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SouthwestNOW

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2021



Transforming Stories

Raising kids becomes inspiring tales

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Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
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Two of the first cohort of female Eagle Scouts keep blazing forward.

LaToya Thomas turns lessons only kids can teach into educational books for children.

As J.R. Ewing, Larry Hagman portrayed his alter-ego.

Great landscape choices abound in bulbs, bushes and shrubs.



41 FinanceNOW

A photograph of two Scouts, a boy and a girl, standing outdoors in front of a wooded area. They are both wearing khaki Scout shirts with neckerchiefs and sashes. The boy on the left is wearing glasses and a yellow belt buckle. The girl on the right is also wearing glasses and has a pink wristband. Both are smiling at the camera.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
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Puppy love!

I've mentioned before that I love dogs, especially Labradors. So, when we decided to get a new puppy, I was thrilled that we settled on the idea of a silver Labrador. If you haven't seen a silver before, be ready for the cuteness overload. I wouldn't really call the color silver, if I were naming it. It's more like the color of a Weimaraner. But put that coat with blue or green eyes, and the Labrador shape, and you have one beautiful dog.

When we went to pick Murphy up, and I found out that my mom and sister had been discussing the idea of getting a second puppy, so Murphy would have an age mate to grow up with. I didn't think it was such a good idea. Then I saw Zach. He's a black Lab like a couple of my childhood dogs. Both the Planned Purchase and the Impulse Buy came home with us.

Dogs are a lot of work, at any age. But puppies have so much energy. And brothers ... well, it's like a free WWE ringside seat at random times all through the day, and occasionally at night! These guys are so cute. Zach is the bigger one, the fat one, the one who didn't have to learn what kibble was. Murphy's the smaller one, who starts most of the fights and loves to bowl big brother over and hold him down.

At 11 weeks, they're both experts at climbing out of their play pen, and both are making progress on house training. They love to chew the hand that pets them. So, there's some stuff to work on.

Remember, September 14 is Hug Your Hound Day!

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Eagle Scout is an achievement few attain. Plenty of boys start for that goal without ever attaining it. It isn't an easy task to complete. But when Boy Scouts of America opened its doors to girls in 2019, the way was clear for them to reach for that same goal of becoming Eagle Scouts. Constance Lamkin and Isabelle Walker were among the first cohort of girls to achieve the coveted rank.

Soaring Ahead

— By Adam Walker

“Don’t say you can’t do something.
You don’t know if you can, if you don’t try!”

The rules didn’t change for them. They had to work hard. But hard work and adventure are why these girls chose this direction for their scouting journey.

“I started out with Girl Scouts,” Isabelle revealed. “But I wanted to go camping outdoors, not to a sleepover at another girl’s house. I grew up hearing my dad and uncle talk about Boy Scouts since I was little. I love the outdoors and the stars. The first time I saw the Milky Way was at Philmont. It was so beautiful, I almost cried. Looking at the stars puts your little problems in perspective.”

Constance also switched to Boy Scouts after tagging along to meetings of her older brother’s Cub Scout

troop interested her, years before the opportunity to switch arose. “I wanted to go out and experience adventure. I wanted rock climbing and white water rafting. I also liked the idea of getting to do stuff with my dad, though he gets hurt before every giant event, and can’t go!”

Scouts keep track of their achievements through earning and displaying merit badges on a sash that is a distinctive part of their uniform. Isabelle has earned 45, and is still adding more. Her most recent two are for hiking and backpacking. “I still have to get those sewn on. I’m most proud of my badge for aviation. I got to fly

a plane, something I’ve wanted to do since I was 8 years old!” she said.

Constance has aged out of earning badges. “I have somewhere in the 30s. I’m especially proud of my badges for rifle and shotgun. It took a while to get those, and it was a lot of work. I also have a shooting sports award from Venturing, which is the youth-directed branch of scouting, for ages 14-21. But I’m most proud of my composite materials badge, because I have volunteered for the last seven years teaching it and was so excited to be part of the program to receive that badge.”

The ebullient Isabelle claims that she was shy before scouting. “I was the one



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wearing a hoodie, over in the corner, reading. I didn't talk to anyone. But I've made friends for life here. It's a safe environment to learn new things and grow without bad consequences."

Constance agreed. "I'm like Isabelle. I was quiet, shy. Then all of a sudden, I wasn't! Scouting has great leadership programs. Especially the NYLT, the National Youth Leadership Training. NYLT is my life now!"

Every candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout has to design and supervise a project to benefit the community. Those projects can take many forms. Isabelle and Constance looked to their passions and to current events.

Constance loves dogs, so her project drew on that. "I designed and supervised the construction and installation of dog beds at Tri-City Animal Shelter. They're outdoor dog beds with shades to protect the dogs from the sun. I wanted to do something to impact the community and do something I enjoy. The only thing I think about is getting a dog." The rest was a foregone conclusion.

"I had to change my original project idea because of COVID," Isabelle informed. "One of our leaders has an adult friend who works at a care facility. When COVID hit, they were having to wear masks for 12-hour shifts. They were hurting their ears. She asked me if I could find an idea to help them. I researched and found a way to make ear savers, so the masks don't attach to the ears. I raised money for the materials. Then I had to teach others how to make them. We delivered 100 of them to health care workers."





Constance is already an adult for scouting purposes. "I'm giving back to the troop, watching other girls grow. I'm helping out on both the boys' and the girls' sides now. In the next two-three years, I plan to go to the U.S. Air Force. When I do, I plan to find a troop to be involved with wherever I am. I never really thought about the military until my freshman year in college. A neighbor told me I'd be good in the Air Force, so I contacted the AFROTC. After my first semester, I had a 4.0 GPA and qualified for an AFROTC scholarship. COVID kept me from signing the papers, but that will happen this semester."

"I have a couple of months before I age out," Isabelle explained. "Then I'll come back as an adult leader, too. I'll probably help with my sister's Cub Scout troop and continue with NYLT. I learn something every time I go. I'm only one requirement away from Summit in Venturing."

"Don't say you can't do something," Constance warned. "You don't know if you can, if you don't try! With Venturing I've learned to just go do it. It can be fun! That's the biggest thing, not just in Scouts, but in life. So many things can, and will, go wrong in life. You just have to find the good. I've learned some things this past year!"

"It may be a cliché," Isabelle admitted. "But you are what you say you are. If you believe in yourself, you're more likely to achieve your goals than if you talk down to yourself. You only get things done if you go out and do them. Don't wait for others to do them for you. If you fail, fail. Then get up and move, or you're not going anywhere!" **NOW**

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TRANSFORMING STORIES

— By Adam Walker

LaToya Thomas didn't know when she went to the office that day, that her daughter was about to turn her into a children's author. "It was a typical work day. I was at the office, and my husband works from home. About 11:00 a.m., I get a frantic call from him that our daughter had swallowed something. He couldn't tell what it was, and she couldn't talk to tell him. So, he called me, instead of 911. I told him to call 911, and headed home. By the time I got home, she had stopped crying and had calmed down, so he hadn't called. Also, my mom lives nearby and had beat me home. But when she saw me, our daughter started crying again. We took her to Children's, but during the pandemic, they would only allow one parent to stay with her."

It didn't take long for the doctors to figure out what was wrong. LaToya's daughter had eaten a rainbow — literally. She had swallowed a rainbow charm off her bracelet, getting it lodged at the bottom of her esophagus, just above her stomach. "You could see it right there on the X-rays. A little plastic rainbow. The doctor told me that because of where it was, and the fact that it hadn't moved in all this time, surgery was the best option."

By now LaToya had spent hours alone in the waiting room. "I was in there by myself, with just my thoughts, my prayers and my tears. It was something. I was a mess. As I sat in that room waiting, I prayed. And I heard God saying to me, 'Listen to what I'm telling you. There's going to be a positive outcome.' God gave me the title of the book right there, and I started writing it."

When the physician came out, he had good news and bad news. "He told me that everything had gone well in the surgery, up until they reached for the rainbow, and it fell into her stomach! That was all Thursday night into Friday morning. We had to wait until Monday for the magical rainbow poop. I told my daughter that was the most expensive poop ever!"

And thus, was born the children's book *If You Ever Ate a Rainbow*. "I wrote it to turn this event into something positive. It's a story to help children grow their social and emotional awareness. It can be a learning tool for home or school. There



are a lot of children with emotional disconnects, and this book will help them use their imagination to re-channel and affirm mindfulness.”

No sooner was the book about her daughter’s experience, illustrated, printed and making its way out in the world, than her son offered the opportunity to turn one book into a series. “He’s a typical, energetic boy, and he loves to jump on his bed,” LaToya explained. “He got a little too wild and fell off, hitting his head on the frame on the way down. He gashed his head and had to get stitches. He loves space and astronauts, so *If Your Bed Ever Launched You to the Moon* will be the second book in the series. I really hope it ends there. Two is enough. This book is with the illustrator right now, but it tells the story of a boy whose bed magically launches him to the moon one night. While there, he has adventures playing with aliens. At dawn, he comes back, and no one even knows he was gone.”

Both books include fun activities in the back. *If You Ever Ate a Rainbow* includes several recipes for ways readers can eat a more digestible rainbow, in the form of sweet treats. *If Your Bed Ever Launched You to the Moon* has fun STEM activities. “I love my kids, and they give my husband and me a lot of laughter, but sometimes I tell him, ‘Oh, my God! We need to celebrate. We kept them alive for one more year!’ I’m all about the memories. I wanted these books to have their moments etched in history. If their stories can help other kids as well, that’s even better.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Dr. Thomas’ books are available under her pen name L.M. Thomas at sunraybooksllc.com and on Amazon.



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BusinessNOW

Where Kidz Connect Academy, Inc.

— By Adam Walker

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Where Kidz Connect Academy, Inc. is the result of one mother looking for a solution. After a 17-year career in the corporate world, Gay Baker found herself with a baby girl and no options that she liked for child care. “I had my baby girl, and I just couldn’t find any options that felt like home. So, I stepped out in faith and made it happen. In the 13 or 14 years that Where Kidz Connect Academy has been serving families, I’ve changed Pampers, answered phones, talked to parents, driven buses, cooked and taught in classrooms. I’m a very hands-on kind of owner.” Even when she isn’t on-site, she has a team of administrators to oversee the daily operations in every classroom, and cameras throughout the building mean she can personally check out what’s going on at any time from any location. “As the owner, I try to be in tune with everything that happens here,” she reported.

Serving children from age 6 weeks to age 12, or 13 with an evaluation, Where Kidz Connect has multiple age-centered zones. One wing of the building serves the infants and

preschool children, while the other wing houses the administrative offices and the school-age children. The wing for the younger children includes a couple of therapy rooms where children with special needs receive the extra care they need to thrive, whether it be physical or developmental issues. There is also a colorful lunch room with tables and chairs properly sized for the little ones, and a multitude of classrooms for age-appropriate activities, to nurture young minds and bodies.

An outdoor courtyard supplies additional space for youngsters to run off the abundance of energy so many of them possess, and for them to engage in imaginative, active play. Surrounded on three sides by the wings of the building, and fully fenced, it provides a secure place for sunshine and fresh air.

The other wing houses the administrative offices for supervisors and staff, as well as before- and after-care for school-age children. There is plenty of room for proper social distancing and age-appropriate entertainment, in addition to homework help, enrichment activities and summer programs. Activities such as skating, bowling, swimming and museum trips are part of the enrichment for school-age children.

"We never shut down during COVID. We were able to adjust and stay open safely. We take children's temperature on arrival, wear masks and practice social distancing. We have 10 bathrooms and 13 sinks," Ms. Baker informed. They pick the children up at the curb, among the ladybugs and pinwheels, and deliver them back to the parent's car, so they can limit the number of people entering and exiting the building.

Many members of the staff at Where Kidz Connect Academy are long-time employees who have been with WKCA for more than 10 years. They maintain a 2:1 staffing ratio in the nursery, and 10:1 for the toddlers and older, so there are always plenty of eyes and hands at the ready, to insure children are well supervised.

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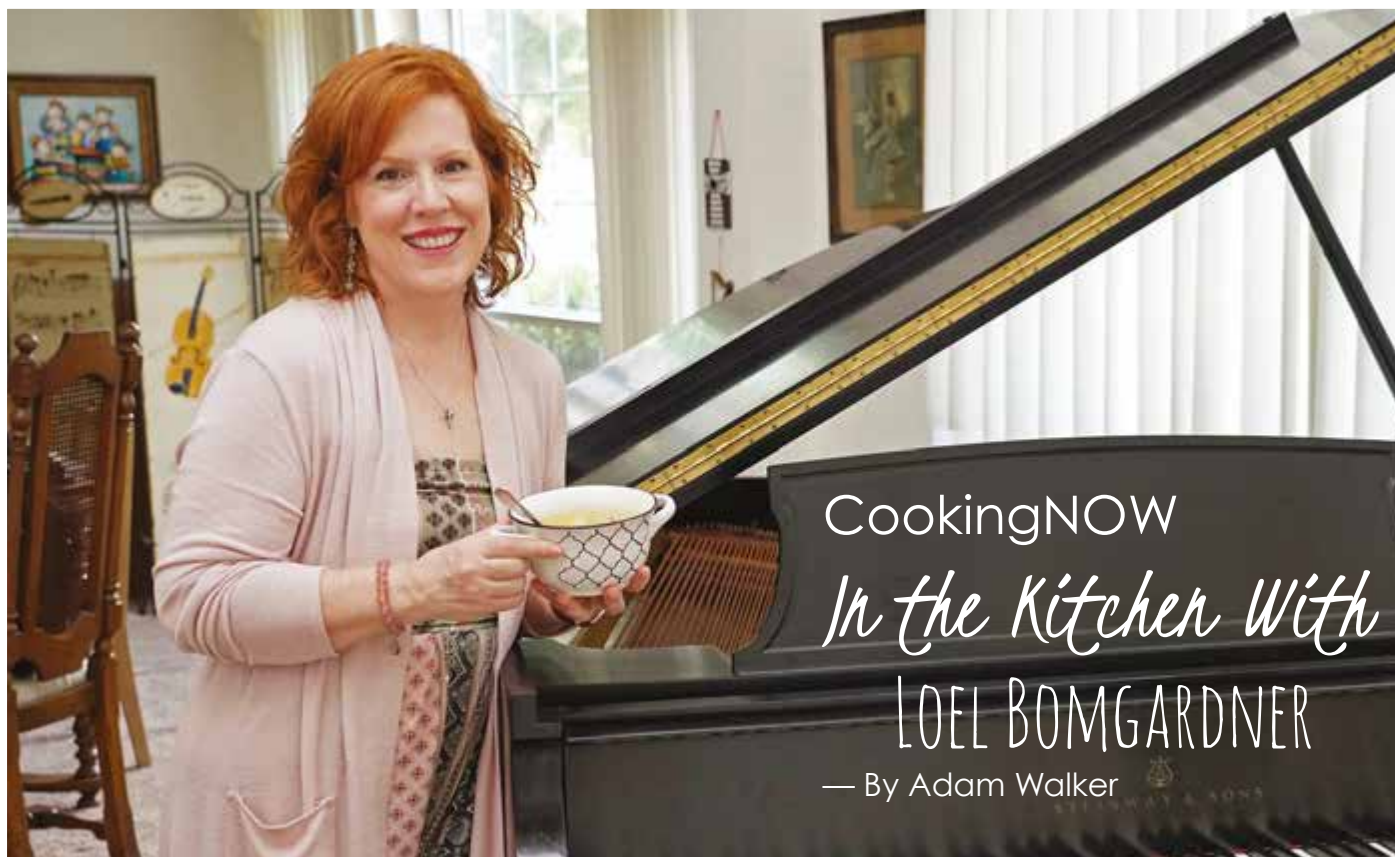
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— By Adam Walker

Loel Camp Bomgardner is a professional pianist. She plays for Duncanville First Baptist Church and accompanies The Silver Serenaders of Texas, as well as vocal students at DBU.

Loel loves to cook for her husband and teenage daughter, as well as other family and friends. “During quarantine, I lost 45 pounds by working with a coach. I changed some habits and learned to cook healthier.” She has been busy experimenting with substituting lower fat dairy products, cauliflower rice and spaghetti squash instead of pasta. She posts her triumphs on social media and has started coaching others on how to cook for a healthier lifestyle. “One of my new healthy habits is limiting the richer or sweeter recipes to special occasions.” But she still makes room for family-favorite desserts! **NOW**

Easy Pumpkin Cake

1 15-oz. can pumpkin
3/4 cup Crisco oil
4 oz. cinnamon applesauce
4 eggs
2 cups granulated sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 Tbsp. pumpkin pie spice
Cool Whip, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 325 F
2. In a large bowl, mix the pumpkin, oil,

applesauce and eggs, with an electric mixer. Gradually add the remaining ingredients, except the Cool Whip; mix well. Pour into a loaf pan or Bundt pan sprayed with cooking spray.
3. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Serve with Cool Whip.

Curried Chicken and Apple Soup

Vegetable cooking spray
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1/2 cup celery, chopped
1/2 cup carrots, shredded

1 cup cooking apple, chopped
1 15-oz. can crushed pineapple (optional)
2 1/2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 can, plus 2/3 cup no-salt-added chicken broth
1 cup water
1/2 tsp. curry powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
3/4 cup skim milk or half-and-half
1 cup cooked chicken breast, chopped
1 cup coconut milk (optional)

1. Coat a large saucepan with cooking spray. Place the pan over medium-high heat until hot. Add the onions, celery and carrots; sauté until tender. Stir in the apple and pineapple.
2. Combine the flour and broth in a small bowl; stir until smooth.
3. Add the flour mixture, water, curry powder, salt and pepper to the vegetables; stir well. Bring to a boil. Cover; reduce heat. Simmer for 5-7 minutes until slightly thickened.
4. Stir in the milk, chicken and coconut milk. Cook just until thoroughly heated, stirring occasionally.

Pecan Toffee Bars

Cooking spray

14 whole graham cracker sheets

1 cup salted butter

1 cup brown sugar, packed

1 cup pecans, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil; spray with cooking spray. Place graham crackers on the cookie sheet; set aside.
3. Melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add the brown sugar and pecans. Boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly.
4. Spread the mixture evenly over the graham crackers. Bake for 10 minutes; cut the crackers into squares while still warm. Allow to cool completely.

Unstuffed Cabbage Rolls

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 1/2 to 2 lbs. lean ground beef

1 large onion, chopped

1 garlic clove, minced

1 small head of cabbage, chopped

2 14.5-oz. cans diced tomatoes

1 8-oz. can tomato sauce

1/2 cup water

1 tsp. black pepper

1 tsp. sea salt

1. In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the ground beef and onions; cook, stirring until the beef is no longer pink and the onion is tender. Add the garlic; continue cooking for 1 minute.
2. Add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Cover; simmer for 20-30 minutes, or until the cabbage is tender.

Sausage and Egg Casserole

6 slices of bread, cubed

1 lb. sausage, browned and drained

1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded

8 eggs, beaten

2 cups milk

1 tsp. salt

Pepper, to taste

1. In a greased 9x13-inch baking dish, spread the bread cubes evenly. Sprinkle with the sausage and cheese.
2. Mix the remaining ingredients. Pour over the ingredients in the pan. You may cover and chill overnight.
3. If chilling, remove from the refrigerator 15 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 325 F. Bake for 45 minutes, or until set. Cut into squares to serve.

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My Sister, Patti's, Green Jell-O Salad

- 1 3-oz. pkg. lemon Jell-O
- 1 3-oz. pkg. lime Jell-O
- 2 cups hot water
- 1 15-oz. can crushed pineapple, with juice
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 5-oz. can evaporated milk
- Pecans, chopped (optional)
- Maraschino cherries (optional)

1. Combine the Jell-Os, hot water and pineapple; chill until syrup-like.
2. Add the cottage cheese, mayonnaise, evaporated milk, pecans and cherries. Refrigerate until firm.

Quick, Sugar-Free Chocolate Chip Cheesecake Bites

- Crust:*
- 1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped
 - 2 pkts. Stevia (or any other sugar substitute)
 - 1 Tbsp. butter, melted

Filling:

- 1 egg
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 2 Tbsp. LILY'S Semi-Sweet Style Baking Chips

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare a 12-cup muffin tin with liners.
2. *For crust:* Combine all the crust ingredients; add 2 tsp. of the mixture to each muffin liner.
3. *For filling:* Mix the egg, cream cheese and vanilla. Fold in the baking chips. Divide evenly among muffin liners.
4. Bake for 15 minutes.

Aunt Lena's Frito Corn Salad

- 2 15.25-oz. cans yellow whole kernel corn, drained
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 purple onion, chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 5-oz. bag chili cheese flavor Frito corn chips

1. Mix together the first 6 ingredients.
2. Add corn chips just before serving. Otherwise, they get soggy.



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Zoomed In: Joyce Moore

By Adam Walker

Joyce Moore pauses in her service to the patrons of the DeSoto Public Library to explain a bit about what she does. "I work with tech services and cataloging," she said, meaning she processes all new books. "I moved to DeSoto 16 years ago and started working here 15 years ago. I really like it here. When I retired from the Air Force, I needed to find something I liked, something I would enjoy doing. This job lets me interact with a lot of people in the community. I fill in, in the computer lab, and I'm available to help anytime any of our patrons have a question about the computers or any of our other technology. I get to work with some great people here!"



Randal Chase and Elvis hang out at the grand opening of Raising Cane's in Cedar Hill.



John C. and Doniqua Ewing of Young Legacy Builders award Adrian Burrows of Fitts Souvenirs, one of Duncanville's great kidpreneurs.



Harry Grant celebrates the ribbon cutting for Maverick Financial at the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce.



Children gather for the Summer Reading finale at the Zula B. Wylie Library.



Duncanville Citizens on Patrol show their support for the community.



Noah Bordeaux of Troop 986 presents the fruits of his Eagle Scout project to the DeSoto police and fire departments.



Carolyn Campbell stops by the city of DeSoto to check on her peeps, Carolyn Kelley and Kathy Jones.



Students at Duncanville's First Methodist School learn about icebergs in Antarctica for Around the World in 16 Days.




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THE DALLAS MYSTIQUE

— By Bill Smith

Underneath the familiar 10-gallon hat was a genuine Texan, not just a character from Hollywood groomed for his world-famous role. Larry Hagman was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 21, 1931, and though having spent some of his childhood in California living with his grandmother, he returned to the Lone Star State and graduated from Weatherford High School.

Larry maintained ties with his hometown even after his most well-known character was in syndication. Former Parker County Judge Mark Riley recalled the actor returning to Weatherford in the mid-1980s to speak at a benefit for the local library. "Some years earlier, while I was working for a radio station, I received a large picture of Larry Hagman. I really did not know who sent it or why I kept it for so long, but I knew my mother was a huge fan of Hagman. Mom was in the hospital and could not attend the event, and the word we had from Hagman's advance crew was that he was not going to do interviews nor sign autographs. However, I mentioned having the picture and wanting to get it signed for Mom to one of the organizers of the event. He told me to bring the picture and keep it at my table, and he would see what he could do. To make a long story short, Hagman autographed the picture *To Maurine, Love you, Larry Hagman*. I was able to put the picture in Mom's room, and it was the best medicine she ever had. We don't always see that side of celebrities like Larry Hagman."

Like most thespians, Larry took many small roles in theater and television before his rise to stardom, but being the son of

Mary Martin, aka "Peter Pan," certainly appears to have assisted his career. They acted together during a long run of *South Pacific* in London before he joined the United States Air Force, where much of his activity included producing and directing others in live military productions.

There was even a starring role in the popular soap opera *The Edge of Night* that Larry commanded for two years, before his widely recognized role as the bumbling astronaut Major Anthony Nelson in *I Dream of Jeannie*, where he starred alongside Barbara Eden. The sitcom drew consistently high ratings for five seasons. In the first episode, the marooned astronaut finds Jeannie in a bottle, and though their relationship is one of master and genie, the sexual tension between the two characters was thick, and many agree that the tension was the glue that held the show together. After the characters Nelson and Jeannie married during the fifth season, the tension was lost, and ratings fell to the demise of the program.

We probably never consider Larry as a vocalist, but many of his stage performances were musicals, and he appeared in the TV version of the musical *Applause* with the great Lauren Bacall. That was in 1973, but the role that brought Larry his greatest success and fame was to come along five years later, when the hugely popular prime-time drama *Dallas* debuted.

Each episode began with the popular theme song that everyone can hum along with and a view of Dallas as a helicopter panned the iconic Reunion Tower and the rest of the Dallas skyline. Perhaps the idea of playing a villain like J.R. Ewing appealed to him because it was contrary to his nature. If the rest of the world did not already believe everyone in Dallas, Texas, wore big hats and western boots, lived on a ranch and owned oil wells, they soon did due to the addiction to the highest-rated television show of the era.


Other television shows drew high ratings by ending a season



with a cliffhanger — *The Fugitive* from the 1960s for instance — but none captured the attention of the world like “Who Shot J.R.?” We were left wondering whether J.R. lived or died, and, of course, wondering who pulled the trigger in the final episode of Season 3. Larry was negotiating his contract with the producers of *Dallas*, and reportedly consideration was given to using the “shot” as a way of writing him out of the script. Negotiations worked out, and J.R. appeared in the final minutes of the first episode of Season 4, but we did not find out who shot J.R. until the fourth episode of the season.



While the J.R. Ewing character may have been the stereotypical Texan to much of the world, Larry Hagman may have been his alter-ego, based on the charitable nature he exhibited later in his career. There are conflicting accounts about where his ashes were spread after his death and cremation in Dallas in November 2012, but at least some of his fans believe they are all over Southfork Ranch. **NOW**

Sources:
IMDb.com
larryhagman.com



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— By Virginia Riddle



Driving along Texas byways, especially country roads, it's not unusual to spot an overgrown patch of land with an almost falling down, weather-beaten house. But breaking through the brush bravely are flowering bushes, untrimmed shrubs and irises, in a hue of colors, telling a passerby, that long ago, a gardener tucked them into the soil on a warm fall day, and they are still providing beauty.

Bulbs

Flowering bulbs that grow well in Texas include varieties of bearded irises, daylilies, Spanish bluebells, gladiolas, amaryllis, daffodils, ranunculus, narcissi, grape hyacinths, anemones, cannas and calla lilies. Although bulbs can be transplanted, it's best to locate them in well-drained garden spaces or containers where they can grow with appropriate sunlight/shade to a desirable height and multiply and be divided for many years. Each bulb should be spaced from its neighbor at least the width of the bulb and at a depth of two-three times

the bulb's height. Once each hole is dug, add bulb fertilizer according to package directions, top with enough soil to protect the bulb's roots from being in direct contact with the fertilizer. Plant the bulb at the right height, root end down and pointed end up. Cover with soil to level the space, water and add about 1-inch of mulch. If mice, squirrels or gophers call the garden home, it's best to cover the buried bulbs with staked down chicken wire. These animals tend to enjoy bulbs for a snack over the winter months. Deadhead the flowers, but when the flowers are finished for the season, don't cut away

the leaves until they turn yellow. The bulbs are busy storing food for the winter!

Non-flowering bulbs also grow well in North and Central Texas. Examples are elephant ears and caladiums. Since frost kills these tropical plants, in the fall, dig up the bulbs when the leaves begin to turn yellow or die. Discard the leaves and stems, dry the bulbs well, wrap them in peat moss and store them in a warm, dry place over the winter. Replant them when spring frosts are over.

Shrubs and Bushes

When investing in any new plant, it's a good idea to amend the soil that will be used, and select plants that grow well in the region. This is especially true when investing in shrubs and bushes. Texas has several regions or zones. North Central Texas lies in Texas A&M Extension Agency's Region III/B and USDA's Zone 8. It is also important to note the full growth and spreading size when planning where to plant shrubs and bushes to avoid eventual overcrowding and/or the blocking of windows and doors. Shrubs generally grow taller than bushes but not as tall as trees, have thicker foliage and are usually kept trimmed. Bushes are left to grow in a natural state. The best time to plant balled-in-burlap or container grown shrubs, bushes and trees is fall — after the summer heat is over, and there's time for them to take root before the first freeze. Wait until January-April to plant any bare root choices. Suggested small shrubs/bushes include dusty miller, honey mesquite and nandina. Medium-size shrubs/bushes include Engelman's prickly pear, sweet mock orange and lantana, and large-sized choices include desert willow, Chinese photinia, Ashe juniper and Mexican elder. Instructions for planting are usually included with each plant.

These easy-to-care-for plants are wonderful additions, enhancing the colors and overall beauty in gardens for years to come. They're a garden's superstars and dependable mainstays, worth the investment of time and money. **NOW**



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Money Lessons: Teaching Kids About Money

If you are a parent or grandparent, it may give you pause to know that research shows children tend to copy their parents' habits and attitudes about money. Are you passing on good money skills to the children in your life?

Although many parents are diligent about teaching safety and good manners, too often money skills are a blind spot. To be sure, in some families, money is an uncomfortable, even taboo, topic. Many other parents simply don't talk about money with their children because they don't know where to start, or they expect their children's school to do the job. Still, what parents say and do is the single biggest influence on how their children will deal with money.

So, how do you help your children become financially savvy, responsible and eventually capable of being independent? For starters, say the experts, unlike a birds-and-bees or don't-do-drugs talk, money skills must be methodically taught to kids, experienced hands-on and modeled daily by parents.

Start Early

Some research suggests that lifetime money habits are set by the age of 7, and assuming that is true, starting money lessons early — as soon as your child can count —

is important. But, say early childhood experts, treating your young child like a miniature adult is a mistake. To make an impression that sticks, you'll want to find fun, meaningful and age-appropriate ways to start and expand your child's money education. As just one example for preschoolers, you might work the idea of money into their imaginary games, such as playing pretend restaurant or pretend shopping.

Show Them the Way

Because you are your children's most influential teacher, your actions have the most power to help or hurt. Remember that children tend to mimic what you do even more than what you say, and they are always watching and learning, even when your actions don't match your words.

Allow Them to Make Mistakes

Although it's important to give your children advice and guidance, it's equally important to allow them to make some of their own decisions about money — good and bad. Even by taking responsibility for small amounts of real money, children learn powerful lessons from personal experience, perhaps even more from mistakes.

Need a little coaching of your own? Look for resources online and in print that offer creative, age-appropriate ideas for teaching money skills to children. **NOW**

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Where Dinosaurs Trod

— By Lisa Bell

Heading south, a short drive leads to Glen Rose. Near the intersection of Texas highways 67 and 144, prepare for more than expected when visiting this community. Known as the Dinosaur Capital of Texas, you can't visit without reminders of the beloved beasts.

Dinosaur Valley State Park offers a well-known place to see tracks. While splashing in the river within the park, you might stand in the middle of one. Several areas feature giant footprints, cast forever in the Paluxy River bed. DVSP only begins the adventure.

The Creation Evidence Museum of Texas also displays

dinosaur and human prints besides other interesting archeological finds. Annually, the museum offers a public excavation of tracks, a memorable hands-on paleontological experience. The McFall Mountain Dinosaur Tracks, also managed by the museum, boasts the longest continuous set of tracks.

Dinosaur World's dominant feature consists of a 1-mile trail with more than 150 life-size dinosaur replicas. Admission includes a fossil dig site for kids, a museum and more.

To continue, visit the Somervell County Museum. One room contains a wall mural of a 1954 *National Geographic* article about track excavations and mammoth bones found in the area.

For those who love history more than the beasts, the museum has amazing displays, from war heroes to local history.

The museum dedicated one wall display to John St. Helen who claimed his identity as John Wilkes Booth. Yes, the infamous Booth who assassinated Lincoln. The display includes an authorized biography by Finis L. Bates and a derringer found behind St. Helen's log cabin. The cabin now resides in the downtown area.

While visiting, be sure to venture to Bernard's Mill. Now an art museum, the building itself tells a story. Immense rooms contain limestone walls and massive beams. Filled with art, it makes a great place to spend several hours. Built in 1890, it once served as the hospital. Nurses lived on the upper floor, which still depicts their daily life.

Looking to get outside? On warm days, enjoy the coolness of the Paluxy River in and around DVSP or at Big Rocks Park. When the water becomes too chilly, families still enjoy climbing over the enormous rocks or strolling along the Glen Rose Riverwalk, a lighted, paved walkway that runs beside the river. Plus, the state park includes miles of hiking, biking and even equestrian trails.

While there, don't forget Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. The safe way to experience the thrill of a safari has many options. Many of their resident animals appear on the endangered species list, the center striving to save them.

You can always visit the amphitheater to see *The Promise* in fall months. Check out the Somervell Expo Center for a wide variety of events and time your visit for one of those.

With a vast assortment of restaurants, finding cuisine to fit your tastes doesn't take long. At Storiebook Café, you can browse and read books while enjoying food. At Sexton's Feed Company, enjoy a view of the river while dining. Then, partake in a fun activity such as axe throwing, cornhole, live music, pool and an arcade room.

With a choice of hotels, bed-and-breakfast locations, cabins and multiple RV parks, you can spend days enjoying the history and adventure of Glen Rose. When you leave, you can say, "I walked where dinosaurs trod." **NOW**



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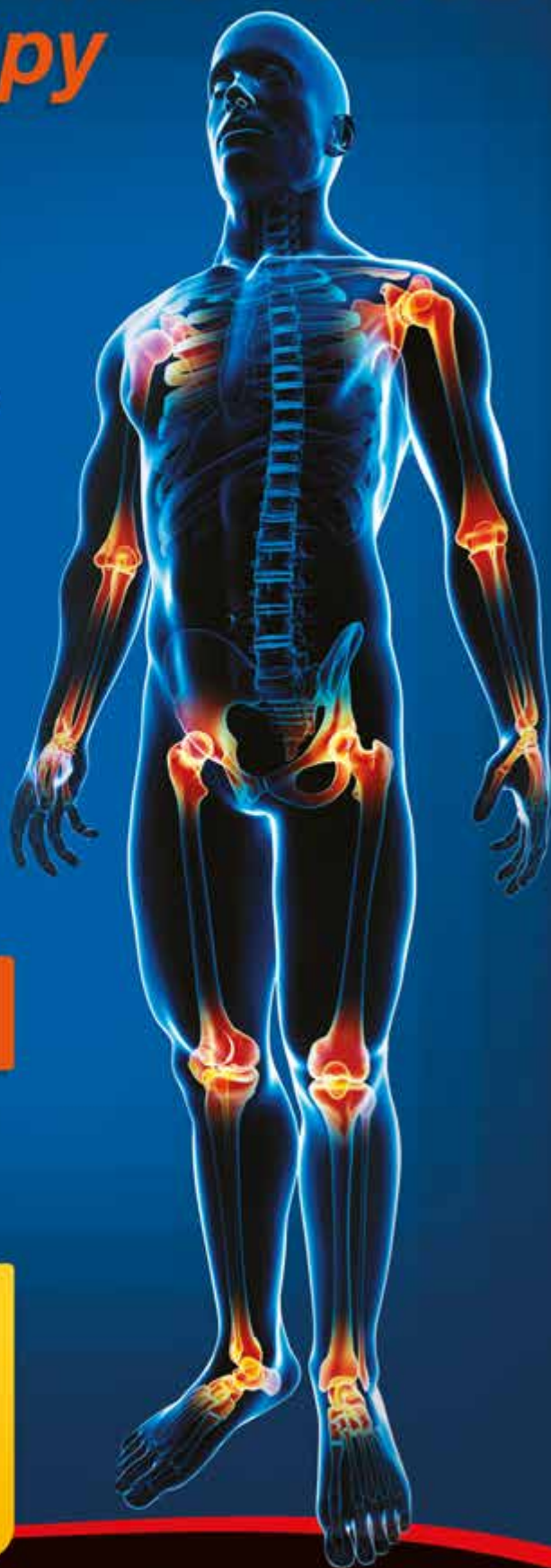
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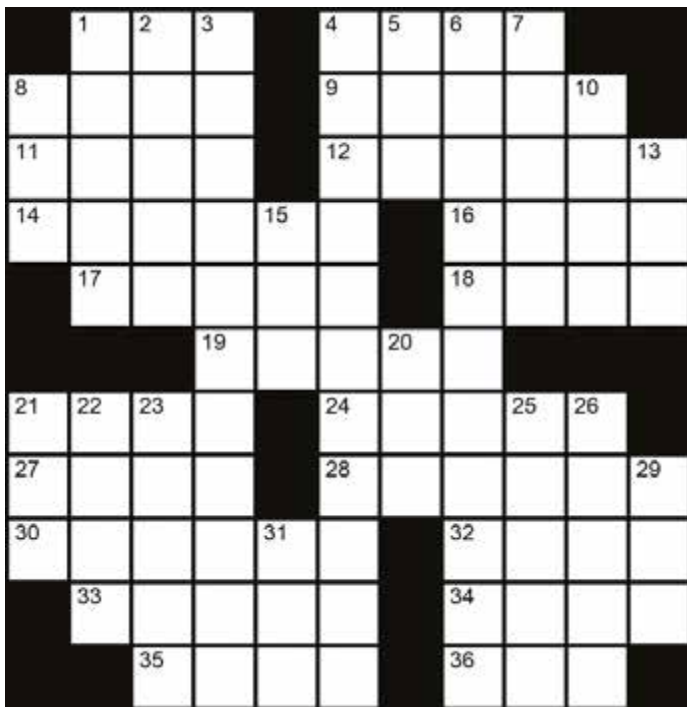
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- 8 Quartet
- 9 Morticia, to Fester
- 11 Capable of
- 12 Overseas
- 14 Profit on sales
- 16 About
- 17 Jewish teacher
- 18 Consider
- 19 Hop named after a pilot
- 21 Temper
- 24 Squeals
- 27 Black cuckoos
- 28 Rip to pieces
- 30 Andean capital
- 32 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

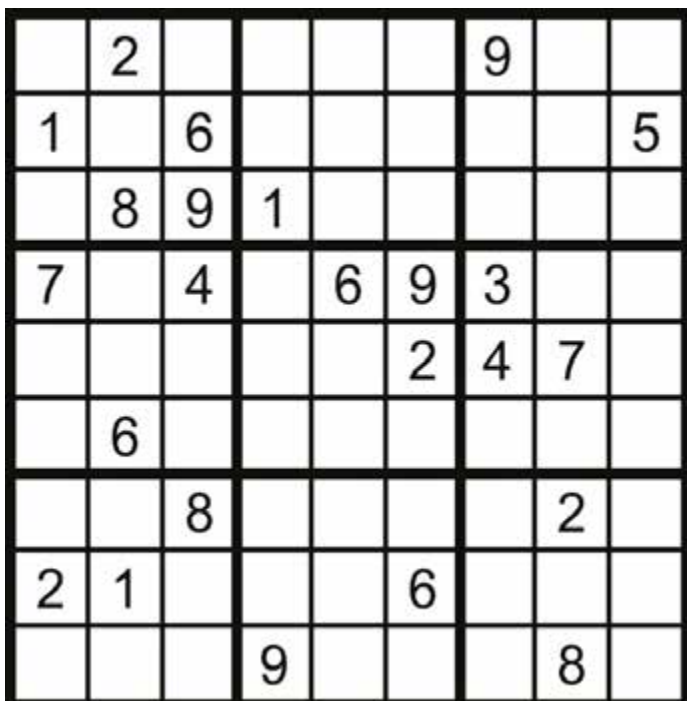
- 1 Polling pioneer Elmo ---
- 2 "(If You're Not in It for Love) I'm --- Here!" (Shania Twain)
- 3 Annoying cocktail of obsolete rum
- 4 Right away
- 5 Tease
- 6 Relating to the study of moving air
- 7 Ballpark figure
- 8 Controversial wear
- 10 Abate
- 13 Monk's title
- 15 Diamond statistic
- 20 Casino 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

Solutions on page 52

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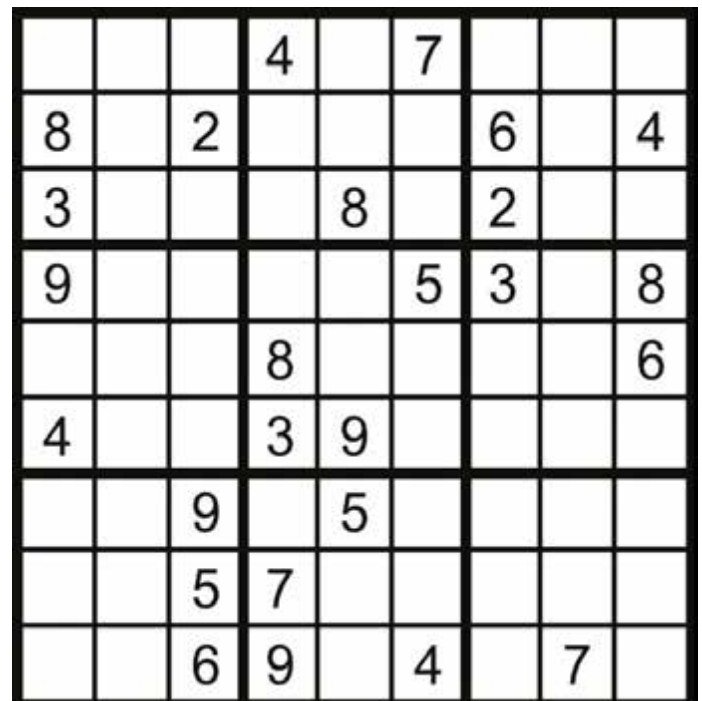
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Solutions on page 52



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9/9

911 Evening of Remembrance:

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9/11

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9/12

DeSoto Small Business Expo:

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9/15

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9/17

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9/18

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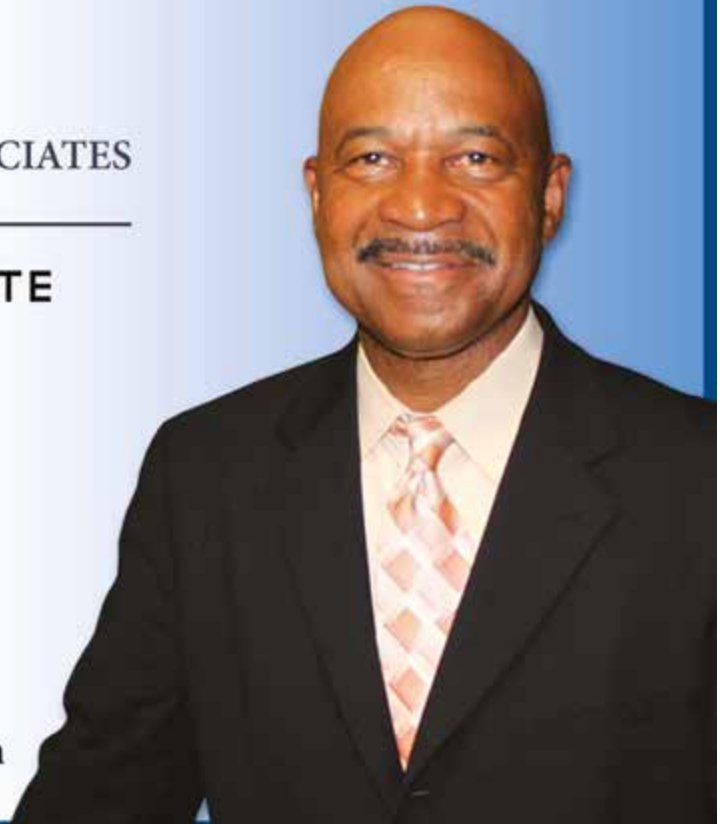
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1	R	O	T	4	I	R	A	S	
8	F	O	U	R	9	N	I	E	C
11	U	P	T	O	12	A	B	R	O
14	R	E	T	U	R	N	16	O	R
17	R	A	B	B	I	18	D	E	E
19	L	I	N	D	Y				
21	R	A	G	E	24	S	I	N	G
27	A	N	I	S	28	T	E	A	R
30	B	O	G	O	T	A	32	M	A
33	N	O	M	A	N	34	I	N	A
35	T	E	X	T	36	C	D	C	

Easy

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



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No babbling by 12 months
No words by 16 months



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