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M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2021

Painting a Story

Steve Miller's brush
has tales to tell

Tales of Texas

I Adopted the World

Growing Shade

Jacob Calvit
knows trees

2021 Holiday
Shopping Guide

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

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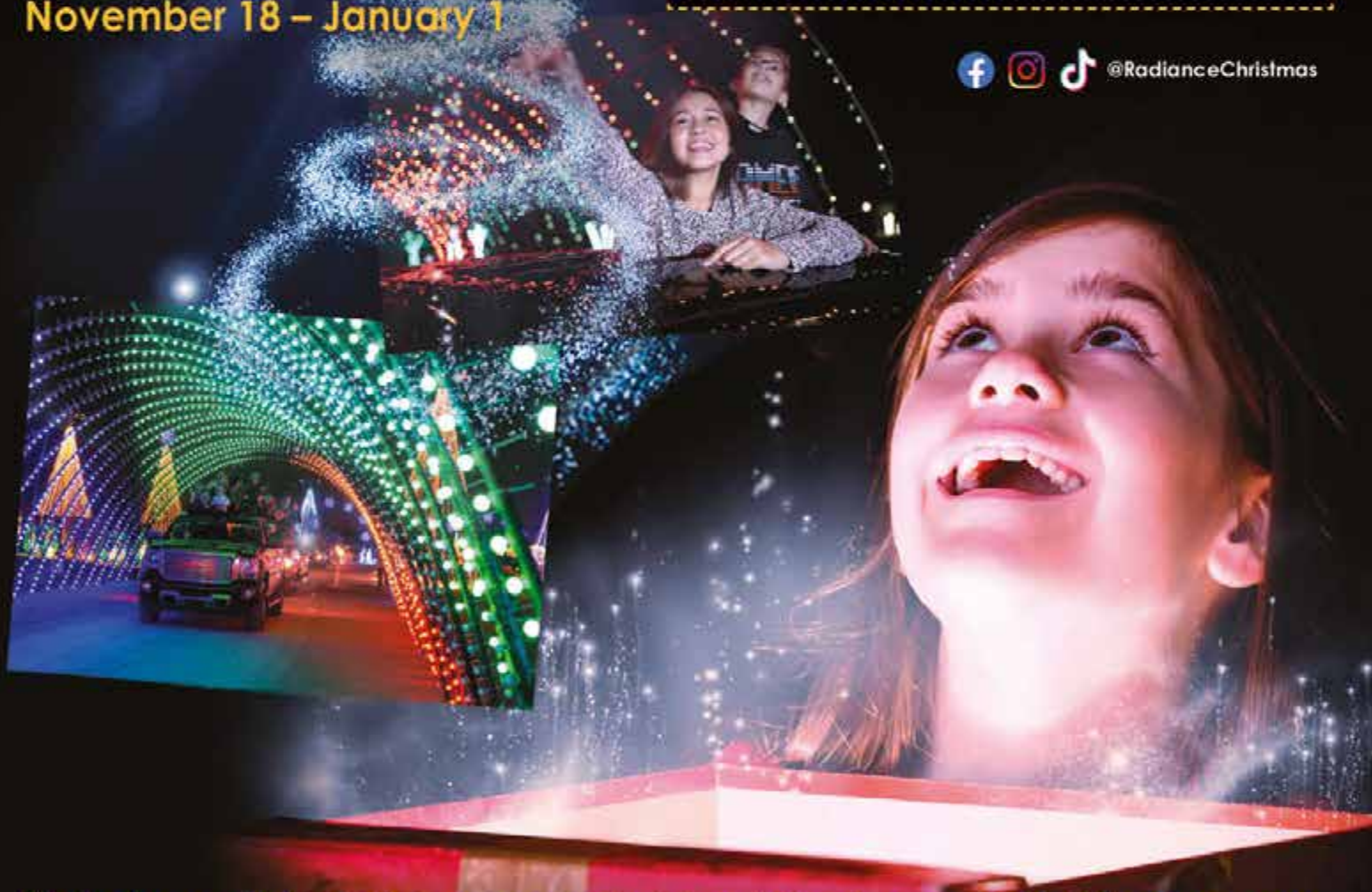
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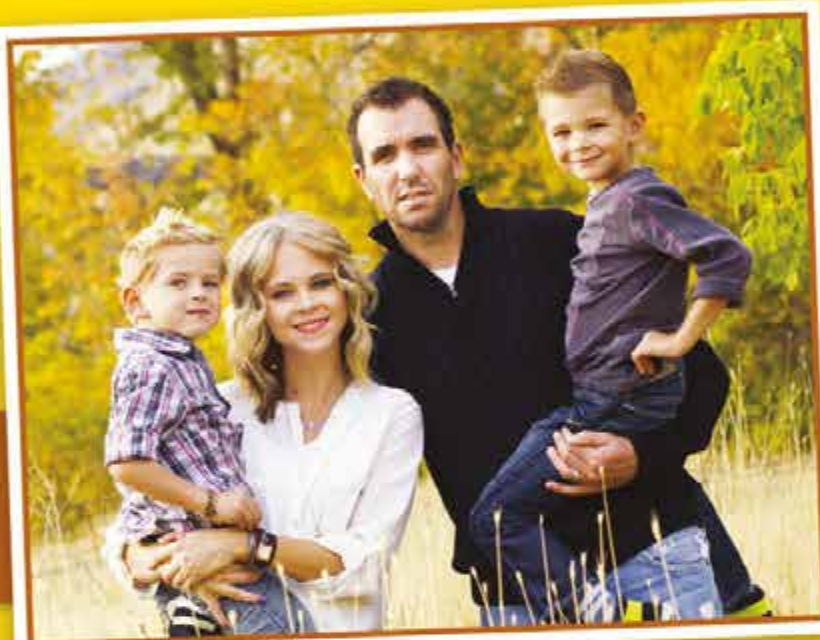
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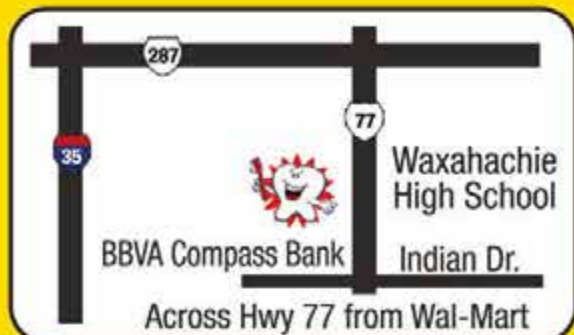
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Steve Miller has painted more than 500 paintings.

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Waxahachie ZIP codes.*

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



Adam

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Roots and wings ...

I'm the new community editor for *WaxahachieNOW Magazine*, but I'm not new here. I've written for *WaxahachieNOW*, off and on, for more than a decade. And I've been editing our sister publication, *SouthwestNOW* for nearly five years.

My mother's family moved from Tennessee to Waxahachie in the 1890s. They lived and farmed here until the 1930s, when my grandmother and her parents moved to Dallas. I still have cousins who live here, and now I do, too. Life has come full circle. I'm back where my ancestors started in Texas.

Waxahachie is steeped in its colorful past — gingerbread houses and crepe myrtle trees and one spectacular courthouse! But it's growing and reaching for tomorrow as well. We're keeping our roots strong, while becoming more diverse and inclusive, with more opportunities for everyone. We still have great produce in our farmers market, but we also have cutting-edge businesses and education focused on tomorrow's challenges.

This is a community with thousands of stories. I'm sure I'll never get to all of you, there are just too many of you! But it's going to be great fun getting to tell as many of your tales as I can. Tell me about those local artists and athletes, community leaders and organizers, cooks and creatives, students and teachers, young and old and everyone in between. Who out there has a story to share? I want to hear from you! And maybe I'll meet some of those cousins along the way!

I'm sure I'll see you in the grocery store, at the gas station and definitely in the library. Let's celebrate our community together.

Cultivate those roots, but spread them wings!



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Painting a story

— By Adam Walker

Steve Miller sees his art as a way to tell stories. “I like representational art, but I lean toward impressionism. I like to keep it kind of loose. I like rustic things, and I love story. I’ve been into art since I was a kid. It was a thing that was just there from the beginning. I did a lot of pencil work as a child. Then in high school, I started working more with color. I have worked as an illustrator. I’ve done T-shirts and airbrushed motorcycles. I was even a sign painter for a few days! I’ve also done computer graphics and web design — whatever pays the bills!”

Steve also likes to travel. His wife is a photographer and often captures shots he later paints. “If I see something I like, but can’t stop to paint it then, my wife or I will shoot a few photographs, and then I’ll do the painting down the road. I’m always looking for inspiration for the next painting. My wife and I went to a funeral back east, in the Appalachian Mountains in northern Georgia. Then we drove up through the Smoky Mountains. It was miserable weather, but we took some photos. One place, we saw this old house by the highway. I asked my wife to stand on the porch, so I could snap a photo of her there to paint later. Those are my favorite paintings right now. In six months, it will be something different. My favorite painting is always the one I just finished. I look at it and think, *That’s awesome!* A year or two later, I look at the same painting and ask myself, *Who the heck painted this mess?*”





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Steve's art covers a wide variety of subjects, but there is a unity of purpose. "Whatever I'm painting, I try to pass along the beauty of God's creation. Even in an old alley, there is beautiful color. I love alleys. There are a bunch of cats who live on an old wooden porch in one of the alleys downtown. I shot some pictures of them. About a year later, I did a painting of them that won Best in Show at a show in Richardson. I paint wildlife, and the places we go on trips. An old barn, or a tractor left out in a field tell a story. You look at it and can't help saying to yourself, *There's a story there.*"

The Waxahachie courthouse is a scene he has treated more than once. "I've painted some of the old Victorian houses, too. I used to enjoy painting them as *plein air* exercises. Trying to capture the essence of the scene in just a couple of hours as the light changes. It's important to keep your equipment simple — just a few colors and your easel. Then you can set up and paint anywhere."

Steve doesn't like the term self-taught. "I don't use that term, because self don't know nothing. I find an artist who is where I want to be. I see what they are doing, and I take workshops with them. Right now, I'm studying more about color theories. They can get really complex. I've been trying to learn for 10-15 years. I look at other painters who do what I like and try to learn how they do it. It's good to go outside and do a bunch of small paintings. You only really learn the relationship between colors





by doing several hundred paintings. You learn a lot that way. One of my mentors said that you need to paint 500 paintings to learn anything. I crossed that goal a year or two ago. There is no 'Easy Button' for painting. It's just about doing it a lot."

There's deep philosophy behind Steve's approach to art. "I believe in a universe I did not create. There is no random art, just like there is no random creation. There is design in the universe, a big picture. I pursue art to attempt — and it's a poor attempt — but to attempt to recreate some of that beauty. You see the orange of a sunset melting into the blue of the sky, and it's awesome to see. But when you try to paint it, the paints mix and become muddy, because orange and blue are complimentary colors. The beauty of nature can be hard to reproduce in paint. Art is part of being human, but artists want to say, 'I did that, so it must be good.' That's not always true. Sometimes, you have to scrape it off and start over. Artists don't want to stop and fix their work, but that's part of the learning process. Sometimes, you know something is wrong with a painting, but you can't see it, because you're too embedded in your own work. You need another artist to tell you, 'Here's what's wrong.' They can see it, but you can't."

Whether Steve is journeying to find new scenes to paint, or painting to journey further with his craft, there's a story in all he does. And his brush is telling that tale. **NOW**



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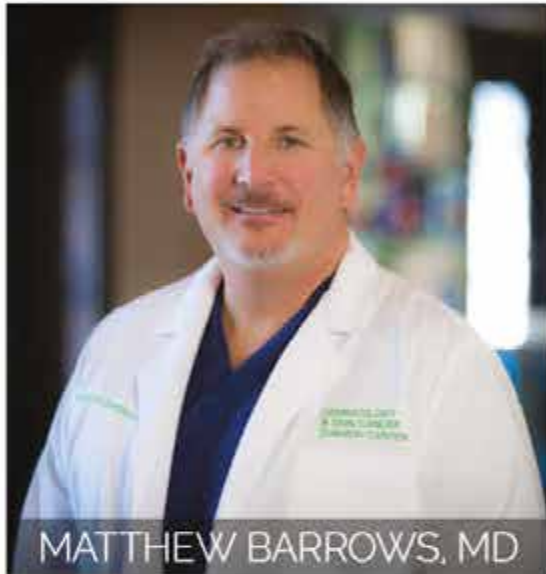
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Growing Shade

— By Adam Walker



Jacob Calvit is a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, working to transform our urban environment through the planting of trees. “I’m trying to get more trees into the newer additions of Waxahachie,” he said. “People don’t realize how much just having access to shade trees improves mental health. Trees also significantly reduce the cost of heating and cooling your house.”

Jacob focuses on planting native trees, because they need so little care in their home territory. “Texas, like a lot of other states, has moved Arbor Day to November, because November through February is the time to plant trees here. Planting now gives them time to put roots down before they have to face a Texas summer. The summer is just too darn hot. Arbor Day is now the first Friday in November. I also focus on native trees because I get a lot of my trees from the US Forest Service, and they only supply native trees. This year, we’re partnering with the city to give away 100 pecan and burr oak trees, like the ones at Getzendaner Park.”

Jacob works with the Boys & Girls Club to grow and care for the seedlings, until they’re ready for adoption. “The kids help pot them and keep them watered. We have a garden space behind the Salvation Army where we care for the seedlings and grow food for the Salvation Army’s food pantry.”

Being an urban forester, Jacob’s work is a bit different from traditional forestry. “I used to work for International Paper. There my job was to make maps of where the trees are, the ones that can be cut down for paper making. I’d assess how many board feet of harvestable timber were on a tract of land. It was all about the profit. Being an urban forester is all about preserving trees, minimizing risks and maximizing placement. I go around the city and assess for trees. If there is less than 30 percent canopy, we want more trees. I encourage citizens to plant trees in their yards, but also encourage the city to plant them in the newer parks and along the walking trails. Ultimately, I’d like to see Waxahachie develop ordinances to protect the trees we have and set goals for developing more trees.”

This year, Jacob has planted more than 150 trees, many of them in Red Oak, Ennis and Dallas. “I planted 24 trees in Bullard Heights, and staked them all, last winter. Most of them are Osage oranges, also called bois d’arc or horse apples. Some people think they’re an ugly tree, but I don’t. I’m really fond of the Osage orange, because I’m from De Kalb, where the largest one in Texas grows. They’re a native tree, so they don’t require a lot of TLC. Plant them, and they grow. When Lewis and Clark were exploring the Louisiana Purchase, the Osage orange is the first plant they sent back to Thomas Jefferson. They don’t grow east of the Mississippi. When Lewis and Clark met the Osage, this tree was sacred to them, and they gave one to Lewis and Clark as a friendship gift. Plus, this tree locks up a lot of carbon, so it’s really good for the environment. And it’s tough. It can survive urban challenges.”

Even trees that don’t need a lot of coddling, need some

care. "It's important to plant trees where they have room to grow. And if you plant a tree between the sidewalk and the curb, it's not really your tree. Oncor isn't concerned with the beauty of that tree, only with keeping it out of the power lines. It's important to prune and stake young trees so you get a tall, straight tree when it's mature. Pruning won't hurt a young tree, but cutting huge limbs out of a mature tree can. It's like the difference between breaking your arm when you're 8 versus when you're 80. That can leave an old tree open to fungal infections.

JACOB GETS THE KIDS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB INVOLVED, BECAUSE HE LEARNED TO LOVE TREES IN THE FFA FORESTRY PROGRAM.

Jacob likes to point out some of the great trees we already have here in town. "I don't think most people realize what a treasure we have in Getzendaner Park. Some of the trees there were old growth when the park was established in 1889. Some of those trees are 200-250 years old. It's rare to see a park like that. The year that we had so much rain, an old mulberry tree back in the woods on the other side of the creek came down. That tree was 3 inches short of the state record. We have an American elm at Lions Park that's so big, I've submitted its measurements for verification as the state champion. If it's verified, it will replace one in Ft. Worth. There used to be a line of Osage oranges right through town. They were planted as a guide for the cattle drives. There are still a few of them left. There's one on Marvin and a couple on Jefferson."

Jacob gets the kids at the Boys & Girls Club involved, because he learned to love trees in the FFA forestry program. "We mostly work with the saplings from the Forest Service, but we do grow some from seed. It's not easy to grow from seed. Pecans need to stay wet for 120 days before they sprout, which is why they mostly grow along creeks and rivers in the wild. The kids are constantly doing stuff, so if you want to help them, just reach out to the club. Also, the city needs volunteers on Getzendaner Trail assessing dead, dying and at-risk trees and hanging branches that pose a risk to walkers and runners. Or you can reach out to me on Twitter @arborwax. **NOW**



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—TALES OF TEXAS—

I ADOPTED THE WORLD

— By Adam Walker

Names of civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and John Lewis are known to everyone nationwide, young and old. But here in Texas, much of the progress toward equality was spearheaded by an unassuming woman in old South Dallas. Juanita Jewel Craft helped change the face of race relations in Dallas and beyond.

Juanita Craft isn't the household name that the men are, but she should be. Born in 1902, in Round Rock, by 1925 Craft, as her friends called her, was living in Dallas. She earned a teaching certificate from Samuel Huston College, but worked as a maid at the Adolphus Hotel. In 1935, she joined the NAACP and found her life's work. As the membership chair of the Dallas branch, she hid the membership rolls to protect her fellow members from those who would have used the rolls to harass those fighting for change. She assisted in organizing 182 branches of the NAACP and worked hard to ensure that African-Americans paid their poll tax and secured their rights to vote. She herself had been the first African-American woman to vote in Dallas County. She was surrogate mother

to the young members of the Dallas branch, advising them on life choices and choosing the right brides and husbands, as they struggled to integrate lunch counters, schools and the State Fair. She would later be elected to the Dallas City Council for two terms.

Mrs. Craft owned a small house, on Warren St., near Fair Park, but she lived in the guest house out back, running the main house as a boarding house for young men who are leaders in today's NAACP. She welcomed important figures like MLK and LBJ to her house, when they came to talk to her about her work. But she also welcomed the neighbor kids. The girl who lived next door, named her daughter Juanita, for her, and called her Neet. "Mrs. Craft met a lot of people and had a lot of photographs. On one wall of her sitting room, she had a picture of herself with JFK standing behind her. On the opposite wall was a picture of Neet," Patricia Perez recalled.

Patricia was one of those youth who spent countless hours at the Craft house. "That was my house of power. You just felt it being around her. She showed us in word and deed. She was militant, but quiet. She knew what wasn't right and knew it could be changed. She had all these community connections, and she used them to enhance our lives. I felt empowered and special when I was with her."

Bob Lydia was one of those young men who received advice from Mrs. Craft. "I rented a room from her. She'd give

me and the other young guys advice on which girls to avoid. Craft was like a mother. She was also artistic. She'd buy wooden boxes and turn them into decoupage purses. She wouldn't accept any help making them, but she did take the leaves we'd bring her to use. She'd sit on her bed and put in all the screws and nails. She could sew anything. She kept a garden and canned and made jams and jellies. She was very frugal. She wanted to teach us young people how to behave and be respectful. If you wanted something done, all you had to do was sit down with her, and she'd figure out a way. She didn't have to scream and holler. I thought I was too young, but Craft decided I should be the first vice president for the Young Adult Council of the Dallas NAACP, and she made it happen."

In 1977, Mrs. Craft was interviewed for the Black Women's Oral History Project held at Harvard University. In the interview she discussed the hardships of growing up Black in the pre-Civil Rights era. Her mother died in 1935 from tuberculosis, because there was no state hospital for Black people. But she never let hardship stop her. And her reach extended far beyond South Dallas, or even Texas. She worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and other national leaders on important issues, and rallied support for Thurgood Marshall as he litigated cases eliminating whites-only primary elections and "separate but equal" education.

She was 73 when she was first elected to the Dallas City Council, where she served from 1975-1979. "When she won, she said, 'I showed 'em!' And a few other words," Bob Lydia remembered. She died in 1985, leaving behind a better Texas for all of us. Her house on Warren St. is now a Civil Rights museum. **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/people/jjcraft.htm>.
2. <https://dallasculture.org/cultural-venues/juanita-craft-house/>.
3. <https://www.womenintexashistory.org/biographies/juanita-craft/>.
4. [https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:45168259\\$1i](https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:45168259$1i).
5. Personal interviews with Bob Lydia and Patricia Perez.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

DANIELLE POLANCO

— By Adam Walker



Danielle Polanco considers herself a bonafide foodie. “I love to cook, but I also love food from other people and restaurants. I learned to cook from many family gatherings growing up. I took that foundation and became a self-taught home cook.” Her job at H-E-B, doing in-store cooking demos, got her some formal training at their culinary center. Now she works in the bakery and makes cooking videos on YouTube as The Cast Iron Chef.

“My love for cuisines is limitless. I grew up with some Greek recipes from my granny and Southern dishes from my family. I cook for anyone who wants to show up to the table or wants to cook with me.” Her husband, Jonathan, is as much a foodie as Danielle. **NOW**

Instant Pot Pork Carnitas

2 Tbsp. grape seed oil
1 white onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
1 cup H-E-B Organics Orange Peach Mango Juice (or plain orange juice)
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1 Tbsp. oregano
1 Tbsp. cumin
1 Tbsp. garlic salt

1 2.5- to 3-lb. pork shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
Fresh tortillas or H-E-B Mi Tienda ready-to-cook tortillas
Cilantro, for topping
Onions, for topping
Green salsa, for topping

1. Turn an Instant Pot on sauté mode. Add the oil; sauté the onions and garlic until the onions are soft and the garlic is fragrant, about 5 minutes.

2. While sautéing, combine the broth and juice; add the seasonings to the wet mixture. Whisk to combine; add mixture to the Instant Pot, making sure to scrape any of the browned bits from the bottom to the surface.
3. Turn the sauté mode off; add the pork shoulder, making sure to not stack the cubes on top of each other.
4. Set the Instant Pot on high pressure for 30 minutes, using natural pressure release for an additional 10 minutes.
5. Once the pressure is released, remove the carnitas to a sheet pan and shred. Put under the broiler on high for 5-7 minutes until slightly crispy. Make your tacos with the freshest tortillas, topped with fresh cilantro, onions and green salsa! Enjoy!

Smoked Leg of Lamb

1 5- to 7-lb. leg of lamb
1 cup olive oil
1/4 cup H-E-B Dijon Mustard
6 Tbsp. lemon juice
6 cloves garlic
1 shallot

12 sprigs fresh thyme
 12 sprigs fresh rosemary
 1/2 cup salt
 2 Tbsp. black pepper
 Applewood pellets for the smoker

1. Leave the leg of lamb out to come to room temperature while the smoker heats up; preheat the smoker to 250 F.
2. Using a food processor, add the remaining ingredients; blend into a paste. You can save this paste if you don't end up using all of it, and it'll last in the refrigerator for months. You can use it on lamb, pork or beef.
3. Rub the paste onto the lamb, making sure it's completely covered.
4. Put the lamb in the smoker for 2-3 hours, or until it reaches 145 F.
5. Let rest 30 minutes before slicing. Enjoy medium to medium-well!

Stacked Green Chili Enchilada Casserole

This recipe is customizable to anything you have leftover. Make it your own!

- 1 lb. any fully cooked and seasoned meat. (I use shredded chicken or ground beef.)
- 1 32-oz. jar Cookwell & Company Hatch Green Chili Stew
- 1 15-oz. can charro beans (optional)
- 1 10-oz. can Original Ro-Tel tomatoes or 1 1/4 cups pico de gallo (optional)
- 10-12 corn tortillas or 2 cups crushed tortilla chips
- 2 cups your favorite cheese, shredded
- Sour cream, for garnish
- Guacamole, for garnish

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Mix the meat with the whole jar of green chili stew. Place a thin layer of the meat mixture on the bottom of a greased 9x13-inch casserole dish. Make your next layer the beans or Ro-Tel. Top that layer with the tortillas or crushed tortilla chips; layer on the cheese. Keep repeating until all ingredients are gone, making sure the cheese is on top.
3. Bake for 30 minutes until bubbly. Serve with sour cream or guacamole.

Hatch Green Chili Mac & Cheese

- 1 lb. medium pasta shells or elbow macaroni
- 1 16-oz. jar Central Market Hatch Chile Queso
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 oz. H-E-B Easy Melt Cheese
- Extra roasted Hatch chilis or canned green chilis (optional)

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Instant Pot Pork Carnitas

1. Cook the pasta in salted, boiling water for 8-10 minutes.
2. Once the pasta is cooked and drained, turn the heat down to medium-low. Add the remaining ingredients; stir every few minutes until all the cheese is melted.

Granny's Greek Vielnik (Feta cheese stuffed phyllo)

1 pkg. frozen phyllo dough, thawed

1 stick unsalted butter, melted
2 12-oz. containers crumbled feta cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F
2. Take 2 sheets of phyllo dough at a time, lay flat; brush with melted butter. Make sure to keep remaining phyllo dough covered with a damp paper towel and plastic while preparing these. Cover the buttered phyllo with a thin layer of feta crumbles. Start at the bottom of the phyllo and slowly roll into a thin log.

3. Place into a round pan, either a cake pan or a cast-iron pan. You can curve the phyllo to fit into a swirl to make a pretty presentation. Repeat process with the remaining dough and cheese until the pan is filled.
4. Top with the remaining butter; bake for 15 minutes.

Cauliflower Dirty Rice

1 Tbsp. grape seed oil
1 lb. H-E-B hot turkey sausage
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 12-oz. bag frozen cauliflower rice
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
1 tsp. H-E-B Texas Originals Creole seasoning, or to taste
Green onions for topping

1. Heat a pan to medium-high heat. Add oil; brown the turkey sausage for 6-8 minutes. Add the onions and garlic; cook for another 3-4 minutes.
2. While the meat and vegetables are cooking, steam the frozen cauliflower rice in the microwave for 4 minutes just to reheat; add to the pan to combine. Add the tomato sauce and Creole seasoning, cook for another 5-7 minutes for everything to incorporate.
3. Top with green onions.

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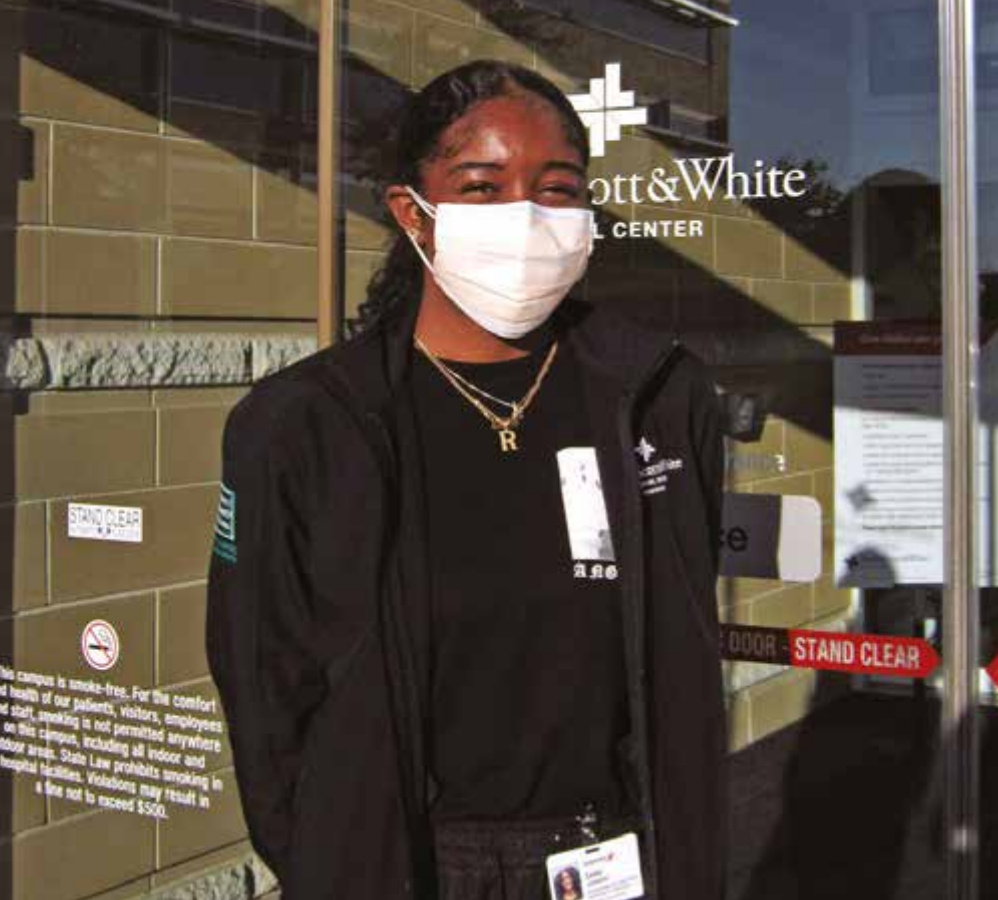
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WE SHIP





Zoomed In: Zair Johnson

By Adam Walker

Zair Johnson works at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center — Waxahachie at the welcome desk. “I’ve only been working here about a month, but I’ve been around this hospital all my life. My mother works in radiology,” she explained.

“I work afternoons and evenings, screening people as they enter the hospital. I check to be sure the patient they want to see can have visitors. I also check to be sure they have proper masks and PPE. I help visitors and patients know where to go. You get to meet a lot of friendly people. It’s a hospital, so of course people don’t want to be here, but they’re really sweet. And you get to know people when they come in regularly.”



Perry McWhirter and Burkelee West pose for a sunny fall pic in downtown Waxahachie!



Sage Hampton gets in a set of curls at Lord's Gym.



Bethanne Monroe “gets her ‘I’ on” at the HACHIE cutout downtown.



Lauren Morris and sons, Josiah and Lucian, join Martha Cartledge for some outdoor fun at Chapman Park.



Life High School Waxahachie donates water to Hurricane Ida victims.



Amber Arseneaux and Kathryn Tancig unite to preserve the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm in perpetuity.



Nyckey, Matt and Colton Shier enjoy Memorial Day at Getzendaner Park.



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FURNITURE

REFRESH

— By Angel Morris

Got a hand-me-down piece of furniture that's not exactly your style? Or a curbside treasure that needs a little TLC? Maybe there's an antique piece you'd like to modernize, or a beloved piece that's beginning to look worn. Whatever your furniture makeover goals, refinishing is an affordable approach.

Prep Work

Whether you're going to re-paint or stain, the first step is always a good cleaning. A tack cloth and warm water mixed with dish soap is a simple way to go. Wipe away any dirt or sticky residue with the soapy towel, then rinse with a damp sponge. Lastly, dry the piece completely.

Next, you'll want to inspect your furniture for damage, filling any mars or cuts with epoxy putty or wax filling compound. Once dry, remove excess filler with a fine grit sandpaper before proceeding.

Stripping

The most time-consuming part of furniture refinishing will be the removal of the original finish. Chemical strippers or sanding are both options for taking off old paint or varnish. Heat guns may be needed for difficult finishes.

Sanding

A power sander, which can be rented at some home supply stores if you don't have your own, takes the intensity out of varnish removal. You will need to sand until the surface shine is mostly gone, and the piece is smooth. (This can be done by hand with course sandpaper, but will require far more time.)

A medium-grit sandpaper can be used to finish removing any remaining patches of paint or stain.

Chemical Stripping

If you choose to apply chemical strippers (liquids, sprays or gels) instead of sanding furniture, you'll need eye protection, rubber gloves, a stiff paint brush for application and a well-ventilated space in which to work.

After following the manufacturer stripping instructions, you will likely still need to sand any remaining bits of varnish, and multiple stripper applications may even be needed prior to that sanding.

Keep in mind, many online tutorials offer no-strip options, particularly with modern chalk paint products. The decision whether or not to invest the time involved in stripping depends upon your goals for the final look of your piece and the time you are willing to spend on the project.

Cleaning Part 2

If you elected to use a chemical stripper, a second cleaning will be required. Mineral spirits or turpentine may be used, but your product's manufacturer will make recommendations, too. Once clean, allow the furniture to dry again.

Wood Sealing

It may be tempting to omit this step, but sealant better allows the new paint or stain to be evenly and smoothly applied. Before sealing, you'll want to fill any imperfections or holes with a filler that is as close to your wood color as possible.

Then, you can apply sealant generously over the piece, wiping away excess with a clean cloth. A fine grit sandpaper can be used to smooth the surface once the piece is completely dry. Remove any dust with another clean cloth.

Painting/Staining

There are many available paint and stain styles and colors. Consider the space in which you plan to use the piece when determining which product is best suited. Some products are easier to apply, less likely to show mistakes and/or more likely to withstand use. Choosing the best new paint or stain for your piece may be harder than the actual application!

Manufacturers may suggest the best type brush for application. Once applied, allow to dry before applying another layer as needed.

Finishing

This step protects your newly painted piece, offering a safety layer from moisture or damage. As with the last step, there are a number of options — lacquer, oil and polyurethane, to name a few.

Your selected finish can be applied with a brush or cotton rag. Allow to dry, and apply another layer, if desired.

While refinishing furniture is less expensive than buying new, it will cost you in time. However, if you have a weekend to spare, it is the most cost-effective option to giving your space a new look. Upcycling a thrifted piece or making over an existing piece in your home is good for the environment and your wallet! **NOW**

Source: www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-refinish-furniture/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90140efad1a.

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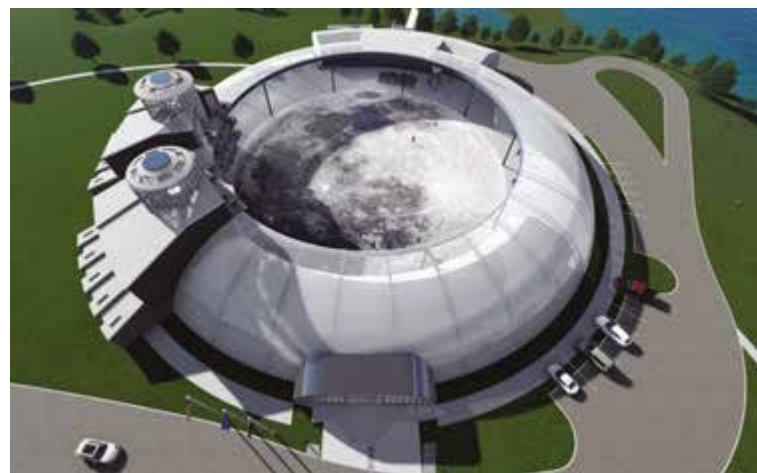
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TravelNOW

Historic Fort to Outer Space

— By Lisa Bell

Many hunters know about Jacksboro, but the small town offers an amazing adventure. From the historic Fort Richardson to the future site of Back to Space's Lunar Landscape Experience, this town northwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth area gives families an opportunity to experience history and nature.

Part of the Texas Forts Trail, the restored fort housed at Fort Richardson State Park carries a long history ranging from the mid-1800s to 1940s and beyond. A National Historic Landmark since 1964, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acquired the property in 1968. Since then, the park expanded to over 450 acres, and several of the 55 original buildings dot the landscape as restored pieces of history. Visitors may arrange guided tours Tuesday through Friday, but on the weekends, the park opens the buildings with rangers available during self-guided tours.

In November, historical re-enactors take over Fort Richardson, presenting an authentic experience of the Civil War.

Visitors pay only the standard entrance fee and get to see how soldiers lived at the fort during the 1800s.

Besides the historical site, ample day-use spaces provide spots for picnics, including a playground and covered pavilion. Rustic cabins and campsites enable visitors to enjoy a full weekend of hiking, biking, fishing, swimming, paddling and geocaching. With 12 miles of trails, be sure to take one to the Rumbling Springs Area. An underground spring rises to the surface, with the gentle sound of water flowing along the trail. Quarry Lake lies behind headquarters for fishing, and the North Park offers a sandy beach for swimming, fishing, boating and kayaking on beautiful Lake Jacksboro.

Ironically to the historical nature of Fort Richardson, wind turbines dot the horizon overlooking the state park. Jacksboro has never been a stranger to innovation. That represents one reason Danielle Roosa, granddaughter of astronaut Stuart Roosa, chose

the small town for her brainchild of Back to Space's Lunar Landscape. When someone incorrectly identified their favorite astronaut as Lance Armstrong (the cyclist), instead of Neil Armstrong, she resolved to renew education and interest in space exploration.

Delayed because of the pandemic, BTS plans to open near the end of 2022. The Lunar Landscape experience will not only reacquaint kids and adults with historical events, it will also educate them on space travel's current and future exploration.

On 33 acres of land beside Lake Jacksboro, the facility will be a truly immersive experience. Chief Marketing Officer Heather Sisson shared her enthusiasm over this one-of-a-kind destination, describing what will become the new pride of her hometown.

On entering, full sensory virtual reality engulfs visitors, simulating a rocket landing on the moon, and certain to catapult fresh interest in space. In different rooms, the Lunar Landscape will offer game play and multiple exhibits that let each person experience the same thing astronauts did in the past. In a constantly changing environment, families may want to return for a fresh experience more than once or twice.

Beyond the sense of walking on the moon, they also plan to host concerts, festivals and numerous events. With the possibility of lakeside lodging, Lunar Landscape continues working with the city. When finished, Jacksboro truly will become a destination people visit to experience life from the past, present and future.

In the meantime, visit Jacksboro, get acquainted and plan many return trips. You can go camping or stay at one of the hotels, the Richards Ranch, or JRs Chophouse B&B while enjoying the hospitality of this quiet town. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/fort-richardson and www.backtospace.com/lunar-landscape/.

Photo of Back to Space's Lunar Landscape Experience courtesy of Back to Space. Photos of Lake Jacksboro and Fort Richardson by Lisa Bell.



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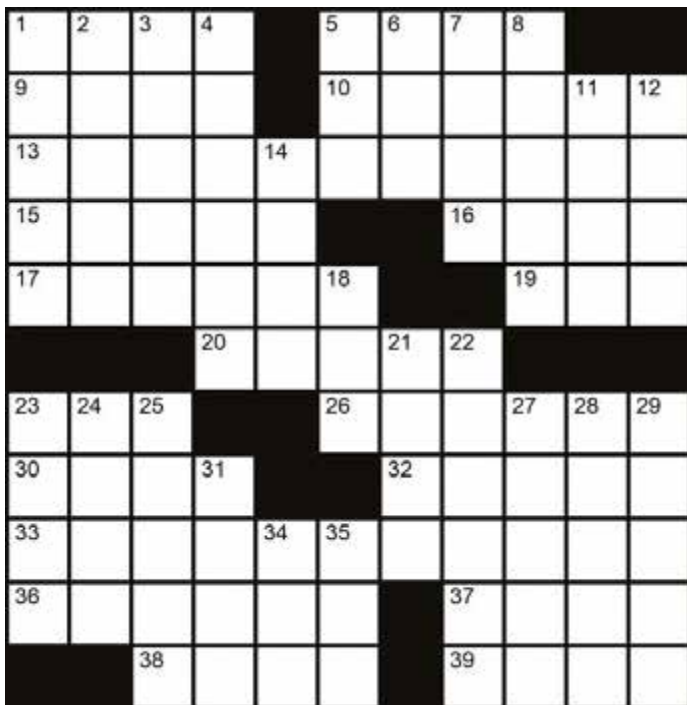
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Across

- 1 Feeling of hunger
- 5 "Four Weddings --- Funeral"
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Director of "Amadeus"
- 13 Unfortunate
- 15 Mournful ring
- 16 Great ideas
- 17 In peril
- 19 Fink
- 20 Coats
- 23 Going
- 26 Old capital on the Vistula
- 30 One way to hydrate in hospital
- 32 The first Mrs. Trump
- 33 A shared characteristic, if common
- 36 Inactive state
- 37 Diamond team
- 38 Kind of year
- 39 Where holes are started

Down

- 1 Arctic garment
- 2 --- you forgetting something?
- 3 It hangs near Chad
- 4 Vampire repellent
- 5 Toward the stern
- 6 A negative
- 7 Street
- 8 Fossil resin
- 11 Egyptian dancing-girl
- 12 Digs of twigs
- 14 "Born Free" lioness
- 18 Fearsome initials
- 21 Emerald Isle
- 22 Learned one
- 23 Chances
- 24 Erode
- 25 Last edition
- 27 --- Holmes, a Tom Cruise ex
- 28 One- --- (basketball defense strategy)
- 29 Merchandise
- 31 Sit for a portrait
- 34 "Mamma" follower
- 35 Web-connection co.

Solutions on page 52

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

Medium

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

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

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Solutions on page 52



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NOVEMBER

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.

11/5-11/6

Waxahachie's Old-Fashioned Singing:
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11/5-11/7

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11/6

Fall Fest:
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11/11

Canvas and Cocktails:
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11/12

Spaghetti Dinner for Daniel's Den:
Eat spaghetti and support emergency and transitional housing for homeless women and families. Adults: \$12; kids under 10: \$6; kids under 3: Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Farley Street Baptist Church, 1116 Brown St.

11/13

Ellis County Veterans Appreciation Ceremony:
Hosted by the Marine Corps League. Free. 10:00 a.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

11/19-11/20

Festival of Trees:
Buy the perfect Christmas tree and benefit Habitat for Humanity. **Friday:** 5:00-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

11/30

Christmas Parade and Community Tree Lighting:
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9	A	R	I	A	10	F	O	R	M	11	A	12
13	R	E	G	R	E	T	T	A	B	L	E	
15	K	N	E	L					16	G	E	M
17	A	T	R	I	S	K			19	R	A	T
					20	C	A	K	E	22		
23	O	F	F					26	K	R	A	K
30	D	R	I	P				32	I	V	A	N
33	D	E	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	O	R	
36	S	T	A	S	I	S		37	N	I	N	E
					36	L	E	A	P		39	T
											E	E

Easy

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

Medium

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

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