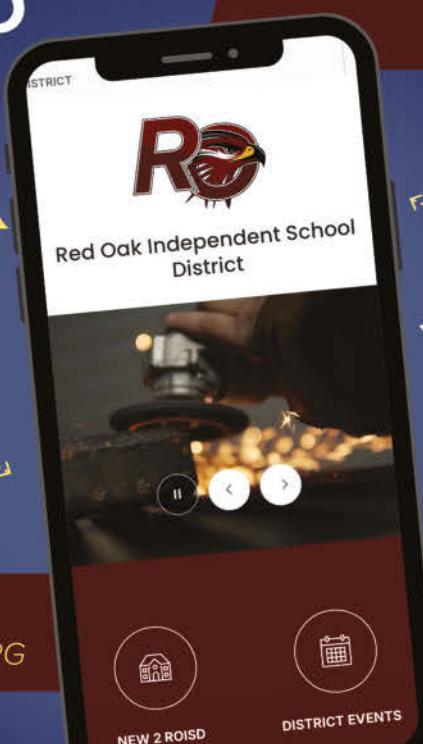


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Fall Dates

- Aug. 6, 7:45 a.m. - Coffee Talk
- Aug. 14 - First Day of School
- Aug. 20, 6 p.m. - Meet the Hawks, Gym
- Aug. 25, 7 p.m. - Board Meeting
- Aug. 29, 7 p.m. - Var. Football
- Sept. 1 - Labor Day (ROISD closed)
- Sept. 3, 7:45 a.m. - Coffee Talk
- Sept. 15, 7 p.m. - Board Meeting
- Sept. 19 - Staff Development (No school)
- Sept. 19, 7 p.m. - Var. Football
- Sept. 20, 9 a.m. - Founders Day Parade
- Sept. 26 - District Holiday (ROISD closed)
- Sept. 27, 9 a.m. - Ovilla Heritage Parade
- Oct. 2-3 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Oct. 3 - No School
- Oct. 6 - Foundation Golf Tournament
- Oct. 10 - Early Release/Homecoming
- Oct. 10, 7 p.m. - Var. Football
- Oct. 13 - State Fair Day (ROISD closed)

All ROISD events, activities
and games are listed online.

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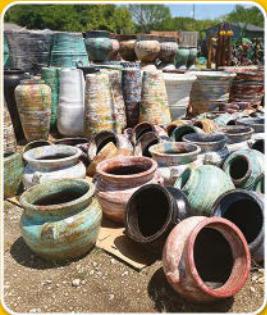
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THE PERFECT SHOT

— By Angel Morris

When folks think of 4-H club, they often picture livestock shows and kids raising pigs or rabbits — but for Madeline Roberts, a 13-year-old from Red Oak, the smell of gunpowder and the sound of a perfect shot tell a different story. Joining an estimated 550,000 youth who participate in 4-H across the state, Maddie became interested because of the shooting opportunities. “My dad introduced me to shooting practically as soon as I could walk. He’s always been passionate about it and wanted me to share in something he loved,” she said.

An eighth-grader at Red Oak Middle School, Maddie competes on the Ellis County 4-H rifle and shotgun teams. “I love the challenge. Every competition pushes you to be more focused, more patient and more precise than the last,” she noted.

Since joining 4-H at the age of 9, she’s helped breathe new life into a program that was once fading. “The rifle team in Ellis County was fading away — most members were juniors and seniors. My dad got certified to coach and helped bring the program back for younger kids like me.”

Now a leader in the club, Maddie serves as secretary for

Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports. She assists with event planning and mentoring other young shooters.

In fourth grade, Maddie was recognized on the Eastridge Elementary morning announcements for winning at the district level. “At first, my classmates were like, ‘Wait — you shoot with a gun?’ Once I explained what the sport was really about, they were super interested and proud of me,” she recalled.

Today, Maddie excels in district and state competitions, all while returning annually to the Texas Youth Hunting Program, where she has successfully hunted game each season since age 10. “Competitions usually include multiple events, and you may shoot in several different categories over the course of a day — or even a whole week,” she described. Local matches can last a full day, while larger events like state games can span five to seven days. “Each event has its own rules, scoring system and setup, so it takes a lot of concentration and mental endurance,” she admitted.

Maddie competes in several precision shooting events, including Light Rifle, Sporter High Power Rifle and CMP Rifle, but her favorites are 3-Position Precision Rifle (3P) and Silhouette. “3-Position Precision Rifle is my favorite

event! You shoot standing, kneeling and prone (laying down) — at 50 feet. It requires a lot of control and mental focus, especially transitioning between positions," she detailed.

Maddie also competes in Light Rifle: A .22-caliber rifle event shooting from multiple positions at 50 feet. "It's great for learning accuracy and consistency," she explained. Sporter High Power Rifle uses a .223-caliber rifle and is shot at distances up to 200 yards. "It's more advanced and tests long-range shooting ability," she noted.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program competitions include timed events and use of .22- or .30-caliber rifles, usually shot at 50 to 100 yards. In Silhouette, participants shoot at metal animal-shaped targets (chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams) placed at different distances. "You have to knock them over to score, and it's super fun and really tests your precision," Maddie said.

An all-A honor roll student, cheerleader, basketball player and cross-country runner, Maddie knows that preparation is the key. That preparation includes "lots of practice,

staying focused and making sure I listen closely to my coaches — especially my dad," she outlined. "We spend hours on the range working on accuracy, safety and consistency."

This year, Maddie has competed in several local tournaments to prepare for the upcoming State Games. "I'm proud to have earned first place in Silhouette, first in 3-P Precision Rifle and first in Light Rifle — each one pushing me to improve and stay focused under pressure," she said.

Despite her natural talent, the road hasn't always been easy. "Shotgun was really hard for me at first," she admitted. "I was scared of the 'kick,' but with the help of Coach Kyle and Coach Jenny, I've gained confidence."

Maddie also acknowledged her perfectionist tendencies and pre-competition nerves. "I've learned to take deep breaths, trust my training and focus one shot at a time."

In 4-H shooting, there are three age groups: Junior, Intermediate and Senior. "I'm in the Intermediate group, and at each competition there are usually around 20-30 kids per event, though



only about 10 percent are girls, so I try to represent and encourage more to join," Maddie said.

She hopes to eventually earn scholarships in shooting to pay for college. In the meantime, she'll continue sharing the 4-H experience with others. "Shooting sports have taught me confidence and responsibility. I've made great friends, learned a ton and I hope more girls and boys in Ellis County give it a try," she said. "You never know what you're capable of until you pick up something new." **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more about Ellis County Shooting Sports, email ecss4h@gmail.com.

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 9/12 AT CEDAR HILL LONGHORNS
 9/19 KILLEEN ELLISON EAGLES (FINE ARTS SENIOR NIGHT) **
 10/3 AT HIGHLAND PARK SCOTS * **
 10/10 JOSHUA OWLS (HOMECOMING) *
 10/17 AT CLEBURNE YELLOWJACKETS *
 10/24 BURLESON CENTENNIAL SPARTANS *
 10/31 AT MIDLOTHIAN PANTHERS *
 11/7 TYLER LIONS * * 7-5A DISTRICT GAME
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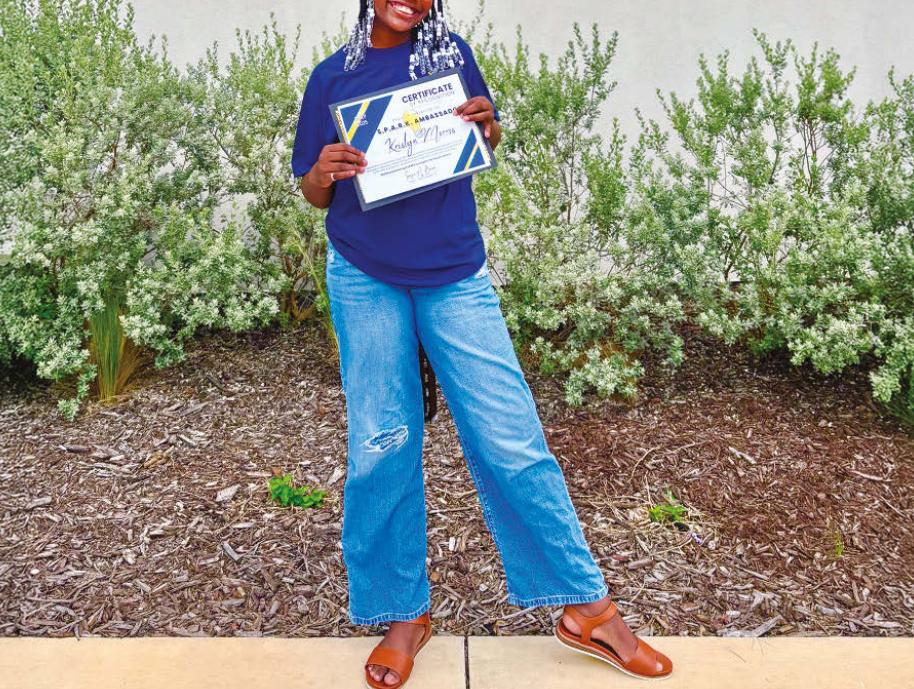
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 10/10 AT DENTON CALVARY ACADEMY **
 10/17 DECATUR VICTORY CHRISTIAN **
 10/24 PRESTONWOOD - NORTH **
 10/31 AT KENNEDALE FELLOWSHIP **
 11/7 THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL ** ** DISTRICT GAME

MOST GAMES START AT 7:30PM.



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Region II-Central Texas





Zoomed In: Krislyn Morris

By Angel Morris

Krislyn Morris recently received the S.P.A.R.K. Ambassador award. "Being chosen meant a lot to me because it showed that others noticed my efforts to be kind, helpful and a good example in the community," she shared. "It made me feel proud, and encouraged me to keep making a positive difference."

Glenn Heights Mayor Sonja A. Brown initiated the Service Participation Advocacy Responsibility and Knowledge program to inspire the next generation of leaders. Krislyn has been a Girl Scout for five years, a member of Women Leading Technology and part of Jack and Jill of America Inc./SWSD, a leadership group for African American mothers and their children. "Being involved in these organizations helps build leadership skills, improves public speaking and encourages speaking up for important issues."



Ovilla Christian School Athletic Director Jonathon Rogers presents a softball jersey to the Ovilla City Council in appreciation of their support of the OCS softball program.



Officer T. McNealy is promoted to sergeant with the city of Glenn Heights Police Department, supported by Officer A. Herrera with Crandall ISD Police Department.

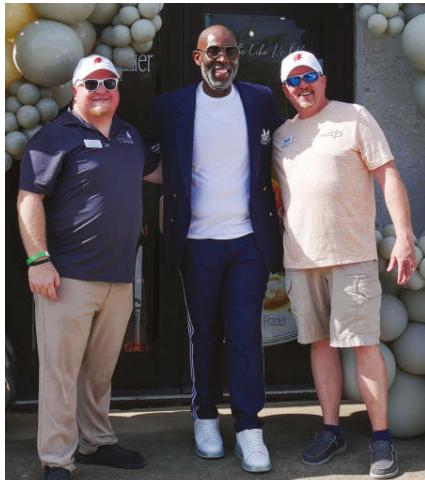


Nathan Koval and Lindley Case play pickleball at the city of Ovilla's new courts.



Erika Lambro volunteers at the Unite Ellis annual Cost of Poverty Experience that helps participants be more sensitive to the effects of poverty.

NOW



Red Oak Chamber of Commerce President Clint Woodward, Chef Cedric Frazier and NOW Magazines Ad Rep Jeremy Young attend the ribbon cutting for The Cedric Frazier Experience.



Danielle Jones and Alexa Beasley of the city of Red Oak Communications & Marketing Department receive recognition at the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers Conference.



Dawone Marshall works his Philly water ice truck, Iced Out, during Glenn Heights' summer concert series.

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CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH REGINA ALLEN

— By Angel Morris



Regina Allen began learning to cook as a young teenager. "Then, it was very simple meals. I started expanding and experimenting with different recipes as I have aged. I think it started in the late '90s when we got a variety of cooking shows on TV," she recalled.

When Regina was still working, she would bring sweets to the office during holidays. "It got to where the next year, I had requests for certain things. My husband always wanted to sample them!"

Since retiring, Regina only prepares sweets for large gatherings or special occasions. "I love looking at new recipes to prepare," she shared. "I get bored making the same dishes every week. We are trying to eat healthy foods, also." **NOW**

White Chili

2 poblano peppers
1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 14-oz. cans chicken broth
1 4-oz. can chopped green chiles
2 tsp. ground cumin
2 tsp. dried oregano
1 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
2 cups half-and-half
3 14.5-oz. cans great northern beans, drained (mash 1 can)
8 oz. cream cheese
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
Jalapeño peppers, to taste (optional)

Sour cream, to taste (optional)
Tortilla chips, to taste (optional)

1. Char the poblanos using direct heat over an open flame, in an oven under a broiler or on a grill. Blacken until the skins are blistered and easily peel away. Steam in a bag or bowl to make peeling easier. Do not rinse, or you will lose the smoky flavor.
2. Trim, seed and cut the poblanos into 1/4-inch pieces.
3. In a Dutch oven over medium heat, add the chicken, onions, peppers and oil. Cook the chicken until lightly browned. Add the garlic; cook 1 minute longer.
4. Stir in the next 6 ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low.
5. Add the beans, including the mashed beans, to the pan. Simmer 20-30 minutes,

or until the chicken is no longer pink and the onions are tender. Add the cream cheese.

6. Top each serving with cheese and, if desired, jalapeño peppers, sour cream and tortilla strips.

Jalapeño Cheddar Cornbread

3 cups flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1/4 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. baking powder
2 tsp. kosher salt
3 eggs, beaten
2 cup whole milk
2 sticks unsalted butter
2 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated (divided use)
1/2 cup, plus 3 Tbsp. scallions, sliced (divided use)
3 Tbsp. jalapeños trimmed, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch pieces
1 red bell pepper trimmed, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch pieces

1. In a large bowl, add the first 5 ingredients; whisk to combine. In a separate bowl, add the eggs, milk and butter; whisk until smooth.
2. With a wooden spoon, make a well in the center of the dry ingredients, and stir in the wet ingredients until moist, making sure all lumps are dissolved.
3. Add 2 cups of cheddar cheese, 1/2 cup scallions, jalapeños and bell peppers. Set aside 10-20 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 350 F with the oven rack in the center. Grease a 12-inch, cast-iron skillet or 9x13-inch pan. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Smooth on top; sprinkle with remaining cheese and 3 Tbsp. of scallions. Bake 25-30 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool 15-20 minutes before cutting.



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