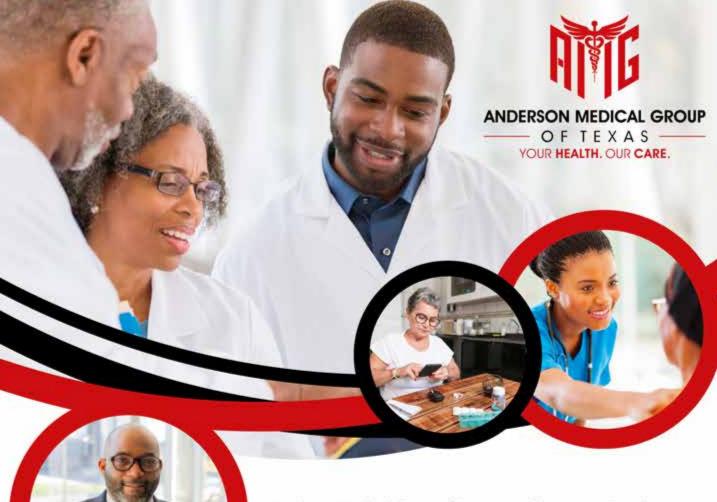




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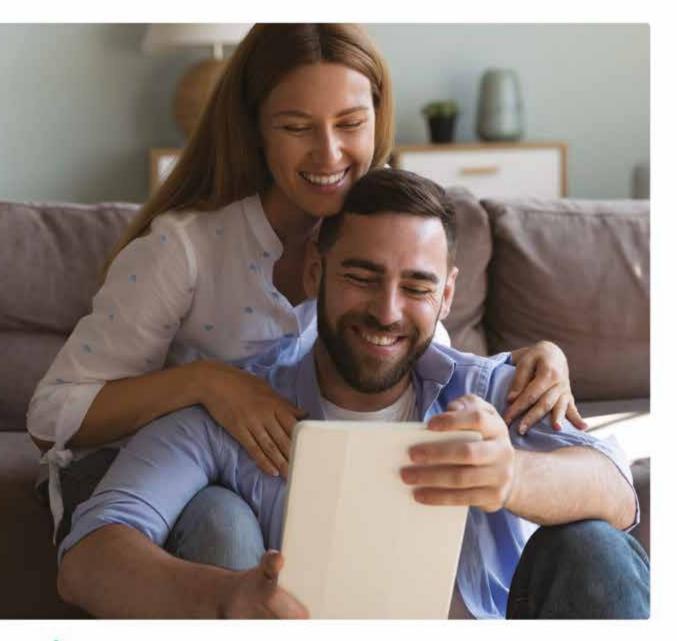


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#### ON THE COVER



Brushes aren't the only tools Richard Sims uses.

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#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

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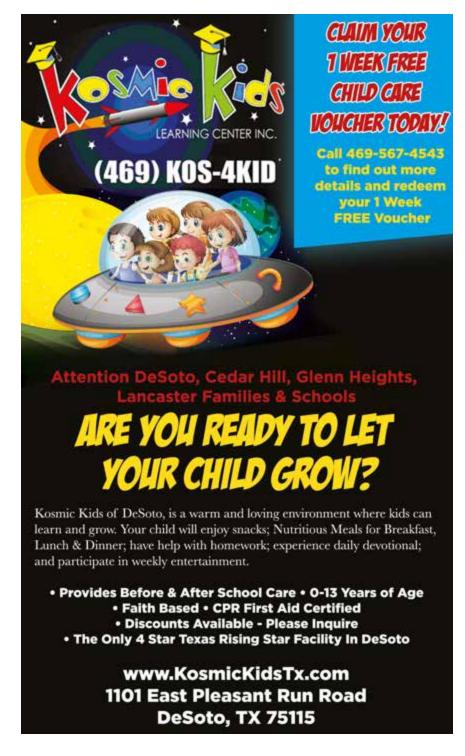
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 283-1170 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.







Adam Walker

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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Hit the reset button ...

That's just one of many idioms for starting over. January is the time of year when we're most focused on new beginnings. We want to re-establish ourselves, financially and otherwise. We return to our roots, reinstate our abandoned plans and seek a fresh start in our relationships. Our vision boards may need to go back to the drawing board for a redesign and remake. We tend to come full circle and get back to basics. Our small businesses and side hustles may need a relaunch to get off the ground.

January is the time to wipe the slate clean and let bygones be bygones. Sometimes, we just need to alter our trajectory. Other times, we may have to abandon old agendas and objectives and rebuild from square one. Sometimes, we have to start from scratch.

When we realize that we've gone down the wrong road, we have to backtrack to get on the right track and hope, this time, we're headed in the right direction. Sometimes, it's best to listen to the band director and take it from the top.

We fall into ruts and patterns of behavior that we know don't work. We look around and say, "Here we go again!" That's why we like the idea of do-overs, restarts and mulligans. Sometimes, we all need a redo. Trying afresh is good. Apologize, evaluate what went wrong and start anew. It's not just our computers and cell phones that need a reboot. We have to refresh the screen for how we look at life, too.

... just don't hit the panic button!

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# Engineering

— By Adam Walker

Art was not Richard Sims' first career, but the seeds were there before he first met his wife, Carol, back in college. "He was always sketching ideas on napkins, really any paper at hand, but it was mostly napkins," she recalled.

"Yes, well, that's sort of what you do as an engineer," Richard admitted.

Richard got his degree as an electrical engineer and worked in his field for 47 years. He worked on communications satellites and both ground-based and orbital telescopes. "We came from Illinois, where I worked for Fermilab, to Texas to work on the Superconducting Super Collider. When that project was canceled, we stayed in Texas. I worked for a semiconductor company for a while and then spent my last seven years at General Dynamics. When I retired, I was looking for something to do, other than fixing the house, so I decided to paint. I do mostly astronomical paintings."

That seems like a natural choice of subject matter, considering all the years he spent designing and troubleshooting the inner workings of the telescopes that captured many of the images that inspire his art. "Seeing those images got me interested in astronomy pictures. If you look at pictures from Hubble, they are as beautiful as anything you can see. I decided that's what I wanted to paint. Engineers do a lot of sketching, but it's not art. It's very right-brain, very exact. Painting uses the other side of the brain. When you're painting, you want to be loose and have that painterly feeling. That's harder for me. I'm still trying to be loose. I like trying





painting with different media. I mostly use acrylics, but I do some work in oils. Recently, I've discovered that I really like pastels for space work. They work really well. Watercolors have their own challenges. They're harder to work with for space art." Richard has also experimented with pencils and colored charcoals for some of his portraits and other non-astronomical work. "Every time you change media, there's a new learning curve," he admitted.

"I got most of my training off the internet. I say that I'm a graduate of YouTube University. Today, you can find examples of how to paint anything, in any medium, on there. The DeSoto Art League used to put on three shows a year — one for the public, one for the members and one just for photography. I was the second VP in charge of organizing those. Now we have a small group, For the Love of Art, who meet every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at DeSoto Presbyterian Church, to support each other and hone our skills."

Richard does much of his work in his upstairs studio, where he keeps the photo references for many of his paintings of famous nebulas like the Crab Nebula, the Pillars of Creation and the Bubble Nebula; works in progress; a 10-year accumulation of paint; and various tools of the trade, both expected and unexpected. Alongside all this you will find paintings his grandchildren have done and gifted to their grandfather.

The winding stairs and hallway up to the studio host a whole gallery of Richard's work. "This painting of the Crab Nebula is a combination of five different satellite views, superimposed.





Each of the colors is a different frequency of light, from infrared to cosmic rays. I used a drafting pen to get the right effect for some of the lines. One of my paintings of the Bubble Nebula was done from a black-andwhite negative, so the lights and darks are reversed." One of his paintings of a galaxy, done in blue, white and tan, was partly done with a spoon. "I still have the mind of an engineer. My mind is locked on trying to make my paintings realistic. That's why I've started and stopped several times on my painting of the Lagoon Nebula."

Richard's paintings have been on display in the DeSoto City Hall atrium and in juried shows. Currently, you will find a number of his paintings on display in the DeSoto Public Library. Richard has taken commissions and has sold some of his works, but his wife lays claim to the one that hangs above the fireplace in the den, where Richard has his second art space. "He painted that one in 2013. When I saw it, I said. 'Don't ever sell that one to anyone. That one's mine!" Carol beamed.

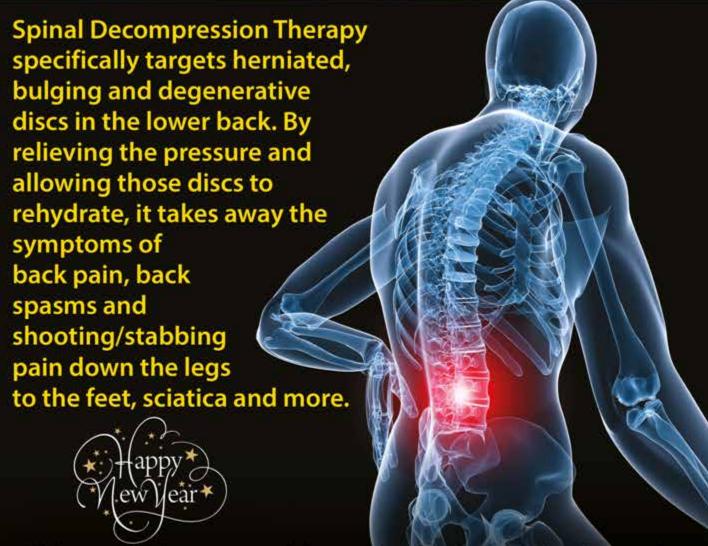
Richard has experimented with other subject matter, like a couple on a bench beneath the Milky Way, desert scenes, faces of his grandchildren and others, a family of wolves, a canoe on a river at sunset, abstracts and fireworks over the Dallas skyline. "I used a pizza cutter to get the lines up to the explosions on that one! For the one I call Space Flowers, I blew the paint around with an air gun.

"When I started painting in 2010, a lot of people were in awe and said. 'I can't do that!' But that's the wrong attitude. You just have to start. Do a little every day." NOW





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- By Adam Walker

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You Can Live Again Sea Moss Store, located at the front of the Grow DeSoto Market Place, is where Owner Kertrina Dauway sells a superfood that changed her life. "I lost my

memory to COVID, and sea moss has restored most of my memory," she explained.

Trina, as she is known to family and friends, was a top business consultant in the corporate world. "I was also a brand ambassador for American Express." Then COVID struck. "I was down for three weeks. I was scared to sleep, because I didn't think I would wake up again." The experience left her with stroke-like symptoms. "I couldn't walk without being exhausted. I developed a stutter. I couldn't remember details for my accounts. I couldn't remember my kids' past experiences and events," she recalled.

"Here I was, a corporate girl, but I couldn't remember a lot of my business knowledge. It hurts your ego. I am also a professional singer, but I couldn't remember my lyrics. I was raised to believe that articulation is important, and I couldn't even talk without stuttering!"

Trina was at a loss for how to help herself, and willing to try anything natural to get back on her feet. That's when her nephew called from Atlanta. "He was all excited. He said,

'Aunt Trina, you've got to try this sea moss.' He brought me some. By the seventh day, I noticed that I wasn't stuttering anymore. My memory started coming back. It's really beautiful to be able to remember your past! It's important to understand how important getting myself back was. By the grace of God, I got there."

#### TRINA SELLS HER SEA MOSS AS A GEL, IN DRINKS, AS POPSICLES AND AS A SKIN BUTTER TOPICAL FOR DRY SKIN.

Sea moss is considered a superfood because of its high concentration of vitamins and minerals. "It's a powerful plant," Trina explained. "It contains vitamins A, K, B-12, B-2, magnesium, potassium, calcium, iron, zinc, iodine, 92 to 102 minerals ... This is the only super plant that provides so many vitamins and minerals. The sea moss I sell is wild crafted Irish sea moss also known as *chondrus crispus*, so you can be sure of its quality. Certain viruses deplete minerals from your body. Sea moss puts those minerals back, so it helps with strengthening a weak immune system. Dieters find it helps control their appetite. Some of my customers report losing six to seven pounds a week. Also, athletes like the boost to their energy sea moss gives during their workouts. I get a lot of boxers in here. Weightlifters and bodybuilders talk about strength gains. People of all ages feel more energy."

Trina sells her sea moss as a gel, in drinks, as popsicles and as a skin butter topical for dry skin. She blends the sea moss with several different popular natural flavors, offering an extensive menu of options from peach cobbler to mango, from tropical to elderberry.

"It's important to understand the value of implementing this in your life. It's not a be all and end all, but it's something you should consider. It's important to address the cause of a problem, not just the effect. It helped me, so I want to help others." NOW







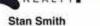


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#### **Zoomed In:** Tyree Layton

By Adam Walker

Tyree Layton proudly showed off his artwork on display at Waterford Oaks Elementary School. This was his first time showing his art in an art show. "Mr. Kelly, my art teacher, organized it. I hadn't done anything like that before. I didn't win a prize, but it was something new and exciting!" Tyree exclaimed. "I really like to paint and draw. I like Mr. Kelly's art class because there's a lot of paint and exciting stuff to do. I like to be able to express myself. The art show was up for, like, weeks!" he explained.

Tyree hones his skills away from school, as well. "I like to draw every day at home, to practice — especially cartoons. My favorite cartoon to draw is Sonic the Hedgehog."

#### **Around Town**



Felicia Frazier of Chocolate MINT and DeSoto ISD Superintendent Dr. Usamah Rodgers kick off the Superintendent's Annual Toy Drive to benefit their Christmas Candyland event.



Linda, Billy and Mike Mason dress up to celebrate Country Day on the Hill.



The IBOC congregation celebrates its veterans.



Luis Govea helps his community by ringing a bell for the Salvation Army.



Duncanville Parks and Rec helps ring in the season.



Thai Binh Ho and Jessica Nguyen put on a free community feast for Thanksgiving.



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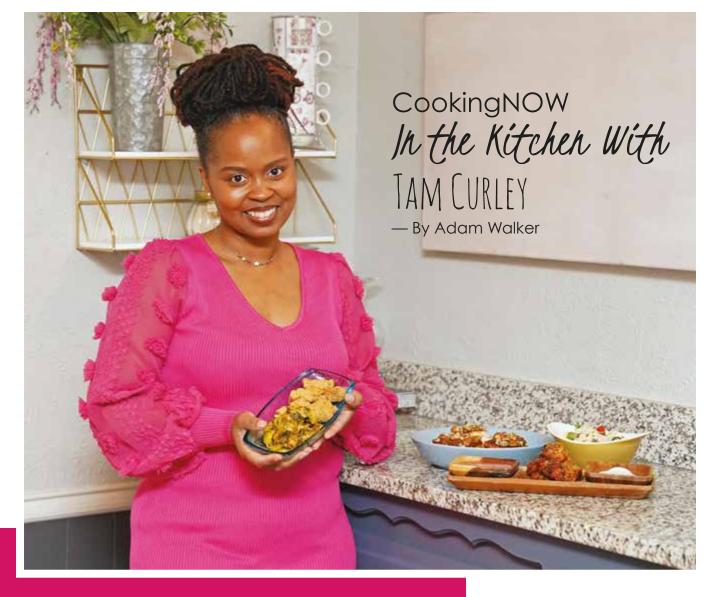


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Tam Curley looks at cooking as an art form that allows her to create. "It's therapeutic for me as well. I learned how to cook watching my grandmother and helping her at times. Growing up in the South influenced my cooking somewhat, but as I got older and stopped eating pork and a lot of beef, I learned to make Southern meals without the pork.

"I do a lot of inventing in the kitchen — for instance, the Peach Cinnamon Biscuits With Pecans. I recall craving peach cobbler, but I had never made peach cobbler and figured it would be difficult and timeconsuming. So, I tried something new with peaches and biscuits. In the end, I was able to settle my craving for peach cobbler." NOW

#### **Stuffed Bell Peppers**

2 cups water Drop olive oil 1 cup Jasmine rice 8-oz. ground turkey meat Pink Himalayan salt, to taste Onion powder, to taste Garlic powder, to taste Smoked paprika, to taste

- I tsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 cup stewed tomatoes
- I cup spinach, chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded (divided use)
- 3 bell peppers, halved and deseeded
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- **2.** In the water, add a drop of olive oil; cook

the rice on medium for 10 minutes. Rinse with cool water and drain.

- **3.** Season the ground turkey with the next 5 ingredients, mixing well.
- 4. In a bowl, combine the turkey, rice, stewed tomatoes, spinach, cilantro and 1 cup of mozzarella cheese.
- **5.** Stuff each bell pepper half with the turkey mixture, adding a modest amount of mozzarella cheese to the top. Cover each half in foil; place in a deep glass baking pan, adding water to the bottom of the pan. Cook for 30-45 minutes.

#### **Smoked Turkey Sausage** Pasta Salad

1 16-oz. box rotini pasta 6 cups water Few drops olive oil (divided use) I cup smoked turkey sausages, cut up 1 2.25-oz. can sliced black olives 1/2 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, sliced 1/2 cup red onion, chopped

- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded1 to 1 1/2 cups creamy Caesar salad dressing
- 2-3 slices Swiss cheese, cut into squares (optional)
- **1.** Boil the rotini pasta in the 6 cups of water with a few drops of olive oil on high for 10-15 minutes. Drain the water from the pasta; rinse in cold water.
- **2.** Brown the sausages in a few drops of olive oil, ensuring they do not stick to the pan.
- **3.** Combine all of the ingredients in a glass bowl; toss and serve hot or cold.

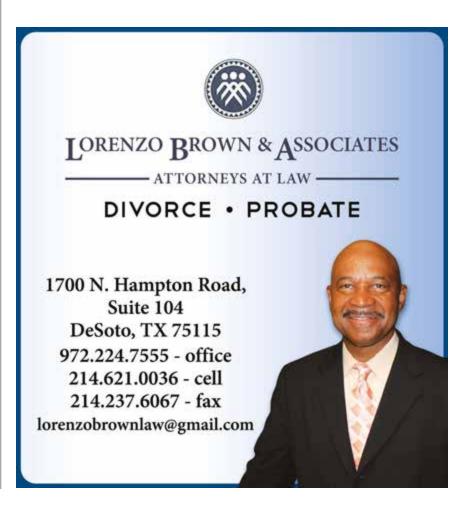
#### **Cheesecake Dessert Cups**

- 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
   cup pure cane confectioners' sugar
   1/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
   1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
   1 tsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice
   1 12-oz. pkg. fresh strawberries
   1/4 cup brown sugar (divided use)
   2 cups cinnamon or honey flavored graham cracker crumbs
- **I.** In a mixing bowl, whisk the cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, condensed milk, vanilla extract and lemon juice on high speed until smooth and creamy.
- **2.** In a saucepan, cook the strawberries and brown sugar, mashing gently with a whisk until it looks like a strawberry sauce with lumps of strawberries.
- **3.** Take 4-6 small serving cups or bowls, and fill them halfway with graham cracker crumbs. Add 1/3 to 1/2 cup of the cream cheese filling. Fill the rest of the way with the fruit topping.
- **4.** Chill in the refrigerator for 1-2 hours. Serve cold.

#### Naked Buffalo Chicken Wings

- 1 4-lb. bag frozen chicken wing parts
- 1/2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. pink Himalayan salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
- I cup Sweet Baby Ray's Buffalo Wing Sauce
- **1.** Start your air fryer at 400 F.
- **2.** Rinse the chicken wings; pat them dry with a paper towel. Rub the wings with olive oil, then with the seasonings.
- **3.** Place the seasoned wings in the air fryer on the metal tray. Cook for approximately 45 minutes, flipping a few times.
- 4. Once cooked, place the wings in a







container with a lid; toss the wings in the sauce.

#### **Cheesy Baked Brussels Sprouts**

1 16-oz. bag fresh Brussels sprouts

4 cups water

1/4 tsp. pink Himalayan salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1/4 tsp. onion powder

1/4 tsp. minced garlic 1/4 tsp. olive oil 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

- **1.** In a medium pot, boil the sprouts in the water with the seasonings and olive oil on high until they become softened (15-20 minutes).
- 2. Once softened, drain the water: mash the sprouts with a spoon or fork like you would for mashed potatoes.
- 3. Add the mashed sprouts to a smallmedium glass baking dish. Top evenly with shredded cheese.
- 4. Bake, covered in foil, at 350 F for 20-30 minutes.

brown sugar. Cook on low for about 15 minutes, until the peaches become a puree with a few lumps.

- 2. Pre-heat the oven to 350 F.
- 3. Coat a glass baking pan with butter. Split each biscuit in half (top and bottom. Butter the halves with the remaining 1/2 tsp. butter, sprinkle with cinnamon and remaining brown sugar. Put 1 Tbsp. of the peaches on each of the biscuit halves. Add a sprinkle of pecans; place the tops back on the bottoms of the biscuits. Add a sprinkle of cinnamon and brown sugar to the tops.
- **4.** Place in the oven until light golden brown.

#### **Peach Cinnamon Biscuits** With Pecans

- 1 15-oz. can yellow cling peaches in light syrup
- I tsp. butter, plus extra for greasing (divided use)
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon, plus an extra pinch (divided use)
- 1 tsp. brown sugar (divided use)
- I can flaky biscuits
- I cup pecans, chopped

**1.** In a saucepan, add the peaches, 1/2 tsp. butter, a pinch of cinnamon, and 1/2 tsp.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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- Virginia Woolf



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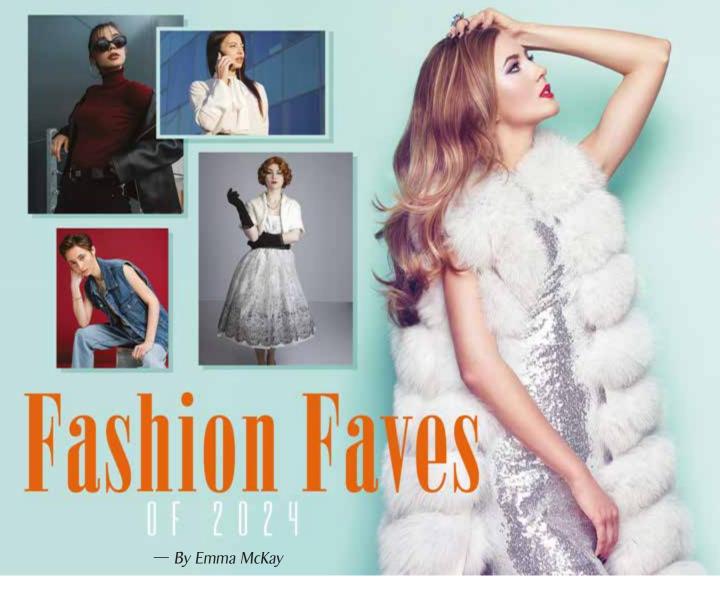
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For many people, personal fashion can be challenging. It's hard to find clothes that make you look and feel good. The fear of your style choices making you stand out in an unpleasant way can be a beast of its own. Due to fashion's cyclical nature, you might already have this winter's trends in your wardrobe.

Burgundy is "in" again this season, which is good news for Aggies fans, whose closets are filled with burgundy's sister shade. This rich, warm color is perfect for the brutal Texas winter. There is no wrong way to wear solid-colored clothing. You could rock an entire outfit of burgundy pieces or add a splash of it here and there to tie the whole look together. To save a bit of money and closet space, try accessorizing with burgundy. Find a good, solid-colored burgundy coat, and you can make any outfit in season.

In a move that harkens back to the retro-futurism art style, metallic silver is having its moment in the wardrobes of fashion icons. Whether it be a shining polyester dress or

reflective chunky shoes, this trend is reminiscent of decadesold depictions of what the 2020s might look like. While silver is a solid color like burgundy, silver works best as the focal point of an outfit. If you are going to wear silver pants, don't pair them with a silver top, otherwise you might come across as a droid from Star Wars. Instead, pair it with a black, dusty rose or soft cream blouse. Silver shoes can be a fun way to make any casual or swanky outfit a bit more out of this world.

Classic prints such as polka-dot and plaid are back. Like with silver clothes, a general rule of thumb for printed fabric is to make it the centerpiece of the outfit. Pairing a polka dot blouse with a plaid skirt could unintentionally turn a casual outfit into a loud eye sore. Instead, the other elements of the ensemble should be solid colors that complement the printed fabric. That way, the eye will naturally gravitate toward the patterned piece, instead of getting lost in the noise. You could even pair your polka dot blouse with your silver heels or pull the burgundy look in with a plaid skirt to double your fashion points.

It's common knowledge in the fashion world that former style trends tend to cycle back into the mainstream eventually. This fashion season pulls items from several different decades back into people's closets.

Strolling in from the 1950s are the classic A-line and swing dresses. With their fitted bodices and flared skirts. these dresses are perfect for those who want to show off their form while still having fun twirling on the dance floor. Accessorize this look with a timeless strand of pearls or a peacoat for warmth.

Dust off the shoulder pads because exaggerated shoulders from the 1980s are officially back. Whether paired with a nice top and slacks or a T-shirt and jeans, a padded blazer makes nearly any outfit board meeting ready.

Double denim is the epitome of recycled fashions. Double denim has had a resurgence in popularity every decade since the 1970s. If you wish to pull this bold look off, you must be willing to commit. Your look should consist of either the same shade of denim or completely contrasting shades — think navy and white.

Oftentimes, it's the accessories that make the outfit shine. This winter, professional neckties and bold neckerchiefs can add the final touches to your outfit. While nothing beats the traditional black tie or a neckerchief in the same shade as your blouse, if you want your outfit to pop, try playing with opposing colors. You can even pull in patterned materials if you want your accessory to be your outfit's centerpiece.

Fashion works as a way of expressing oneself. It can be used to make one fit in or stand out in the crowd. Sometimes, it can be tricky figuring out how to make it work for you, but through constant study and willingness to experiment, you can master the art of fashion. NOW

#### Sources:

double-denim.

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#### **Crossword Puzzle**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11	T	T	T	T		12			+	t
13	T	t	T	T		14	$\vdash$		T	t
15	T	t	t	T	16		17		T	t
		18	T		T			19	1	t
20	21			22	T	23		24	T	t
25	T	t		77	26	$\vdash$	27			
28	t	T	29		30	T	T	T	31	32
33	T	t	T	34		35	$\vdash$		T	t
36	T	$\vdash$	T	$\vdash$		37			T	t
38	+	+	+	$\vdash$		39	+	+	+	+

#### Across

- 1 Territory marker
- Indisputable data
- 11 General meaning
- 12 Alert
- 13 These choristers can be male or female
- 14 Annapurna locale
- 15 "The Lion King" baddies
- 17 Plunge headfirst
- 18 Lab product in "Breaking Bad"
- 19 Involuntary muscular contraction

- 20 Immerse 22 Destroy
- 24 G M T minus 4h
- 25 Bard's before
- 26 Turn at dice 28 Political
- 28 Political patronage
- 30 Tranquil
  33 Broadcasting
- 35 Stand
  - 36 Name
  - 37 Turned off
- ad- 38 Perfume
  - 39 Without emotion

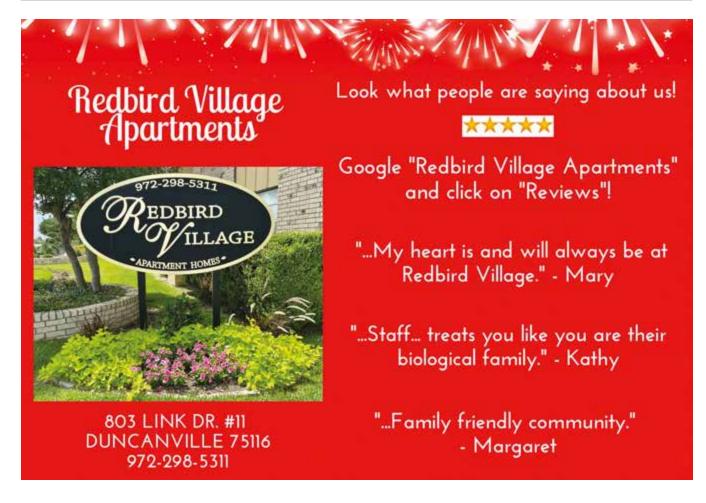
#### Down

- 1 Six-sided state
- 2 Depend
- Meet painter, surreally prone to excess
- 4 Nary a soul
- Not genuine and usually inferior
- 6 Geisha's prop
- 7 Impressed
- 8 Governmental seat, usually
- 9 Alamo commander
- 10 Choose
- 16 Acute

- - state 20 Train stations
    - 21 Humorously sarcastic
    - 23 Samuel Goldwyn's homeland
    - 27 It happens every birthday
    - 29 Ceramicist's furnace
    - 31 Image of a deity
    - 32 Repudiate
    - 34 Soak in liquid

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#### Sudoku Puzzle

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

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- Urgent Care
- Preventative Care
- Weight Loss
- Hormone Pellet Therapy
- Hair Loss Therapy





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#### Saturdays and Sundays Through 1/7

#### **Hometown Holiday** Weekend Celebration:

Come out for various funfor-the-family events every weekend. 12:30-5:30 p.m., Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto.

#### 1/2-1/5

#### Winter Break Camp:

Free. Noon-4:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library. 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

#### 1/12

#### **Community Blood Drive** With CarterBlood Care:

Start the New Year by helping to save lives! 9:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill. Email michelle.ebanks@cedarhilltx.com

for more information.

#### 1/13

#### **Local Author Presentation:**

Featuring inspirational Christian fiction author Iris May. Free. 1:00-3:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

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For students in third-fifth grade. 4:30 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

#### 1/20

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#### 1/27

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Featuring children's author Yolanda Carter and her book Jax and the Mighty 4. Free. 1:00-3:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

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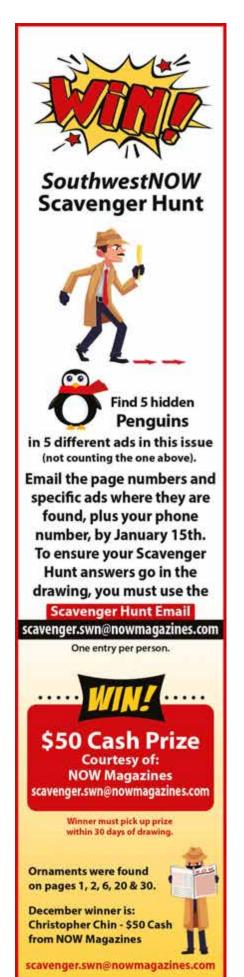




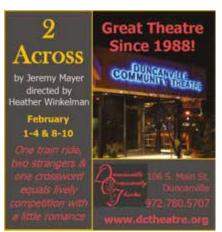




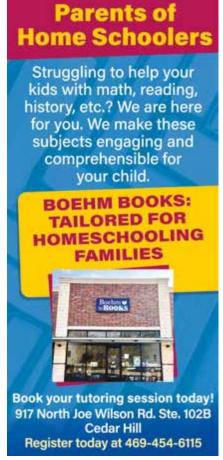


















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"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. A membership might not be necessary if you only need one simple procedure, but if you need sedation and a lot of work, it really pays for itself."

Dr. Allala is a graduate of the Texas A&M School of Dentistry. "When I started there, it was still Baylor. My diploma has both names on it," she recalled. "I specialize in oral surgery, and we're really good at it. I'm nothing without my team. We do everything in dentistry. I like being well rounded. I enjoy being an overachiever, so I'm constantly taking continuing education, keeping up with all the

newest techniques and technology. I'm also a native Spanish speaker. I grew up speaking both languages. Our YouTube videos explaining procedures are available in both English and Spanish."

Dr. Allala is proud of the service they provide at Serenity Advanced Dentistry. "I think we give five-star service. And I know my staff is five-star. We know what works and what doesn't. I know it sounds corny, but this is my life's work. Most of my staff have been with me for years, at different locations around DFW, before I came to Cedar Hill. I met Mariela seven years ago, in Pleasant Grove. It was my first job out of school. Racine has been with me four years. and Jazmine three years, both in Red Oak. Our newest team member is Jessica. She found us three months ago when she emailed me looking for an opportunity to shadow a dentist."

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