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M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2021

SIMS LIBRARY

Growing With the Community

Barbara Claspell leads Sims Library through a renovation project

Parks for the People

Gumaro Martinez has big ideas for Waxahachie's outdoor spaces

Also inside:

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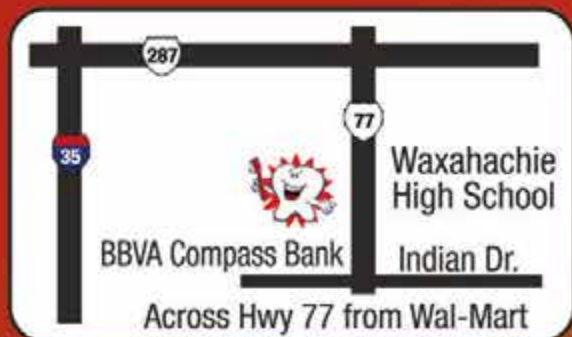
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ON THE COVER

Sims Library is moving on up!

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Susan

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So long, summer 2021 ...

This year's unusually cool weather has lured me outside to play in my yard almost daily. One of my favorite things to do outside is to conduct experiments to test things I read. This summer, I experimented with beneficial insects instead of pesticides.

Last winter, my 1980s go-to garden guru, Howard Garrett, said wasps are a gardener's best friend, so I decided to research the subject further. The website <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu> agreed that wasps are beneficial for pest control. Since then, I haven't killed any wasps unless they were in an area that the family frequents, and I have been amazed at the drastic reduction of insects and spiders.

In early spring, a paper wasp began constructing her nest in a metal cabinet about 5 feet away from my vegetable garden. The nest has grown and now holds about 20 wasps. I have watered and worked daily in my gardens all summer, never getting closer than 6 feet to the nest, and the wasps haven't assaulted me. It almost feels like they are watching me as I tend the vegetables and flowers. Surprisingly, I have come to almost enjoy seeing them each day, but my healthy respect for their privacy does not fade.

Mud daubers, the one's that build mud nests in the eaves of the house, are an unaggressive species of wasp that rarely sting. They love to eat spiders. I love to see them scanning my house and yard in the evening for their dinner.

Learning that I can live with wasps (under certain circumstances) has been an interesting journey. It wasn't as scary as I thought it would be, and I loved not needing pesticides.

Enjoy fall, everyone!



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The winding road that led Barbara Claspell to the Nicholas P. Sims Library is fraught with twists and turns and so many good memories. “My first job after getting my master’s degree in library science and information studies was at Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, Texas. I enjoyed learning about academic libraries there, and I was able to travel to three of their campuses — Abilene, Brownwood and Breckenridge — to give library classes for the students.”

After three years, Barbara moved to a military library and worked at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene. “I will always cherish the recognition I received when I was presented with a commander’s coin from Col. Mike Phelps.” The commander’s coin is a tradition in the military where senior leadership expresses appreciation for someone performing an exceptional job. “As he shook my hand, he left the coin in my palm. That is the customary way the coin is presented. It really meant a lot to me, and still does,” Barbara said sincerely. In 2011, after a couple of years at Dyess AFB, Barbara was offered and decided to take, the assistant director’s job at Sims Library. When the director retired in 2014, Barbara became the director.

“I have to compliment my staff because they make me look good,” Barbara shared. “I am so proud of this library and how far we have come. We are getting out there and getting involved. Community involvement is a big part of today’s library. That hasn’t always been the case. We want to be a part of the community. When people move to town, they like to have a library that is alive and active.”

The library went through a big renovation project last year. A new elevator was installed. A new event space was added, and the Lyceum was refreshed. “This is a historical library, built in 1905, and keeping up with the building and improvements is one of the biggest challenges of the job. And I like challenges!” Barbara grinned.

Membership to the library, is free for people who live inside the Waxahachie city limits, and only \$35 per year for those outside city limits. The \$35 fee is based on the taxes that citizens in Waxahachie pay as part of their city taxes. The many programs and events offered at the library are free of charge. “Our summer reading program has more than 500 participants this year,” Heather Fuller, the assistant director of the library, offered excitedly. “People from ages zero to 100-plus are encouraged to take



OWNING WITH THE *Community*

— By Susan Simmons




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part in the wonderful event. Tickets are awarded for reading, and on August 14, we will host a fun carnival on the front lawn. All the details are on our website, along with a place to sign up.”

The library offers craft classes for all ages, toddler and bilingual story times, LEGO club, music classes and so much more. Even though the classes are free, most require preregistration online or in-person at the library. “We are working on getting more events sponsored by community businesses and organizations,” Barbara said. “They would sponsor the event, and their business would receive community exposure. For instance, Dr. Laura Morgan sponsored the Creature Teacher program in June, and they passed out pamphlets and gave away free promotional items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste.”

The library holds a free Easter egg hunt every year, along with a fall festival and a Christmas celebration. “There is an organization called Friends of Sims Library, which has sponsored many of these events in the past, however, members are beginning to get older, and new members are needed. We desperately need volunteers for fundraisers, helping with programs and networking for sponsors,” Barbara shared. “We would love to have someone help with the flower beds out front! If anyone wants to volunteer at the library, they can get a form at the library desk or online, and if they want to join Friends of Sims Library, Elias Carreon is the acting president. He works in the Reference and Genealogy Department here at the library.”

Funding for the library is approximately 95 percent paid by city of Waxahachie taxes, and the budget is always tight. A



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new revenue stream was created during last year's renovation by installing an ADA-compliant elevator and updating the beautiful, historic Lyceum for future rentals. It has already been rented (at a very affordable price) for a piano recital and a wedding. "I think the pandemic gave us a slow start, but once the community realizes the charming space is available, things will get busier," Barbara said. "The Lyceum seats a little more than 200, and we have rental spaces for smaller events."

Sims Library makes time to reach out to the community. They stock the Little Free Libraries, which are located at Lee Penn Park, Brown Chiles Park and the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame, with donated books. Barbara explained that each location holds 50 to 75 books, and anyone can take and keep the books. "We supply a variety of lightly used books for all ages, but mostly kids' books and adult fiction and nonfiction. My dream is to have a book mobile to go around and keep the Little Libraries stocked, and assist with events around town. We could use it when we take books to nursing homes and do craft projects with the residents, and also when we deliver books to homebound residents. We would be able to take storytimes mobile. It would have a laptop in it for us to assist those who need help filling out applications and necessary paperwork over the Internet. We could take it in every direction of the city!"

Barbara and her team are turning Waxahachie's library into a place that promotes community spirit and camaraderie. Today, about 1,300 items per day are checked out, and as our city grows, with help from the community, Barbara intends to grow the library right along with it. **NOW**

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PARKS FOR THE PEOPLE

— By Derek Jones

For Gumaro Martinez, the great outdoors has always held a special place in his heart, so when the opportunity came for him to transition to Waxahachie's Parks and Recreation Department, he did not hesitate. Gumaro said, "Growing up, I was always involved with sports and loved spending time outside, so I jumped at the chance to work for the Parks Department." He has worked for the city of Waxahachie for 12 years and is currently serving as the director of Parks and Recreation and City Cemetery. He added, "I love working on and developing projects to enhance the experience of Waxahachie's parks."

As Waxahachie grows, so does the need for outdoor spaces designed for recreation and exercise. Gumaro pointed out, "I think one thing the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted is the importance of parks and places to be outside. People want safe and developed places, where they can enjoy the beauty of nature. That is what the Parks Department wants to provide." As a result of this desire, Gumaro and his team are involved in many current parks projects and are always looking ahead to what future projects are going to be needed.

Gumaro is proud of what has been accomplished over the last few years. He explained, "Railyard Park was a long process from planning to completion, and it adds to the beauty of downtown." Although the park is complete, COVID-19 delayed the city's goal of providing a gathering place at the amphitheater for performances and events. "A global pandemic halted our plans," he explained. "However, we have some events lined up now that restrictions are being relaxed." Along with the amphitheater and splashpad, the Parks Department also added a large parking area

to allow more access to Railyard Park and the Getzenderer Trail.

Another major project completed by the Parks Department was the renovation of the boat trailer parking and parking lot addition at Spring Park. Gumaro stated, "We are working with a consultant to develop a long-term, master plan for all three parks on the lake. Our desire is to see all three parks renovated but also tied to one another in theme and design." With one park complete, the residents of Waxahachie can look forward to future enjoyment around the lake.

Many smaller projects have also been completed, such as adding restrooms to parks, completing the trail that links Chapman Park to Brown-Singleton Park, updating playground equipment, adding pavilions, etc. Gumaro, however, is not content with just celebrating past accomplishments. He is driven to see more projects completed. He offered, "The pool at Lee Penn Park is 52 years old and in need of repair, so this year, we are going to demolish it and completely rebuild it as a modern pool as well as update the park."

Lee Penn Park is not the only major project the Parks Department is planning. "We just recently received funding to begin the Waxahachie to Midlothian Regional Trail," Gumaro said with a smile. This hike and bike trail will join Waxahachie to Midlothian and serve as a major recreational connection between the two cities. "Funding takes a long time to receive, and there is much to do during the planning stages, so we are probably about five years out from beginning construction," he explained. "It will be such a great addition to both cities when it is completed.

"I could not do any of this without a team of individuals who have a desire and drive to make Waxahachie a great place to live," Gumaro said. "If you see a maintenance worker or other Parks employee, give them a shout of thanks, because without them, the parks would not be what they are today." It is clear Gumaro and his Parks and Recreation team are busy and have no intention of slowing down. Currently, there are 19 parks in Waxahachie. Gumaro encouraged, "Many people have not visited many of these parks, so get out and explore them." He smiled and continued, "Each one is a gem with something new to offer." **NOW**



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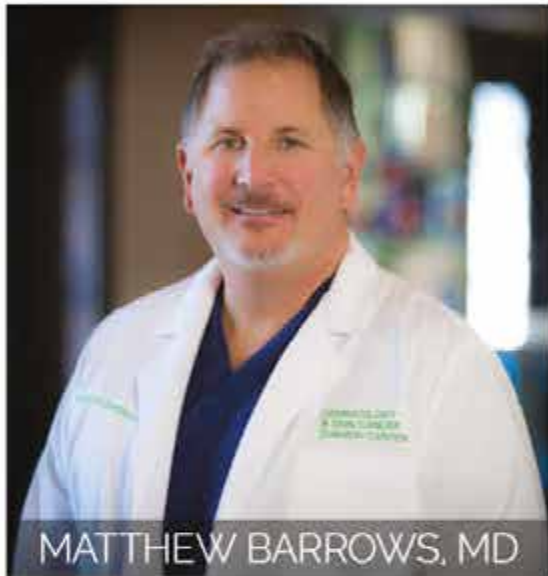
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THE DALLAS MYSTIQUE

— 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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Malcolm McLaughlin shows off his arrowhead collection at the Waxahachie Civic Center.

Zoomed In: Alfonso and Vicky Olvera

By Susan Simmons

Alfonso and Vicky Olvera enjoy Getzendaner Park while visiting their daughter, Gina Martinez, and her family. The Olveras live in Mexico City and visit Texas several times a year. This year, they have stayed almost the whole summer with Gina in Waxahachie as they have explored the surrounding cities. Downtown Dallas and the Sixth Floor Museum brought back some particularly special memories for Gina's mother, Vicky. She grew up in Acapulco and, in 1962, she had the opportunity to meet President Kennedy when he was visiting her city. The Olveras also enjoy visiting Lake Waxahachie and having barbecues and picnics with their grandsons, Roy and Leo.



Betty Coleman enjoys a day promoting her business!



Kathy Rodrigue works with her fellow Lion's Club members to build bunk beds for families whose children are in need of a bed.



Floyd Williams admires the beautiful bark of a very old crape myrtle tree.



Ty Walls and Landis Ray enjoy riding our bike trails while they are here from Virginia visiting family and looking for a home to buy, so they can move to Waxahachie.



Ivey Omdorff and Morgan Glass enjoy their morning run at Getzendaner Park.



Jeff and Cindy Lyon enjoy taking their dogs to the Waxahachie Dog Park behind the Farmers Market.



Khloe Koch, artist, shows off her artwork at Glenn's Cultural Center.

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BusinessNOW

3S Pressure Washing

— By Susan Simmons

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In late 2016, Shawn Wood noticed that his driveway needed pressure washing, so he purchased a pressure washer and made his driveway beautiful again. “It was actually kind of fun doing it, so I thought I would see if anybody would want me to do theirs,” Shawn explained. “I placed an ad on the Nextdoor app, and two people asked me to wash their pool decks.” He enjoyed those two jobs so much that he started a Facebook business page, and the rest is history. “I am usually booked three weeks out most of the time during spring and summer,” he said happily.



At first, 3S Pressure Washing (named for Shawn, his wife Shelsey and his young daughter, Shay) was a side business, in addition to his full-time job at BNSF Railway in north Fort Worth. “I had worked for the railroad for 14 years, and I was ready to do something else. I had tried businesses with partners a couple of times, but it didn’t work out. I just kept on trying, and refused to give up. After I started 3S Pressure Washing, I had to be sure it was going to work out before I quit my job. It really took off faster than I thought it would. I quit the railroad August 6, 2020, and have not looked back.”

Shawn wanted to branch out from driveways and pool decks, and he wanted to be sure he knew the best and newest techniques available. “I sought training through different power washing conferences and learned the proper chemicals depending upon the application. I was mentored by other pressure washers I met online from all around the country. I messaged a guy from Salina, Kansas, who is on YouTube, and he has been my mentor ever since.

As with most things, Shawn soon learned there is a lot more to pressure washing than meets the eye. “You can get into real trouble if you don’t know what you are doing, especially doing homes, roofs and commercial buildings. The ratio between volume, pressure and chemicals is different for each application, and I have spent hundreds of hours learning about it. I have lots of pictures on Instagram of things I have pressure washed. I often warn people to watch out for the “\$99 guy.” I am the one who comes in and fixes the mistakes that the \$99 guy makes. I am also fully insured for 2 million dollars.”

SHAWN WANTED TO BRANCH OUT FROM DRIVEWAYS AND POOL DECKS, AND HE WANTED TO BE SURE HE KNEW THE BEST AND NEWEST TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE.

3S Pressure Washing now washes all types of buildings. “I do commercial buildings, municipal buildings and schools. I love residential, from the top of your roof to the curb on the street, I clean it and do not hurt landscaping,” Shawn shared. “Once a metal roof is three or four years old, it needs to be cleaned to prevent oxidation. After it oxidizes, it is much more expensive to fix, and insurance companies seldom cover it. I also clean solar panels. People are told they don’t need to be cleaned, but after about a year, they notice a drop in power. After I clean them, the power comes back full force.”

Spending time with his wife and young daughter is a big priority for Shawn. “Since I started 3S Pressure Washing, my family and I are so much happier and are able to spend more time together,” Shawn smiled. Considering the great job Shawn does when he pressure washes, his customers are happier, too. **NOW**

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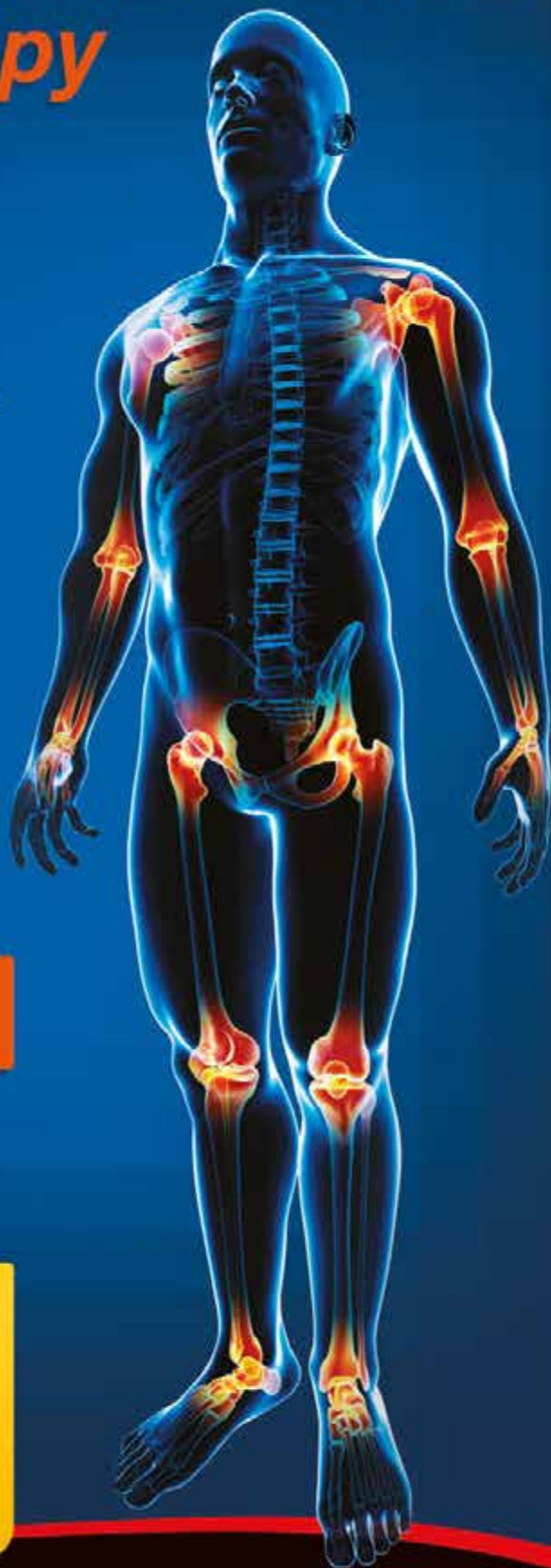
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

JIM ENSINIA

— By Susan Simmons

Jim Ensinia has been cooking barbecue for 32 years. “A few years ago, friends and family started asking me for barbecue for Thanksgiving. I started my smoker on the Friday night before Thanksgiving, and I cooked barbecue 24-hours-a-day, nonstop for eight days. I smoked everything from briskets, ribs and chicken to turkeys, whole hams and pulled pork. It was quite a week!” Jim laughed.

Cooking is Jim’s long-lived passion. Grilling and smoking barbecue are his favorite styles, but all manners of cooking bring him joy. “Barbecue means family for me,” he shared. “I grew up watching my dad and uncle barbecue, hence the tagline for our rub business at Waxahachie Farmers Market, *Porque Barbacoa Significa Familia* which means *Because BBQ Means Family!*” **NOW**

Smoked Brisket Mac-N-Cheese

1 lb. elbow macaroni, cooked
16 oz. Velveeta cheese, cubed
4 cups milk
16 oz. extra-sharp cheddar cheese, white or yellow
8 oz. Havarti cheese
1 tsp. kosher salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. onion powder
1 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. ground mustard

A few dashes of your favorite hot sauce
1/2 lb. brisket, chopped (You can also use pulled pork or lobster.)
Breadcrumbs, to taste

1. Combine all the ingredients, except the brisket; stir well.
2. Put the mixture in the barbecue pit at 350 F.
3. After 30 minutes, check on it and stir. Add the brisket; stir well again. Put back in the pit.
4. After 30 minutes, remove from the pit and stir. Top with breadcrumbs; return to the pit for 10-15 minutes.

5. Remove from the pit; let sit for about 10 minutes. Serve and enjoy!

Easy Pulled Pork

French’s Yellow Mustard
1 8- to 10-lb. bone-in pork butt
Los Primeranos BBQ Rubs — Hog Wild Honey Rub

1. Rub the mustard all over the pork butt.
2. Heavily coat all sides of the pork butt with the Hog Wild Honey Rub.
3. Smoke at 250 F until the butt reaches an internal temperature of 165 F.
4. Remove the butt from the smoker. Place the butt in a pan; cover with foil. This will help you retain the juices for later.
5. Continue smoking until the butt reaches 200 F.
6. Remove the butt from the smoker; wrap it in butcher paper, reserving the pan juices. Place the butt in a cooler to rest for at least 2 hours.
7. When the pork butt is done resting, unwrap it; place it on a cutting board. At this

time, the bone should pull out clean. The meat will still be very hot, so be careful!

8. With barbecue gloves and/or bear claws, shred the pork, removing any unwanted fat that may not have rendered down.

9. Place the shredded meat in a clean pan; pour the reserved juices over the meat and toss.

10. Season again with the Hog Wild Honey rub. Serve on a plate or on buns as sliders with your favorite toppings!

Brined and Smoked Chicken

1/4 cup kosher salt

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup coarse black pepper

1/4 cup Hog Wild Honey or Crazy

Cluckin' Chicken BBQ Rub

1/4 cup honey

1 16-oz. beer of your choice

1 16-oz. bottle Wishbone Italian

Dressing

4-6 chicken breasts, bone-in

4-6 chicken thighs, bone-in

Extra-virgin olive oil, to taste

1. The day before: Combine and cook all ingredients, except the chicken and olive oil, in a large pot on low heat to dissolve the salt and sugar.

2. Remove the mixture from the heat; set aside to cool.

3. Using kitchen scissors, clean up any loose skin and fat on the chicken.

4. Rinse the chicken well; place it in a container with an air-tight lid. Pour the brine over the chicken.

5. Add water to the pot to get any remaining brine; pour it over the chicken.

6. Add enough water to the container to completely submerge the chicken. Refrigerate overnight, but no longer than 24 hours.

7. For smoking: Bring the smoker up to 275 F.

8. While the smoker is heating, remove the chicken from the brine; rinse well.

9. Place the chicken on a wire rack with a pan underneath. Pat the chicken dry on both sides.

10. Spray or brush-on a light coat of olive oil; coat both sides liberally with more rub.

11. Place the chicken in the smoker. Smoke until the internal temperature reaches 165 F, using a proper meat thermometer. (I use a ThermoPen instant-read thermometer – best tool I have.)

12. If you enjoy barbecue sauce, you can glaze the chicken for the last 15 minutes. (Any sooner and you run the risk of the sauce burning due to the sugar content).

13. Let rest for at least 15 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

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Smoked Queso With Brisket

- 4-5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 16 oz. Velveeta Queso Blanco
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, cubed
- 8 oz. Monterrey Jack cheese, cubed
- 8 oz. block cream cheese
- 1 lg. jalapeño, diced
- 2 cans Ro-Tel, regular or hot if you want to increase the heat
- 1-2 lbs. brisket, chopped
- Tortilla chips, to taste

1. Preheat the smoker to 275 F.
2. Sauté the garlic for about 30 seconds in the olive oil.
3. Combine all ingredients, except the brisket and chips, in a large pan. Place in the smoker; let it cook for 1 hour.
4. Remove from the smoker. Add the chopped brisket; mix well.
5. Place back in the smoker; cook for another 30 minutes.
6. Serve with your favorite tortilla chips. Enjoy!

Watermelon Limeade

- 1 10- to 12-lb. ripe, seedless watermelon (Half will give you 6-8 glasses of limeade.)



Smoked Brisket Mac-N-Cheese

8 juicy limes (Choose the smooth-skin limes for the juiciest!) Vodka, to taste (optional)

1. Dice 1 1/2 cups of small, bite-sized watermelon pieces for garnish; freeze them for later. Roughly chop the remainder of the watermelon.
2. Juice 4-5 limes. You should have about 1/2 cup of lime juice.
3. Place the chopped watermelon in a blender; blend until smooth. Strain through a strainer for less pulp, if desired.
4. Combine the watermelon juice and lime juice, a few slices of the remaining limes and some ice cubes.

5. Prepare each glass with ice, some of the frozen watermelon pieces and garnish with lime on the rim; fill and enjoy!
6. For an adult version, add a shot of your favorite spirits, I like to use vodka!

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TravelNOW

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.

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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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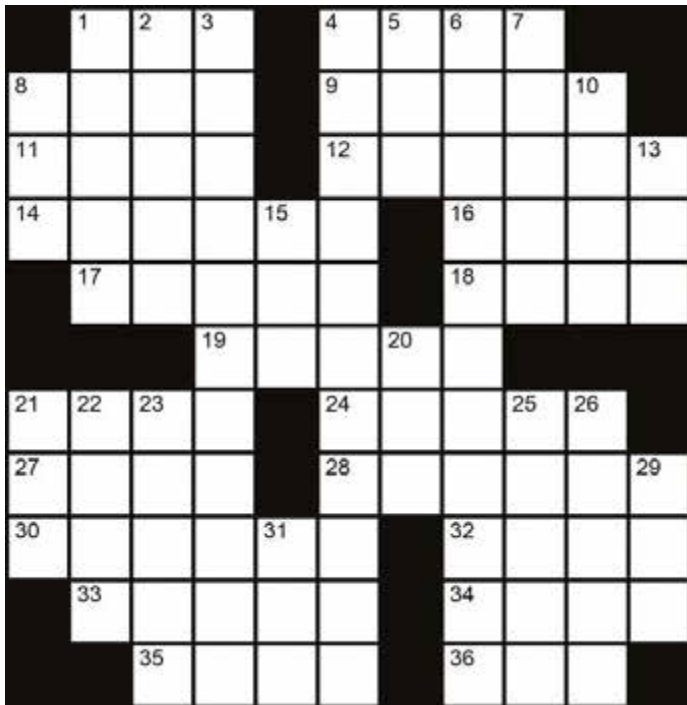
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- | Across | Down |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Claptrap | 1 Polling pioneer Elmo --- |
| 4 Funds for the future | 2 "(If You're Not in It for Love) I'm --- Here!" (Shania Twain) |
| 8 Quartet | 3 Annoying cocktail of obsolete rum |
| 9 Morticia, to Fester | 4 Right away |
| 11 Capable of | 5 Tease |
| 12 Overseas | 6 Relating to the study of moving air |
| 14 Profit on sales | 7 Ballpark figure |
| 16 About | 8 Controversial wear |
| 17 Jewish teacher | 10 Abate |
| 18 Consider | 13 Monk's title |
| 19 Hop named after a pilot | 15 Diamond statistic |
| 21 Temper | 20 Casino cube |
| 24 Squeals | 21 Beater for mixing mortar with hair |
| 27 Black cuckoos | 22 Unknown |
| 28 Rip to pieces | 23 Leg of lamb |
| 30 Andean capital | 25 K |
| 32 One of the Three Bears | 26 Tanning material |
| 33 An island, according to John Donne | 29 Small flat mass of a soft substance |
| 34 Jump --- the deep end | 31 Burden |
| 35 Biblical passage | |
| 36 National health watchdog | |

Solutions on page 60

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

			4		7			
8		2				6		4
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9					5	3		8
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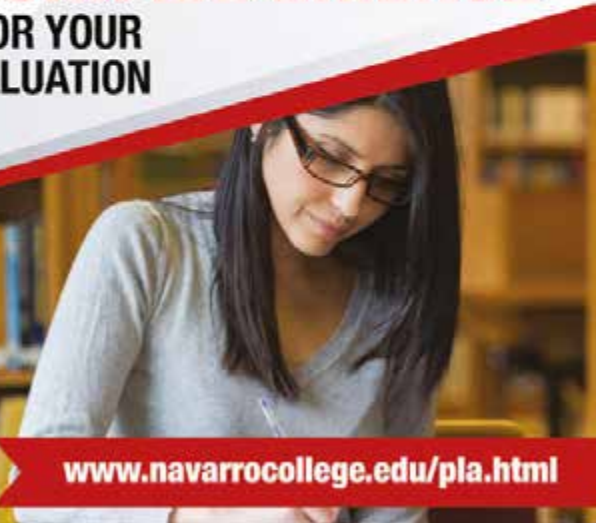
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9/11

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9/18

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9/24

35th Annual Gingerbread Classic Golf Tournament:

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Ellis County College Fair:

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John Wolfe in Concert:

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9/25

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Saturdays

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Offers a variety of different items for sale including fresh fruit, locally grown vegetables, eggs, fresh baked goods, jellies, salsas, locally raised beef and pork, jewelry, clothing and home décor. Free. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., rain or shine in the new inside location. 701 Howard Road.

Saturday Morning Fitness:

Come with your neighbors to put your health and well-being into focus and get Hachie Heart Healthy at community fitness classes at Railyard Park. BYO mat, water and sunscreen. Free. 9:00 a.m., 455 S. College St. For more information, call (469) 309-4051.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to adam.walker@nowmagazines.com.

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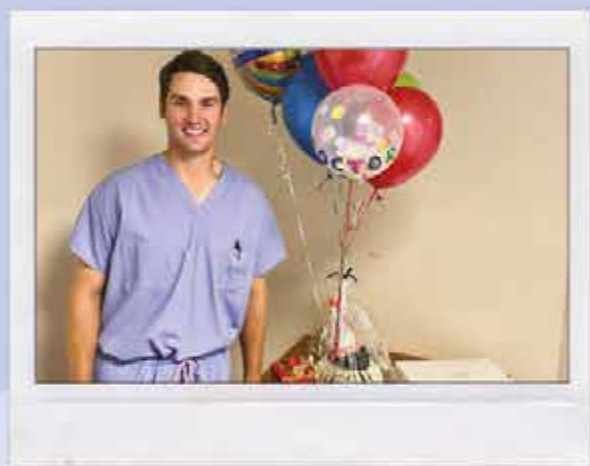
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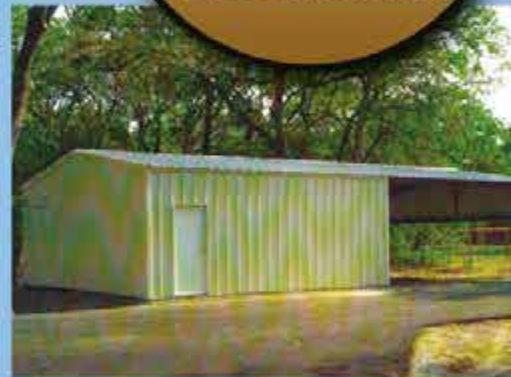
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