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M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2022

Chairman of the Board

Work is play for
Jeff Anderson

Why Dallas?

The State Fair of Texas
took a meandering
route to Big D

In the Kitchen With
Bobbie Main and
Chad Follansbee

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
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into his career.*

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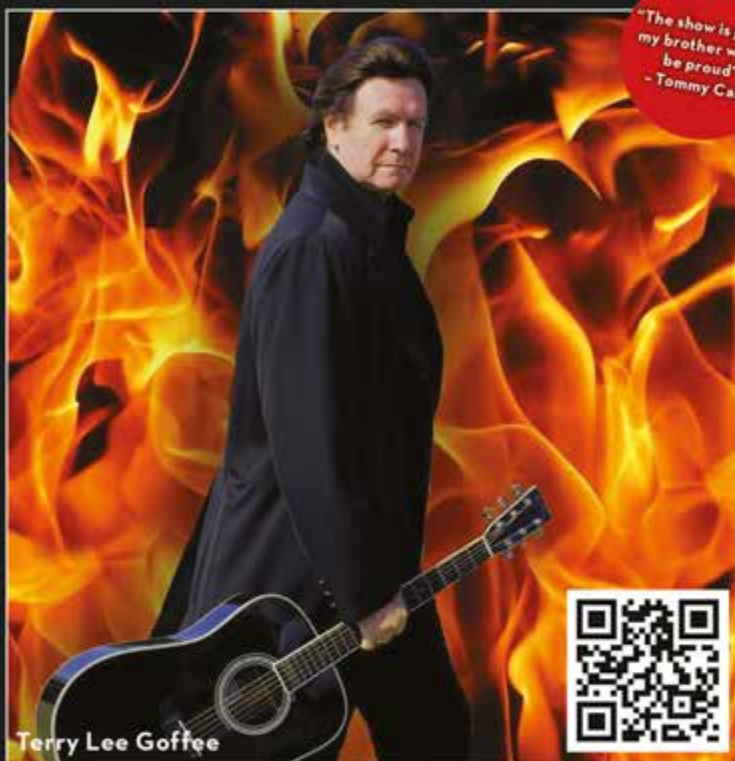
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The X Games?

Although its novelty has certainly worn off, I'm not sure if the hashtag trend has run its course. Nevertheless, I recently read one that made me giggle and thought I'd break it down with you. When I saw #genxisferal, it got me thinking about how my generation was raised, and how each generation likes to compare/contrast itself with others. But, while we're talkin' 'bout my generation, here's what we know to be true ...

Born between 1965ish and 1980, Gen Xers are in our early 40s to mid-50s today. Author Douglas Coupland's book, *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, was released in 1991, and the name stuck. A cooler origin of the title, however, attributes it to the band Generation X, which launched our beloved Billy Idol's career (and was also derived from a book title).

Also called the middle child or forgotten generation, we land between Baby Boomers and Millennials (who tend to get all the attention like the first-born and babies of the three gens they are). Despite growing up with constant campaign warnings of "stranger danger" and "just say no to drugs," our kind coined the term "latchkey kid," left home alone like Macaulay Culkin at Christmas. Our parents did not necessarily consider our emotional well-being their responsibility, with more of our moms working outside the home, and more of our parents divorcing than previous gens.

As a result, many of us became fiercely independent and self-reliant. We knew life pre- and post-tech boom and had to adjust accordingly. We also are the first to parent a generation through the world of cell phones and social media. And, although we like technology, we equally appreciate time without it. Maybe that's wild thinking, or maybe it simply gives us ...

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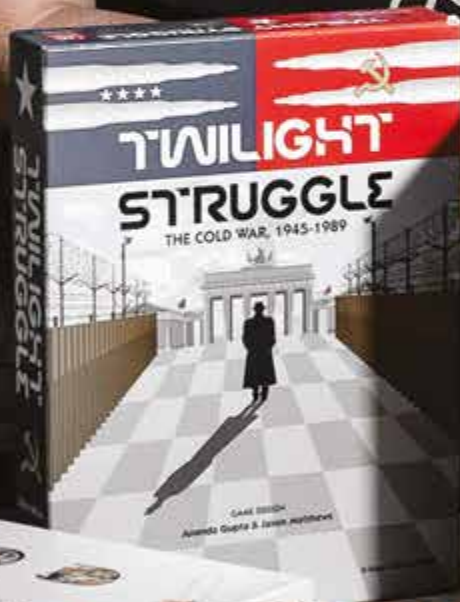
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CH OF T



Midlothian's Jeff Anderson takes family game night to a whole new level as coordinator of BGG.CON, an annual convention for board game enthusiasts from around the world. A software developer by day, Jeff was introduced by a brother-in-law to the game, *Catan*, in the early 2000s. "It changed what I thought about board games, and I began investigating to find people who played it regularly," Jeff recalled.

AIRMAN THE BOARD

— By Angel Morris



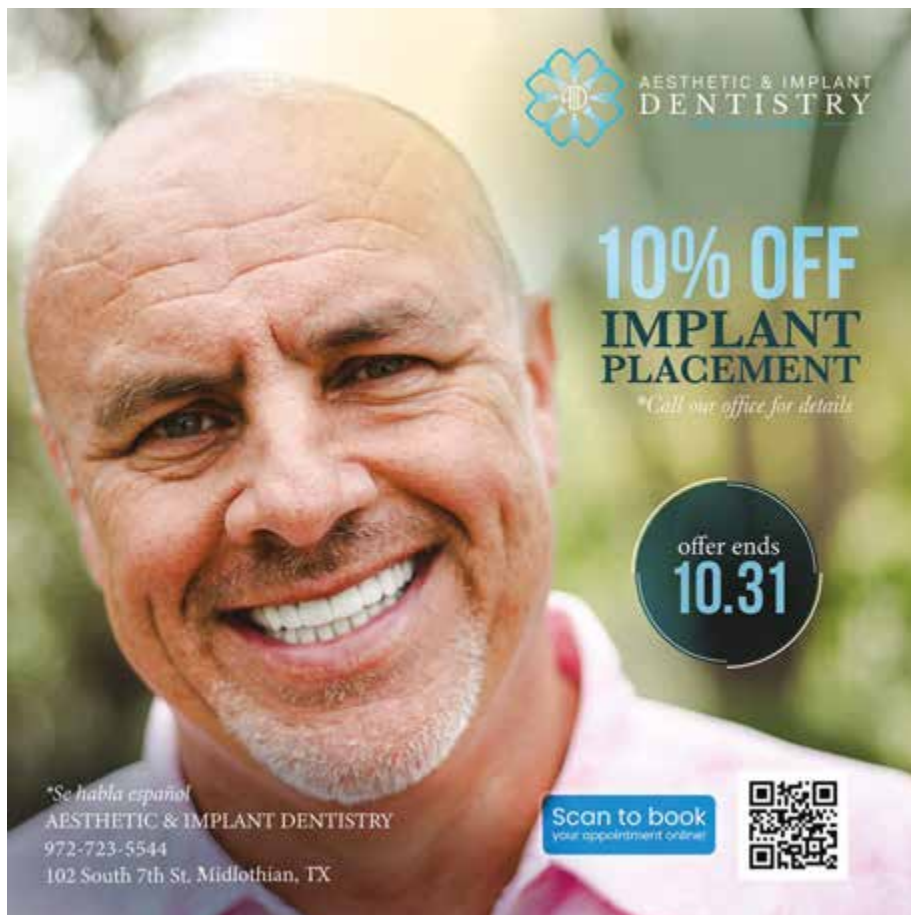
Jeff discovered the website, BoardGameGeek.com, an online database of reviews and videos of thousands of tabletop games, where board gaming hobbyists can rank their favorites — including everything from classics like Monopoly to card, strategy and party games. "I was there from the beginning, right when the site was starting," Jeff noted.

As a result, Jeff attended BGG's first ever convention in Dallas in 2005, then volunteered to help run it. By the event's third year, he was handling the exhibitor hall, before eventually becoming event director.

During that time, Jeff and his family — including wife, Kristine, and their four children — had moved to Midlothian. "I love airplanes and got interested in them about the same time as board games. I became a pilot and wanted to live in an airplane community," Jeff described. "That's why we moved from Colorado to Eagles Nest in 2007 — and to be closer to family here in the Dallas area."

Through the years, Jeff's careers had involved programming for many different industries including hedge funds, accounting, defense contracting and computer games. As these jobs allowed him to telecommute, his BGG involvement also continued to grow. "In 2015, BGG added a second convention and a cruise, and I took a leave of absence from my day job," Jeff explained.

In 2016, Jeff made BGG his full-time job. Thousands were attending the conventions to play and discover some 8,000 games from BGG's expansive library. "There's a game for everyone,




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but not every game is for everyone,” Jeff explained. “From party games to thematic games, historical games to kids’ games, there is something from every genre on hand.”

Jeff earned his CDL license in order to drive the 52-foot semitrailer filled wall-to-wall with BGG.CON’s games. “There is a big convention in Germany every year, and we bring back 800 to 1,000 new games for our library from there,” Jeff said. “In Germany, adults socialize more around board games than here, where our culture thinks of board games as something you give kids for Christmas.”

The BGG community proves board games aren’t just for children, with its website updated in real time by more than 2 million registered users. And while the pandemic of 2020 brought conventions to a halt, it gave renewed interest to board games for people sheltering at home.

“In 2020 we were talking of adding more conventions, then COVID hit. But it was great for board games, and the hobby continues to grow significantly,” Jeff admitted. “Fortunately, the events have also come back strong. Last November was our first convention back, then again over Memorial Day, and our first cruise came back in July. This November, our convention should be sold out again, and I anticipate about a 10 percent growth year over year.”

Still, Jeff said, BGG.CON will remain purposefully restricted in size. “We don’t want to grow to the point of being impersonal. I try to make it feel like a long weekend of gaming with your closest 3,000 to 4,000 friends,” Jeff grinned.

To that end, attendees visit a hotel ballroom rather than a convention

center — at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Dallas every fall, and the Hyatt Regency at DFW Airport in spring. The November convention has a minimum age of 13 for attendees, while the Memorial Day Weekend is more family friendly. “It’s not designed for kids, but for adults who don’t mind kids who are our ‘gamers in training,’” Jeff noted. BGG@Sea cruises feature a mini library of the on-land events.

Needless to say, Jeff is well versed in all things board game related, making it difficult to pinpoint one favorite game. “Twilight Struggle is my favorite long, two-player game; *The Lord of the Rings: The Confrontation* is my favorite short, two-player game. Age of Steam is my favorite economic game,” Jeff listed. “Pandemic Legacy was the best gaming experience I’ve ever had playing with my wife and two sons. And Just One is a great overall family game.”

As a child, Jeff’s own family taught him games were not just for socializing, but also a way to develop critical thinking skills. Gaming even inspired another of his hobbies, woodworking. “It began because I wanted to make a custom board gaming table, and I remembered my grandfather making things in his own workshop,” Jeff recalled. “Even though he died when I was 12, I’m still reminded of his woodworking.”

Jeff hasn’t made the game table yet but has found a woodworking niche. “Kristine and I took a pen turning class and loved it. Now I have an LLC and a website, qwyxcraft.com. It’s something that I hope can one day pay for itself,” Jeff said.

Whether it’s programming, flying, woodworking or gaming, Jeff is an example of learning from your passions. “Come to the BGG website or a convention. Check out Games Unplugged in Midlothian. Find a new friend and just play a game,” Jeff suggested. “I think it’s important to socialize with others, particularly people who don’t think the same as you — to hear about people’s differences and respect them still. We need more of that.

“There’s a push back against our electronic devices,” Jeff continued. “People today crave social interaction. It’s a great reason why board games are growing and becoming more and more mainstream.” **NOW**

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TALES OF TEXAS

WHY DALLAS?

— By Sandra Walters



Did you know the State Fair of Texas didn't originate in Dallas? Actually, it started in Corpus Christi in 1852 as the Lone Star Fair. At that time, there were a few small businesses and roughly 700 people living in this town. The Lone Star Fair event is thought to have primarily occurred on Corpus Christi's beach. Although it is difficult to fathom, this is how and where the tradition began.

One of Corpus Christi's founders, Colonel Henry L. Kinney, desired to share this beautiful area because he thought not many Texans knew about this location. He believed a state fair held by the town would attract people, and once they saw the paradise, they would be sold. He became the fair's manager and convinced a number of well-known citizens to participate in the project.

The Lone Star Fair advertised extensively by distributing flyers throughout the world, promising a variety of entertainment, food and contests. Appealing awards were

offered to promote competitive displays and excellent agricultural entries at the fair. Many of the ranchers, farmers and inventors from across the state showed up to the festivities with a spirit of competition ready to perform or exhibit their creations.

After the fair, there were mixed reviews from the press and significant financial losses. Since the negative outweighed the positive, Corpus Christi didn't move forward with the fair the next year. Also, decades later, a story of a man being shot in the final hours of the Lone Star Fair was revealed, shedding light on the behaviors during the celebration.

The next Texas state fair was held in Dallas seven years later, in 1859. About 2,000 participants took part. The exhibits featured items from rural life, such as farming tools, basic clothing and fresh crops. However, it ended because of financial difficulties, just like the Lone Star Fair.

The following fair wasn't held for some time, but it finally happened in Houston on the Buffalo Bayou in 1870. As a result of the event's instant success, organizers moved to a larger location north of the city two years later and developed a grandstand and racetrack. In order to transport residents from downtown to the festival's entrance, Houston constructed a streetcar line. However, as fate would have it, an economic collapse and a yellow fever epidemic in the late 1870s resulted in the cancellation of the fair.

The state fair moved from Houston to Dallas in 1886 because of the foresight of Dallas business leaders. One of them bought 80 acres in East Dallas for the fair, but other organizers preferred a location farther north. Arguments soon ensued between the businessmen, and they were unable to come to terms. On October 26, 1886, the site of the current Fair Park became the new location of William H. Gaston's Dallas State Fair. The previous day, in what is now Uptown, the competing Texas State Fair and Exposition occurred. Despite both fairs boasting good attendance, the competition resulted in neither of them being able to cover costs, so the next year, the two groups amalgamated to form the State Fair of Texas.

Today, the State Fair of Texas consistently attracts over 2 million attendees yearly. Such enthusiasm from the public has served as motivation to grow the fair's activities over the years. The fair offers opportunities to take part in football games, pig races, pee wee stampedes, pumpkin painting, walking through the livestock barns, visits to the green house, backyard circus, little hands on the farm, children's barnyard, illumination sensation, starlight parade, riding the Ferris wheel, auto shows, taking a picture with Big Tex and more. Another appealing aspect of the fair is the food. Over the years, the corn dog, smoked turkey leg and funnel cake have become the classics, whereas new creative food vendors make unique fried items each year — like fried peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fried Coke, fried cookie dough, fried beer and fried bubblegum. This intrigues many attendees. These things keep the people attending because they desire to taste or encounter the next big thing or keep the tradition going for the next generation. **NOW**

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Midlothian Native



Zoomed In: Camden Woolery and Samantha Aos

By Angel Morris

Troop 7272 Girl Scouts Camden Woolery and Samantha Aos recently earned their Gold Awards. “I learned Texas Conservation Alliance wanted more nesting boxes for wood ducks in Ellis County,” Samantha explained. “It involved animals and using power tools — I was in!”

Camden Woolery built shelving and developed an organization system for The Outlet thrift store. “I love thrifting and was interested in helping them process donations more efficiently.”

Both girls joined Scouts in kindergarten, and their favorite memories involve outdoor adventures. A senior, Camden anticipates her best cookie sales ever. “I hope to encourage girls to pursue Scouting, as it creates strong, amazing women,” Camden said.

Samantha plans to study equine science after graduation. “I hope to begin a career training and working with horses.”



Johnathon Shelton, at Adoriana Sushi, celebrates his Pokémon purchase from Games Unplugged Midlothian.



Emma McDonald beat the heat this summer by escaping into a book at A.H. Meadows Library.



Stonegate Church students dress tropically for Well Week 2k22 in Panama City Beach, Florida, where they grow in faith and community.



Lions Joe Mondal, Gary Vinyard and Carol Smith conduct vision screenings for students at the Mayor's Back to School Bash.



Mary Anne and Larry Ross enjoy an evening at Beef O' Brady's restaurant.



Twin siblings Nelson and Kenley del Prado vacation at the Emerald Coast before heading home to Midlothian.



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— By Angel Morris

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City Real Estate of Midlothian became part of the community in May 2021, when Angie Thomas wanted to office in the same town where she lives. “You can see our cute little office anytime you are traveling down South 9th Street headed toward Midlothian High School. We can be a one-stop shop if you appreciate convenience and the notion of valuing

your time,” Angie promised.

The office’s real estate services encompass listings, pre-owned sales, new home sales, buyers, first-time buyers, rentals, foreclosures, distress sales, short sale investors and commercial properties. With Angie as managing broker, City Real Estate is made up of 19 agents: Angie Morris, Amanda Songer, Amy Thompson, Brittani Padilla, Brook Derbyshire, Dan Hughson, Dora Trillo, Grant Hughson, Jennifer Jackson, Jenny O’Connell, Kelci Hoffmann, Liz McMorris, Mandy Rowan, Melissa Montelongo, Shannon Wayland, Sharon Collins, Stefani Carney, Wendi Flanagan and Wendy Fisher. Wayne Norcross is the designated broker/owner.

“We are proud to acknowledge most of our agents have been growing their private and personal real estate business for a number of years. I’ve been in service over 29 years,” Angie noted. “When you combine the knowledge and abilities of all our agents you are looking at more than 100 years of combined experience.”

Angie is also honored when newly licensed agents seek out City Real Estate of Midlothian to be their brokerage home. "Our office strives to provide one-on-one mentoring to our new agents, making sure they feel informed and ready for when they receive their first call to action with a client or customer," she explained.

City Real Estate is eager to find its place in the community, too. "We are proud members of the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce. We also appreciate when we learn of any opportunity here in Midlothian that we can offer our time and service to," Angie said.

Angie's goal for the business is to be a family-values-based real estate office for anyone seeking the need of a licensed professional who shows kindness and courtesy to their clients and customers. "An office that stands behind the commitment to be responsive, dependable and professional with your real estate needs," Angie said.

City Real Estate of Midlothian shares office space with Guild Mortgage, making one's buying experience that much smoother, where customers can visit with a real estate expert and a lender, all in one stop. "Our clients love that we are a boutique-feeling brokerage firm. Our type of boutique office allows them to feel they are at home when they come in — important, valued and placed first on our to-do lists every day," Angie described.

The City Real Estate website allows visitors to learn about Midlothian neighborhoods and the best places to live in Midlothian. "I feature free, up-to-date and current real estate listings that will allow you to search just like an agent. There are many places out there to search. The challenge is finding a place that offers current listings like my website. All the data is fed directly from the MLS," Angie described.

City Real Estate prioritizes being aware of market trends and what it takes to get a great deal on a listing or get top dollar for a client's current home. "We love our little big town and look forward to becoming familiar faces with each of you," Angie admitted. "We welcome anyone and would love for you to pop by and say, 'Hi!'" **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

BOBBIE MAIN AND CHAD FOLLANSBEE

— By Angel Morris



Bobbie Main made a friend in Chad Follansbee when he moved in next door, and they discovered a mutual interest in baking. “In January 2021, Chad brought over a cake decorated with snowflakes. By March, we were baking together, and our first project was my Italian Cream Cake,” Bobbie recalled.

As a child, Bobbie learned to love baking from her grandmother. She has taught Chad proper measuring and preparation, and “... good ol’ country ways of doing things,” Chad said, noting Bobbie is now teaching him how to make jam and jelly.

Chad gets Bobbie out of the house for shopping, movies and going out to eat. “We have learned that it doesn’t matter about age differences,” Bobbie explained. “You can still be good friends.” **NOW**

Italian Cream Cake

Cake:

5 eggs
1/2 cup butter
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup shortening
2 cups sugar

1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup flaked coconut
1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped and toasted
3/4 cup pecans, chopped and toasted

Frosting:

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup butter, softened
2 tsp. vanilla
5 1/2 to 6 cups powdered sugar

1. *For cake:* Separate the eggs, allowing the egg yolks, egg whites and butter to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, grease and flour 3 8-inch cake pans; set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the flour and baking soda; set aside.
3. Preheat an oven to 350 F. In an extra-large bowl, beat the butter and shortening with an electric mixer on medium- to high-speed for 30 seconds. Add the sugar, beating until well combined.
4. Add the egg yolks and vanilla, beating on medium speed until well combined. Alternately add the flour mixture and buttermilk to the butter mixture, beating on low speed after each addition just until combined. Fold in the coconut and pecans.
5. Thoroughly wash the beaters. In a medium bowl, beat the egg whites until soft

peaks form. Fold 1/3 of the egg whites into the cake batter to lighten the batter. Fold in the remaining egg whites. Spread the mixture evenly into the pans.

6. Bake about 30 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in the pans on wire racks for 10 minutes. Remove the cake from the pans; cool completely on wire racks.

7. For frosting: In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter and vanilla with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Gradually add the powdered sugar, beating until it reaches spreading consistency.

8. Place 1 layer, bottom-side-up on a serving plate. Spread about 1/2 cup of the frosting and 1/4 cup of the pecans on the top and sides of the cake. Add the next layers of cake; repeat frosting steps with each layer. Press remaining pecans into the frosting on the sides of the cake. Cake may be stored in a refrigerator for 2 days.

Coca-Cola Cake

Cake:

2 cups flour

2 cups sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1 cup butter

1/2 cup buttermilk

1/4 cup cocoa powder

1 cup Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper or Pepsi
(I prefer bottled.)

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

Glaze:

1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup cocoa

1/2 cup Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper or Pepsi

4 cups powdered sugar

Pecans, to taste (optional)

1. For cake: Mix the first 5 ingredients together; set aside.

2. In a small saucepan, stir together the butter, buttermilk, cocoa and cola; bring to a boil. Remove from heat; add to the flour mixture, whisking until combined.

3. Add the eggs and vanilla, mixing well. Pour into a 9x12-inch pan. Bake for 30 minutes at 325 F, being careful not to overbake.

4. For glaze: When the cake is almost done, mix the first 3 ingredients in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Remove from heat; pour over the powdered sugar, mixing until smooth. Blend in the pecans. Pour over warm cake, letting set a few minutes before serving. Also serves well the next day.

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Really Good Chocolate Chip Cookies

Really Good Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1 cup bread flour
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup unsalted butter, browned
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. espresso powder (more if you like coffee)
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 5 oz. chunks from Baker's Premium Baking Bar – 100% Cacao

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, sift together both flours, salt and soda; set aside.
2. Cream together the browned butter,

both sugars, vanilla and espresso powder. Once creamed, add the eggs until well blended. Blend into the flour mixture about 1/3 at a time until completely blended. Fold in the chocolate chips and chunks with a wooden spoon.

3. Scoop the dough by rounded tablespoonfuls or cookie scoops onto a cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes. *Note: Recipe can be doubled!*

Turtle Cheesecake

- 2 cups Oreo cookie crumbs
- 6 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 5 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened and room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 11-oz. bag Kraft caramels (I use about 7 oz.)
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup pecans, chopped and toasted
- 2 squares Baker's Semi-sweet Baking Chocolate

1. Preheat an oven to 325 F. Mix the cookie crumbs and butter, then press the mixture

firmly into the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan.

2. Beat the cream cheese, sugar, flour and vanilla on medium speed until well blended. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition, just until blended. Blend in the sour cream; pour over the crust.
3. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes until the center is almost set. Remove from the oven; run a knife or metal spatula around rim of the pan to loosen. Cool completely before removing from the pan. (I put a shallow pan of water on the rack below while baking, or you can bake in a water bath.)
4. Place the caramels and milk in a microwavable bowl; microwave on high 3 minutes, or until the caramels are completely melted, stirring every 30 seconds or so. Stir in the pecans; pour over the cooled cake.
5. Melt the chocolate as directed on the package; drizzle it over the cake. Refrigerate overnight. Leftover cheesecake can be stored in the refrigerator.

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Melvin J. Boyd, along with his mother-in-law, were excited to be drawn as the winners of the **MidlothianNOW Magazine Scavenger Hunt**. They enjoy reading and looking for the hidden images each month.



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Image courtesy of
Kemah Boardwalk.



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Boardwalk AND Beyond

There's nothing better than making memories with family. But finding a vacation destination that fits everyone's interests can be a real challenge. Instead of settling on a single amusement park or destination, why not explore an entire city? Whether you're planning for adults, teenagers, young kids or all the above, Kemah has all the good stuff to keep everyone entertained.

Explore the Iconic Boardwalk

Since 1997, Kemah Boardwalk has been a must-see destination for food and fun along the Texas coast. Parents love the family-friendly restaurants that satisfy even the pickiest of eaters. And, of course, kids of all ages love the rides.

For younger visitors and those seeking a more relaxed experience, we recommend the Ferris wheel, carousel and train ride. Have thrill seekers in your family? Then roller coasters like the Flare and Boardwalk Bullet are right up your alley. If you've got a need for speed, strap in for the Boardwalk Beast speedboat ride.

A Great Escape

Sure, it's great to relax on vacation. But some minds (and bodies) just don't slow down — and this is the perfect way to burn some energy!

For kids 10 and over, pump up the problem-solving at Escape Kemah. Can

you put together all the clues to escape the room in 60 minutes or less? Find out in one of four escape rooms filled with clues and mind-bending puzzles.

Go Beyond the Boardwalk

While you're in Kemah, be sure to visit the many locally owned businesses, located in the lower-key Lighthouse District. You'll find one-of-a-kind clothing boutiques, small bars and restaurants, art galleries, nature trails and so much more. Visitors will love the charm and the old-school beach-town vibe that this unique part of Kemah provides.

Calling All Space Explorers

Space Center Houston is one small trip from Kemah — but one giant leap for your vacation experience. Here, you can get an inside look at the exciting history of NASA Johnson Space Center. But it's not all looking backward. This is the home of an active training base and working mission control center. With tours, exhibits and even live presentations, you'll find plenty of ways to bring the past, present and



Image courtesy of Armand Bayou Nature Trail.

Image courtesy of Kemah Boardwalk.

future of space exploration down to earth for your little astronauts-in-training.

And a final family favorite can be found in the immersive, educational wonder of the Stingray Reef & Rainforest Exhibit.

Learning on the Go

Wait — learning? On a vacation? That's right, and it doesn't have to be boring with Kemah's surprising range of nearby museums. All aboard for the Dickinson Railroad Museum, where participants can see the inner workings of a historic railroad station. And if you've got your head in the clouds, you're in luck! The Lone Star Flight Museum features classic aircrafts that visitors can see up close and in person — and you can even schedule a flight! **NOW**

By Ross C. Hoyt
Account Strategist MDR Advertising

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.discoverkemah.com.

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MORE THAN JUST A Sleeping Bag

— By Bill Smith

Ghost stories by flashlight may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but probably brought many a backyard campout to an early end. A special time with the kids or grandkids can produce a lifetime of good, happy memories with just a little planning and very little expense.

Start the backyard activities early in the day, maybe with a basic peanut butter and jelly lunch, then let the kids help with the setup of their campsite. Let them help choose where the tent will be set up, and any other outdoor items, such as a badminton net, cornhole boards or maybe the croquet game. Table and chairs may need to be set up, also, and letting the kids participate in the decisions might keep them engaged in all of the activities. Don't forget a cooler full of ice, and just plain cold water may prove to be the most popular drink!

The backyard shelter may be as simple or as elaborate as you choose and can either include a tent purchased from the store, or the kids' own creation. Look ahead to the weather forecast, and have a backup plan just in case the weatherman misses his guess!

As long as the weather is favorable and bugs are not an issue, building a teepee with a few poles, some rope and some old sheets or other large pieces of cloth can bring out everyone's creativity and imagination. An inexpensive painter's drop cloth from your home improvement store is also an option. Spread the cloth out on tables or just on the ground, and let the kids use markers to decorate it with "outdoors" pictures, such as the sun, moon, clouds, stars, trees and animals. Lash about five poles together, each 6 feet long, with quarter-inch rope. If you have time to do a little preparation before the kids get started, drill a hole through each pole about

10 inches from the top and run the rope through, then stand the poles up, spread them apart into the teepee shape, and wrap the rope around several times and tie it off securely. Put the covering on and use clamps to hold it in place.

While playing yard games is fun and can expend a lot of the children's energy, making simple crafts is another idea to make the campout more than their typical sleepover, and a craft to keep is a memory made. Your local hobby store will have a number of craft kits for children. One idea is to let each child make a decorative leather souvenir. Keep it simple by instructing each child to make essentially the same craft, but with a different design that is unique to each of them. A 4-inch, round piece of leather becomes a coaster for their drink. A long rectangular piece becomes a book marker, or perhaps a key fob.

Another project that is fun for kids in the backyard is painting their own T-shirt. Perhaps you could give your "camp" a name, and the kids could put the camp name and their name on the shirt, then add any other additional design ideas that they have, such as pictures of their favorite sporting equipment, outdoor scenes, Bible verses or friends' names. Each child could add his or her name to the other's shirts. Purchase plain T-shirts and wash them once beforehand, so they will not shrink after they are painted. Be sure to place a piece of cardboard inside the shirt so the surface will be nice and flat, and so the paint will not bleed to the other side of the T-shirt. Fabric paint is available at your local hobby supply store.

As the evening approaches, move toward the evening meal, and let the kids participate in the preparation. Of course, hot dogs can be made on the grill, but each child can cook their own at the end of a slightly sharpened stick or a straightened coat hanger. Another individual serving meal is foil packs. Cut up the vegetables beforehand and let the kids choose what goes into their piece of foil. About a quarter of a piece



of corn-on-the-cob is a good choice, as are pieces of carrots and potatoes. Let the kids add their own spices (with your supervision, of course). Most of the time, this is done with ground meat, but for kids, why not use wieners instead?

As the day wears down, it is time for the s'mores to come out. One simple variation from traditional s'mores is to use a fudge-covered cookie instead of the graham cracker and chocolate. Just cook the marshmallow over the fire, place it between two cookies, and you have an almost instant dessert.

It's time to crawl into the tent (or teepee). Instead of the ghost story, how about reading a children's book to end the event? Now, sleep tight! It's been a full day of fun! **NOW**

Sources:

1. Personalcreations.com.
2. Goodhousekeeping.com.
3. Youtube.com/c/ElktracksStudio.
4. Wikihow.com/paint-a-t-shirt.






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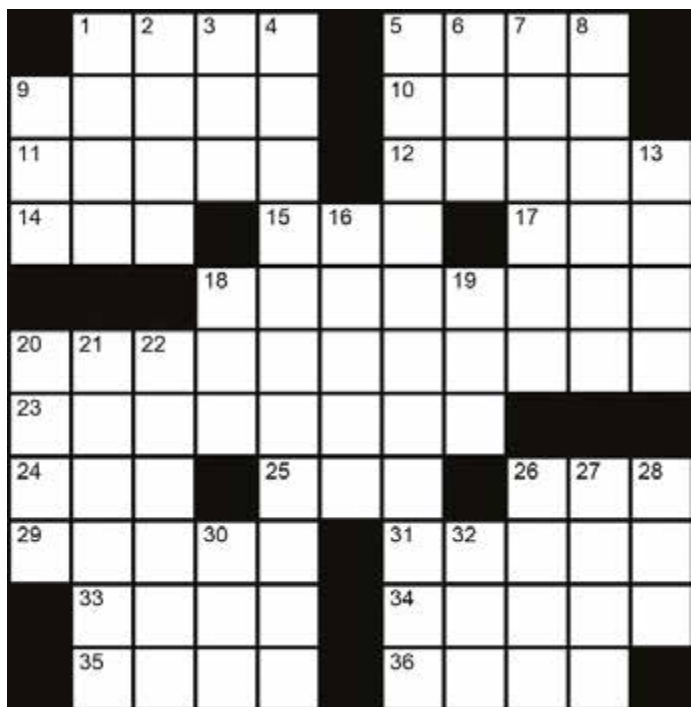
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 It's good from a crow's nest
- 5 Young ceremonial attendant
- 9 Spiny desert features
- 10 Wickedness
- 11 Oscar winner Tatum ---
- 12 Celebrate noisily
- 14 Affirmative reply
- 15 You have one only when seated
- 17 Gabrielle Solis player Longoria
- 18 Called the shots
- 20 Concise explanations
- 23 --- to (concerning)
- 24 Not-for-profit TV spot
- 25 Edward Snowden's former employer
- 26 Bolt's partner
- 29 The Everlys woke her
- 31 Tantalize
- 33 Cabernets, for example
- 34 Versifier Nash
- 35 Times which include periods
- 36 Laugh loudly

Down

- 1 Arrow tailfeather
- 2 Cold confections
- 3 7th Greek letter
- 4 Biddability
- 5 Criminal
- 6 Madison or Lexington, in NYC
- 7 "But to --- you and to --- me, ..." (Cole Porter, "High Society")
- 8 Craps natural
- 9 Bashful
- 13 Young 'uns
- 16 Divas' solos
- 18 Croak
- 19 El --- (Charlton Heston role)
- 20 Pickpockets
- 21 Make certain
- 22 "The Mummy" star
- 26 Nothing
- 27 Employer
- 28 Maximum Scrabble tile value
- 30 First Lady McKinley
- 32 Self-esteem

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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IT'S GAME TIME!

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

SEPTEMBER

9/3

Brunch & Trucks:

Family-friendly car and truck show with food vendors and music. Open to all classes. Gates open: 8:00 a.m.; judging opens: 10:00 a.m.; brunch: 11:00-noon; judging ends: 3:00 p.m.; awards: 5:00 p.m.; live music 6:00 p.m., Blaine Stone Lodge, 5331 Weatherford Rd. For admission costs and more details, visit www.brunchandtrucks.com.

9/10

Heritage Celebration:

Live music, community performances, classic car show, artisans, vendors, kids' zone, plus free lunch while supplies last. In the evening, special shopping events, cornhole tournament, beer garden and winery tickets. Downtown Midlothian, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 3:30-8:00 p.m.

Learn more at www.midlothianchamber.org or www.midlothiantxdba.com/heritage-day.

9/17

Renaissance at the Ranch:

Horse show in which students show off their skills in medieval tournament-style games. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd. Learn more at www.pawsforreflectionranch.org/.

National Night Out Kick-Off:

Organizational event for Midlothian Police Department's communitywide National Night Out. Emergency vehicles, visits with Captain America of Texas, refreshments, prizes and crime prevention information. 5:30-8:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. For more information, contact curtis.hughes@midlothian.tx.us.

9/18

Bridal Extravaganza Market:

Admission: \$5. Noon-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln., Waxahachie. For more information, call (469) 309-4040.

9/24

Autumn Beats Concert:

The first of three free concerts to be held this fall. 7:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. Learn more at www.midlothian.tx.us/903/Summer-Concert-Series.

Luke LaPrade Band:

Live music with Koby Allen opening. 8:00-11:00 p.m., Union 28, 810 E. Main St. For more information, visit <https://theunion28.com/>.

10/1

Paws for Reflection Ranch Roundup:

Dinner, auction and music to help fund therapeutic programs and services that reach more than 2,000 clients and families each year. Adult tickets: \$50 through September 20; \$60 after that date. 6:30-10:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd. Learn more at www.pawsforreflectionranch.org/.

10/4

National Night Out:

Annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. 6:00-8:00 p.m., locations throughout the city. Check the Midlothian Police Department's web page for an event in your neighborhood. www.midlothian.tx.us/182/National-Night-Out.

10/6

Deadline for Scarecrow Contest Entry Form:

Festival entry is free of charge and open to anyone in Midlothian (individuals, families, groups and businesses). Scarecrows may be set up in Heritage Park between 4:00-8:00 p.m. **October 7-12.** Cash prize winners announced **November 4.** Learn more at www.midlothiantxdba.com/scarecrow-festival.

Through 11/17

Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps' Fall Class Registration:

Free courses include computer training, Bible study, money management, setting boundaries, résumé writing and interviewing. **Tuesday-Thursday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and **Tuesdays and Thursdays:** 6:00-9:00 p.m., 100 Chamber Circle, Ste. 1008, Waxahachie. Learn more at <http://elliscwjc.life/> or by calling Lauri Henderson at (972) 937-6620.

Third Wednesdays

Lancaster Women's Connection:

Welcoming all women in Ellis County to its once-a-month event. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch, a special feature and a Stonecroft Speaker. Reservations due **Thursday** prior to the monthly meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Country View Golf Course, 240 W. Belt Line Rd., Lancaster. Contact Dee Ann Ellis at deeannellis@sbcglobal.net or (972) 921-6221.

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

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