

# MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2024

## Photos and Rodeos

Evan Crawford  
finds his calling

## The Man Who Ended WWII

How Chester Nimitz  
became the highest-  
ranking officer in the  
U.S. Navy

In the Kitchen With  
Wendy King

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Scavenger Hunt  
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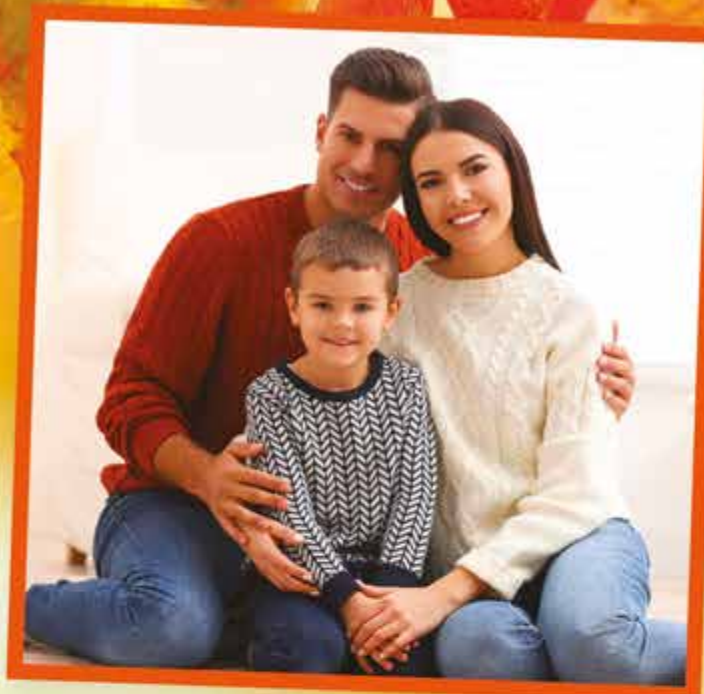


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ON THE COVER



A yearbook class and a cowboy grandfather led Evan Crawford to rodeo photography.

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Angel

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# EDITOR’S NOTE

*Fair-weather friend?*

I like the *idea* of the State Fair. I’m a huge fan of tradition, and what’s greater tradition this month than Ferris wheels and Fletcher’s Corn Dogs? I’d be hard pressed to name anything bigger in September than Big Tex. Car shows, cotton candy, fried food and blue ribbons are synonymous with the fair and basically signify the official beginning of fall. If you invite me, I will happily tag along, and I’ll even enjoy myself. But, if I’m being honest, the State Fair of Texas is really one of those “take it or leave it” activities for me. Please don’t revoke my Texan card.

Once every decade or so, I get the itch to go. Maybe it’s the crowds or maybe I’m just too cheap, but I invariably leave the fair thinking the time and money could have been better spent. Don’t get me wrong, dropping a Benjamin for my son to win a giant plush banana that was, at the time, taller than him is a core memory for us both. I have no idea where the ginormous yellow fellow is today, but my son cradling it as he slept, exhausted at the end of fair day was, indeed, priceless. Watching him jump behind the wheel in model after model at the auto show that fall before he’d earn his driver’s license was, come to think of it, pretty cool, too. And seeing his reflection in the SkyWay windows watching the lights come on across the Midway reminded me that, although he’s now a young man, he’s never too old for a bit of wonder.

And just like that, I remember why traditions matter, whether it’s every year or only once a decade. Here’s to the great State Fair of Texas!

*It’s my fair, lady!*

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# Be Ready to Vote

## National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ellis County Volunteer Deputy Registrars will be at each location to register any voter in Ellis County. Complete a new application, change of address, or change of name... they will be ready for you!

- 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Ellis Co. Elections Office 204 E Jefferson St. Waxahachie, TX 75165
- 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM - Ellis Co. Sub-Courthouse 207 South N Sonoma Trail, Ennis, TX 75119
- 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Italy Community Center 108 Harpold St. Italy, TX 76651
- 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Waxahachie Post Office 316 N College St. Waxahachie, TX 75165
- 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM - Ferris Public Library 301 E 10th St. Ferris, TX 75125
- 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM - A.H. Meadows Library 922 S 9th St. Midlothian, TX 76065
- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Navarro College (Bldg. B), 1900 John Arden Dr Waxahachie, TX 75165
- 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Red Oak Public Library (Community Side), 101 Live Oak St. Red Oak, TX 75154
- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM - SAGU Campus (Barnes Student Center), 720 Highland Ave. Waxahachie, TX 75165

Check your voting status by calling the Elections Office 972-825-5195.

**October 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline** to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in November. Get a voter registration application at a local Post Office, Tax Office, Election Office or Election Website.

## General & Special Elections—Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Early Voting begins October 21st thru November 1st

Main Early Voting site: Ellis County Woman's Building (Davis Hall)

407 W Jefferson St., Waxahachie, TX. 75165 (*Note: No voting at Election Office*)

Election Day polls will be open from 7am – 7pm

Visit the website for a complete listing of polling locations, sample ballots and more.

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# PHOTOS

AND

# Rodeo

— By Angel Morris

*Inspired by family history, Evan Crawford found a unique calling. “My grandfather, amongst all the things he did in his life, was a working cowboy,” Evan recalled.*

Looking for a way to carry on the lifestyle, Evan took his photography skill to the rodeo. “I saw the need for quality media in the rodeo world and decided to use my knowledge to try and do that,” he shared.

Evan was first introduced to photography at Midlothian Heritage High School. “I was picking courses, and I saw that yearbook was offered. I thought, *How hard could this actually be?* Boy, was I in for the ride of a lifetime!” he recalled.

Serving in editor roles helped Evan hone his skills. “After graduation, I interned with Ivey Photography for a short season creating their famous Santa portraits,” Evan explained. “Then I interned at a church, where I honed a lot of skills that set me up for rodeo photography in a roundabout way. I had to learn to shoot in a dark environment and really consider where my lighting would come from.”

Evan photographed his first rodeo in 2019. “I needed images for a school project that was to rebrand a nonprofit organization,” Evan noted. “I chose an organization that gives custom cowboy hats to terminally ill children, which led me to getting images from the rodeo.”

After earning a degree in graphic design from Dallas Baptist University, Evan landed his current role as marketing director for a real estate broker, but his interest in rodeo photography continued. He has shot the Mesquite Championship Rodeo each summer for three years, as well as the Women’s Rodeo World Championship last year in Fort Worth. “I have earned Mesquite Rodeo’s trust. They know I’m going to show up and give it all I’ve got within my own power,” Evan stated. “It’s a great opportunity and has been a real blessing.”

One of Evan’s most notable rodeo photographs was recently honored at the State Fair of Texas. Taken at a bull riding







08





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performance at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth, his award-winning image depicts a cowboy who has just been bucked off. "He's standing on the railing of the fence, head down, in pain and looking defeated. In the foreground, a man in the audience is standing giving the cowboy applause for his efforts," Evan described.

With more than 12,000 submissions to the State Fair Creative Arts competitions last year, about one-third of those earned awards, fewer taking blue ribbons. "There are a lot of really great photographers in our state, some I know and have learned from personally. I knew that by entering as a professional, I would have tough competition," Evan admitted. "When I learned I'd won a blue ribbon out of 2,700 entries, I immediately called my dad, jumped up from my desk at work and told everyone in the office what had just happened."

Evan said the golden rule of photography, learned during his student publications days, has never left him. "Take people where they cannot go. Show them what they cannot see on their own terms," he explained. "Sure, we watch rodeo. We see successful rides and high scores. But do we really notice where a cowboy is positioned on a bull? Do we notice the indescribable bond a barrel racer has with her horse?

"These are the things I try to convey. The dance between man and beast, where both partners know their job and are either at odds with each other, or are working together to accomplish the impossible."

Other recognition Evan has received includes being among Drexel University's Top 100 Photographs of 2017, finalist ranking in the DBU Art Show of 2019 and having a design project featured by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications in 2020. From here, Evan aspires to obtain his Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association license in photography. "I



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hope my generation, and the next, will shoot for the stars. To not just be so-so everyday memory capturers, but that we would pursue more niche markets like rodeo, sports and concerts and shoot them with excellence,” he said.

Evan’s advice for up-and-coming shutterbugs includes, “Learning to shoot on whatever camera you can afford. Then when your equipment is limiting your skill set, that’s when you level up.”

Studying exposure is also important, Evan said, as is finding a niche. “It’s not difficult to capture memories, but creating something that is engaging, that transports the viewer into the environment? That’s difficult,” Evan said. “You have to find the subject you enjoy and really go for it.”

Editing software knowledge is necessary, but it can’t be relied upon to save one’s work, Evan underscored. Lastly, finding a mentor is key. “Good help is hard to find, but there are folks who want to help the next generation get started. We want to help make the journey a little bit easier.”

Evan mentors young people toward stepping out in faith. “The question, ‘What are you going to do from here?’ creates a lot of anxiety for students. It makes them think they need to have it all figured out right now, but they don’t,” Evan expressed. “Try things that you don’t think you’ll be good at. Now’s the time to learn all you can. The sky’s the limit.”

Evan said more State Fair competitions may be in his future, thanks to the support of his parents, his mentors (Momma K, Chris Smith and Nolan Henley) and his cowboy and cowgirl clients. His first blue ribbon photo nods to their support. “The image hangs in front of my bed, so it’s the first thing I see each morning,” he said. “It’s a reminder to myself to keep getting on after getting bucked off, because there is always someone in your corner fighting for you.”

Not to mention the man who inspired him to begin with. “From the Navy to race car driving, my grandfather gave everything to his pursuits,” Evan said. “I think he would tell me to do the same in my photography.” **NOW**

*Editor’s Note: For photography advice, reach out to @evancrawforddesign on social media.*



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TALES OF TEXAS

# THE MAN WHO ENDED WWII

— By Emma McKay

*In Fredericksburg, Texas, on February 24, 1885, the recently widowed Anna Josephine (Henke) Nimitz gave birth to her first and only child, Chester William Nimitz. He spent his childhood wandering the halls of the steamship-shaped hotel on Main Street, which his paternal grandfather, Charles Nimitz, ran.*

When he was a teenager, Nimitz met two officers from the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Inspired by their service, he eagerly applied to learn at West Point, but he was rejected. Undeterred, in 1901, at the ripe young age of 16, he tested for a position at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to which he was later appointed. Upon receiving the news, Nimitz dropped out of Kerrville's Tivy High School to pursue his dream of serving his country.

Nimitz was a diligent student. On January 30, 1905, he graduated from the Naval Academy seventh in his class of 114. He was described as a man "of cheerful yesterdays and confident tomorrows" in the Naval Academy's yearbook. Nimitz's charisma and aptitude for learning would aid in his advancement throughout his career.

On January 31, 1907, after having served two years' mandatory duty on the *USS Ohio* and the *USS Baltimore*, Nimitz was promoted to ensign. In July 1908, while commanding the *USS Decatur*, he ran the destroyer aground. Ensign Nimitz took full responsibility for putting the Navy ship in danger. Due to his stand-up character and his shining record, his punishment was minimal.

After this hiccup in his career, he was assigned to continue his naval education, this time studying submarine vessels. In January 1909, he reported for duty to the First Submarine Flotilla, which he would be granted command of in May of that year. Thus began his decade-long career as a submariner. During this time, he sharpened his leadership skills as he assumed command of more submarines.

When September 1918 rolled around, Nimitz was back on land, working for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Just a month later, he became a member of the Board of Submarine Design in addition to his duties at the Naval Operations office. After having served a year's duty as an officer aboard the *USS South Carolina*, Nimitz was sent to Pearl Harbor in 1920 to build a submarine base.



In 1922, Nimitz was sent to the Naval War College in Rhode Island to study for 11 months. Later, he would consider this period of education as highly beneficial to his fight in World War II. Over the next 20 years, Nimitz continued to build an impressive résumé through commanding vessels and even establishing the NROTC unit at the University of California-Berkeley. His accomplishments proved how respected he was as a leader by both his sailors and his superiors.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Following this devastation, Nimitz, who had been working as chief of the Bureau of Navigation, was promoted to commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. With his promotion, Nimitz led his men aboard the *USS Grayling* to victory at the Battle of Midway.

In December 1944, Nimitz was promoted to Fleet Admiral of the United States Navy. This rank, recently created by Roosevelt, was the highest rank in the Navy. As Fleet Admiral, on September 2, 1945, Nimitz signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay following the atomic attacks on Japan, thereby concluding the Second World War.

On February 20, 1966, Admiral Chester Nimitz died in his home in Yerba Buena Island, California. He was





laid to rest next to his wife, Catherine, at the Golden Gate National Cemetery. In the 1960s, his grandfather's hotel in Fredericksburg, the Nimitz Hotel, was transformed into a museum to honor the WWII admiral. As per Nimitz's request, the museum expanded to honor his brothers in arms. The National Museum of the Pacific War makes its home in the former hotel alongside the Admiral Nimitz Museum. **NOW**

#### Sources:

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Zoomed In:  
Dorian Carra

By Angel Morris

Dorian Carra recently collected fishing line prior to helping his scout troop install line recycling stations at Lake Grove and community parks. A Boy Scout for four years, Dorian started in 2020 as a Webelos in Longhorn Council Pack 52 and is now a Life Scout, working toward Eagle Scout Rank in Circle Ten Council Troop 512. “Collecting the fishing line was important because the city did not have resources previously to handle the litter,” Dorian explained. “‘Leave No Trace,’ Scout principle No. 3, says to dispose of waste properly.”

An eighth-grader at Dieterich Middle School, Dorian likes drawing and online gaming, as well as other Troop activities. He said, “I enjoy socializing with other Scouts during meetings, campouts and other events.”



Charlee Wilde prepares to prank grandparents, Ken and Charla George, by hiding ducks throughout their home over the summer.



In honor of the Summer Olympics, junior volunteers at Methodist Midlothian prepare an internal competition for hospital staff.



State Representative Brian Harrison recognizes Jennifer Salzman of The Heights Ellis County Family Resources, which partners dozens of assistance agencies to help in situations of domestic abuse.





The Waxahachie Symphony Association announces the winners of the 2024 Young Artists Awards from Waxahachie High School and Midlothian Heritage High School.



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**NOV. 2**





BusinessNOW

# Word Dermatology

— By Angel Morris



## Word Dermatology

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Waxahachie, TX 75165

(972) 736-DERM (3376)  
info@worddermatology.com

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m.-noon

Word Dermatology is committed to addressing patients' comprehensive medical, surgical and cosmetic skin care needs from its Midlothian and Waxahachie offices five days a week. Texas-born, raised and trained, Dr. Andrew Word expanded his services from Waxahachie to Midlothian in July 2021. "Opening our Midlothian office and expanding

our services in Ellis County and surrounding areas has made it easier for us to help everyone with their dermatologic needs," explained Dr. Word.

Medically, Word Dermatology treats acne, boils, burns, cysts, eczema, psoriasis, rosacea and shingles, warts, skin cancers, hair and nail issues and more. Surgically, Dr. Word and his staff are dedicated to optimizing treatment for basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas, melanomas and other rare skin cancers. Cosmetic offerings include BOTOX, chemical peels and scar treatment.

"We strive to serve all patients' dermatologic needs in a compassionate and friendly environment. Our staff is experienced in assisting patients in the health and appearance of their skin and are dedicated to the care of each and every patient," Dr. Word promised.

Dr. Word is a Board Certified Dermatologist who received his Doctorate of Medicine from University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. He then completed his internship in Internal Medicine and Dermatology Residency training at UT Southwestern.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Word served as chief resident,



working at Parkland, Clements, Children’s and Veteran Affairs hospitals. Today, he is a clinical assistant professor in dermatology at UT Southwestern and teaches medical students and residents at the Dallas VA Hospital.

A medical staffer at Methodist Midlothian Medical Center and Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Waxahachie, Dr. Word is also a diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology and a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.


**“We strive to serve all patients’ dermatologic needs in a compassionate and friendly environment.”**

Reflecting on his past training and ongoing affiliations, Dr. Word mentioned, “I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to complete all of my training at UT Southwestern. It established such a great foundation for me. I still strive to add to my medical knowledge every day for the benefit of my patients. Staying involved in academic and inpatient medicine through UT Southwestern and our wonderful local hospitals help me continually achieve that goal.”

Dr. Word is joined by Amanda Krawietz and Michelle Shelton, both nationally certified as physician assistants (PA-C). Amanda received a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth and has been on staff with Dr. Word for more than six years. Michelle received a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Michelle, who joined Word Dermatology in 2021, said, “Working as a part of the Word Dermatology team is a dream come true!”

The newest addition to Word Dermatology’s staff, Regina Nicholson, completed her Physician Assistant Studies at Rutgers University.

Named the Best of Ellis County in 2023 by resident vote, Word Dermatology provides quality skin care to you and your family. “We’re here to help with all of your dermatologic needs,” Dr. Word expressed. “We look forward to seeing you at Word Dermatology in Midlothian and Waxahachie!” **NOW**



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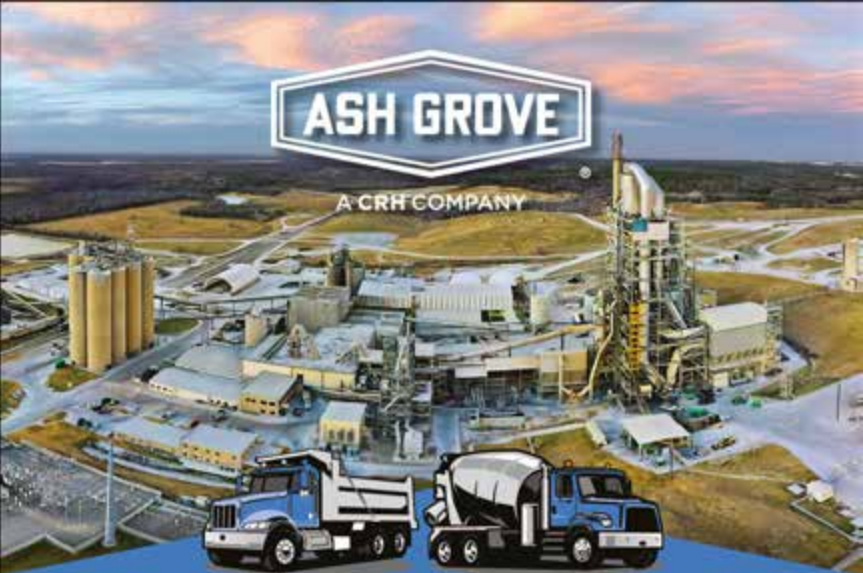
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**Ufon Ahime, Ph.D.**  
Mental Health Coach  
ufonahime@higherlivingtoday.org

In a world that often emphasizes self-interest, the simple act of helping others is sometimes overlooked. However, engaging in acts of kindness and service can have profound benefits on mental health.

Helping others activates the brain's reward system, leading to what psychologists call the "helper's high." This is a state of euphoria followed by a period of calmness and well-being. Whether it's volunteering, offering a listening ear, or simply being there for someone in need, these acts can significantly enhance your mood and overall happiness. Also, going out of your way to meet the needs of others provides an aura of meaning and purpose, which can offer a sense of fulfillment and combat feelings of loneliness and depression.

By reducing stress, fostering social connections, and promoting a sense of purpose, acts of kindness can significantly improve emotional and psychological well-being. The good news is that you don't have to look too far to find someone to help or a cause to support, and the rewards of helping others are both immediate and lasting, making it a simple yet effective way to boost your mental health.



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CookingNOW  
*In the Kitchen With*  
WENDY KING  
— By Angel Morris

Manna House volunteer Wendy King enjoys feeding people. “Being semiretired, I love baking, cooking and doing both of those things as a part of volunteering,” she noted.

Wendy and her late husband originally moved to Midlothian in 2010. After moving to North Dallas to be closer to work, they returned to town to be near grandkids. Now, cooking with them is a favorite experience. “Baking all day with my granddaughter and having everyone at my house with loud music and laughter is my favorite time.”

Cooking also honors Wendy’s husband. “He loved a good pot of beans with meat included. Plus, homemade cream corn, corn bread and a side of red onion,” she described. “I lost him in 2020, and sharing his favorite meal makes my heart smile.” **NOW**

### Fresh Cream Corn

*Not like the canned version! Serves 6-8.*

**8 ears fresh corn**  
**1 stick butter**

**1.** Rinse and remove the silk from the corn. Using the sharp side of a large knife, cut the kernels from the cobs, slicing down into a large saucepan. The closer to the cob you

cut, the larger the kernels are and the less creamy. Cutting in the middle of the kernel will give you a creamier end result.

**2.** After removing the kernels, still using the sharp side of the knife, start in the middle of the cob and scrape with force downward. This will release all the sweet juice from the cob. When finished all around, flip the cob to scrape the other half.

**3.** When done scraping all the cobs, add

the butter; cook on medium-low heat, stirring frequently. Cook for 20 minutes, or until it turns a nice golden color. Stir frequently to avoid burning.

**4.** Serve with beans and a side of onion. (Easy to double and triple for large family gatherings.)

### Beer Bread

*Also makes great toast.*

**3 cups self-rising flour**  
**1/4 cup sugar**  
**1 12-oz. beer (any style)**  
**Melted butter, for brushing**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a loaf pan. Combine the flour and sugar; mix well.

**2.** Slowly pour in the beer, stirring until completely mixed. The batter should be tacky and stick to the spoon.

**3.** Place the entire mixture in the pan. Bake 45 minutes. Remove from the oven, brush the top with butter; return to the oven for 15 minutes. Serve warm.

**4.** This recipe makes an easy gift, too. Put



the dry ingredients in a baggie. Place the baggie inside a decorative loaf pan, along with the beer of your choice. Include the recipe on a card inside the pan.

**Taco Soup**

*Feeds 8 people.*

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 large white onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 12-oz. bag frozen fire roasted corn
- 1 14-oz. can pinto beans strained
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 2 envelopes taco seasoning
- 2 envelopes ranch style dressing mix
- Cracked red pepper, to taste (optional)
- Vegetable broth, to taste

*Toppings:*  
Shredded cheese, to taste  
Sour cream, to taste  
Green onions, to taste

1. Brown the ground beef with the onions and garlic. While that cooks, in a large pot, add all the remaining ingredients, except the broth.
2. Add the beef to the large pot. Add the broth (more for a soup consistency, less for a chili consistency). The longer it cooks, the better it tastes.
3. Add toppings and dig in. Serve with tortilla chips.

**Apple Upside Down Cake**

*Serve warm with or without ice cream.*

- 1/3 cup butter (for melting)
- 6 very small cooking apples  
(Gala works great.)
- 1/3 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 1 whole egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F Place 1/3 cup butter in a 9x9-inch pan. Put it in the oven; let it melt. Cut the apples in half. Scoop out the cores. Remove the stems. Sprinkle brown sugar over the melted butter.
2. Position 9 apples evenly spaced, raw side down, in the pan. Bake about 20 minutes.
3. Shred the remaining apples. Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add all other ingredients, including the shredded apples, to dry mixture. Beat with a mixer.
4. Spoon the batter evenly over the apples in the pan. Bake 35 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

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5. Let stand 5 minutes; flip onto a large serving dish. Makes 9 pieces of cake with a perfect place for a scoop of ice cream where the apples were cored.

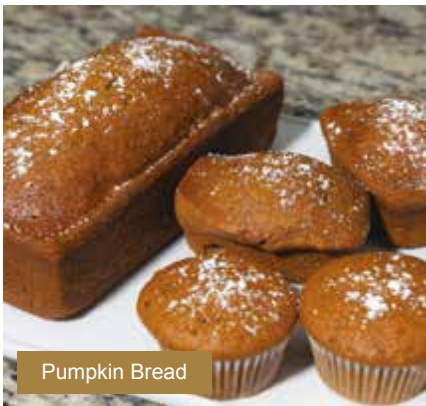
Easy Box Cake Hack

Turn ordinary into extraordinary!

- Cake:
- 1 box cake mix, any flavor
  - Milk (replacing water in same measurement as boxed instructions)
  - Melted butter (replacing oil in same measurement as boxed instructions)
  - Eggs (in quantity called for on boxed instructions)
  - 2 egg yolks
  - 1/4 cup sour cream
  - 1 tsp. vanilla

- Simple Glaze:
- 2 Tbsp. butter
  - Pinch of salt
  - 2 Tbsp. milk (divided use)
  - 1/4 tsp. vanilla or almond extract
  - 1 cup powdered sugar (sifted for best results)
  - Lemon or orange zest, to taste (optional)

1. For cake: Mix all ingredients together; bake as directed on the box.



Pumpkin Bread

2. For glaze: In a saucepan on medium-low heat, melt the butter; add the salt, 1 Tbsp. milk and the extract. Let warm (not boil). Add in the powdered sugar while stirring. (If it is too thick, add the other Tbsp. of milk.)
3. Stir until the consistency you desire is reached. Add the lemon or orange zest. Pour over any cake to elevate its flavor.

Pumpkin Bread

Just in time for fall! Makes 2 regular size loafs.

- 3 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 4 whole eggs
- 1 tsp. nutmeg

- 1 regular can puree pumpkin
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup oil
- 2/3 cup water
- Nuts, to taste (optional)
- Raisins, to taste (optional)
- Chocolate chips, to taste (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F Combine all the ingredients; mix on medium speed.
2. In a loaf pan, mini loaf pans or muffin pans, bake for 1 hour, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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Footballs were found on pages 7, 10, 17, 27 and 31.

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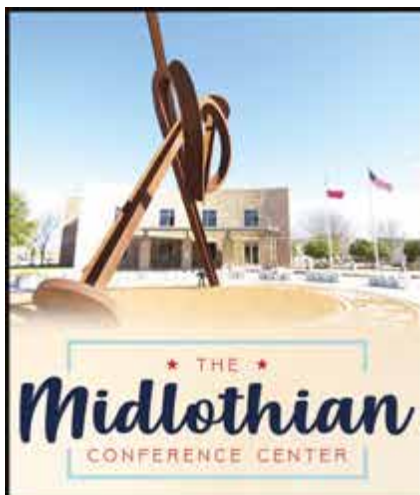
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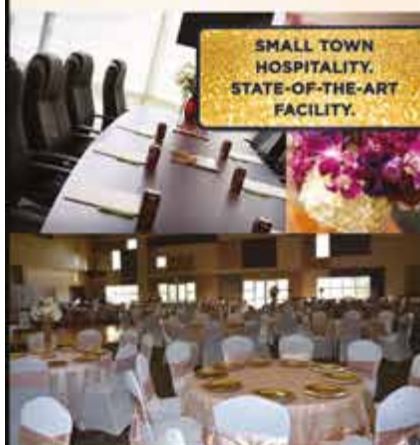
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# Oh, Omaha!

— By Bill Smith

*A trip to Omaha, Nebraska, would not be complete without including a bonus trip to the adjacent state of Iowa, and one of the coolest features of the visit would have to be the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge. Start in the Old Market Entertainment District in Omaha, and you'll be on the bridge after about a 10-minute walk. The bridge is 3,000 feet long, and about halfway across, there is a line that is also halfway across the Missouri River — the border of Iowa. The line is clearly marked, so you can take a selfie of yourself standing in two states at once. The locals call that "Bobbing!"*

Downtown Omaha covers a lot of area, but there are many parks with statues, swings, food trucks, restaurants, ice cream parlors, gift shops and activities that the whole family can enjoy. And a river runs through it! Unless you are up for an extended vacation, you'll be hard-pressed to scratch the surface of everything Omaha has to offer, but even on a brief stay, you will find some places that you want to come back

to. And on the return trip, you are sure to find something new.

A carriage ride around the historic downtown area, known as the Old Market, is a great place to start. The nightlife is abundant in the area, and restaurants and retail stay open beyond the dinner hour most evenings. Upstream Brewing Company is a wonderful dining experience with a host of drink options including foreign, domestic and local microbrews. They advertise a full menu of New American pub fare, but don't hesitate to order a nice steak or seafood dish. Another interesting dining excursion could include the Mouth of the South. They boast of "Southern Grub," and on the weekends, they feature a prime rib au jus. But the Voodoo Shrimp & Grits is another option if you think you need a taste of Louisiana while you are touring the Midwest. If there is room for dessert after walking a couple of blocks from either restaurant, Ted & Wally's slow churns ice cream with some unique flavor options that are hard to beat.

If you take the whole family, a visit to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium will be one that will create a lot of memories and photo opportunities. Locals boast that it is the finest zoo in America, with more than 160 acres of exhibits from around the world. Six acres of exhibits are enclosed for year-round touring.

Omaha's Union Station is a national historic landmark. You will love the ambience of the huge lobby with the ticket booths still in place and the long church pew-type benches. Bronze sculptures of families saying hello and goodbye





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seem to be alive to greet trains that previously traveled through the station. Stop at the soda fountain and try a cherry phosphate! The station houses The Durham Museum, which features railroad cars and model trains from eras long past. The museum also has scheduled traveling exhibitions, recently featuring the life of celebrity chef Julia Child, and later an exhibit of costumes and scenery from the movie, *White Christmas*.

There is a lot to do in Omaha, but if you have a little time as you are leaving town, cross the river and visit Ditmars Orchard & Vineyard in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Be there in early fall to pick your own apples right off the trees with numerous varieties to choose from, or you can simply stop in the store and have a big slice of apple pie! **NOW**

- Sources:
1. [www.visitomaha.com](http://www.visitomaha.com).
  2. [www.omahazoo.com](http://www.omahazoo.com).
  3. [www.ditmarsorchard.com](http://www.ditmarsorchard.com).



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# TIPS FOR LIVING ON YOUR OWN

— By Sandra Walters



*Moving out of your parents' home can create a great deal of stress, but producing a strategic plan can ease some concerns. Parents often provide practical wisdom and advice that can be invaluable. They may share insights on managing finances, maintaining a house and dealing with challenges that arise during the moving process. However, it's important to consider individual circumstances and relationships. Some young adults prefer to handle the move independently, while others may welcome and appreciate their parents' involvement. Communication is key — discussing your plans and expectations with your parents will help make sure everyone is on the same page.*

Whether someone chooses to include their parents in the process or not, a few considerations need to be made before committing to becoming self-sufficient. Based on your aspirations for life, you must calculate the cost of living by researching different expenses you will face, which include housing, utilities, cell phone, internet, groceries, transportation, insurance, savings, entertainment, dining out and personal items.

Look at all aspects of your expenses. Decide whether you want to rent an apartment or room, share a house with roommates or consider affordable housing programs. Understand tenant rights and responsibilities in your chosen location. A good credit score can positively impact your ability to secure rental agreements with favorable terms. Take a close look at the legal aspects of obtaining housing. Review lease agreements carefully, and seek legal advice if you struggle to understand any portion of a contract.

Visit neighborhoods during the day and night to find a suitable location that aligns with your lifestyle and preferences. Evaluate the costs by interviewing residents or looking up information online. Next, create a realistic budget by using a ledger, budgeting app or making a spreadsheet with details that you consider essential.



Making sure you can afford your housing is also important. It's fantastic if you already have a job! However, you might need to make some adjustments to match the home option and cost of living you have chosen. The purpose of this investigation is to ensure you have a stable source of income before moving out. If you are unemployed, it's best to create or update your résumé, apply for jobs and set up interviews to obtain employment first.

Assess your financial situation and set a timeline accordingly. Check your credit score, and take steps to improve it if necessary. Outline a budget for living expenses, and save at least six months' worth of living expenses before the move. This will be your nest egg. Plan your move from this point without using your savings.

Now, you're almost ready to take the plunge. Develop a timeline for your actual move. Focus on purchasing essential items you will need like furniture, dishes, a shower curtain and towels. Consider buying second-hand or affordable alternatives to save money. Pay your security deposit for housing, utility setup fees, hire movers, if needed, and start packing. In addition, update your employer, banks, postal services, friends, family and other relevant institutions of your change in address.

Connect with friends or family members who may offer support during your transition, and make them aware of your move. Reach out to them when you are ready to move, so if they ask questions, you'll have answers because you've done the work.

When the big day arrives, you should be proud of yourself. You did the research, saved your money, worked on your credit, took the initiative in your adult life and became responsible for yourself. Your parents will be proud, too.

Continue to monitor and adjust your budget as needed. If you run into financial difficulties, your six months' worth of savings will be an excellent place to start. Always save a portion of your income for future goals, emergencies or unexpected expenses. Remember, moving out is a significant life change, and careful planning will help ensure a smoother transition into independent living. **NOW**



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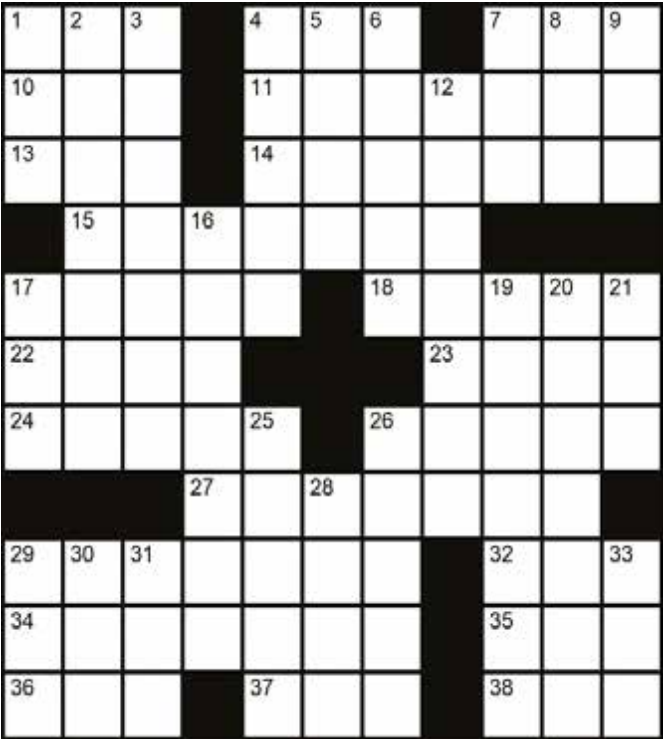
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# Crossword Puzzle



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### Across

- 1 Tire measure
- 4 Amount of game killed
- 7 Untwisted fiber bundle
- 10 100 cubic feet of a ship's capacity
- 11 Flying fee
- 13 "Cakes and ---" (1930 Somerset Maugham novel)
- 14 Scoffed
- 15 Satellite
- 17 Saturn's largest moon
- 18 Personal belongings
- 22 "It's pretty, but --- Art?" (Kipling)
- 23 Showing unusual talent
- 24 "60 Minutes" reporter
- 26 Tiler's mortar
- 27 Boring mix-up outside
- 29 Supermodel Schiffer
- 32 And not
- 34 Two female Oscar winners share this surname
- 35 CSI evidence
- 36 "The Bottle ---" (R L Stevenson)
- 37 Favorite
- 38 Baste

### Down

- 1 Bake-sale org.
- 2 Aria singer
- 3 Sluggishness
- 4 Area drained by a river
- 5 "You --- seen nothin' yet!"
- 6 Address
- 7 Cigarette gunk
- 8 Galena, for example
- 9 Tie the knot
- 12 Mondale's 1984 running mate
- 16 Where Marat was murdered
- 17 "--- better to have loved and lost ..." (Tennyson)
- 19 Teens
- 20 "With partner" on some invitations
- 21 Fix
- 25 --- the garden (deceived)
- 26 Huge
- 28 Dreadful
- 29 Greek X
- 30 The only man-carrying Moon lander
- 31 Smartphone download
- 33 Unrefined

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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# IT'S GAME TIME!

## SEPTEMBER

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.

9/7

### 5K/Fun Run Early

#### Registration Deadline:

Taking place **10/5**, the MISD Athletics Hall of Honor 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run is designed for the whole family. The event honors the history of local athletics and helps fund scholarships to graduating student-athletes. Register by **9/7** for a discounted rate and an event T-shirt while supplies last. Day-of registration:

7:00 a.m.; Fun Run:

8:00 a.m.; 5K: 8:15 a.m.,

1800 S. 14th St. Full details at [www.midlothianhoh.com](http://www.midlothianhoh.com).

### Paws for Reflection

#### Ranch Roundup:

Dinner, auction and live music supporting the therapeutic services of the ranch. 6:30-10:00 p.m., 5431 Montgomery Rd.

Purchase tickets at [www.pawsforreflectionranch.org](http://www.pawsforreflectionranch.org).

### Autumn Beats Concert:

Featuring ESCAPE, a Journey tribute band. Bring chairs and blankets for lawn seating. Food for purchase. Outside food, beverages and coolers are allowed. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St.

9/14

### National Night Out

#### Kick-Off:

Learn how your neighborhood can get involved in Midlothian's communitywide National Night Out, which takes place **10/1**.

5:30-8:00 p.m., Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. For more information, contact [Curtis.Hughes@Midlothian.tx.us](mailto:Curtis.Hughes@Midlothian.tx.us).

9/19

### Writers Group:

A supportive community where writers can share and grow. Adults 18-plus. 5:30-6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Library, 923 S. 9th St.

9/21

### Wildflower Walk

#### Pollinator Edition:

Free 1/2-mile nature walk, led by the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, focusing on the vital role bees and butterflies play in pollinating flowers. 9:00-11:00 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. In the event of rain, the walk is cancelled.

### Girls Time Brunch:

Topical discussions for girls ages 13-18 including financial literacy, entrepreneurship, self-love and sisterhood. \$30 admission. 10:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Beacon Recreation Center, 1100 Mansfield Webb Rd., Arlington. Email [girlstime0124@gmail.com](mailto:girlstime0124@gmail.com) for more information.

9/25

### 641ers Cookbook Club:

For all skill levels. Each month, a cookbook or cooking theme will be assigned. Pick a recipe, cook it and bring it to share and discuss.

Books provided. 1:00-2:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St.

## Fourth Mondays Through November

### Creative Quilters of Ellis County Meeting:

Social time, business meeting, show and tell program. Sign-in/social time: 6:00 p.m.; meeting: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. Learn more at [elliscountyquilters.com](http://elliscountyquilters.com).

Email [klbright53@gmail.com](mailto:klbright53@gmail.com) for more details.

## Second and Fourth Tuesdays

### Dungeons & Dragons:

Adults (18-plus) meet the second Tuesday of each month. Teens (ages 12-18) meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. No prior experience necessary! 5:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Library, 923 S. 9th St. Registration is encouraged to help with session preparation: [Jordan.Roller@Midlothian.tx.us](mailto:Jordan.Roller@Midlothian.tx.us).

## Wednesdays

### DivorceCare:

Group sharing for those who have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-

8:00 p.m., First Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. Call (972) 775-3993 for details.

## Second and Fourth Wednesdays

### Jesus Feeds Us:

Free grocery distribution. 2:00 p.m. until supplies run out, Midlothian Church of Christ, 1627 N. Hwy. 67.

## Thursdays

### Celebrate Recovery Meeting:

A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. For more details, email [CR@dfwlighthouse.org](mailto:CR@dfwlighthouse.org).

## Saturdays

### Midlothian Farmers Market:

Saturdays through November. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Downtown Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St.

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











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