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SEPTEMBER 2021

Stitching Friendship

Creative Quilters Guild
of Ellis County makes
its comeback

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:

Access Self Storage And
Truck Rental

In the Kitchen With
Madeline King

Postal Customer

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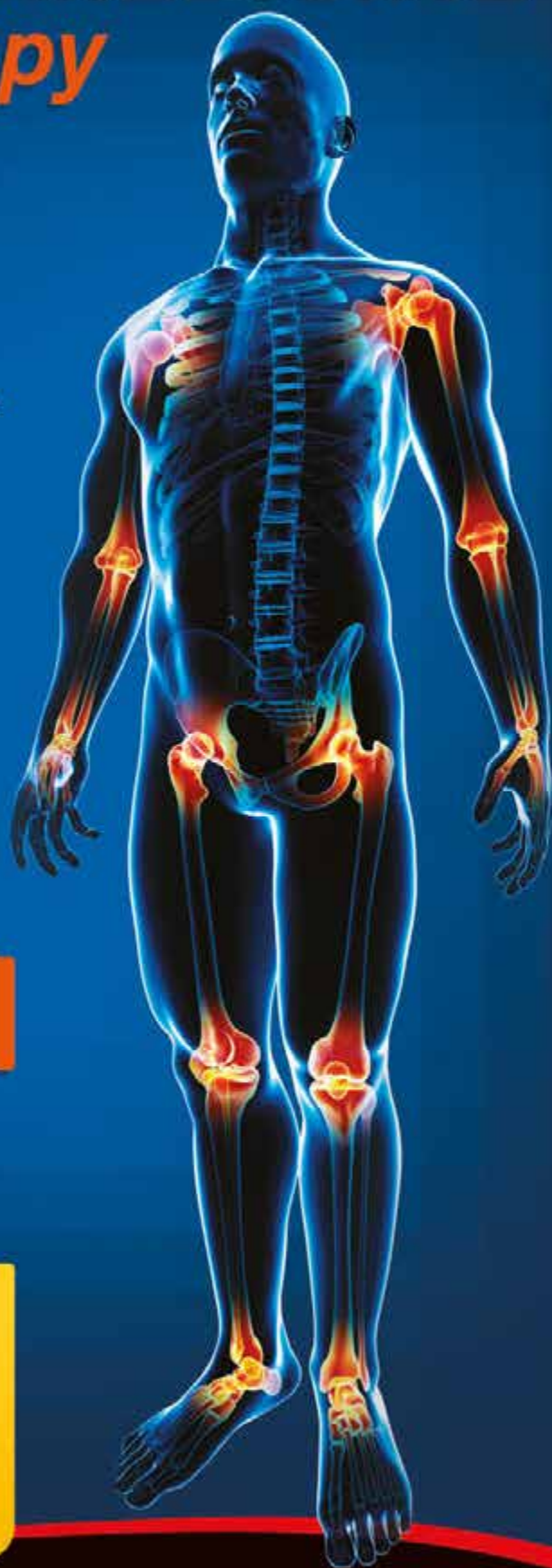
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ON THE COVER

*Adjusting during and after the
pandemic, Creative Quilters
Guild of Ellis County kept
camaraderie alive.*

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.



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and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in
the Red Oak, Ferris, Ovilla, Bristol, Glenn Heights, Pecan Hill and
Oak Leaf ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50
per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O.
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

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Remembering yesterday ...

How appropriate that Founder's Day — Red Oak's largest community event — falls on September 11 this year. After being canceled last year due to the pandemic, it returns bigger and better with the fitting theme, "Hometown Heroes," honoring not only first responders, but also doctors, nurses and medical staff; educators; essential workers; real-life heroes; and more!

Residents can witness the city parade beginning at 9:00 a.m. from Red Oak Road at Main Street and continuing to Watkins Park, where festivities will run from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Visitors can enjoy more than 100 vendors, live music, a dunk tank, kids' activities, a drumline contest between Red Oak High School and Life School and even an old-fashioned pie-eating contest.

Founder's Day marks the settlement of the city by Colonel James E. Patton in 1844, when his family landed in Red Oak Creek. Records suggest the city's first church was established three years later, followed by a post office and general store in 1852. Red Oak was legally incorporated in 1949 according to Texas Local Government Code. Celebrations of the day began in 1978.

It cannot go without notice that the date is also the 20th anniversary of 9/11, one of the most infamous dates in our country's history, when terrorists attacked New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 lives were lost that day, making it the single deadliest foreign attack on America's homeland.

If there was any silver lining, it was greater appreciation for those who regularly put their lives on the line by simply doing their jobs. The pandemic highlighted such heroes again, and this year, Founder's Day salutes them, as well.

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STITCHING FRIENDSHIP

— By Angel Morris

From the time we're young through our golden years, it is not uncommon to find solace in a favorite blanket. Perhaps no one knows this better than the Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County, whose members keep the tradition of quilting alive today. "If you enjoy the art of sewing, this is the place. We have traditionalists all the way to art quilters," explained Patty Ozga, of Ovilla, who joined the Guild more than two decades ago.

Guild members, whose tastes in quilting designs are as varied as their personalities, had to get creative over the course of the pandemic. Continuing to meet online via Zoom, members traveled outside their comfort zones, learning to use Facebook and YouTube like pros.

"It was a different way to have a meeting, but we were able to get together and have some very good programs. I missed getting to be with members in person, but I did get an opportunity to see some of them and have a little bit of conversation time," reflected Ovilla resident Maggie Cooper, who joined the Guild in 2015.

The pandemic presented an opportunity for the Guild to make something it had never made before — hundreds of face masks — which were then donated. Over the years and through the pandemic, the Guild contributed many more handmade items for local groups.

This year, they are making and donating "fidget quilts," which feature a variety of textured blocks that keep the hands and minds of assisted living residents occupied. They will continue preparing Quilts of Valor for servicemen and women, as well as lap quilts for patients of VA hospitals.

Baby clothing, diaper bags, quilts and more are made and donated to Hope Clinic, an area women's facility providing health services to women in need. The Guild will also continue to raise money for an annual scholarship presented to a senior from any Ellis County high school who is preparing for a field of study in textiles. "I love being involved and having an active part in something that is bigger than me," Maggie noted.








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While the Guild maintained some normalcy, the pandemic did result in the cancellation of its annual quilt show for the first time in 16 years. "I was saddened by this, of course," Patty said of the 2020 and 2021 shows. But Maggie added, "It was a necessary safety issue."

As pandemic restrictions continue to lift, the Guild is making preparations for the return of the quilt show, and hosting small events featuring quilters. "I love the opportunity to hear speakers and see what they are creating and hearing how they got to where they are today," Maggie described. "I love participating in workshops and learning new techniques, and I love the opportunity to teach some of the things that I know."

The next Guild quilt show is slated for July 15-16, 2022, at Sokol Hall in Ennis. Miniature quilts are donated by members for the show's silent auction, then members vote for an Ellis County nonprofit group to receive auction funds each year. Past recipients have included North Ellis County Outreach Center; Hope Clinic; Women's Resource Center (now First Look); Red Oak Senior Center; the Bridge Breast Network; and Golden Circle Senior Center in Ennis.

"Our Guild members also create a quilt to raffle to provide money to pay our monthly speakers," explained Guild President Debbie Ray. This year's donation quilt is a 94-inch by 94-inch piece featuring a pattern by Scott Flanagan adapted by Guild members.

The drawing for this item will be on July 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are one for \$1 or six tickets for \$5 and can be purchased from any Guild member.

The group has returned to fourth-Monday-of-the-month meetings at Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N.





Grand Avenue in Waxahachie. Anyone interested in quilting or learning more about the group is encouraged to attend.

Social time is from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Then a short business meeting is followed by a show and tell, then door prizes. "Our speakers share everything from techniques for making quilts, history of quilting, quilt displays and encouraging a love for the art of quilting," Debbie explained.

All of this is while enjoying the camaraderie of creative quilters. "I enjoy the show and tell as it gives me inspiration. I enjoy the friendships I have made during my years of being in the guild," Patty admitted.

While the pandemic showed Patty that she is able to entertain herself, it made her appreciate Guild meetings that much more. "I really missed being in person with my quilting sisters," she said.

Perhaps you've never quilted and desire to learn. Maybe you want to help teach the next generation of quilters. Or, you've been looking for a way to make a difference with an art form you love. "In 2013, I was anticipating the birth of my second granddaughter. I thought that Aubrie should have a 'big sister' quilt," Maggie reflected. "I made a string quilt for her, entered it in the Creative Quilters Quilt Show and won a blue ribbon in the First Quilt Category. I was completely hooked and have been quilting ever since."

If there's something about the nostalgia behind quilting that attracts you, too, this organization could be for you. "Come try us out, get involved and make new friends," Maggie encouraged. "Our members make the guild. Come be a part of Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis, County!" **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more, visit <https://elliscountyquilters.com/>.

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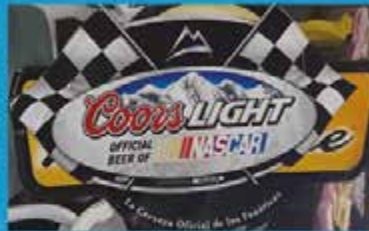
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Zoomed In: Donna Young

By Angel Morris

CEO Donna Young sits in the recently opened FirstLook facility, which offers an array of free health services to Ellis County residents. Staffed by 14 employees, including three nurses and two doctors, as well as 15 volunteers, FirstLook offers pregnancy testing, diagnostic ultrasound, STI treatment, counseling and more. “We have a full team of qualified individuals providing a holistic approach to care, involving medical, educational, emotional and spiritual support, and even material assistance.”

In 2020, the clinic had a 60-percent increase in visits, making the expanded site more necessary. Some services are now offered virtually due to the pandemic. “This facility makes it possible to fulfill our overall vision of reaching more men and women and meeting growing community needs for the long term,” Donna noted.



Alyssa Balboa and Dominique Barnes promote the ROHS Class of 2022 fundraiser car wash.



Siblings Brandon and Evelyn Burchett tackle the climbing wall in a downtown Ovilla play area.



Dr. Maese of 1st Health Family Clinic and AJ Reed of the Angel Health Plan along with staff celebrate their ribbon cutting with the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce.



Jerrell, Miya, Rhonda and Jazmine serve customers at Franks Holy Smoke BBQ.



Jolene Brown reshelvs titles at Red Oak Library, where patrons can visit by appointment or reserve books for curbside pickup.



Cassaro Winery and Vinyard employees, Joseph Matthews, Courtney Herbst and Matthew Herbst, serve guests at a recent special event.



Sgt. Cody McKinney is sworn in as the new criminal investigations sergeant for the Red Oak Police Department.



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— By Angel Morris

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Access Self Storage And Truck Rental owner Doug Hunt opened his first Ellis County location in Red Oak in 2009, providing a variety of storage unit sizes featuring the same state-of-the-art security that is standard at all Access locations. Units as large as 10-by-25-feet or as small as 5-by-5-feet are available by month or long-term.



Customers range from those moving and in need of temporary storage for their possessions, to those clearing their homes of infrequently used items and keepsakes. “Access Storage has climatized spaces for more precious possessions that need storage in a controlled environment,” Doug noted.

Credentials are required to access the gated facility, which is staffed by a resident manager to help customers find the right size unit. “With their new access control system, customers don’t even have to get out of the car. The gate will open via a Bluetooth app on their phone,” Doug explained.

Doug, who has been in the storage industry more than 30 years, is always looking for innovative ways to improve the business. Perhaps it’s his attention to detail that makes Access Storage a fan favorite, including its shredding station, so clients can dispose of personal papers; on-hand packing and moving supplies; and even a conference room for customer use. U-Haul trucks can be rented for local or cross-country transport, helping Access live

up to its motto: "Your one-stop moving and storage solution."

Founded with Doug's father, Bill, in 1972, and maintained with his brother, David, Access Storage is the recipient of many recognition awards, including the Consumers Choice Award received every year for a decade, and Best Storage Facility by the *Waxahachie Daily Light*. The Hunt brothers seek ways to give back through their business, awarding college and camp scholarships and helping many area nonprofits. Partnering with the Red Oak Education Foundation each year as presenting sponsor for its "Purse Bingo," Doug provides a Louis Vuitton purse as the grand prize in their raffle drawing.

Access Storage also partners with area chambers. In fact, Access Red Oak is donating space for the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce to office out of until the Chamber's new space is complete.

In times of tragedy — like when tornadoes hit Access Storage cities in recent years (Lancaster 2012 and Red Oak 2015) — the Hunts have provided free storage for victims. "Life changes can come quickly. We offer services people need when life hands them transitions," Doug commented.

A six-term Ovilla City Council member and current mayor pro tem, Doug is no stranger to community service, having earned the Red Oak Masonic Lodge Volunteer of the Year Award, the Lancaster Chamber Golden Gaither Award and the Man-of-the-Year title from DeSoto Chamber of Commerce in years past. Doug and David are also co-chairs for fundraising with Texas Self Storage Association. "We've raised over 1.5 million dollars for the Shriner's Hospitals for Children," Doug said.

The Hunts even raised awareness of the storage auction trend after being featured on the TV series, *Storage Wars: Texas!* Access has monthly unit auctions open to the public as seen on StorageAuctions.com.

Red Oak's Access Self Storage adds to the list of Hunt-owned facilities in Midlothian, Garland, East Dallas, Pleasant Grove, Oak Cliff, Lancaster, Red Oak and the newest facility in nearby DeSoto. "We're growing and giving back to our communities," Doug concluded. "We're here to help at all our locations." **NOW**

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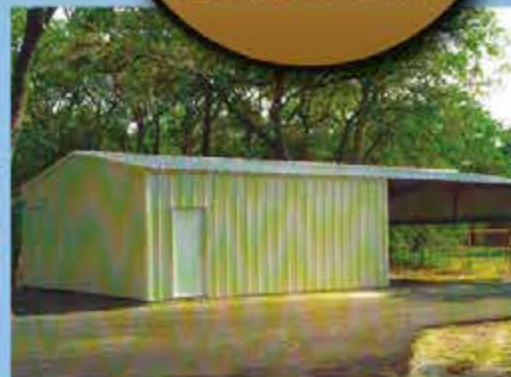
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

MADELINE KING

— By Amber D. Browne

Learning from three generations of women before her, Madeline King discovered her love of cooking and baking. “I really just love being in the kitchen,” she admitted. While growing up, Madeline and her family would try a new recipe each week including dishes from around the globe. New recipes entice her to this day. “When I find a recipe that sounds interesting, I will give it a try, usually dropping or changing ingredients to suit my tastes.”

Madeline has taken classes over the years including at Le Cordon Bleu in Dallas, and she continues to educate herself about the culinary arts through books, TV shows and hands-on attempts in the kitchen. Although she no longer has a storefront restaurant, Madeline’s bakery and catering businesses share her culinary talents with the community. **NOW**

Old Bay Shrimp Sheet Pan Dinner

Lemon Aioli:

3/4 cup mayonnaise
1 garlic clove, minced
1 tsp. grated lemon rind
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

Shrimp:

1 lb. asparagus, trimmed and cut into 3-inch pieces
4 garden onions, sliced into 1-inch pieces

1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 tsp. salt (divided use)
1 lb. large, raw, shrimp, peeled and deveined with tail on
Pepper, to taste
2 tsp. Old Bay Seasoning
1 lemon, halved

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. *For lemon aioli:* Stir together all ingredients; refrigerate until serving.
3. *For shrimp:* In a large bowl, toss the asparagus and onions in the olive oil with 1/2 tsp. salt; spread on the baking sheet. Place the pan on the center rack; roast for 10 minutes.

4. Remove the pan from the oven; add the shrimp. Season with the remaining salt, freshly ground pepper and Old Bay Seasoning; squeeze the lemon over the top. Gently toss all ingredients; roast for an additional 6-7 minutes or until the shrimp is pink. Serve warm with a side of aioli.

30-Minute Dinner Rolls

1 cup warm water
1/3 cup oil
1/4 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. yeast
1 egg, beaten
1 Tbsp. butter, softened
1/2 tsp. salt
3-4 cups all-purpose flour
3 Tbsp. butter, melted

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. In a large bowl, mix together the first 4 ingredients. Let sit about 8 minutes, until the yeast is bubbly. Stir in the egg, butter and salt.
2. With a stand mixer, add the flour, 1 cup at a time, usually using just over 3 cups, until a soft dough forms and is not sticky. Knead another 5 minutes with a stand mixer.

3. Divide the dough into 15 even pieces; form into balls. Put the balls into a greased 9x13-inch pan; cover with parchment paper and a kitchen towel. Let rise in a warm place for 10-30 minutes. Brush lightly with butter; bake on the middle rack for 10-12 minutes or until browned.

Pina Colada Cake

Cake:

3 large eggs, room temperature
1 cup coconut milk
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 1/2 tsp. coconut extract
1 tsp. rum extract
3 cups cake flour
2 cups sugar
1 Tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter,
softened slightly

Pineapple Filling:

1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple
1/2 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. cornstarch

Pina Colada Cream Cheese Frosting:

2 sticks unsalted butter, slightly softened
2 8-oz. blocks cream cheese
1 1/2 tsp. coconut extract
1 tsp. rum extract
6 to 6 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 14-oz. bag sweetened coconut

1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease and flour 3 8-inch cake pans.
2. In a small bowl, combine the eggs and the next 4 ingredients. Blend with a fork; set aside.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the flour and next 3 ingredients.
4. Mix on low speed; add a few slices of butter, gradually increasing to medium speed until the butter is used, and the dry ingredients are crumbly and moistened. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl.
5. Slowly add approximately 1/2 of the egg mixture to the dry ingredients; beat for 1 1/2 minutes. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl; add half of the remaining egg mixture, and then the remaining egg mixture, scraping the bowl and beating for 20 seconds after each addition. Fill each pan evenly with batter; bake at 350 F for 25-30 minutes. Cool the cakes before assembling.
6. *For pineapple filling:* In a bowl, mix together all ingredients; set aside.
7. *For frosting:* In a bowl, mix together the butter and the next 4 ingredients until well-blended; set aside.
8. *To assemble:* Place the bottom layer on a serving dish; lightly frost the layer, and use

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a piping bag to create a border of frosting. Evenly spread the pineapple filling in the center. Add the second cake layer; repeat process. Add the final layer; frost the entire cake. Gently spread sweetened coconut on top of frosting.

Italian Cream Cake

Cake:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup salted butter, softened
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup light brown sugar
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. pure almond extract
5 large eggs
1 cup whole buttermilk
1 14-oz. pkg. sweetened flaked coconut (divided use)
1/2 cup pecan pieces, toasted and chopped

Frosting:

2 8-oz. blocks cream cheese, softened
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. pure almond extract
2 lbs. powdered sugar
Remaining toasted coconut
1/2 cup pecans, toasted and chopped

1. For cake: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease 2 8-inch round cake pans; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda and baking powder; set aside.
3. In a stand mixer bowl, cream together the butter, sugars and extracts for 3-4 minutes until creamy and light beige in color. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

4. Alternately add the dry ingredients and the buttermilk. Increase mixer speed; beat until combined. Mix in 1/2 of the package of coconut and pecans. Divide the batter evenly in the cake pans. Bake for 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean; cool.
5. For frosting: Cream together the cream cheese and butter until light, fluffy and pale yellow in color; add the extracts. Gradually add the powdered sugar, beating until creamy and smooth.
6. To assemble: Frost the first layer; sprinkle with pecans. Add the top layer; frost the entire cake. Press the remaining coconut on the sides. Decorate the top with the remaining pecans. Chill until set.



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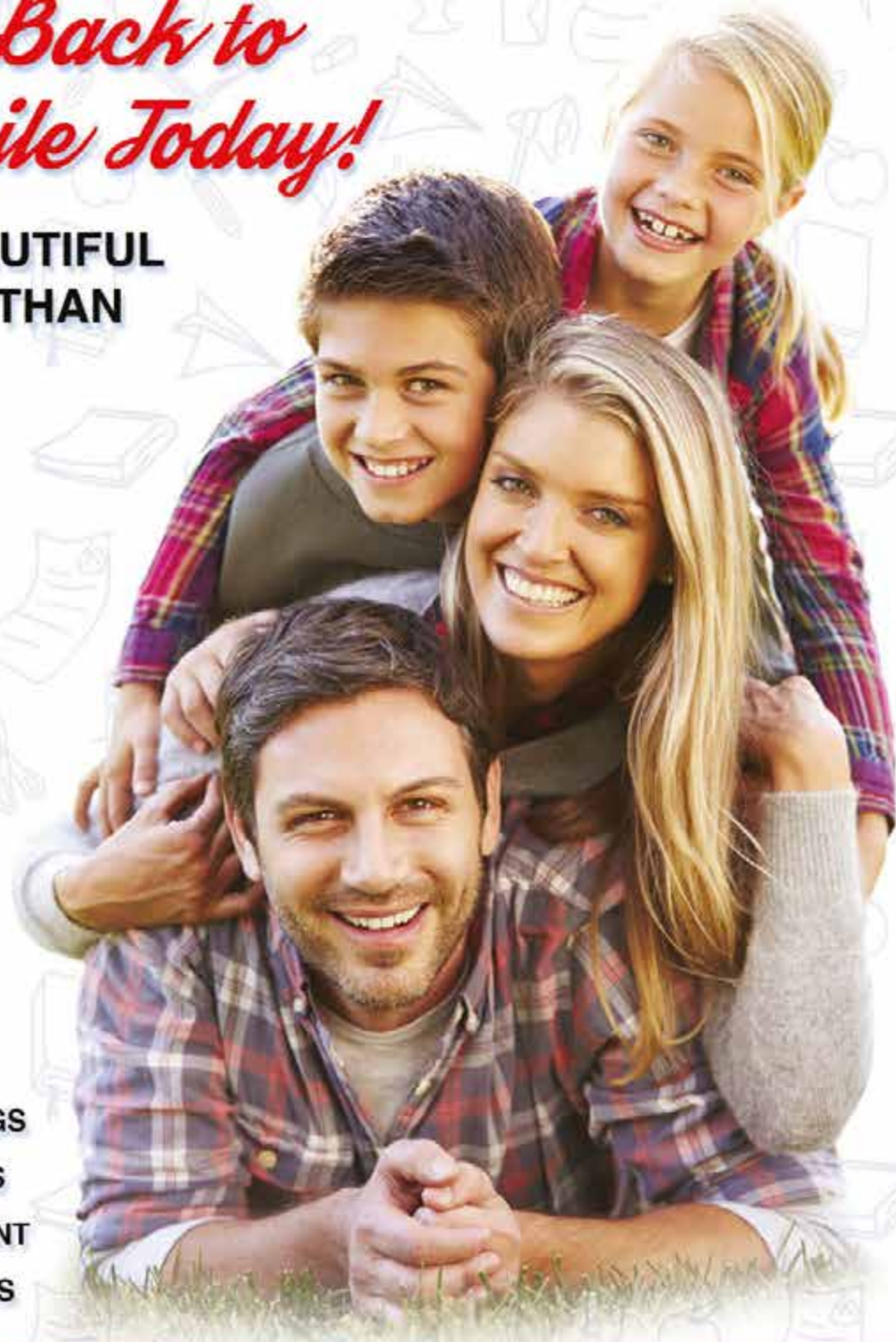
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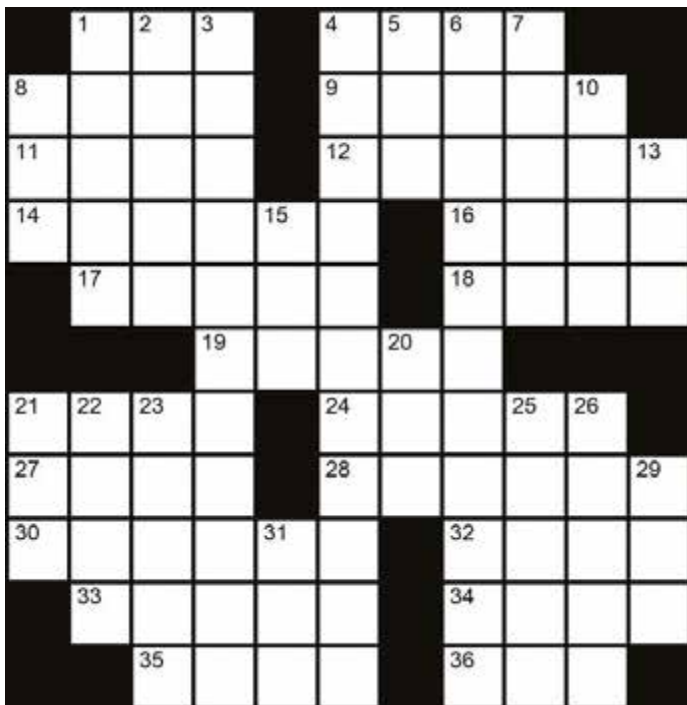
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Crossword Puzzle



- Across**
- 1 Claptrap
 - 4 Funds for the future
 - 8 Quartet
 - 9 Morticia, to Fester
 - 11 Capable of
 - 12 Overseas
 - 14 Profit on sales
 - 16 About
 - 17 Jewish teacher
 - 18 Consider
 - 19 Hop named after a pilot
 - 21 Temper
 - 24 Squeals
 - 27 Black cuckoos
 - 28 Rip to pieces
 - 30 Andean capital
 - 32 One of the Three Bears
 - 33 An island, according to John Donne
 - 34 Jump --- the deep end
 - 35 Biblical passage
 - 36 National health watchdog

- Down**
- 1 Polling pioneer Elmo ---
 - 2 "(If You're Not in It for Love) I'm --- Here!" (Shania Twain)
 - 3 Annoying cocktail of obsolete rum
 - 4 Right away
 - 5 Tease
 - 6 Relating to the study of moving air
 - 7 Ballpark figure
 - 8 Controversial wear
 - 10 Abate
 - 13 Monk's title
 - 15 Diamond statistic
 - 20 Casino cube
 - 21 Beater for mixing mortar with hair
 - 22 Unknown
 - 23 Leg of lamb
 - 25 K
 - 26 Tanning material
 - 29 Small flat mass of a soft substance
 - 31 Burden

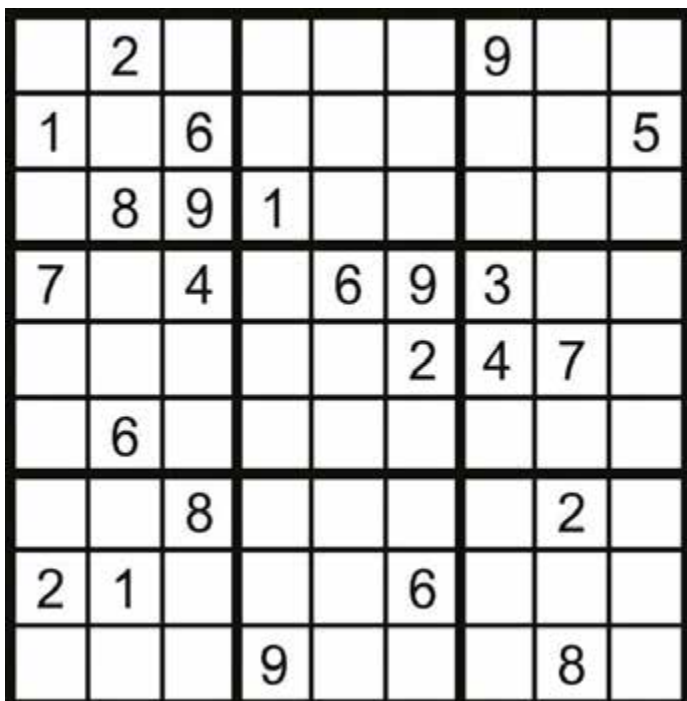
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Solutions on page 28

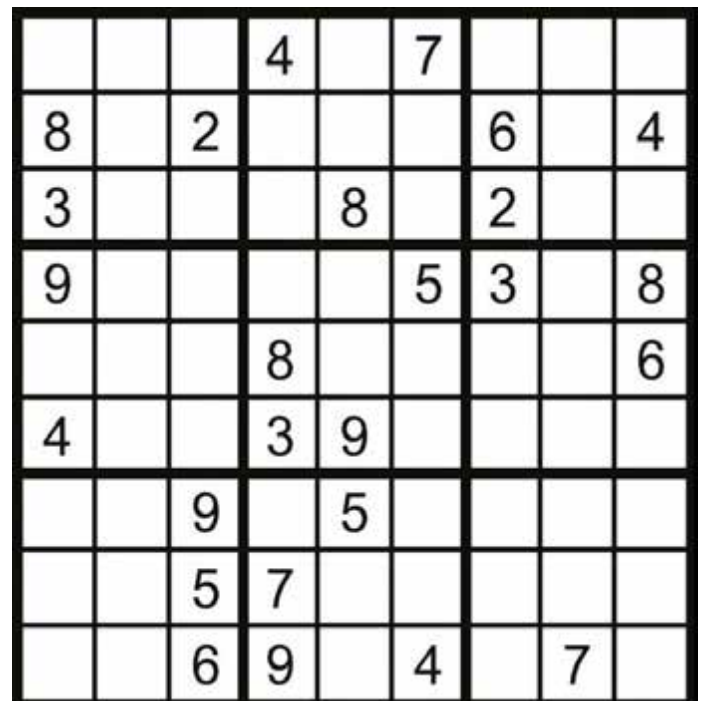
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium



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Solutions on page 28

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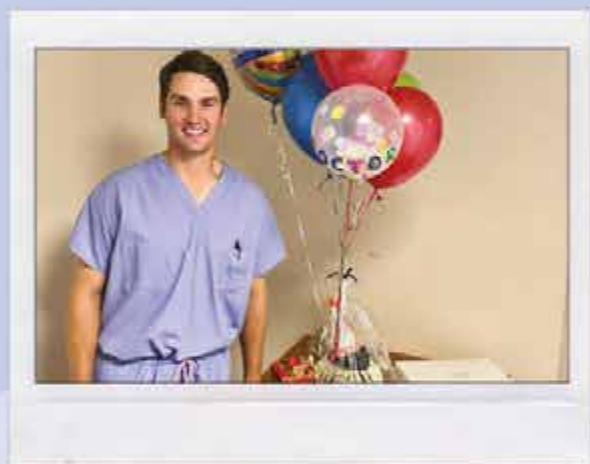
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SEPTEMBER

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9/9-10/7

Youth Acting Classes:

Ellis County Children's Theater classes will be held on

Thursdays culminating in an original play. Classes are divided by grade level/theme. Sessions are \$160-\$175. First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin St., Waxahachie. E-mail Gail Harrell at gharrell817@gmail.com, for class times and to register.

9/11

Founder's Day:

The biggest annual event in town kicks off with a Hometown Heroes Parade at 9:00 a.m. from Red Oak Road at Main Street continuing to Watkins Park. Event features

more than 100 vendors, live music, a dunk tank, kids' activities, a drumline contest between Red Oak High School and Life School and an old-fashioned pie-eating contest. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 101 Live Oak St. Get up-to-the-minute details at www.facebook.com/RedOakTXFoundersDay.

Founder's Day Shuttle:

First United Methodist Church Red Oak provides parking, water, fans to keep you cool and a shuttle ride to Watkins Park. 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 600 Daubitz Drive. Learn more at www.fumcro.org or email firstumcrodoak@gmail.com.

9/18

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9/30

Michael W. Smith Concert:

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Center, SAGU, 2000 Sycamore, Waxahachie. <https://sagu.ticketspice.com/michael-w-smith-public>.

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Social time, business meeting, show and tell program. 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie. Learn more at elliscountyquilters.com.

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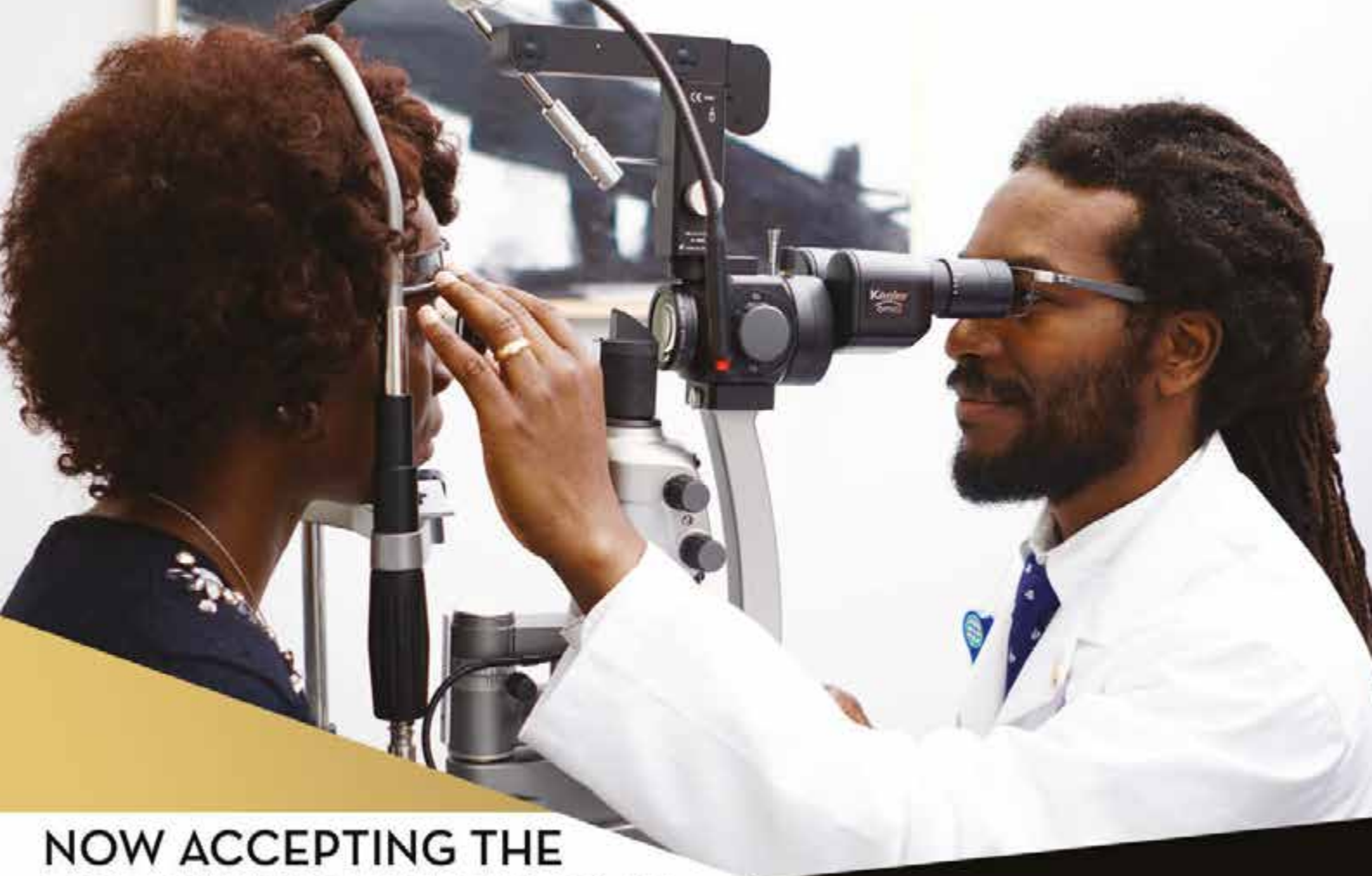


Easy

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

Medium

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