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JANUARY 2022

A Lion at Heart

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
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Jack Frost nipping at your nose ...

Here in Texas, we don't see a lot of cold weather, but when we do see it, we do it up big. If we see wintry stuff, it's usually in January or February. And it's usually ice — sometimes, with just enough snow on top to make it *really* dangerous.

The year my brother, Tim, turned 1 was one of those Januaries. Celebrating his first birthday was delayed by an ice storm. It was cold for days. I remember icicles growing on the porch eave. There was one we measured each day to see how much it had grown. The newspaper printed weird pictures of frozen fountains that I cut out and pasted into my scrapbook. We made and ate snowcream. All of that was kind of fun.

But when we went to get presents and cake for Tim's birthday, I realized how dangerous ice can be. I believe it was K-Mart we were trying to get to, and it was up a big hill. We got part way up the hill ... and started sliding back down backwards. Dad got us to the bottom of the hill without crashing, but I only remember him being that upset by a driving challenge one or two other times in my life. Needless to say, we went back home empty handed. We did celebrate Tim's birthday, but days after the fact. He's had other interesting birthdays, but that one stands out in my memory. Let's hope for nothing dramatic this year.

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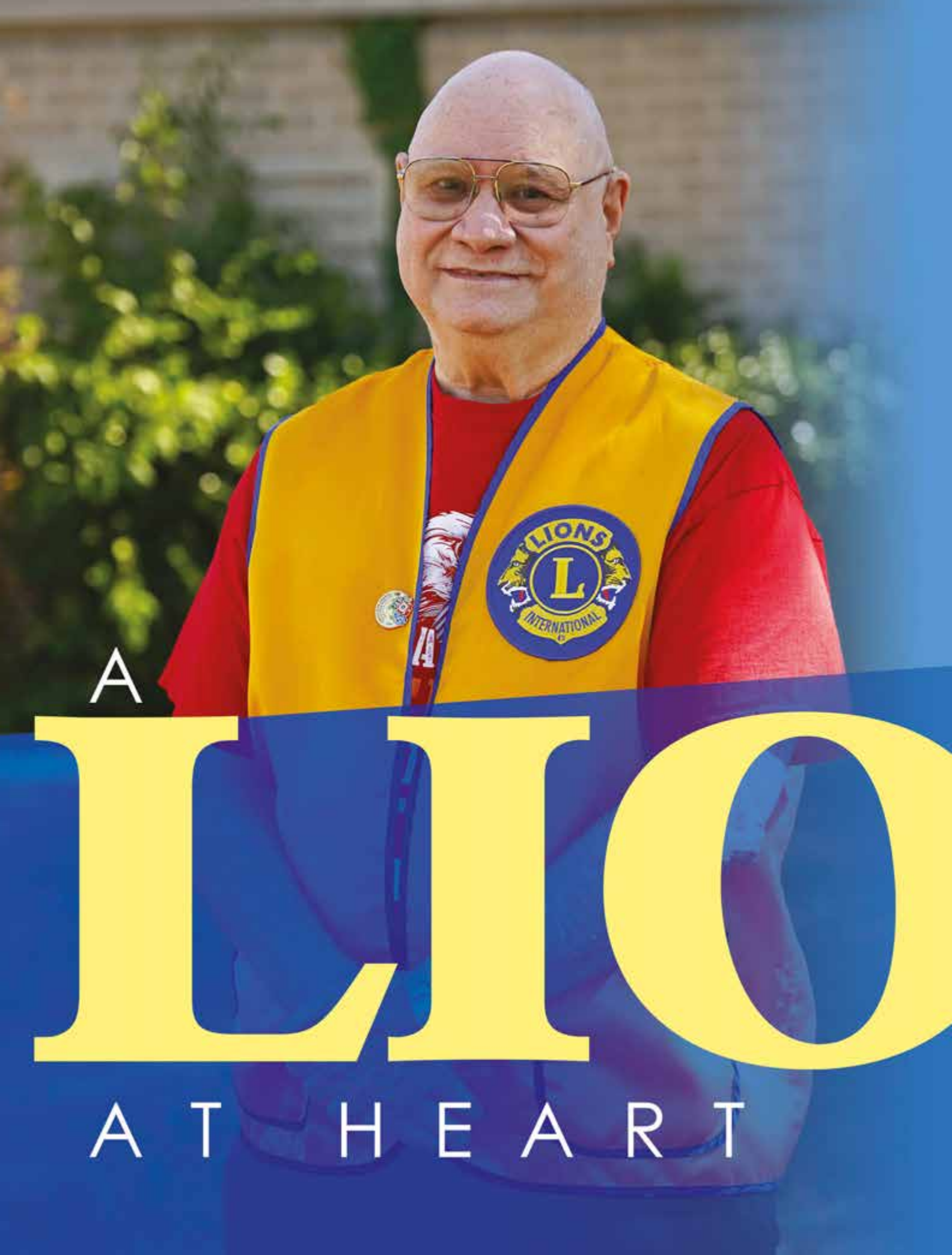
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A

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AT HEART



The Lions Club is known for service to the community, and Bill Dover takes pride in being part of the pack. He's been a member of the Duncanville chapter since 1973 and is still actively involved in seeing to it that good is done in his town.

Bill moved to Duncanville after serving in the military hospital at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri during the Vietnam era. A friend invited him to join the Lions Club. "At the time, this chapter was only two years old. It was an interesting group that joined that year. We called ourselves the Class of '73. A lot of future civic leaders were in that group. Our ringleader was Paul Mack Burnett. Wes Jespersen; Don Cutler; and Jay Davis, a retired Air Force colonel who had flown LBJ, were all part of that group. Bob Lee is the only other one who is still alive. He's in a nursing home now, but he worked for the city for years and was responsible for most of Duncanville's water works."

Known as "Uncle Fuzzy" — because of his full head of hair and bushy beard — until he shaved them off, to the great consternation of his daughter, Bill was a well-known local eye doctor, who still has fans willing to sing his praises for the care they or their loved ones received in his clinic. "In 1949, Helen Keller asked the Lions Club to become the 'knights of the blind,' and Lions Club took up the challenge. As an eye doctor, that project was right up my alley. They've branched out into many other areas of service over the years, but vision is still a major focus. I served on the board for sight and vision for years."

Because of that vision, Duncanville Lions Club maintained a mobile eye clinic, for years, that traveled around the area, doing free eye exams for local children and adults. "This local club has been responsible for more than 2,000 kids having eye exams. We took our mobile screening

— By Adam Walker

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unit to various places in and around Duncanville, coordinating with other Lions Clubs, churches and other groups, until our trailer was demolished by a windshear."

Bill didn't limit his generosity to his work with Lions Club. "In my practice, I never turned anyone away because of money. My practice was mostly 'cash and carry,' but if a family was in need, I'd give them credit, then never put it on the books. I did a lot of things I never took credit for. I'm not bragging. It's just the way I tried to live my life. I grew up poor and worked my way through college. I don't like the term 'pay it forward,' but I think it's important to be responsible and to encourage others to be responsible. Like dropping a pebble in a lake, it makes waves of service, spreading outward. So much good can come about."

Looking back, Bill has witnessed a lot of Lions Club history. "We were a wild and woolly bunch, back in those days. Ladies first joined the Lions Club in 1987. We were the first service club to go co-ed. It was the best move we ever made. If not for our lady Lions, we couldn't accomplish half of what we do. Women quickly moved into leadership positions. Lions really are a cross-section of America. We lost a lot of members in the pandemic, so it's important for us to rebuild our membership. We're an organization whose premise is doing for others. Our motto is We Serve. We're trying to get more young men and women to join, but it's difficult when so many people work so far away from where they live. Our meetings are at noon on Fridays."

Bill is a champion for all things Lions Club. "There is very little that the Lions are involved in that isn't important to





me. Any time there is a disaster, there are three organizations that are there, on the ground, before anyone else — the Baptist Men, the Knights of Columbus and us. We're there, helping people in need, before the Red Cross, before FEMA, before anyone else. We all know each other and rag on each other, but we're there to get stuff done. We run a camp that started as a summer camp for kids with vision problems, but has expanded beyond the summer months and welcomes kids with many other problems. It's all volunteer run, and no child is ever charged a penny."

The Lions have been involved in notable projects right here in Duncanville. "We built the first city swimming pool. We got involved with the annual Fourth of July parade back in 1987 and ran it for several years, when the Chamber of Commerce just didn't have the manpower to keep it going. I was working with the Sandra Meadows tournament even before the Lions Club took it over. It's an invitational women's basketball tournament that really puts Duncanville on the map. Little schools like Notre Dame, UConn and Stanford are there recruiting. Women's sports are important to me. I coached girls' soccer for 22 years. I got teased a lot by other guys when I started. They thought I should be coaching boys' football."

Bill's long life of service has left him with a few rights to brag, and a lot of opinions. "I can't prove it, but I'm willing to bet that the Lions Club is the No. 1 civic organization actually doing things in the community, not just giving money, but being hands on. If we can do it, we do it. No one can be smart enough to agree with everything I do!" **NOW**



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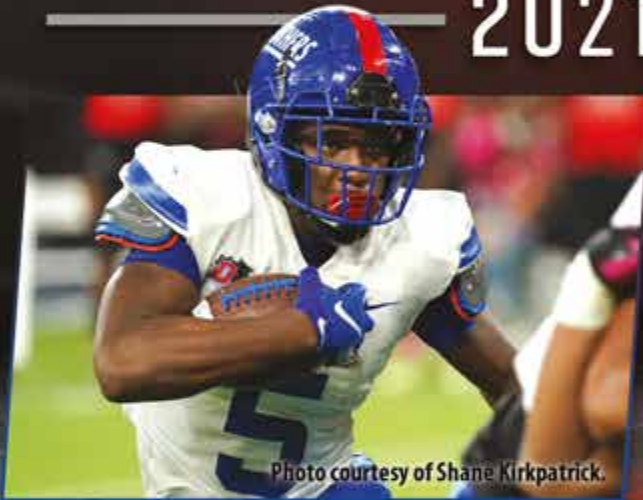


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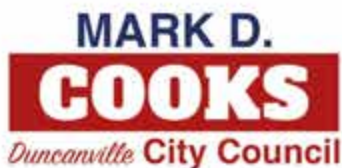
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Ranneisha Johnson





Comforting COVERS

— By Virginia Riddle

The child whimpers, calming down finally in her mom's arms as they lie in the hospital bed. The worried mom relaxes, says a prayer and smiles gently as she feels the colorful, soft blanket's warmth envelop and soothe her child into needed sleep. Needles, medical tests and scans normally fill their days, but moments ago, love and care came through the child's hospital room door in the form of a blanket created by Binky Patrol – North Texas Chapter volunteers. "We call our art 'handmade hugs,'" Theresa Costin, chapter coordinator, said. "It's our joy to bring comfort to children who are dealing with a difficult time in their lives."

The North Texas Chapter is part of the all-volunteer national nonprofit Binky Patrol, which was founded in 1996 by a business owner, Susan Finch. She had noticed a neighborhood homeless man who walked around with a blanket on his head. Another business owner remarked, "We call him Binky because of the blanket on his head." Susan got to know the man by name, and they became friends. He was touched when she named the organization for him, and one day, he donated a dollar saying it was for the babies. "This is the true spirit of Binky Patrol," Theresa remarked. "We make and distribute homemade blankets to children born HIV-positive, drug addicted or with other chronic and terminal illnesses, or children who have been abused, are in foster care or have experienced trauma."

Judy Morton is the assistant coordinator for local volunteer quilters, crocheters and knitters. They gather monthly at a "meet up" on the fourth Friday and fifth Saturday at Ben Franklin Apothecary. A retired educator, Judy still wanted to do something for children when she joined the group. "I started out crocheting around fleece blankets. Eventually, with Theresa's encouragement, I began designing quilt kits

and cutting the pieces,” Judy said. “Our COVID sidewalk meet ups have been memorable. Wonderful volunteers bring about 60-70 finished quilts or tops every month to exchange for more quilt kits.” For Judy, another memorable time was the group’s donation of 100 Christmas quilts to CASA of Ellis County in December 2017 after the chapter’s founding in April of that year. Since then, the chapter has delivered 16,000-plus quilts and blankets to area hospitals and other facilities, such as LifePath.org-Early Childhood Intervention, that serve children in need of comfort. “I love that we are women from many areas with varied talents and ideas who get together and share our talents. We’ve learned so much from each other, and these ladies have taught me about quilting,” Judy added.

More volunteers are always welcome, even if they don’t sew, crochet or knit since the ladies are willing to teach skills or show non-sewing volunteers how to create a fleece blanket. Distance isn’t a deterrent either. “We have an ‘Angel Donor’ who moved from the Metroplex to San Antonio,” Theresa explained. “She ships blanket making supplies and blankets she knits and crochets.” A Californian ships her “stash of kid fabrics.” There are also non-crafting jobs such as delivering, sorting, cutting and counting. A native of Amarillo, Texas, who raised her children while living in Dumas, Texas, Judy and her husband, Darwin, moved to the Metroplex to be nearer their children and grandchildren. “I love the people here and all the wonderful places to shop. I have taught some of my granddaughters to crochet and sew quilts. They have made a few items for Binky Patrol,” she said.

Having been a longtime crafter, Judy enjoys crocheting, knitting, cross-stitching, hand embroidery, machine embroidery and quilting. She explained, “I love starting with an idea and watching it come to fruition. It’s so gratifying to see the beautiful quilt tops made by these ladies that began as an idea in my mind.” And area children who need and love the “handmade hugs” will continue to be comforted by Binky Patrol blankets. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: To learn more, visit www.BPNorthTexas.org or Binky Patrol Dallas Metroplex on Facebook.



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—TALES OF TEXAS—

HERE AFTER

HEE HAW

— By Angel Morris



Photos courtesy of LuLu Roman Music.

If you remember the American variety TV show, Hee Haw, you may also recall one of its stars, Dallas native LuLu Roman. While some of the show's original cast members have moved on to that Kornfield Kounty in the sky, LuLu is still performing and sharing her unique life story — which began in an orphanage in Texas.

Born May 6, 1946, “LuLu” rose to fame during *Hee Haw*’s run from 1968-1995 after being brought to the attention of the show’s producer by the soon-to-be show’s co-host, Buck Owens. Lulu recalled the audition trip to Los Angeles — and that comedy legend Carol Burnett was her first star encounter at CBS Studios. “The producers had told Buck they were looking for a cast that included one gorgeous blonde and brunette, one boy- and girl-next-door type and a fat dumb man and woman. Buck yelled, ‘I’ve got your fat girl! She’s a dancer in Dallas!’ And unbelievably, at the time, I was — all 300 lbs. of me!”

LuLu’s time on the show, and her life before it, were filled with highs and lows that began in Buckner Baptist Children’s Home in Dallas. Born with a thyroid dysfunction, LuLu

expressed that her weight problem resulted in her being teased by her peers and prevented her from being adopted.

“In retrospect, there was nothing funny about being born in a home for unwed mothers, or at the age of 4 being deposited at the orphanage. And so, began the story of little Bertha Louise Hable, who would become famous for making people laugh,” LuLu explained.

Dallas resident Sue Hemric grew up in the children’s home with LuLu. “She lived in the same dormitory as my sister, and they pulled some funny pranks there,” Sue recalled. “I would see her sitting on the outdoor benches where she’d just be singing away. LuLu also brought a lot of laughter to campus.”

Graduating in 1964 from W.W. Samuell High School, LuLu quickly parlayed her humor into a career. Drug addiction in her early 20s, however, caused her to be fired from *Hee Haw*. But a chance encounter with a friend from Buckner’s helped LuLu find her faith. “She took me to Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Dallas. This was a spirit-filled church where everyone seemed to love and accept me. It was there in 1973 where I gave my heart to Jesus,” LuLu recalled.

As a result, LuLu began performing country gospel music and has been recording and touring for more than 40 years. “Years later, seeing her on TV, I was happy that a Buckner kid had made something of themselves,” Sue praised. “She deserved all that success!”

LuLu’s biography on IMDb — the online source for

celebrity data — reports that LuLu agreed to return to *Hee Haw* only if one Christian song would be performed every episode. To fulfill her request, a Christian Barber Shop routine was created, featuring Archie Campbell, Grandpa Jones, Roy Clark and a rotating cast member. After *Hee Haw*'s run ended, Roy reportedly called LuLu his favorite female cast member.

LuLu remains grateful for the program that transformed her from orphan to stardom. "The show was a wonderful time in my life because I had no family to speak of, and we became kind of like a family. We went through marriages, divorces and deaths together — all the things life takes you through in a real family," LuLu admitted. "Everyone involved was a great support to me when I most needed it."

Today, LuLu performs gospel concerts, at women's events and even does some stand-up comedy. Post *Hee Haw* life has found her receiving Christian music's highest honor, the Dove Award, on her way to becoming a member of the Christian Music Gospel Hall of Fame.

In 2019, she joined tour mates Buck Trent, Jana Jae and Misty Rowe on a series of Kornfield Friends reunion concerts — celebrating *Hee Haw*'s 50th anniversary. LuLu also co-authored her biography, *This Is My Story; This Is My Song*.

Readers will find painstaking honesty on an early life marked with abandonment, broken relationships and even police encounters, until LuLu found direction. "Despite all I've experienced and all the bad personal choices I've made, I'm a living example of God's grace," she expressed.

At 75, LuLu resides in Tennessee with her three fur babies, where she enjoys ziplining, crafting jewelry and making homemade candy for friends. "Singing is still my favorite thing to do in life," she noted. "What I get to do in continuing to sing and make people laugh is a privilege and a blessing" **NOW**

Sources:

1. <http://www.luluroman.com>.
2. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0738714/>.
3. @LuluRomanOfficial.



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Zoomed In: Rodney And Carolyn Coston

By Adam Walker

Local Duncanville residents, Rodney and Carolyn Coston, took a short break from busily restocking their booth, Yesterday's Tomorrow, at Knick Knacks to pose for a quick picture. "I've been doing this for eight years," Carolyn reported. "My husband's been doing it for about 20 years. We love being here. The owners are very involved in the community, and the vendors are great people who all enjoy antiques and helping other people find treasures. We do it because we enjoy it. We certainly aren't getting rich!"

Returning to the task at hand, Carolyn carefully unwrapped, cleaned and displayed glassware, bric-a-brac and curios. Rodney worked at carrying in and displaying larger pieces. Christmas shoppers drifted by, exploring what was on offer. And a treasure or two was uncovered.



Zula B. Wylie Library staff participate in the 5K Gobbler Gallup.



Kristi Beaty chauffeurs guests via golf cart at the Duncanville Marching Invitational.



DeSoto City Council members sport their ugliest sweaters!



Cedar Hill High School special education scholar-athletes participate in the Flag Football Skills Competition.



DorothyAnne Dauenhauer and crew work behind the scenes to film the "Best Day Ever" music video.



Author inspiration overflows in Cedar Hill.



Matt Carlson and Jerry Duffield debate the virtues of smoked sausage versus noodles alfredo.



Esposure holds its ribbon cutting with the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce.

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— By Adam Walker

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Jim McDonald has experience in his field. “My main goal is service, and that has been true since I started in insurance in 1965. I have a great staff here in Angela Norris and Jonathan Sosa.”



Jim’s is an independent, self-owned, local small business. “I own the building,” Jim reported. “Some independent agents choose to represent three or four companies. I chose not to go that route. I only represent State Farm, because I think they are the best financial-wise and service-wise. State Farm may not be the cheapest, but I think they are the best. I’m in business to service my customers. This is my career. I like being self-employed. I could have retired at 65, comfortably, in good health, but I chose to stay in the business and keep my doors open for new customers.”

Jim and his team write insurance policies for home and auto. “We write basic liability insurance, required by state law, to pay for damage to the other car when you are at fault. We can also add coverage for vandalism to and theft of your vehicle and collision coverage to cover damage to *your* car if you are in a wreck. Personal injury covers the driver and passengers, because injuries are common in car accidents, and we can add coverage for you if you are hit by an uninsured driver.” They

also write the same kinds of policies for motorcycles. Boats are another type of vehicle they cover. "We insure everything from small rowboats to big motorboats for spending the day out on the lake." Policies for RVs and motor homes are likewise in their wheelhouse.

"I only represent State Farm, because I think they are the best financial-wise and service-wise."

Part of offering good service is keeping up with changes in their customers' lives. "When you trade cars, you need to update your policy. And if you have an accident, it's important to get quick service," Jim explained. "We're here to help you through an accident. We know what needs to be done first, second and third."

Home insurance is another big part of what Jim and his team provide. "State Farm has a Homeowners' Policy that covers damage to your house from Texas weather. Storms, especially hail, can do a lot of damage to your roof. And fires can happen at any time. The only home policy we don't provide is flood insurance. If you live near a lake or river, you have to get a special policy through the State of Texas, but we can refer you, to help you out with how to do that," Jim explained.

"We aren't a high-pressure agency," Angela added. "I've been here with Jim for 21 years, and we don't have a lot of turnover. People like the way Jim takes care of them, and they stay with us."

"I do all the same stuff as Jim and Angela, offer all the same policies," Jonathan explained. "But I can offer those services in both English and Spanish."

"Service is our specialty, for both new and longtime customers," Jim said. "We recommend coverage depending on your needs. We aren't always the cheapest. That's why we have to be the best." **NOW**

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Lake Ridge

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For 13 years the Lake Ridge Charitable Foundation has been helping local charities close their funding gaps through an annual golf tournament. The Lake Ridge Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. The Foundation began as a community golf event to bring neighbors together. It expanded into an outreach from the Lake Ridge neighborhood and grew into a formal non-profit supporting local worthy causes. On November 6th of this year we held our 13th annual golf tournament.

This year, in particular, felt special because it felt like it was reclaiming normalcy. After hosting this year's tournament, it felt as though we were back on mission. So many charities struggled through the last year, and so many didn't make it through 2019 & 2020.

The secret to the success of the tournament and the ability of the Foundation to fulfill its mission are the partners that have joined in on the journey. For several years now, Baylor Scott and White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital of Arlington has partnered with the Foundation as the Title Sponsor of the tournament. The Title Sponsor is the anchor upon which success is built and BSWOSH has certainly been that.

In addition to the Title Sponsor, there were two Premier sponsors this year Bass, Berry & Sims PLC and Diversicare, Inc.

The Platinum Sponsor this year was Joshua Homes. Lafarge Holcim was the Gold Sponsor this year. United Real Estate was the Silver Sponsor. Winston Homes sponsored the breakfast, and United Propane sponsored the lunch.

The Contest Sponsors this year included United Real Estate with closest to the pin for men and HILCO sponsoring Closest to the pin for women. Dial One Johnson sponsored the putting contest. The longest drive contest was sponsored by Scarborough, Medlin & Associates.

The Hole Sponsors for this year include: United Real Estate, Community Management Associates (CMA), Camp Bow Wow, Clark-Patton Insurance, Legend's Custom Homes, Ash Grove Cement and A&A Real Estate.

These sponsors, along with the many golfers that played in this year's tournament, allowed the Lake Ridge Charitable Foundation to provide over \$20,000 in support to local charities. The charities supported this year by the Lake Ridge Charitable Golf Tournament include: All Pro Dads, Bridges Safehouse, Cedar Hill Shares, CHAT and Mission Cedar Hill. Service is indeed its own reward, and the Lake Ridge Foundation is quite honored to have served again this year.





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A young woman with glasses and a striped sweater stands in a kitchen behind a counter. On the counter are a red velvet cake on a stand, a plate of snickerdoodles, and a plate of cookies with M&M's. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a refrigerator with photos.

CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

AUDRA DAVIS

— By Adam Walker

Audra Davis is a seventh-grader who enjoys baking. “It’s something I get to do with my mother, and it makes people happy. I just decided to try it one day and kept going! Growing up watching *The Princess and the Frog* and visiting New Orleans gave me inspiration for baking beignets.”

She likes to find recipes online, with her mother’s guidance. “Cinnamon is my favorite spice! Cinnamon is fun to say, and I love using it when I make snickerdoodles and peach cobbler. Can I talk about my least favorite? Salt is my *least* favorite ingredient to use. I feel like no matter how little I use, I can *always* taste it. Oh and powdered sugar, it’s like glitter. It ends up everywhere!” **NOW**

Red Velvet Cake With Light Cream Cheese Frosting

Cake:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
3 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 tsp. salt
3 cups granulated sugar
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil or canola oil
3 eggs

1 1/2 cups buttermilk
3 tsp. vanilla extract
1 1/2 oz. red food coloring
1/2 cup plain hot coffee prepared
(Don’t skip this ingredient. You won’t taste coffee when it’s cooked.)
1 1/2 tsp. white vinegar

Frosting:

4 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

4 tsp. vanilla extract
6 1/2 cups powdered sugar

- 1. For cake:** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Generously grease and flour 3 8-inch round cake pans; set aside.
- 2.** In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, cocoa powder and salt.
- 3.** In a stand mixer (or using a handheld mixer and a large mixing bowl) combine the sugar and vegetable oil. Then mix in the eggs, buttermilk, vanilla and red food coloring until combined. Stir in the coffee and white vinegar.
- 4.** Add the dry ingredients a little at a time, mixing after each addition. (The batter will be thin.)
- 5.** Pour the batter evenly into each pan. Bake in the middle rack for approximately 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs clinging to it. Do not overbake; it will continue to cook as it cools.
- 6. For frosting:** Beat cream cheese, butter, and heavy whipping cream in a stand mixer until fluffy and combined; add vanilla.

7. Mix in the powdered sugar a little at a time; mix on high speed until creamy and light.
8. Add frosting between each cake layer, then frost the top and outside of the cake. Chill; add another layer of frosting to the outside.

Chocolate Fudge Soft-Batch M&M Cookies

- 1 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour**
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, chopped into tiny pieces
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup light brown sugar, packed
2 large eggs, room temperature
2 Tbsp. whole milk
1 1/2 cups milk chocolate M&M's
1/2 cup milk chocolate chips

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Spray with nonstick spray; set aside.
2. In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt; set aside.
3. In a large, microwave safe bowl, combine the chocolate chips and butter. Heat them on low power for 15 second increments, mixing in between each until butter and chocolate are completely melted and can be whisked smooth. Whisk in vanilla and both sugars. Beat in eggs one at a time; beat in milk.
4. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients; stir to combine. Fold in the M&M's and milk chocolate chips.
5. If the chocolate still seems too hard, add more melted butter until it can be rolled into a ball. Use 1/4 cup to measure the batter.
6. Bake for 16-18 minutes, until the top is shiny. Remove from the oven; add extra M&M's to the top.

Rexy's Favorite Old-fashioned Banana Pudding With Meringue

- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk**
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/8 tsp. salt
6 large egg yolks, reserve egg whites
2 1/2 cups half-and-half
2 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 11-oz. box Nilla Wafers
4 medium bananas, sliced not too thin

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Red Velvet Cake With
Light Cream Cheese Frosting

Meringue:
6 reserved egg whites
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. cream of tartar
8 Tbsp. granulated sugar

- 1.** In a medium-size mixing bowl, whisk together evaporated milk, granulated sugar, flour and salt until dissolved. Warm the evaporated milk mixture in a heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-high heat.
- 2.** Whisk the egg yolks and the half-and-half into the evaporated milk mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, for 10-15 minutes over medium heat until the flour has cooked and the custard has thickened. Remove from heat; whisk in butter and vanilla. Set aside.
- 3.** Layer the bottom and sides of a 7x11-inch oven-safe dish with Nilla wafers. Top with banana slices; cover with 1/2 of the custard. Repeat, ending with custard.
- 4. For meringue:** Whip the egg whites with the vanilla and cream of tartar. Sweeten with the sugar.
- 5.** Whip for 3-5 minutes, or until stiff peaks form. Spread the meringue on top of the banana pudding. Set the oven to broil; toast the top until golden.

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03 ASSIST IN MAKING RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS

An allergy test can help you or your kid make decisions about what to eat and what not to eat.

04 TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Seasonal allergy testing clears up a lot of the confusion.

05 AVOID SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

Allergy testing can help you avoid avoidable dangers and lower your chances of having a severe allergic response.

06 FIND OUT IF YOU'VE OUTGROWN YOUR ALLERGY

It's conceivable that your child's allergies will fade away. Allergy testing, on the other hand, will be necessary to determine if a drug still poses a concern.

07 KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UNRELIABLE ALLERGY TESTS

The unpredictability of a home allergy test might cause undue anxiety and expense. For reliable allergy test results, collaborate with an experienced and board-certified allergist.

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- Virginia Woolf



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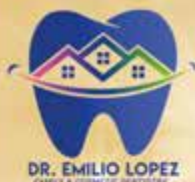
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RAILROAD

— By Virginia Riddle

Floorboards creak, but a visit to the Van Alstyne Historical Museum could only be more enhanced if its walls could really talk. Instead, the museum's all-volunteer staff members enjoy greeting visitors and residents and sharing tales of this railroad town and the surrounding area. Many of the exhibited items are "hands on," enjoyed especially by young visitors.

The museum is just one of many office buildings, churches and private homes that make up the town's historical district and date back more than 100 years to 1873, when the railroad came to this spot and Van Alstyne was founded. The new town was named after Maria Van Alstyne, widow of William Ashley Van Alstyne, a Houston and Texas Central Railway major stockholder. Since the railway bypassed the nearby town of Mantua, many of its residents moved to Van Alstyne, adding to the town's prosperity.

The original train depot was located on North Main. Nine Texas State Historical Markers help tell the town's story in the historical district, and other markers indicate the city's growth outward. A walk through the historical district is enhanced by well-



events. North Park and McKinney Wilson Park offer sports fields and playgrounds, as does Forrest Moore Park, which also features a walking trail, complete with the Texas Historic Bridge, constructed in 1890 as a pin-connected Pratt Pony truss bridge.

With the surrounding gently rolling hills, ranches, proximity to the Metroplex and historical sites, Van Alstyne is a location used by film crews. Some local history was portrayed in the movie, *The Highwayman*, when former Grayson County sheriff, Lee Simmons, was given credit for helping Frank Hamer set up the Bonnie and Clyde ambush.

Outdoor activities abound for all ages, and there are plenty of hospitality options. Horseback riding at area ranches; hiking area trails; and water sports, camping and fishing can be enjoyed at nearby Lake Texoma. There are several bed-and-breakfasts in Van Alstyne, along with plenty of motels. Come experience Van Alstyne's history and hospitality for a day or a relaxing weekend. **NOW**

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.

TOWN

preserved architectural features and bright murals that decorate the old brick walls.

A historical marker stands near Collin McKinney's grave. An area pioneer and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Collin County and the town of McKinney were named after him.

Shopping and dining are draws to the downtown district, and residents in loft apartments bring a vibrancy to the area. City Drug, in continual operation since 1890, with signage dating to mid-century, has an old-fashioned soda fountain. The Sherman-Dallas Interurban's tracks can still be seen running north and south embedded in Preston Street. Van Alstyne is about an hour's drive from the DFW Metroplex, but the Interurban served as affordable transportation for area residents and visitors during the first half of the 20th century. Two interurban cars are being restored.

The downtown is host to the Railcar Farmers Market that is open on Tuesdays from April to October, the annual Fall der All Festival and Halloween trick-or-treating in October and the Christmas parade in December. In downtown, the soothing tones flowing from the fountain in Dorothy Fielder Park are a pleasant background to Music in the Park



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—TALES OF TEXAS—

HERE AFTER

HEE HAW

— By Angel Morris



Photos courtesy of LuLu Roman Music.

If you remember the American variety TV show, Hee Haw, you may also recall one of its stars, Dallas native LuLu Roman. While some of the show's original cast members have moved on to that Kornfield Kounty in the sky, LuLu is still performing and sharing her unique life story — which began in an orphanage in Texas.

Born May 6, 1946, “LuLu” rose to fame during *Hee Haw*’s run from 1968-1995 after being brought to the attention of the show’s producer by the soon-to-be show’s co-host, Buck Owens. LuLu recalled the audition trip to Los Angeles — and that comedy legend Carol Burnett was her first star encounter at CBS Studios. “The producers had told Buck they were looking for a cast that included one gorgeous blonde and brunette, one boy- and girl-next-door type and a fat dumb man and woman. Buck yelled, ‘I’ve got your fat girl! She’s a dancer in Dallas!’ And unbelievably, at the time, I was — all 300 lbs. of me!”

LuLu’s time on the show, and her life before it, were filled with highs and lows that began in Buckner Baptist Children’s Home in Dallas. Born with a thyroid dysfunction, LuLu

expressed that her weight problem resulted in her being teased by her peers and prevented her from being adopted.

“In retrospect, there was nothing funny about being born in a home for unwed mothers, or at the age of 4 being deposited at the orphanage. And so, began the story of little Bertha Louise Hable, who would become famous for making people laugh,” LuLu explained.

Dallas resident Sue Hemric grew up in the children’s home with LuLu. “She lived in the same dormitory as my sister, and they pulled some funny pranks there,” Sue recalled. “I would see her sitting on the outdoor benches where she’d just be singing away. LuLu also brought a lot of laughter to campus.”

Graduating in 1964 from W.W. Samuell High School, LuLu quickly parlayed her humor into a career. Drug addiction in her early 20s, however, caused her to be fired from *Hee Haw*. But a chance encounter with a friend from Buckner’s helped LuLu find her faith. “She took me to Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Dallas. This was a spirit-filled church where everyone seemed to love and accept me. It was there in 1973 where I gave my heart to Jesus,” LuLu recalled.

As a result, LuLu began performing country gospel music and has been recording and touring for more than 40 years. “Years later, seeing her on TV, I was happy that a Buckner kid had made something of themselves,” Sue praised. “She deserved all that success!”

LuLu’s biography on IMDb — the online source for

celebrity data — reports that LuLu agreed to return to *Hee Haw* only if one Christian song would be performed every episode. To fulfill her request, a Christian Barber Shop routine was created, featuring Archie Campbell, Grandpa Jones, Roy Clark and a rotating cast member. After *Hee Haw*'s run ended, Roy reportedly called LuLu his favorite female cast member.

LuLu remains grateful for the program that transformed her from orphan to stardom. "The show was a wonderful time in my life because I had no family to speak of, and we became kind of like a family. We went through marriages, divorces and deaths together — all the things life takes you through in a real family," LuLu admitted. "Everyone involved was a great support to me when I most needed it."

Today, LuLu performs gospel concerts, at women's events and even does some stand-up comedy. Post *Hee Haw* life has found her receiving Christian music's highest honor, the Dove Award, on her way to becoming a member of the Christian Music Gospel Hall of Fame.

In 2019, she joined tour mates Buck Trent, Jana Jae and Misty Rowe on a series of Kornfield Friends reunion concerts — celebrating *Hee Haw*'s 50th anniversary. LuLu also co-authored her biography, *This Is My Story; This Is My Song*.

Readers will find painstaking honesty on an early life marked with abandonment, broken relationships and even police encounters, until LuLu found direction. "Despite all I've experienced and all the bad personal choices I've made, I'm a living example of God's grace," she expressed.

At 75, LuLu resides in Tennessee with her three fur babies, where she enjoys ziplining, crafting jewelry and making homemade candy for friends. "Singing is still my favorite thing to do in life," she noted. "What I get to do in continuing to sing and make people laugh is a privilege and a blessing." **NOW**

Sources:

1. <http://www.luluroman.com>.
2. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0738714/>.
3. @LuluRomanOfficial.



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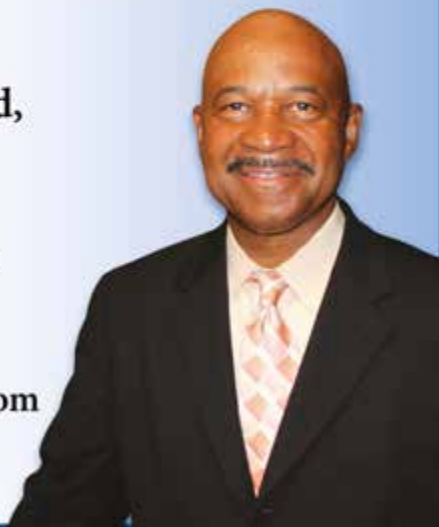
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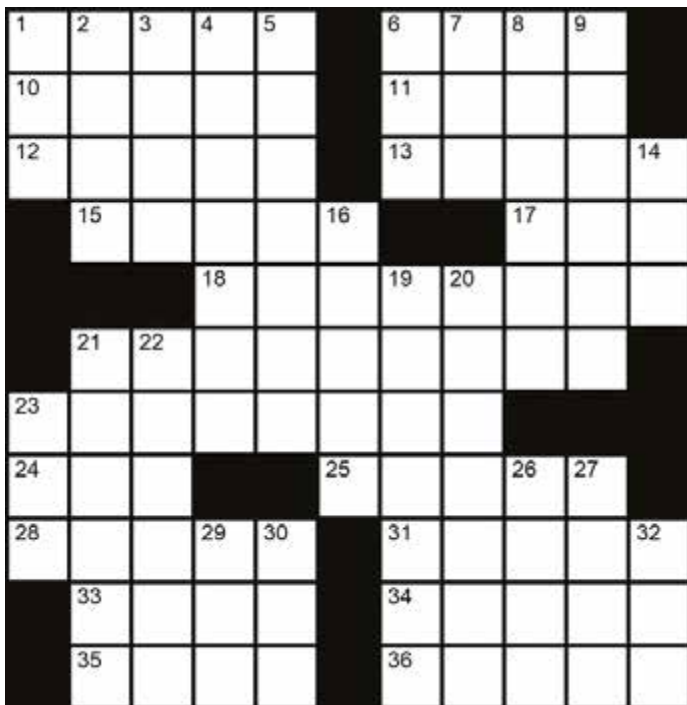
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Across

- 1 Nixon's first veep
- 6 Kitchen king
- 10 Memorable 2011 hurricane
- 11 Dell
- 12 Dolphins' home
- 13 Photographer's request
- 15 Tows
- 17 Gear tooth
- 18 Regular event for sheep
- 21 All future generations
- 23 Napa Valley sight
- 24 D D E's predecessor
- 25 Usher inside
- 28 C B S journalist Lesley ---
- 31 Lot left it
- 33 Crude cartel
- 34 Home of the Golden Hurricane
- 35 Lascivious
- 36 Very expensive

Down

- 1 Goal
- 2 Type of lock?
- 3 Approach
- 4 As a group
- 5 Onerous
- 6 Pharmacy chain
- 7 Amateur radio enthusiast
- 8 Draw out
- 9 Serious offense
- 14 Fabergé creation
- 16 Construe
- 19 Apprehends
- 20 Weather
- 21 Shooting iron
- 22 Recorded, perhaps
- 23 Obsolete technology which could store programs 22 Down
- 26 Between jobs
- 27 Natural skill
- 29 Chop
- 30 Display letters
- 32 Explore

Solutions on page 52

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Medium

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

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

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Solutions on page 52



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1/6

Business on the Hill:

Our morning networking is transforming this year to Business on the Hill. This will be a program focused on referral generation with limited seating and no industry overlap per group. Join us for an information and interest session this month to learn more about the program. 9:30-10:30 a.m., virtual via Zoom. Sign up for an available group or request to be waitlisted at www.cedarhillchamber.org/events/details/business-on-the-hill-01-06-202216436?calendarMonth=2022-01-01.

Networkers Luncheon:

Have lunch, network with other businesses and have a chance to win a door prize. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce at (972) 780-4990 or visit www.duncanvillechamber.org.

1/8

Basics of Budgeting:

Financial workshop series. Light refreshments provided. Free. 9:00-10:00 a.m., physical location, Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, 300 Houston St., Cedar Hill. Virtual Zoom option available at Zoom Meeting Room 876 7081 7040. For more information, visit www.cedarhillchamber.org/events/details/basics-of-budgeting-17114?calendarMonth=2022-01-01.

1/12

Vision Board Party:

Adults, come bring your life goals into focus and have some fun. Free. 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar Hill.

1/14

Community Blood Drive:

Hosted by the city of Cedar Hill. The link to sign up will be posted on the city website closer to the event date. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Cedar Hill Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., Cedar Hill. www.cedarhilltx.com.

1/15

Health and Wellness in the New Year Fair:

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1/18

Résumé Building:

Learn tips and tricks to get you started or to spruce up what you already have. Free. 6:30 p.m. See the Duncanville Public Library webpage for a link to this virtual meeting. www.duncanville.com/library.

1/23

MLK Community Celebration & Peace March:

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1/26

Women Who Read:

Join the newest reading club in Cedar Hill. Free. 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar Hill.

1/31

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	G	N	E	W	6	C	H	E	F	
10	I	R	E	N	E	11	V	A	L	E	
12	M	I	A	M	I	13	S	M	I	L	E
15	D	R	A	G	S	17	C	O	G		
18						19	S	H	E	A	R
21						22	P	O	S	T	E
23	V	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D			
24	H	S	T			25	S	E	E	I	N
28	S	T	A	H	L	31	S	O	D	O	M
33						34	T	U	L	S	A
35	L	E	W	D		36	S	T	E	E	P

Easy

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

Medium

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



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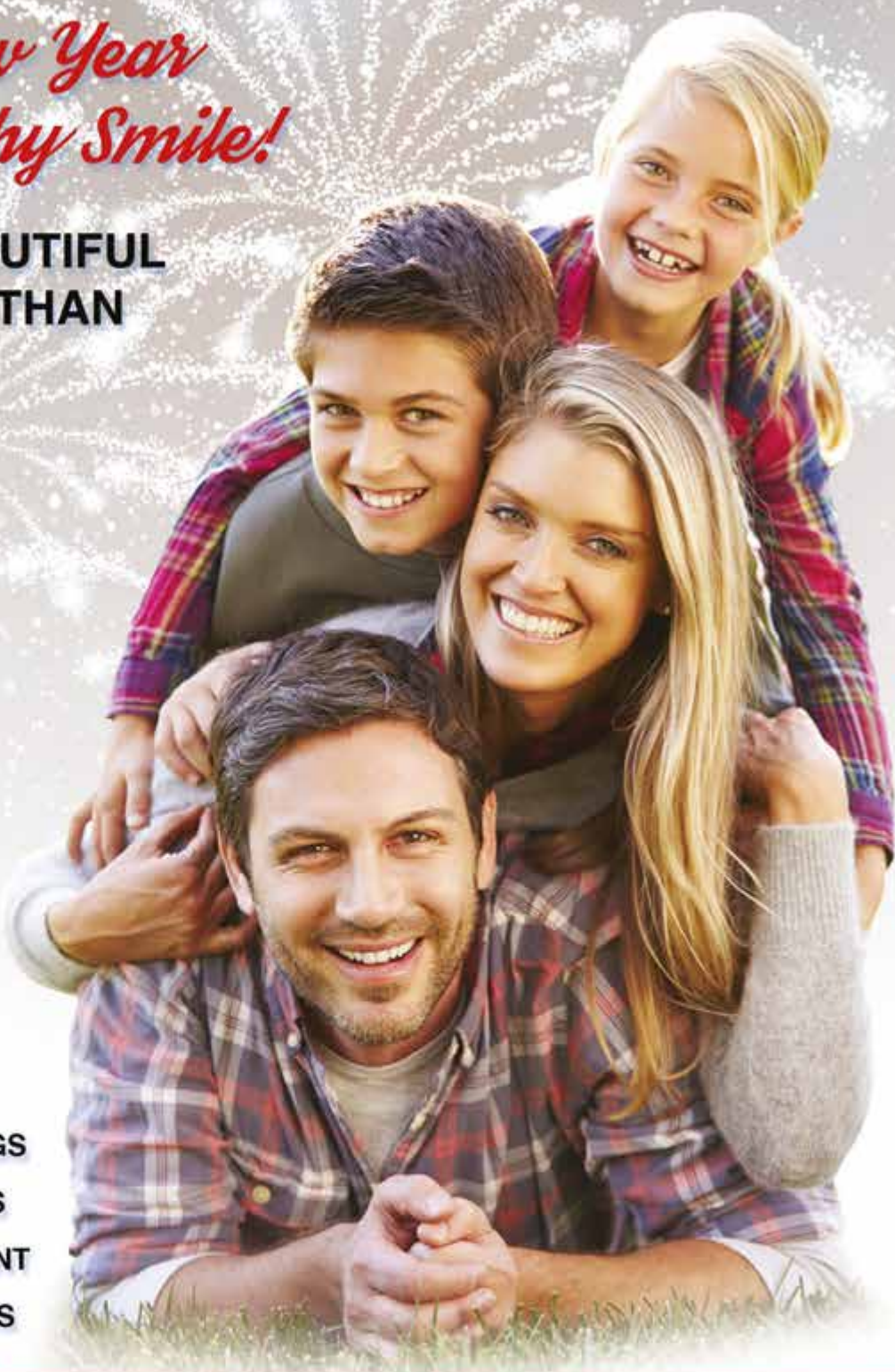
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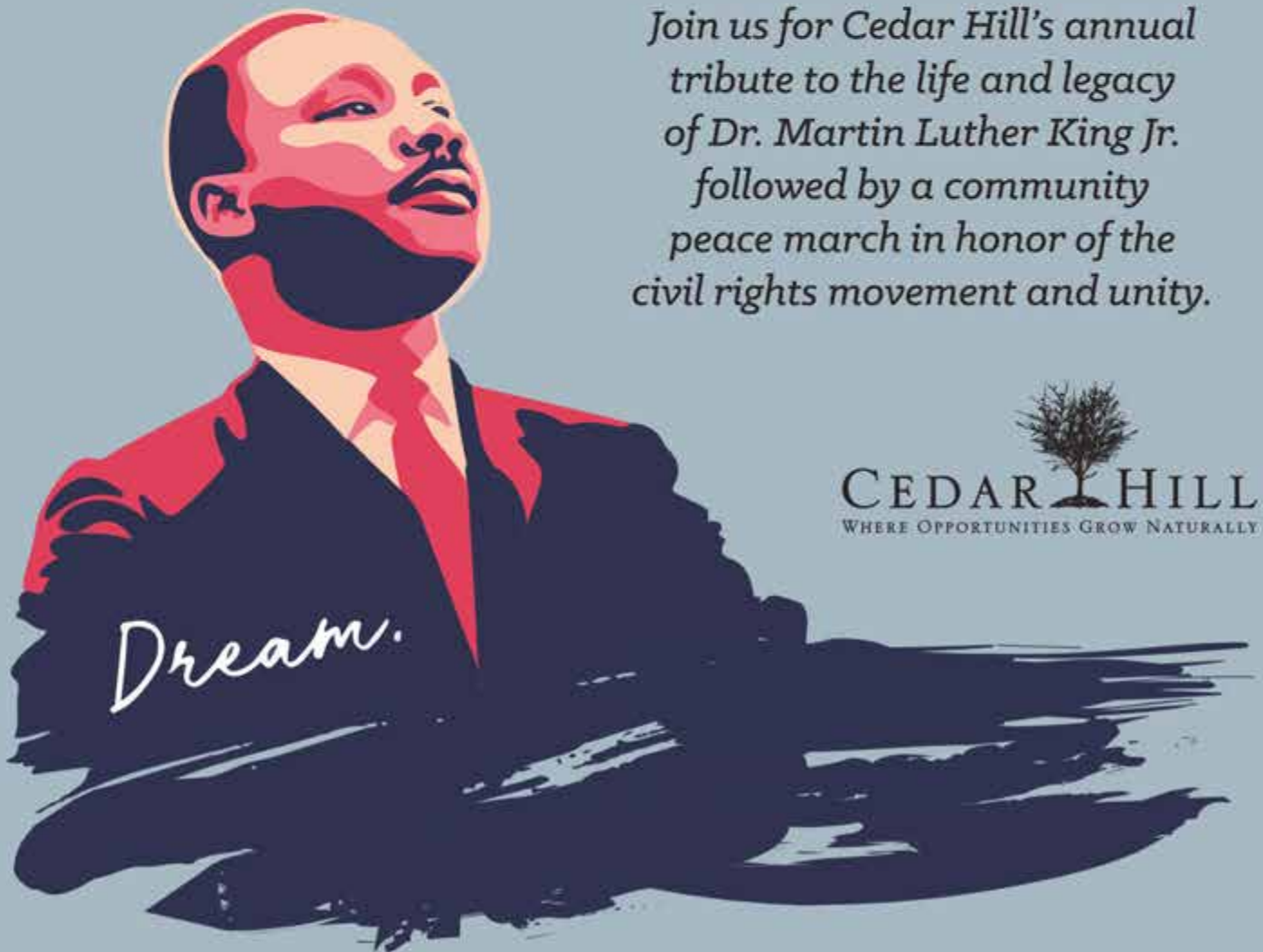
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Cedar Hill
MLK *Celebration & Peace March*

JANUARY 23
3:00 PM

For full event details visit **CEDARHILLTX.COM/MLK**

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