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SEPTEMBER 2019

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At Home With  
Edward and  
Benita Roberts

## Seeing Not Seen

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excels through  
photography

In the Kitchen With  
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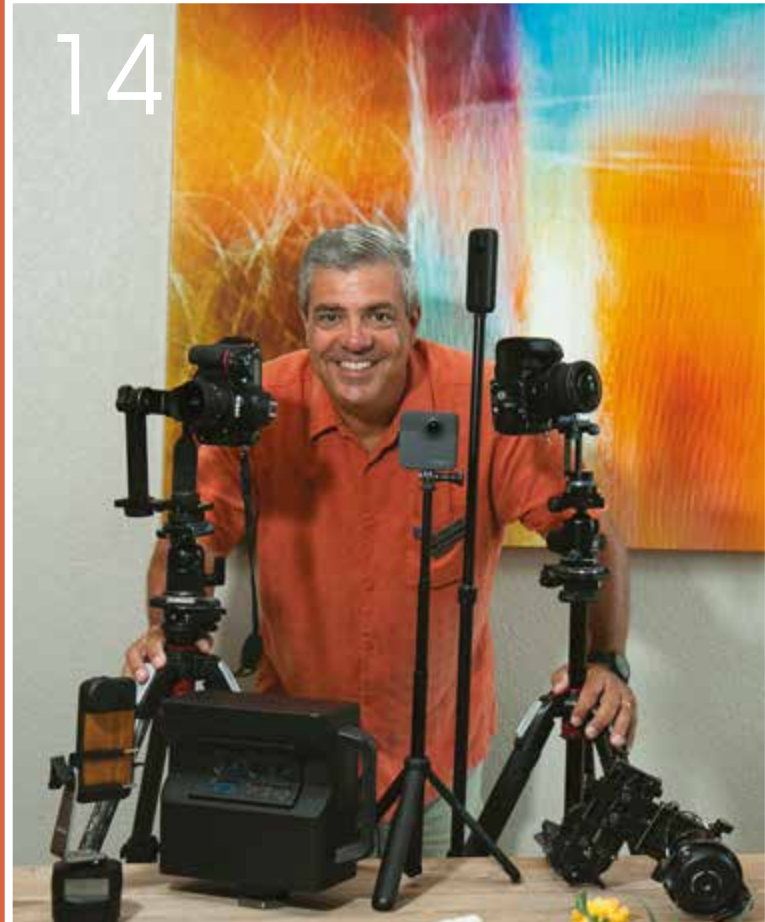
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## ON THE COVER

*Sleek and unique best describes the home style of Edward and Benita Roberts.*

**Photo by**  
Kobbi R. Blair.

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*Angel*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Are you savoring September?*

Is it just me, or is September the calmest month of the year? Children have settled into school, which means family routines are back in gear. Labor Day gives many of us a long weekend off work. The promise of cooler weather is near, and there are no major holidays to which we need count down. September has even inspired some of my favorite songs: "September Morn" by Neil Diamond, "Wake Me Up When September Ends" by Green Day and JP Cooper's more recent "September Song." Check it out if you somehow missed it!

Perhaps the best thing about September is its official welcoming of autumn. This year, September 23 is the fall equinox, the astronomical start of a new season. Latin for "equal night," equinox is the period when Earth's northern and southern hemispheres equally receive light from the sun. At noon, the sun is directly over the equator, resulting in roughly the same amount of daytime and nighttime. Perhaps it is this balance that makes September seem so perfect.

From that point forward, the days begin shortening, and our nights are longer. Time kicks into high gear with end-of-year holiday preparation consuming us. Before the calendar days start to fly by, September gives us a chance to stop and smell the roses. So, while September lasts, may you enjoy evening walks as the sun still shines and temperatures that make entire days fine. And perhaps, as Earth, Wind & Fire would suggest, you should remember to do a little ...

... "dancing in September"!

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# *Eclectic* COUPLE

— By Adam Walker

*Edward and Benita Roberts like to keep things clean and simple, with lots of contrast. “When we bought this house, it was great. The floors were concrete, and all the walls were white, but it needed something,” Benita explained. “The black-and-white granite countertops were here, so we added shiplap and board and batten.”*

Edward laughed, “You can’t live in Texas without shiplap!” A half wall of rustic board painted carbonite, decked out with white porcelain-and-brass coat hooks was all it took to make the room pop. It provides space for jackets, hats and beach bags.

The black-and-white theme carries throughout the house, but it goes beyond furnishings and wall paint. Edward and Benita are big fans of vintage films, the classics and the not-so-classics. “We love the *Thin Man* movies from the ’30s and ’40s and old science fiction B-movies — all the monster films,” Edward stated.

“He’s more into the monster movies than me,” Benita confessed. “I give them about 10 minutes, and if I’m enjoying it, I stay. If not, life’s too short for movies you don’t like! But I love film noir.”

This interest is so strong that the couple would like to open a movie theater in one of the historic buildings in the town center just to share their love of vintage film. “We could have an all sci-fi week, followed by a film noir week or old detective movies. Or even Dean Martin movies,” Benita enthused.

The ’40s are a fascinating time to both Edward and Benita. He used to collect old manual typewriters, and she collected old cameras. “After moving from Alabama and through several shorter moves, we paired it down. I only kept two of the typewriters,” Edward explained.

“And I kept about 15 cameras,” Benita added.

“She’s a photographer and enjoys shooting with film, as well as cameras from the ’40s,” Edward said. A number of her black-and-white photographs of buildings in Birmingham grace her upstairs office. Also a photographer, Edward enjoys photographing old buildings. They confessed that they have a large collection of photographs that are stored away, needing to be digitized.

“We listen to old radio broadcasts, complete with the commercials from World War II. We like to listen to old LPs and 45s,” Edward said. “When you go to all the trouble of setting up the



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turntable, you want to sit back and experience the music, not just have it as background noise, like we do with music on our phones." Edward also enjoys playing guitar.

Though both are from the Birmingham, Alabama, area, Edward grew up in Farmers Branch, attended Texas A&M University (Corps of Cadets) and has lived in Midlothian three different times, while Benita moved to Texas later and has only lived in Midlothian twice. "We first moved here, together, in 2010. We moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 2014, and returned to Midlothian in 2016," Benita explained.

"We like that it's a small town, but at the rate it's growing, it won't be for long," Edward mused.

"Texas is a great place for business, because the economy is much stronger," Benita added. Edward and Benita run Firensics, Inc., a fire investigation business where Edward does both investigations and instructs other investigators on how to conduct investigations. It's a trade he learned from his father.

Benita is involved in most aspects of the business, from HR to payroll. "I do a little bit of everything except the investigating. I don't like to get dirty, unless it's in the yard. I love candles," she said, gesturing to a lone dark gray candle in a silver goblet stand, "but Mr. Fire Investigator made me get rid of all but that one."

Benita always has a redecorating project or two underway. She blogs about her projects at [ChasingQuaintness.com](http://ChasingQuaintness.com). "When we decided to move back here, we wanted to build a home, but it turned into a nightmare. We tried three different



builders, with nothing ever working out. After the deal on the third house fell apart, Edward found this house online. We came and looked, made an offer and everything worked out. Ever since, we've been doing projects. We just redid the master bedroom."

"We added a pergola, and I think we've changed every light fixture," Edward joked. Benita glanced at the ceiling, "There are still a few left."

Up the natural wood stairs, every bit of the second floor has been transformed into livable space. In addition to Benita's office, Edward also has an office in a room dominated by the roof line, and two guest rooms and a TV room fill out the floor plan. "I enjoy it," Edward confessed, "because every time she comes up with a new project, I get to buy a new tool!"



Though the decorating is mostly Benita's thing, Edward contributed a unique project to the guest bathroom downstairs. Just above the toilet hangs a guitar body transformed into a face reminiscent of Linus from the *Peanuts*, just for a bit of quirky flair. Edward has several other art projects that add interest to their home.

"We like living in the old part of town. While there's nothing wrong with new neighborhoods, in this area, every house is different. This one is new, but it fits in. This lot used to be the carriage house for the house next door, but they tore it down and built this," Edward explained.

"We were told that the house next door belonged to one of Midlothian's founders," Benita continued. "Some of our neighbors are families with kids. Some are retirees. There are people of all age groups. We like eclectic. We like it here." **NOW**

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Over the course of the past few years, Lyn has continued to embody and expand her role within the company. While she continues to direct and navigate the intricacies of the office, she also serves as the company's Accounting Manager. To this point, she has cultivated and grown a single position into what is now the Accounting Team. She is quick to give accolades to both her dynamic team and the many female faces that now represent Texas Ace. And, as she continues to trailblaze the path for so many, she points out, "Women are naturally born leaders and caretakers. We are so fortunate to have assembled such a talented group of strong, smart, witty women who stand shoulder to shoulder with our men and do it with such style and grace."



## **Accounting Department**

From left: Sylvia Media, Colleen Thompson, Lyn Wise, Michelle King,  
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# SEEING NOT SEEN

*French photographer, Marc Riboud, famous for his passion for photographing the Far East, once remarked, "Taking pictures is savoring life intensely, every hundredth of a second." That's what Todd Kamp has done for more than 30 years, as he's traveled to far-flung places and rubbed shoulders with the famous and infamous. "I've traveled to so many places, too many to name, and seen some crazy stuff like a protest in Nicaragua," Todd recalled. "I've had good and crazy times."*

— By Virginia Riddle

His love of photography was nurtured from an early age while growing up in Illinois. "My dad, a plumber, had a really killer darkroom," Todd explained. "I started out making pinhole cameras in grade school."



By high school, Todd was working in his granddad's photo finishing labs. "I was developing film during the week and getting weekend photographer jobs from professional photographers coming in with their film," Todd recalled. "I was using simple cameras, graduating to an Olympus with borrowed screw-on lenses. My dad took me out on a plumbing job, and I decided I didn't want to do that. So, I left home after high school and kept traveling."

Todd's on-the-job training had begun. "Every photography job I've had required different specifications, so I was

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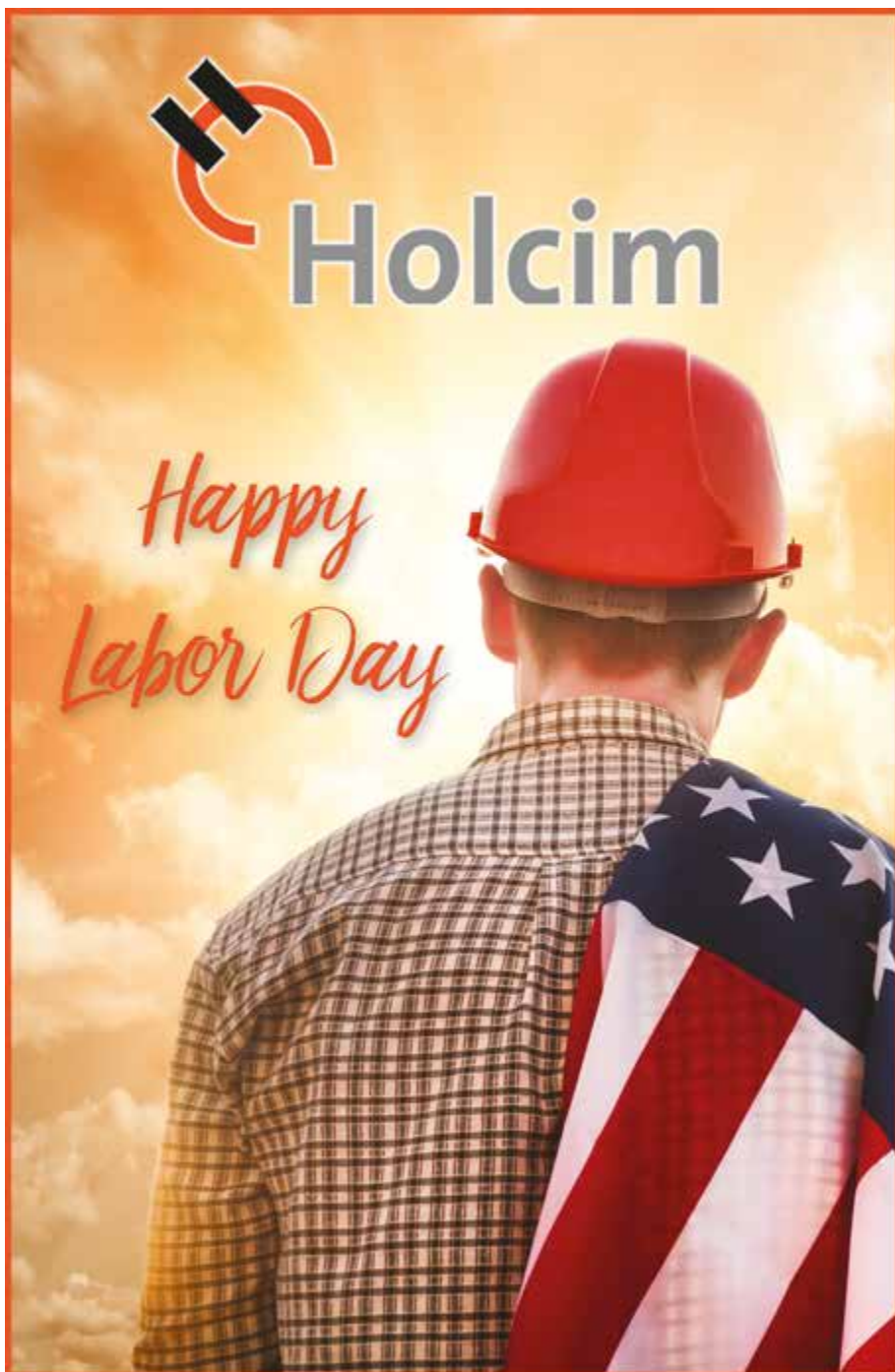


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learning constantly,” he shared. “I went to tourist destinations back in the film days — France, Germany, Tunisia — taking photos of places and people. I was a Love Boat photographer traveling to different destinations.”

It was on a cruise that he met his wife, Vivienne, a Malta citizen. The couple settled in Malta and started their family, now numbering four children. “After 9/11, I wanted my kids to be Americanized,” Todd explained.

Midlothian was the chosen place, since Todd had extended family living here, and the city is in “the middle of everything.” Now, Todd owns TFK Photography and is known as “Todd the Photographer.”

Todd also earned the nickname, “Flash,” during the days of film and flash bulbs. He’s used both Canon and Nikon cameras, but finally settled on the latter. “Before auto-focus, the two brands focused opposite each other,” he explained. “I got rid of my film cameras and started shooting in digital format only.”

Through the years, Todd has learned new photography technologies to keep up with changes in the industry. He’s FFA-certified to use drones in his photography and enjoys 360 photography. “The art of photography has changed so much over the years,” he said. “As subjects, I love architecture still, but I also enjoy creating abstract photography. It’s more for fun.”

Photography fulfills Todd’s artistic need in many ways. “I hand-paint photos with different brushes and







can create art I love with Photoshop, Lightroom and Google Imaging HDR," he said. "I probably have three different programs for everything in photography that I enjoy doing."

To Todd, the most important elements of the art include composition, impact, movement and interest. "There are 1,000 ways to take one picture," he said. "If a photographer is good, he or she can make a toilet seat look good."

Todd also recognizes the difference lighting makes in each image. "I can spend 10 minutes taking pictures of the light," he admitted.

Still traveling and learning, Todd recently attended a Professional Photographers Training in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. "I learned of this group while living in Europe," Todd said. "I taught a class this time, something I had never done before."

Photography continually surprises Todd, and any shoot can be memorable. A Scottish wedding has become one of his unforgettable shoots. "The bride's dad and uncle mooned unexpectedly when someone asked them what was under their kilts. I had to ask the bride if she wanted to keep that shot," Todd remembered.

But photography can be difficult. "Drives fail, pictures disappear and not everyone agrees on expectations," Todd explained. "Photography is easy — it's the preparation that's challenging. A photographer's job is to see but not be seen."

The shift toward more fun, artsy photography has Todd advising amateur photographers to remember to have fun. "Shoot what you love, and you can always make your equipment pay for itself," he suggested. "There's such a demand for visuals today, if you want to become better and more professional, just keep shooting and learning." **NOW**

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— By Rachel Smith

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According to renowned physician William Osler, "The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease." Drs. Gregory Kroeger and Tracy Glass are dedicated to treating the women of Ellis County with that same holistic approach at their practice, Advanced Women's Healthcare of Waxahachie.

Due to the immense growth across Ellis County, these physicians were recruited by Baylor Scott & White Health System to help bring more advanced, state-of-the-art services to the women of our community. "It's not reasonable to expect women to continue to travel into the Metroplex for medical care and procedures that should be easily available in their hometown. We're excited that Baylor Scott & White will soon be opening a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which will allow us to offer an even higher level of care to our obstetrical patients and their newborns," Dr. Kroeger said.

Dr. Glass agreed, "We bring 23 years of combined obstetrical and surgical expertise to our patients here. We

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Drs. Glass and Kroeger shared a successful and very reputable practice together in Abilene, Texas, as evidenced by the number of Abilene patients who still travel to see them for their health care. What's the secret to their success? "We genuinely care about our patients and the care they receive from us," Dr. Kroeger said. "We try to focus our work around our mission statement, taken from 1 Peter 4:10: 'As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another.'"

"We have an amazing staff, and our patients let us know how much they appreciate them. We want our patients to feel comfortable during their visit, and we make every effort to listen to their concerns and answer all their questions. We work in a very intimate environment, and the more comfortable a patient feels with us, the more successful we can be at helping her," Dr. Glass said.

Looking ahead, both physicians are excited for the opening of the Methodist Midlothian Medical Center. "We see this as an opportunity to expand our services and provide our Midlothian patients with options even closer to home." Their office is conveniently located between both hospitals off Highway 287 and Ovilla Road, in the Citizens National Bank building.

To learn more about Advanced Women's Healthcare of Waxahachie and the services they offer, visit their Facebook page or website. With its dedicated staff, a convenient location and cutting-edge services, Advanced Women's Healthcare of Waxahachie can help Ellis County women and mothers stay healthy for a lifetime. **NOW**



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## Zoomed In: Ian Ramsey

By Angel Morris

When Ian Ramsey heard the local food pantry was in need, he used \$30 he earned pet sitting his neighbor's dog to purchase pasta and pasta sauce for Manna House. The 10-year-old LaRue Miller Elementary student said his family received so much support during his more than three years of treatment for leukemia, he wanted to find a way to give back. "We got a lot of love during that time. I want to look for ways to pay it forward and help others," Ian said.

Besides being a cancer survivor, Ian is an avid fisherman and sports fan. He loves watching the Texas Rangers and Auburn football.



Evette and Doug Miller showcase the services of Printing and Marketing Solutions.



Librarian T-Kay Timmerman unpacks books at J.R. Irvin Elementary's new campus.



Susan and David Short, owners of Mill Creek Meats in Midlothian, prepare their RV for tailgating.



Four Midlothian congregations join in Kimmel Park for a service, activity and picnic during Church in the Park.





A selfie at Enchanted Rock was part of Tracey and Laura Stephens' summer vacation.



New choir teacher, Mr. Eggen, starts the school year with a guitar donated by Frank Seale Middle School PTO.



Kelbi Kubicek, Midlothian Chamber receptionist, gets a surprise baby shower from family and friends.



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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red top and a blue beaded necklace, stands behind a granite countertop in a kitchen. On the counter are several dishes: a large rectangular pan of pepperoni pizza, a plate of fried chicken, a bowl of rice, a plate of bread rolls, and a small dish of salad. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a refrigerator.

CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*  
**AUDRA MALONE**

— By Angel Morris

Audra Malone spent childhood summers playing in the kitchen. “My first dish was Butter Pasta, and it is still one of my easiest and favorite meals,” she noted. Today, Audra loves that her 14-year-old son will eat anything she puts in front of him “with pure joy and always requests seconds,” she said.

Enjoying all cooking except baking, Audra likes making food for busy people who need a family-friendly, home-cooked meal and has catered birthdays, graduations and retirement events.

Audra also enjoys watching her two boys participate in sports, date nights with her husband of 18 years and playing Bunco with girlfriends. Still, cooking is essential for her. “My cooking style,” she said, “is a little bit of recipe and a whole lot of love.” **NOW**

### **Creamy Cajun Chicken Pasta**

**3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips**  
**2 tsp. Cajun seasoning**  
**2 Tbsp. butter**  
**2 green onions, thinly sliced**  
**1/2 cup heavy whipping cream**  
**2 Tbsp. sun dried tomatoes, chopped**  
**1/4 tsp. dried basil**  
**1/4 tsp. salt**

**1/4 tsp. garlic powder**  
**Pinch of pepper**  
**4 oz. linguini, cooked al dente**  
**1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated**

1. Coat chicken in Cajun seasoning. Melt butter in a large skillet; cook chicken over medium-heat for 5 to 7 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through and tender. Reduce heat to low.
2. Add green onions, heavy cream,

tomatoes, basil, salt, garlic powder and pepper; heat through. Pour over hot linguini; toss with Parmesan cheese.

### **Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole**

**2 10.5-oz. cans cream of chicken soup**  
**1/2 cup milk**  
**1/2 cup sour cream**  
**1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard**  
**2 cups rice, cooked**  
**3 cups chicken, cooked and shredded**  
**(I use a rotisserie chicken from the deli.)**  
**6 slices Swiss cheese**  
**12 slices deli ham, cut into 1-inch, bite-size pieces**  
**1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs**  
**1/2 tsp. paprika**  
**1/4 tsp. garlic salt**  
**1/4 tsp. pepper**

1. Whisk together cream of chicken soup, milk, sour cream and mustard; set aside.
2. Spray a 9x13-inch dish with cooking spray. Spread the rice onto the bottom of the



dish. Arrange the chicken over the rice; top the chicken with cheese. Cover the cheese with the ham pieces.

3. Pour the soup mixture over the ham. Top with breadcrumbs; sprinkle with paprika, garlic salt and pepper. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

## Summer Skinny Dip

- 1 red pepper, finely diced
- 2 jalapeños, seeded and finely diced
- 1 15.25-oz. can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1/2 2.25-oz. can diced black olives
- 16 oz. fat-free cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkt. ranch dressing mix
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

1. Mix all ingredients; serve with crackers. (I prefer Wheat Thins with this dip.)

## Cheesy Tortellini Pepperoni Pizza Bake

- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 8 oz. Velveeta Cheese
- 2 cups Italian cheese blend, shredded
- 16 oz. cheese stuffed tortellini, cooked according to pkg. directions
- 2 oz. pepperoni, quartered
- 1 cup pizza sauce
- 12-15 whole pepperoni slices (for topping)
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese

1. In a 3-qt. saucepan, cook garlic in olive oil over medium heat until softened and golden. Add milk and Italian seasoning. Stir and heat until milk begins to steam.

2. Reduce heat; add Velveeta and Italian cheese blend. Stir until melted. Add tortellini and quartered pepperoni; stir until blended.

3. Transfer to baking dish. Dollop pizza sauce on top; swirl into tortellini without fully mixing. Layer sliced pepperoni across top; sprinkle with mozzarella cheese.

4. Bake, uncovered, at 375 F for 25 minutes, and then broil on high for 3 minutes to brown.

## Country Fried Steak

- 4 cube steaks
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Crust:

- 1 sleeve saltine crackers, crushed
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (divided use)
- 1 tsp. baking powder

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Country Fried Steak

- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 3 1/2 cups vegetable oil

*Gravy:*

- 1/4 cup flour
- 4 cups milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Sprinkle steaks with salt and pepper.
2. *For crust:* Combine cracker crumbs, flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Divide cracker mixture into 2 shallow bowls.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs

and milk. Dredge steaks in first cracker mixture, dip in milk and egg, and then dredge in second cracker mixture. Repeat with remaining steaks.

4. Heat oil to 360 F. Fry steaks for 7 minutes. Turn steaks; fry for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Remove to wire rack; keep warm in a 225 F oven.

5. *For gravy:* Carefully drain hot oil, leaving about 1 Tbsp. drippings in pan.

6. Whisk together remaining flour, milk, salt and pepper. Pour mixture into reserved drippings in skillet; whisk over medium heat for 10-12 minutes, or until thickened. Serve over steaks.

## Butter Pasta

- 16 oz. spaghetti noodles, cooked al dente
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese

1. Combine all three ingredients and enjoy!

## Italian Pinwheels

*Spread:*

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

2/3 cup roasted (or sweet) red peppers, chopped (jarred ones preferred)

2/3 cup banana peppers, chopped

*Pinwheels:*

- 3 large burrito-size flour tortillas
- 9 slices provolone cheese
- 1 8-oz. pkg. salami
- 30 pepperoni slices
- Romaine lettuce

1. Mix all spread ingredients in a bowl.
2. Spread 1/3 of the mixture onto a tortilla. Place 3 slices of cheese down the middle of each tortilla. Cover each tortilla with salami, pepperoni and lettuce.
3. Roll each tortilla tightly. Wrap with plastic wrap; refrigerate for at least an hour. Remove from refrigerator; slice into 2-inch pinwheels. Note: This is a great make-ahead snack. I like to prepare these a day or two before a party, and slice right before serving.

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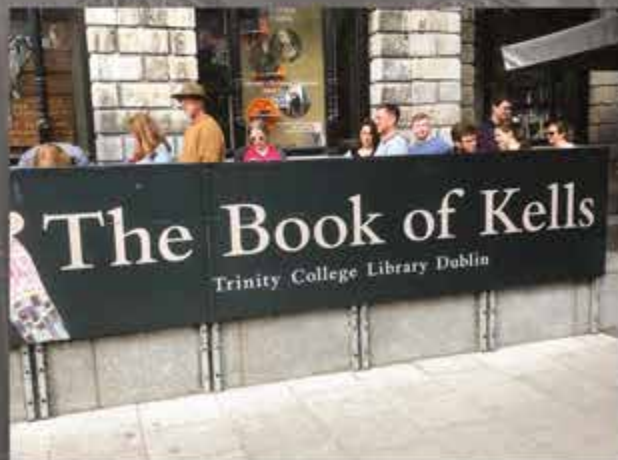
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— By Sally Fuller



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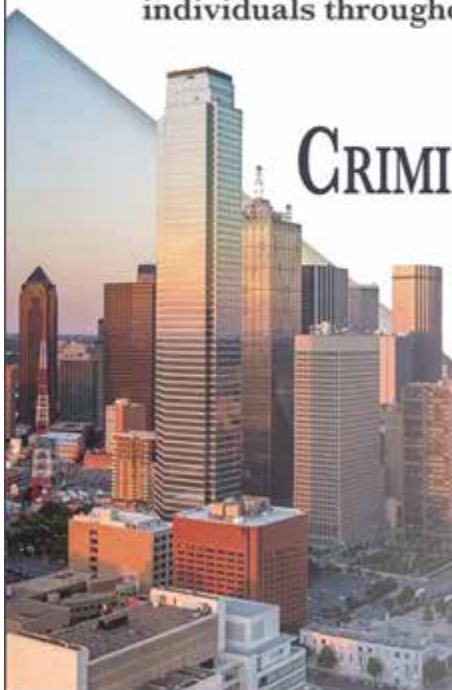
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Whether you're a history buff, a literature lover, a "barley pop" devotee or on an ancestral pilgrimage, Dubliners enthusiastically welcome you. Explore their centuries-old castles and churches, laugh at stories of their famous authors and the timeworn pubs they loved, relax with a pint of your favorite beverage and be awestruck by the country's most treasured relic.

Ashtown Castle in Dublin's Phoenix Park and Malahide Castle, located nine miles from the city center, are both selfie-worthy, but to delve a wee bit deeper into Dublin's history, a tour of Dublin Castle is a must. Built atop the ruins of a Viking fortress dating to 930 A.D., the exterior of the castle is a hodgepodge of centuries of repairs and additions. Inside, a checkered history of rulers and rebellions lives on, amid beautifully appointed apartments and somber memorials.

The stunning architecture of St. Patrick's Cathedral alone makes this a necessary stop. Add to that its matchless claim as the spot upon which St. Patrick baptized the first Irish into Christianity around 450 A.D., and it can easily become the highlight of a Dublin tour. Standing in the church gardens and staring in wonder at the 141-foot spire (the tallest in all of Ireland), imagine yourself on the very spot where a group of pagan converts professed new faith in what was then a new religion. This stop can evoke a sense of the Divine in even the most earthly minded.

A visit to Trinity College Dublin for a peek at the country's crown jewel is also a necessity. *The Book of Kells*, housed (and guarded — no photos allowed) on the ground floor of Trinity's Long Library, contains a copy of the four Gospels



that date back to about 800 A.D. The Books, written entirely on calfskin, were compiled by monks who obviously were more than mere scribes. Each page of the Books contains spectacular illustrations and calligraphy in still-vibrant colors.

After a day of castles, cathedrals and Kells, spend an evening with two local actors, as they regale you with stories of some of Ireland's most famous authors on Dublin's Literary Pub Crawl. Starting at The Duke Dublin, you crawl to and through such places as Davy Byrnes, McDaid's and Neary's, where Irish literary greats such as James Joyce, Brendan Behan and Oscar Wilde whiled away many nights — and possibly some days — in the company of their compatriots and a pint of stout.

Speaking of stout, no trip to Dublin is complete without a tour of the Guinness Storehouse at St. James's Gate. While there, visitors learn about the beverage's unique brewing process, view the 9,000-year lease Arthur Guinness extracted from the city as an assurance the drink synonymous with the country will endure, and learn to "pour the perfect pint" at the Guinness Academy.

After the tour, make your way to The Brazen Head, Ireland's oldest pub. Established in 1198, The Brazen Head's nightly live entertainment with a menu boasting an extraordinarily creamy seafood stew as well as the staple fish and chips makes this a great place to eat, drink and be merry in the most Irish sort of way.



The Temple Bar district is synonymous with nightlife in Dublin. The narrow, cobbled streets down which you travel to reach not only the famous Temple Bar Pub but the plethora of other bustling after-dark spots remind you that amid the shining neon signs, you trod upon centuries-old streets here as in every other part of the city. **NOW**

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# BRIDAL DIY

— By Angel Morris

*Whether you have unlimited funds or are building your wedding on a budget, it never hurts to save money. It can also lessen stress when you prepare as many decorative items as possible in advance. From flowers to photography, thinking creatively is important to arrange your wedding successfully.*



## *Do-It-Yourself Invitations*

Assuming you have chosen wedding colors — the primary shades you'll use in decor — one of the next steps is to select invitations. While etiquette suggests invitations need not be sent until about three weeks prior to your event, they are an item you can create as soon as you set the date and reserve venues.

While some couples still choose traditional, engraved invitations, many take advantage of online printing services or print them at home. Some even hand draw invitations if that speaks to their personal style. Printing services abound on the web, and customer reviews let couples know which companies are best.

Office supply stores offer not only online printing, but also have many stationery options for couples wishing to print invitations at home. Keep in mind, the invitation is one of the first items guests see related to your wedding, and they should relate to the style of your event, as well as your personality. Check these off your to-do list as early as possible, and plan the rest of your decor around them!









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## Do-It-Yourself Florals

While fresh flowers are beautiful, they can also be expensive. Faux flowers can be pricey, too, but since they last forever, the choice may be worth the investment. Another option is to use a blend of real and faux flowers to best meet your budget.

Wrist corsages are making a comeback, replacing traditional bridesmaid flowers and even the bridal bouquet. This is a money-saving option and, with faux flowers, can be prepared in advance.

Smaller than bouquets, corsages not only cost less but can also be just as pretty with faux flowers. You'll only need one or two dominant stems and filler such as greenery or baby's breath. Online search engines offer step-by-step creation instructions, plus images of corsages from which to take inspiration. Similarly, groomsman boutonnieres can also be made inexpensively.

When it comes to floral centerpieces for tables, some couples prefer to use fresh flowers, as these will be seen more closely by guests than corsages and boutonnieres. If you can find faux florals that meet your standards, however, this is another excellent way to save money and prepare in advance.

Collecting a mix of bottles and vases of different sizes and shapes is relatively easy by checking craft and thrift stores. They are also offered online at discounted prices when you buy in bulk. It only takes a few stems (faux or fresh) to fill small bottles with narrow necks and grouping several containers together — perhaps tied with ribbon — makes a lovely centerpiece.



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## *Do-It-Yourself Photo Booth*

Photo booths have been on trend for years but still hold out as a great way to involve guests in festivities. Preparing a designated spot and asking guests to send you their pics from your event is an excellent way to capture photos without increasing what you spend on your wedding album.

While many agree hiring a professional photographer or talented friend to capture your wedding is an essential part of the budget, the photo booth is a way to get more images at little cost.

Scout out your venue and take note of what is already on hand, such as beautiful doorways or decorative wall spaces that can easily serve as your backdrop. Remember, florals from your ceremony can move to your reception area to beautify your backdrop, too.

A little decor goes a long way in photo booths, as you want the focus to be on your subjects anyway. Consider a couple of tall potted plants for each side of the booth and perhaps an overhead garland of faux greenery or fairy lights.

Ready-made props are available at party stores and online, but a creative couple can make their own or enlist crafty friends to create them. Booth set-up is a great responsibility to delegate to a creative friend and one less thing for the couple to fret over.

Remember, asking friends to give of their time and talent in lieu of store-bought gifts is a way to save money and involve loved ones in special ways — from floral design to photography. Wedding DIY opportunities are endless and a wonderful way to prepare in advance and save money when designing your perfect day. **NOW**

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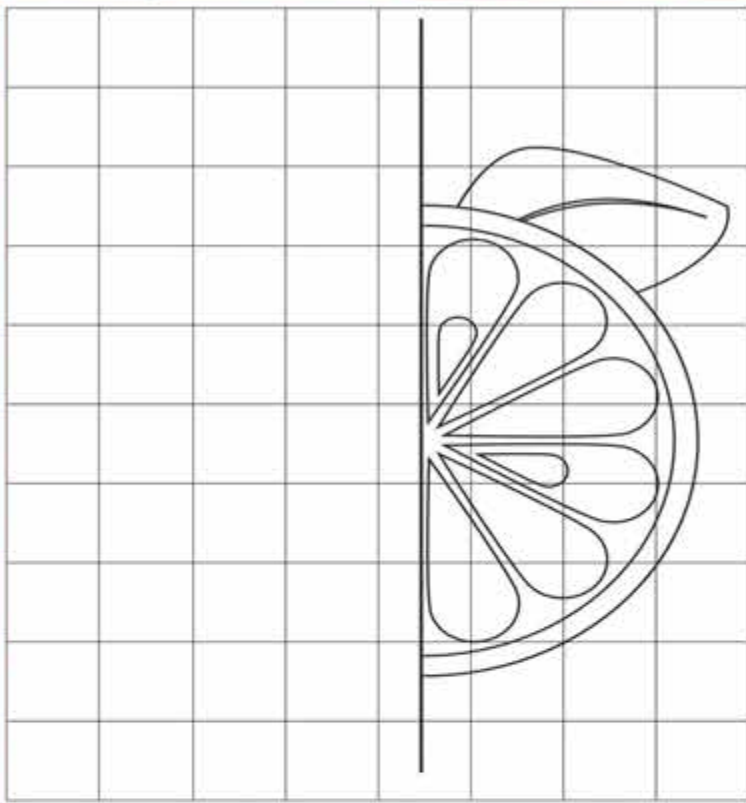


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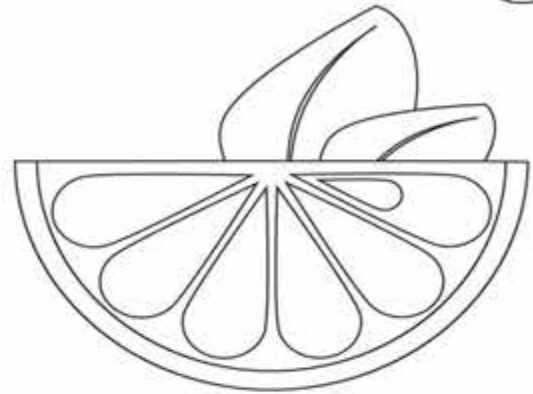
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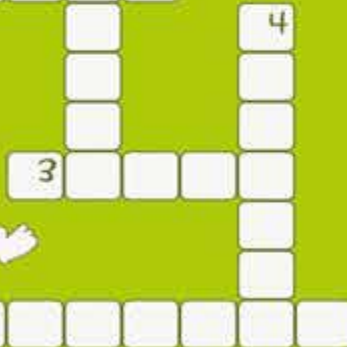
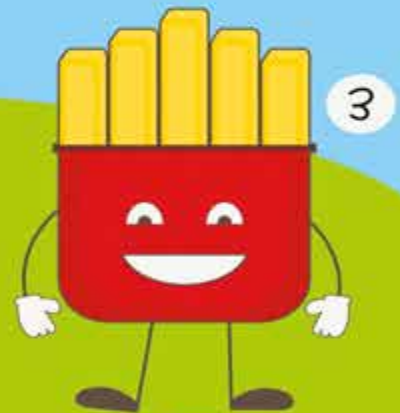
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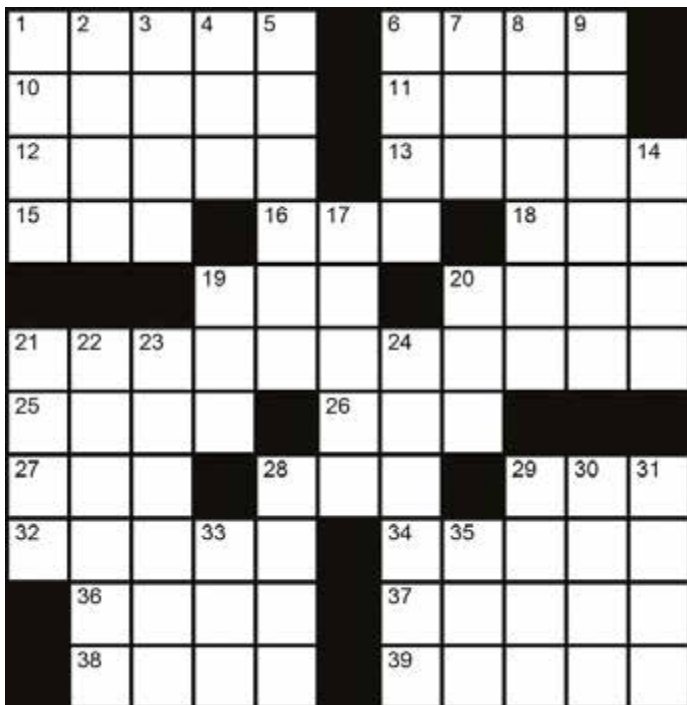
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## Across

- 1 Color of an unclouded sky
- 6 Memorable pop Mama
- 10 Immigration essentials
- 11 Aussie gemstone
- 12 Not capable
- 13 Later in this text
- 15 Outmoded taper's buy
- 16 Recede
- 18 Gone by
- 19 For each
- 20 Mogadishu-born model
- 21 Breakfast greeting
- 25 Musical phrase
- 26 Chisholm Trail state
- 27 The whole lot
- 28 Gave food
- 29 Sports org. producing "Deuce" magazine
- 32 Picture border
- 34 Bury
- 36 Separate article
- 37 With a single voice
- 38 Wooden-soled Japanese shoe
- 39 Puts the plane down

## Down

- 1 Tel follower in Israel
- 2 It galvanizes
- 3 Employer
- 4 Talk music
- 5 Respect
- 6 "Twelve Angry Men" star
- 7 Emulate
- 8 Italian sausage
- 9 Catchphrase
- 14 "The World of Suzie —": 1960
- 17 Penniless
- 19 Email attachment format
- 20 Tavern
- 21 Match for Agassi
- 22 Roughneck's workplace
- 23 Not long ago
- 24 Tire type
- 28 Govt. disaster relief org.
- 29 100 cu. ft. for a nautical measur
- 30 Look after
- 31 America's C-in-C
- 33 Encountered
- 35 Cryptographic org.

Solutions on page 52

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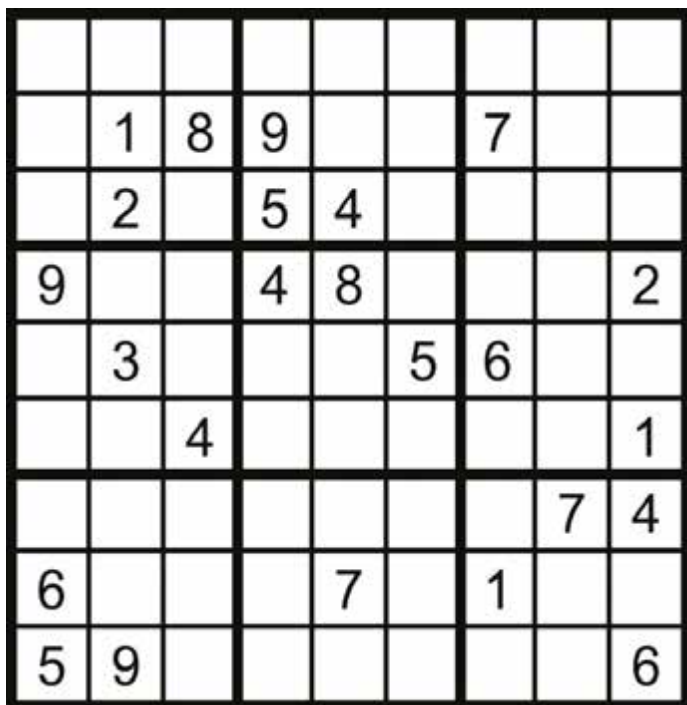


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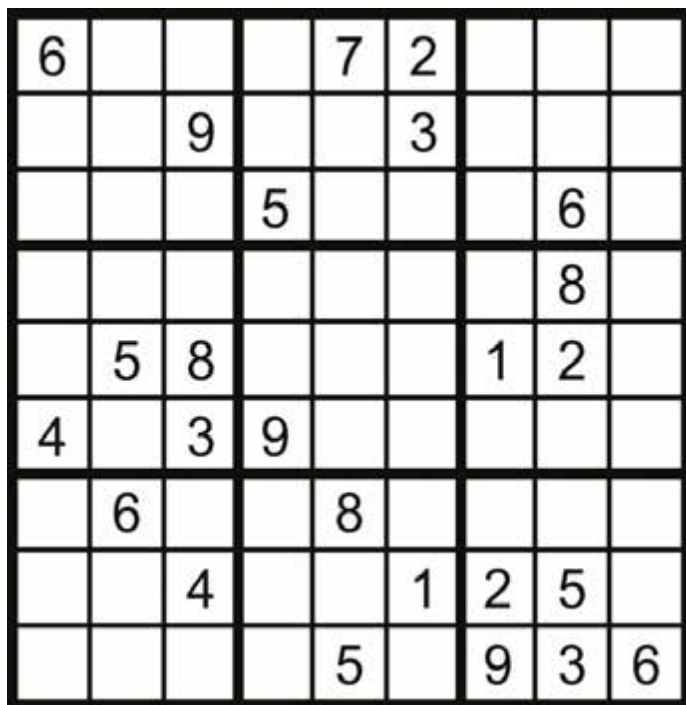


# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Solutions on page 52

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**9/9**

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**9/21**

#### **Emergency Preparedness Fair:**

Learn how to prepare for various states of emergency. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. Call (972) 825-5199 for details.

**9/28**

#### **Blow The Trumpet Ministries Prayer Breakfast:**

Registration: \$20 per person; \$30 per couple. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Heritage House, 6881 FM 1387. Advanced registration is required for head count. Register at [www.mybttm.org](http://www.mybttm.org). For more information, call Antionette White at (505) 480-3267.

#### **Snap Happy:**

Learn the basics of organizing, backing up and enjoying your digital photos. 2:00-3:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, contact Kathy at (469) 856-5211.

#### **Fourth Annual Big Dog Music Festival:**

Music by five different live bands, kids' zone and food from a special festival menu. 4:00-9:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th St. For more information, call

(972) 723-5282 or visit [lighthousecoffeebar.com](http://lighthousecoffeebar.com).

#### **Wish Upon A Paw:**

Dinner and auction for the Ellis County SPCA. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Learn more at [ecspca.ejoinme.org/2019gala](http://ecspca.ejoinme.org/2019gala).

**10/5**

#### **Heroes of Midlothian Oktoberfest:**

Food, entertainment and auctions benefiting families of local law enforcement, firefighters and military veterans. 4:00-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Learn more at [www.heroesofmidlothian.org/](http://www.heroesofmidlothian.org/).

**First Mondays**

#### **Book Club:**

Join us for book discussions. 6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, contact Terry at (469) 856-5211.

**Second Mondays**

#### **Ellis County**

#### **Veterans Networking:**

Dinner and guest speaker. 6:00 p.m., IHOP, 1206 Dallas Hwy., Waxahachie. Jim McKeever (469) 258-7424.

**Second and Fourth Mondays**

#### **Community Book Club:**

Lively discussion of books chosen by club members. 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more details, call (469) 856-5211.

**Tuesdays**

#### **Rotary Club Meetings:**

Hear guest speakers and learn how Rotarians serve the community. Noon-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St.

**First Tuesdays**

#### **Ellis County Republicans Monthly Meeting:**

7:00 p.m., Ellis County GOP Headquarters, 610 Water St., Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 923-9383.

**Wednesdays**

#### **DivorceCare:**

Group sharing for those who have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. For more information, call (972) 775-3993.





9/19

### Community Resource Fair:

Enjoy a free meal while learning about the local resources available to your friends and family. 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th Street. Call (817) 629-3888 to learn more.

### Thursdays

#### Midway Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol/US Air Force Auxiliary:

Cadets ages 12-18 and Senior Members 18 plus. 6:45-9:00 p.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. For more information, visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

#### Celebrate Recovery Meetings:

A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00-9:00 p.m., The

Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. CR@dfwlighthouse.org.

### Fridays

#### Ellis County Democrats Coffee and Talk Open House:

8:00 a.m.-noon, Democrat HQ, 215 E. Main St., Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 937-9039.

#### Preschool Storytime:

Story, craft and snack provided. 11:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St.

For more information, call (469) 856-5211.

### Second Fridays

#### Downtown Business Association Meeting:

8:30-10:00 a.m., Woodrow's Coffee Shop, 116 N. 8th St.

### Saturdays

#### Midlothian Market:

Outdoor market held Saturday mornings from May-October in Heritage Park. Local vendors display throughout the morning and early afternoon.

### First and Third Saturdays

#### Pet Adoptions:

The Forgotten Ones Animal Rescue hosts pet adoptions. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Petco, 2000 FM 663, #300. For more information, email [info@theforgottenonesar.org](mailto:info@theforgottenonesar.org).

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

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# Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	2	Z	3	U	4	R	5	E	6	C	7	A	8	S	9	S
10	V	11	I	12	S	13	A	14	S	15	O	16	P	17	A	18	L
19	I	20	N	21	E	22	P	23	T	24	B	25	E	26	L	27	O
28	V	29	C	30	R	31	E	32	B	33	B	34	A	35	G	36	O
37	P	38	E	39	R	40	I	41	M	42	A	43	N	44		45	
46	G	47	O	48	O	49	D	50	M	51	O	52	R	53	N	54	I
55	R	56	I	57	F	58	F	59	K	60	A	61	N	62		63	
64	A	65	L	66	F	67	E	68	D	69	A	70	T	71	P	72	
73	F	74	R	75	A	76	M	77	E	78	I	79	N	80	T	81	E
82	I	83	T	84	E	85	M	86	A	87	S	88	O	89	N	90	E
91	G	92	E	93	T	94	A	95	L	96	A	97	N	98	D	99	S

Easy

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

Medium

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

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