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MARCH 2020



Pickle People

Joe Kowalski puts a face on the city's signature event

Serving Seniors

Zeno Pfau and Bill Quick watch out for the city's elders

In the Kitchen With Fatima Dasin

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ON THE COVER

The Pickle Dude juices up the jar of fun in downtown Mansfield this month.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



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Winter's almost over!

This time of year, we yearn for cabin fever to break and for the weather to break out of the bleak. Then birds will break into song, while seedlings prepare to break through the earth. Certainly, kids will break their attendance at school for a week, during which time our economy also experiences a bit of a break.

Enough with the "breaks," you say? I'll give it a break once my taxes are done, my heart is singing and all my goals are met. Until then, I'm full force sober, plowing with words, energy and effort to break up fallow soil in my financial, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual life. While the nights are still long and the mornings still so dark, my meditations are serious. I can't give myself too much of a break, because I'm learning that breaking new ground, though a laborious undertaking, yields new fruits, new flavors, new focus and new forms of fun.

Breaking out of the mold is a joy. Donning spring duds is only part of this season's pleasure. Breaking in new shoes, even new songs, isn't guaranteed to make everyone happy. They say, "It's all in the eyes of the beholder," and I believe it. But beholding my breakthroughs will make me happy.

Well, my taxes are done, and my heart is singing. There's little else I need, but I continue to want pie in the sky. I've broken down my list of wants and needs, only to discover an expansive set of goals requiring more work in that proverbial garden. Good thing cabin fever has broken.

Here's to taking mini-breaks all year long!



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pickle people

— By Sally Fuller

The reasons were always there. People love pickles, parades and St. Patrick's Day, so why it took until 2012 to combine the three is a puzzle perhaps worth pondering. Providentially for Mansfield, a posse of pickle-minded pals stumbled (almost literally) onto the idea, and the planet's only St. Paddy's Day Pickle Parade & Palooza was born.

"There are other pickle parades. Ours is the only one to combine St. Patrick's Day and pickles," said Amanda Kowalski, whose pickled musings over a second margarita in 2011 produced the first Mansfield Pickle Parade on St. Patrick's Day of 2012.

That day, Amanda and 19 other Pickle Queens were lifted onto floats by their husbands or boyfriends — Pickle Protectors — expecting to greet maybe 500 of their closest friends and relatives. Turning onto Main Street, they caught a glimpse of the future as more than 5,000 pickle and St. Patrick's Day enthusiasts packed the road. Attendance has grown every year with 2019 estimates at about 40,000. 2020 promises to be as big.

While the Pickle Queens are unparalleled in their green thrift-store gowns and bright red wigs, the Pickle Protectors and the Pickle Dude — a 6-foot-plus dancing mascot — are indispensable to the success and unbridled fun of the weekend. Just as the Queens, the Protectors and the Dude work hard and play harder.

John Pressley and Bob Kowalski are two Pickle Protectors, a group of "Men in Black" who protect not only the Queens but





also the pickle public. Their original job was helping the Queens on and off the floats and unfurling strings of beads to throw, while keeping the Queens' fans at bay. "The first couple of years, we didn't barricade the whole route, so we had squirt guns or pool noodles just trying to keep people off the Queens. ... People are so excited, they forget there's a moving vehicle right there," Bob shared.

As the party grew, so did the Protectors' role. "The day of our parade, Protectors wear black shirts because everybody is wearing green on St. Patrick's Day, and we want to be identifiable if someone has a question or has an issue, say, they need to find somebody or need some help. We do that," Bob described.

"The Queens are obviously the stars, but the Protectors kind of put a face to the day, as well. John is on stage emceeing, introducing musical acts or reminding people what's going on. Aaron has done some of that also. Joe emcees the pet parade and runs the corn hole tournament. Last year, I emceed the baby parade," Bob said.

No parade is complete without a mascot. Enter the Pickle Dude. Twenty-four-year-old Joe Kowalski (yes, Bob and Amanda's son) literally begged for the job of Pickle Dude. Who could blame him!

"Mom was like, 'We need a Pickle Dude.' She was asking this guy and that guy, and I was like, 'I'll do it! I'll do it! Please let me do it!'" Joe recalled. A former Mansfield High

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School Bell Guard, Joe knew he had what it would take to be the Pickle Dude.

“I was on Bell Guard, and I was goofy. They would run the flags across, and I would just run across the end zone flailing my arms,” he said, laughing. All that arm-flailing was good training for Joe’s destiny as Pickle Dude.

Pickle Dude is the official performer of free-form pickle dancing and other antics and loves his job. “My favorite thing is when I see somebody waving at me, since they can’t see where I’m looking, if they wave a certain style, I’ll wave back the same style. If they’re waving really fast, I’ll wave really fast back at them. When they notice, it’s like a connection that makes them go crazy! It’s awesome!” Joe shared.

All that admiration can make Pickle Dude’s job precarious, as his fans sometimes swarm him. “One time, 20 or 30 kids came and attacked me. They all wanted hugs, which was great! It was adorable, but I was falling over. I could only move from my knees down, so I was falling backwards. ... If I do fall down, it’s very hard to stand back up,” Joe explained.

Joe’s costume was custom-made for his 6-foot-tall stature. After one young fan exclaimed, “I like pickles” and bit Pickle Dude, replacement costumes were purchased. Joe designed his Pickle Dude custom tennis shoes to complete the outfit. The bright yellow high-tops with Pickle Dude emblazoned on the sides are the only pair like them. Like other Mansfield pickle paraphernalia and nomenclature, they’re trademarked.

Keeping the now two-day event affordable and family friendly is at the



heart of the tireless work of the Queens, Protectors and Dude. "We work all year to put a free event on for our community. Where else in the world can a family of two or a family of 10 go for the same price? There's free parking, a free parade, free bands, free kids' area. The only thing it'll cost is if you want to eat something, and nothing stops you from bringing your own food," John shared.

While not a city-run event, Amanda stressed that the city has helped from the beginning and donates to the nonprofit Pickled Mansfield Society (PMS) through the hotel/motel tax. "We could never do it without our wonderful sponsors and hundreds of volunteers," Amanda said. "That's why it's free, because if they didn't do it, we'd have to pay."

Bob added, "It started out as a free event, and they want to keep it going. There's a spirit in Mansfield. I think people are proud that this is in their city, so it keeps growing because people have a stake in it."

"It's a very unique group of people who do this out of love for the community," John pointed out. They demonstrate that love by giving back through organizations, such as the local Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to name a few.

Despite the hard work, the group always has as much fun as the other attendees and has no intention of stopping. "When it's over," John concluded, "you look around, you see all the joy, all the happiness on people's faces, and you go, 'We did that. We didn't do it alone, but we did that.'" **NOW**

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SERVING SENIORS

— By Adam Walker



Zeno Pfau and Bill Quick are a team of crusaders making sure life is a little better for some of society's most vulnerable members. Together, they run the Mansfield Police Department's Senior Citizen Program providing welfare checks and guidance for residents who are 65-plus. Unique in Texas, the program has attracted attention from several municipalities. Zeno said that in 2016, he met with the governor's wife in Austin. She gave him the Vision Award for Wellness from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. "She was very interested in this program, but realized it takes a huge commitment to make it work."



During the welfare check, conducted either monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly by phone, text or email, Zeno or Bill ensure each senior is OK and tend to any questions or concerns. "In addition, it gives the senior, or their family members, a point of contact if they have any question at the city, county, state or federal level for guidance in solving their issues," Zeno said.

He has been drawn to service all his life. His first career was as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy, from 1960 to 1980. Upon retirement, he moved on to his second career as an international



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professional chair umpire. He worked up to being a supervisor and referee for professional tennis matches all over the Western Hemisphere, and around the globe. For the last 11 years, Zeno has focused on volunteering with the Mansfield PD.

"It was in late fall of 2014. I had been volunteering in the Property and Evidence Room when Chief Aaron asked me to develop a seniors' program. The first seniors signed on in November that year," Zeno recalled. "Before long, we had 200 seniors in the program and, currently, we have 255. I worked alone on this until Bill came on board 13 months ago and was certified into the Citizens on Patrol program last month."

Bill spent 36 years as a teacher. He retired in 2012. "Seven years ago, my wife and I moved here from California, because all our grandkids were here. My parents always did volunteer work, and I'm just following their great example," said Bill, who also volunteers at the Mansfield Methodist Hospital information desk one day a week, hosts life groups at his home and serves at Ronald McDonald House through his church.

He went through the 10-week Mansfield Citizens Police Academy before working with the Mansfield Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association to raise funds for the MPD. "After an extended background check, I joined the Volunteers in Police Service, which has more responsibility," Bill said. "After a while at that level, and a third, even more detailed background check, I qualified for the Citizens on Patrol, like Zeno. Mansfield PD really vets us to insure our trustworthiness."





Spending around 35 hours a week checking on seniors' welfare, Zeno has given more than 1,300 hours annually helping seniors resolve any issues they have. "Some have no living family, or they're estranged from their family," he explained. "We do what we can do to ensure their safety."

"There was one lady," Zeno recalled, "who couldn't take care of herself anymore. She had two dogs, and she didn't want to move, but she couldn't always remember to pay her rent, and the landlord was not renewing her lease. She was right on the verge of being evicted. We got her into an independent living facility on a Friday, and that next Monday, the landlord was going to evict her."

"There is no other entity, I can think of, that can step in for those situations," Bill added. "If we weren't here, this senior would have ended up out on the street."

The program also helps seniors communicate with other Mansfield city departments about problems with their homes. Amado and Sharon Benavidez were dealing with his dialysis when a storm destroyed a building on their property. Then, within days, the interior of their home was severely damaged by fire. Zeno got them help through Priscilla Sanchez, the Mansfield city volunteer coordinator, to get their home restored and off a septic system and onto city sewage. "I was distraught about everything," Sharon explained. "But we've been so blessed by this program."

*Editor's Note: If you are interested in this program, please call (817) 276-4724 to schedule an appointment for either Zeno or Bill to come to your residence to sign you up. **NOW***

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— By Melissa Rawlins

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After eight years in business, Chuck and Patty Street have learned how busy the spring-cleaning season keeps Window Genie’s crews. “People are getting back outside, walking around the house, raking leaves, and they’ll start noticing their home needs attention,” Chuck observed.

Middle-income families without time, equipment or, in some cases, courage, can hire ladder-climbing professionals from Window Genie to clean windows and a whole lot more. One call to Window Genie, and arrangements can be made for services from window cleaning and tinting to house washing and gutter clearing, a wise idea before the rainy season hits.

With years of experience, Window Genie’s crews have often been able to point out issues the homeowner may not have



noticed, such as structure damage and rodent invasion. If a homeowner desires other services, like house painting or repair, Chuck can recommend them to many other reputable businesses under the Neighborly family of franchises.

Chuck conducts the majority of the on-site, no-charge, no-obligation estimates, and frequently answers phones while out on the road. Patty helps out tremendously from their home office, sending emails containing estimates or invoices. “He and I make a really good team,” Patty said. “We work well together, beside the fact that he’s the love of my life.”

Married more than 35 years, they moved to Texas from Michigan 20 years ago. Twelve years later, Chuck left his career in regional sales management to open Window Genie with Patty, who also manages a transcription department for a company out of London. By providing highly professional services throughout Mansfield and surrounding areas, Window Genie has grown to the point that the Streets’ daughter will soon take the role of office administrator, while their son-in-law is already their general manager.

But Window Genie's success rests just as much on the shoulders of the knowledgeable and professional, uniformed employees who arrive in their neatly wrapped, purple, Window Genie vehicles. "Our employees are fully trained, polite, courteous and background checked. We are bonded and insured. I have the employee and the homeowner covered," Chuck said confidently.

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Patty agreed. "We have an awesome group of mature, responsible guys working for us," she said. "We got lucky!"

Customer satisfaction is easy to discern by reading Window Genie's excellent online ratings. Their website is a great place to request a quote for all their services, including installation of holiday lights. "Last Christmas, we installed lights for a man who is a disabled veteran. I decided he was getting free service. It was the right thing to do," Chuck said, "and I was honored to do it."

"We give back when we can," Patty said. "We make monthly contributions to Wounded Warrior Project and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, because we have an employee whose son is using the services."

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Zoomed In: Kameryn McGlothlin

By Melissa Rawlins

Poking around Downtown Mansfield during a photo shoot to support her first album, *This Is Who I Am*, 15-year-old rocker, Kameryn McGlothlin, found what she was looking for when she noticed this vibrant green door very near the Farr Best Theater, where she performed her first full concert last month. “Tons of my friends and family members were able to make it out, and even people I had never met,” Kameryn said.

Playing two sets and three instruments — both acoustic and electric guitar, plus piano — Kameryn credits her talented debut to not only her 10-year tenure at Music Place Mansfield, but also full-on support from her parents, Kim and Patrick McGlothlin. “I never could’ve imagined such an amazing turnout, and after the show, I couldn’t help but get a little emotional over it.”



Margaret Sprague, Dustin Strong and Karen and Allen Love take time to celebrate their health.



Sandra Phanourath and her children enjoy Elmer W. Oliver Nature Park.



Poppy and Joanna Pieper entertain each other while their mom waits for a prescription at Super Target.



Diana Decker, a proud mother of an MISD student and MHS PTSA president, greets our new Superintendent Kimberley Cantu at her welcome reception.



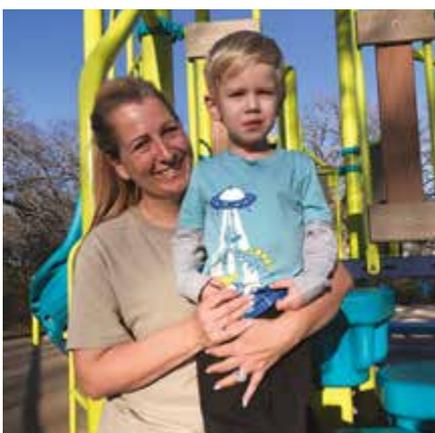
Shelley Green, Maureen Bergschneider and Martha Sotelo revel in Resonance, a women’s conference.



London O'Connell and Hannah Morrell take Queso the goat and Alex the dog for a walk in Katherine Rose Park.



Puppy Mars shops with Cassandra Rodriquez at Bark Out Loud Doggie Boutique and Cafe.



Charlotte Jones takes a much needed sun break with grandson, Graysen, at Julien Feild Park.

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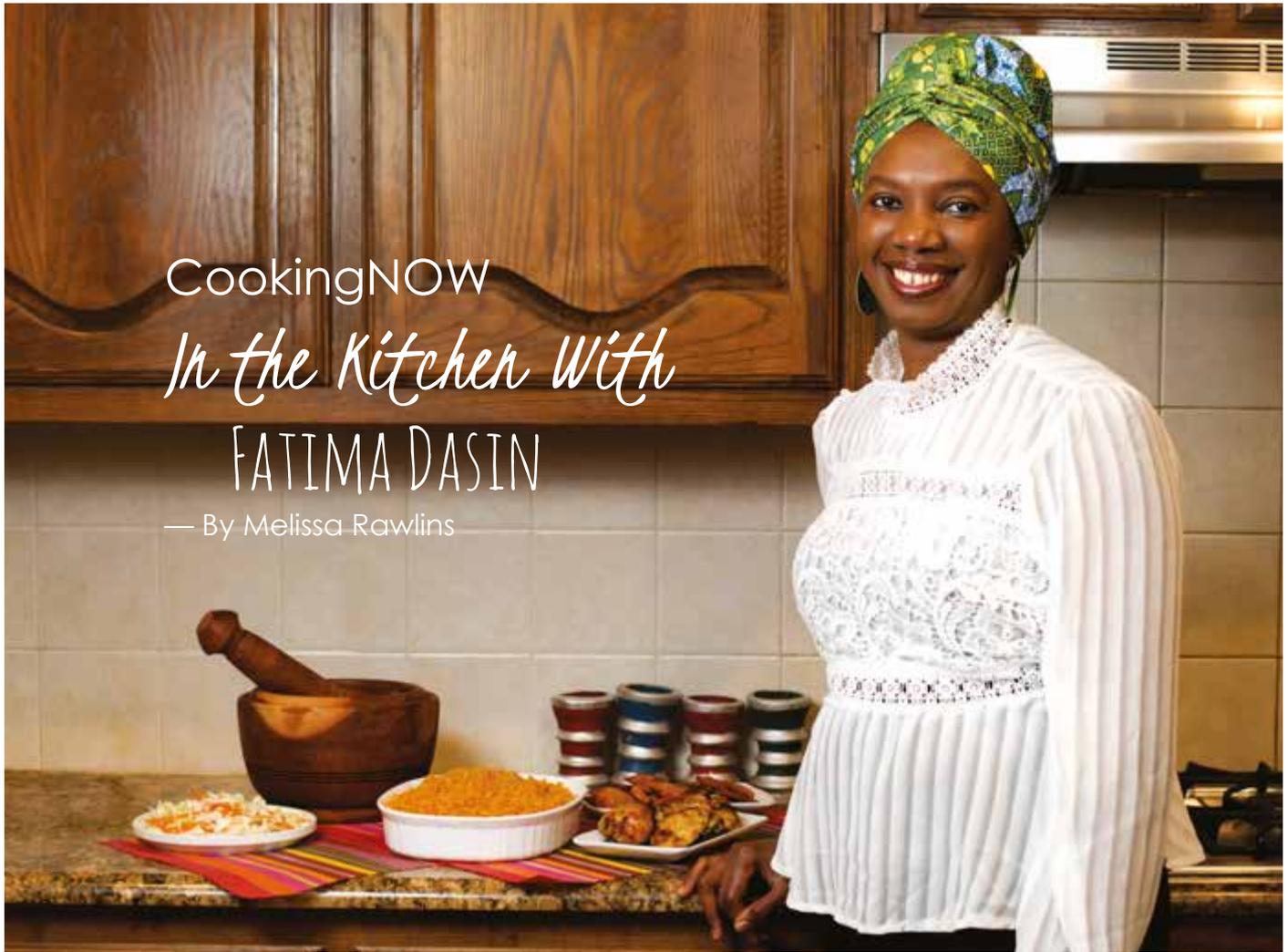
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CookingNOW
In the Kitchen With
FATIMA DASIN

— By Melissa Rawlins

At age 6, Fatima Dasin helped her mother cook in their family home in Nigeria. Her mom taught her to love and respect her ingredients, know her audience and be creative. “She saw cooking as an artistic performance to be enjoyed now, while leaving a lasting memory,” Fatima said.

She cooked her first actual meal during the Ramadan season when she was 16. “I cooked for the whole family, and everyone enjoyed it,” said Fatima, who later joined her husband here. “We love the community and most especially the school district,” she said.

For her husband and children, she prepares couscous, baked salmon with veggies and steamed rice with chicken stew. For the Mansfield community, she shares recipes for food that is quick, easy, delicious, healthy and affordable. **NOW**

Sausage, Shrimp and Quinoa Skillet

- 1 tsp. canola oil**
- 6 oz. chicken andouille sausage**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. chopped onion, pepper and celery blend**
- 1 tsp. minced garlic**
- 1/2 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined**

- 1 tsp. Creole seasoning**
- 3 1/2 cups frozen cooked quinoa**

- 1.** Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add sausage to the pan; cook 5 to 7 minutes, or until browned and cooked through, stirring to crumble.
- 2.** Add vegetables to the pan; cook 3 to 4 minutes, or until tender.
- 3.** Add shrimp and Creole seasoning to sausage mixture; cook 2 to 3 minutes,

stirring occasionally. Stir in quinoa; cook 1 to 2 minutes, or until shrimp is done and quinoa is thoroughly heated.

Goat Meat Pepper Soup

- 1 lb. goat meat**
- 4 cups water**
- Salt, to taste**
- 1 seasoning cube**
- 1 habanera pepper, de-seeded and minced**
- 1 small onion, chopped (divided use)**
- 1 Tbsp. pepper soup spice**
- 1 tsp. red chili flakes**
- 1 tsp. ginger powder**
- 2 tsp. smoked, ground crayfish**
(available in African markets or online)
- 2 tsp. mint leaves, crushed**

- 1.** Cut the goat meat into cutlets. Rinse thoroughly, transfer the meat to a pot. Add water, salt, seasoning cube, habanera peppers and half of the onion. Cook for 30 minutes.
- 2.** Add the pepper soup spice, red chili flakes,

ginger powder, remaining onion, and ground crayfish. Cook for another 10 minutes.

3. Stir in the mint leaves; let simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve hot or warm.

Sorrel Drink (Zobo)

- 1 cup dried sorrel flowers/petals
- 4 cups water
- 2 Tbsp. ginger
- 3 Tbsp. sugar, or 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1 pineapple

1. Rinse the dried sorrel flowers under cold water.
2. In a large pot, add water and sorrel flowers; bring to a boil.
3. Add ginger; allow to boil for 3-5 minutes on low to medium heat. Turn off the flame. Let it steep for 10-15 minutes.
4. Strain; mix in the sugar or honey to taste. Chill in the refrigerator.
5. Garnish with a slice of pineapple.

Spiced Grilled Lamb Chops

- 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/4 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground red pepper
- 8 4-oz. lamb loin chops, trimmed to about 1-inch thick
- Cooking spray
- Lime wedges (optional)

1. Prepare grill.
2. Combine first 6 ingredients in a small bowl. Rub mixture evenly over lamb.
3. Place lamb on a grill rack coated with cooking spray. Grill 4-5 minutes on each side, or until desired degree of doneness.
4. Serve with lime wedges, if desired.

Jollof Rice

Serve with fried plantains, baked chicken or coleslaw.

- 2 medium Roma tomatoes
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and sliced
- 2 medium onions, chopped (divided use)
- 1 lb. parboiled rice
- 4 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 Maggi or Knorr chicken bouillon cubes
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 bay leaves, crumbled
- 3 cloves garlic, minced



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Baked Chicken Breast

2 cups chicken stock
Salt, to taste

1. Blend tomatoes, red bell pepper and half of the onion until the consistency is smooth; set aside.
2. Wash the rice thoroughly; set aside.
3. In a medium-size pot, heat oil. Add the remaining chopped onions; allow to fry for about 5 minutes.
4. Pour in tomato paste; allow to fry for about 10-15 minutes, stirring continuously to avoid burning.
5. Mix together the chicken bouillon, thyme, curry powder, ginger, cayenne pepper, black pepper, bay leaves and garlic. Stir into the hot tomato paste; fry for about 30 minutes.

6. Add chicken stock and salt. Mix; allow to cook for an additional 10 minutes.
7. Add washed rice; reduce heat to low.
8. Cover pot; let rice cook on low heat for about 30 minutes.
9. Once cooked, mix thoroughly to combine ingredients. Cover; let cook for an additional 10 minutes.

Baked Chicken Breast

- 1 qt. water
- 1/4 cup, plus 1 tsp. kosher salt (divided use)
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded to even thickness
- 1 Tbsp. melted butter or olive oil

- 1/2 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika

1. Fill a large bowl with 1 qt. warm water and 1/4 cup kosher salt; stir very well. Add the chicken breasts; brine for 15 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 450 F. Place the chicken breasts in a single layer in a large baking dish. Brush evenly on both sides with the melted butter or olive oil.
3. In a separate small bowl, whisk 1/4 tsp. salt, pepper, garlic powder and paprika until combined. Sprinkle the mixture evenly over the chicken on both sides.
4. Bake for 15-18 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and no longer pink.
5. Remove from oven; loosely tent with aluminum foil. Let the chicken rest for at least 5-10 minutes. Serve warm.

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

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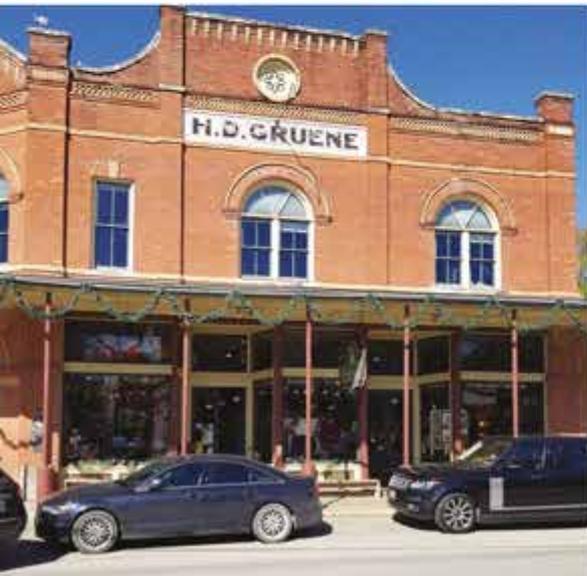
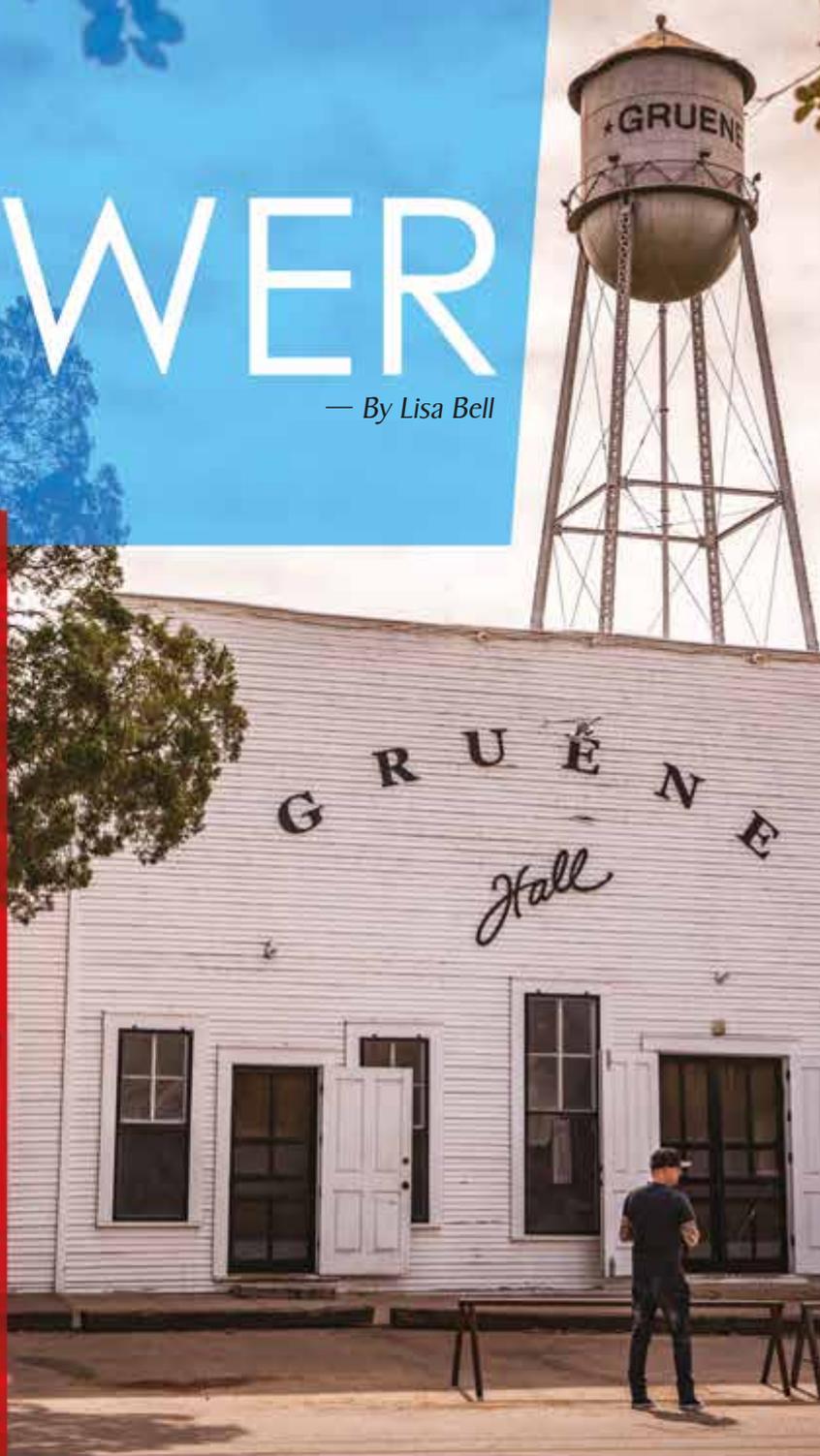
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UNDER THE TOWER

— By Lisa Bell

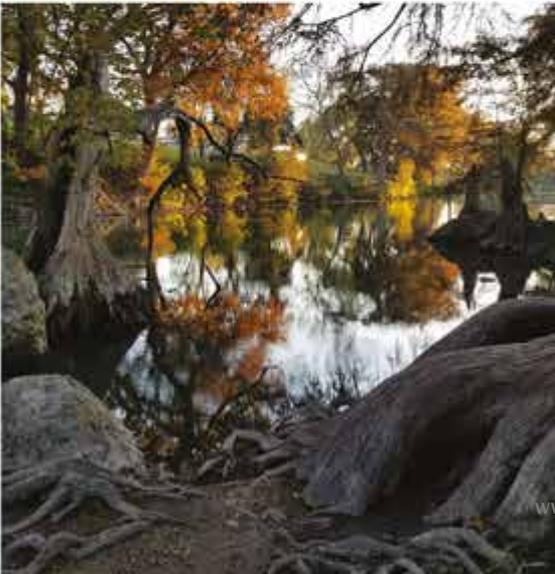
In the shadow of New Braunfels, Texas, the Guadalupe River flows through the small community of Gruene. In the summertime, the town bustles with people floating down the river on inner tubes or in rafts and kayaks. In fact, outfits in Gruene are known for putting in and taking out at the popular recreational spot. Interestingly enough, locals actually choose early spring to board a raft, canoe or kayak and hit the rapids during the off-season.

But floating the river isn't the only thing to do in this small town. And what better time for a romantic walk along the river or enjoying dinner to the gentle rush of water? The atmosphere of Gruene lends itself to relaxation after busy months of holidays and kicking off another year.





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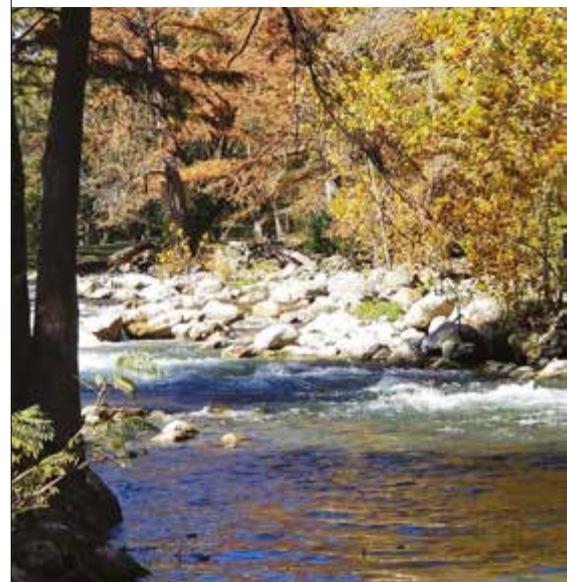
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In the heart of the community, the town square always has something going on. Even during the week, people visit the area for a lazy day of shopping the small stores or sitting beside the river. Many of the local restaurants overlook the Guadalupe. The best known, Gristmill, is the perfect spot to dine. It wasn't always a restaurant, which is what makes it such a notable place. In 1878, the new-fangled, water-wheel wonder appeared — the Gruene Cotton Gin. The community used it until 1922, when all of the wooden parts burned to the ground, leaving only the three-story brick boiler room. A small kitchen occupies a corner of that boiler room today, restored and in operation since 1977. When crowded, live music fills the courtyard, and servers take care of customers waiting for a table.

Speaking of music, Gruene also boasts the oldest continually operating and most famous dance hall in Texas. Gruene Hall, built by Henry D. Gruene in 1878, hosted some of the greatest stars before anyone knew their names. Photos line the walls of many artists who love the spot. It isn't unusual to see children learning to shoot pool or play in the open-air garden beside the hall. Whether you go to see a famous performer (check the schedule online) or listen to someone destined for greatness, don't skip this popular place in Gruene.

The historic square offers antiques, boutiques, an old-fashioned toy store, the old general store and much more. With wineries on the square, you can stop in and relax for a while, or sit under



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big trees and watch people. With all the outdoor areas, children don't have to get bored, and in the middle of the square, you can take a walk down a nature trail.

Stop in The Barn and watch artisans Kyle and Angie White create beautiful pottery on-site. Spend a few minutes or a long time watching the potter at the wheel, spinning up amazing pieces of functional art. The license plates in the floors of many buildings repair holes, while preserving the original wood.

With an abundance of Airbnbs, finding lodging in Gruene is a snap. Many of them also overlook the river, giving visitors a chance to relax and simply sit back for a calm weekend or an entire week.

Should you run out of things to do in Gruene, New Braunfels is a few miles away. During the summer season, Schlitterbahn creates a perfect water playground. In the off-season, their resort makes a great base of operation for your trip to Gruene. Several parks also sit beside the river with grassy areas to play or lie back on a blanket, perhaps enjoying a nice picnic. Be alert for the most beautiful residents. Deer play in abundance, and people don't scare them much.

Filled with history, Gruene is a wonderful place to visit, but not everyone knows about this hidden treasure. Even the bridge across the river is a designated historical landmark. Although you can get there mostly by traveling on I-35, you might want to take backroads and check out some other wonderful sights in the Texas Hill Country. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more, visit www.gruenetexas.com.

Photos by Lisa Bell unless otherwise noted.

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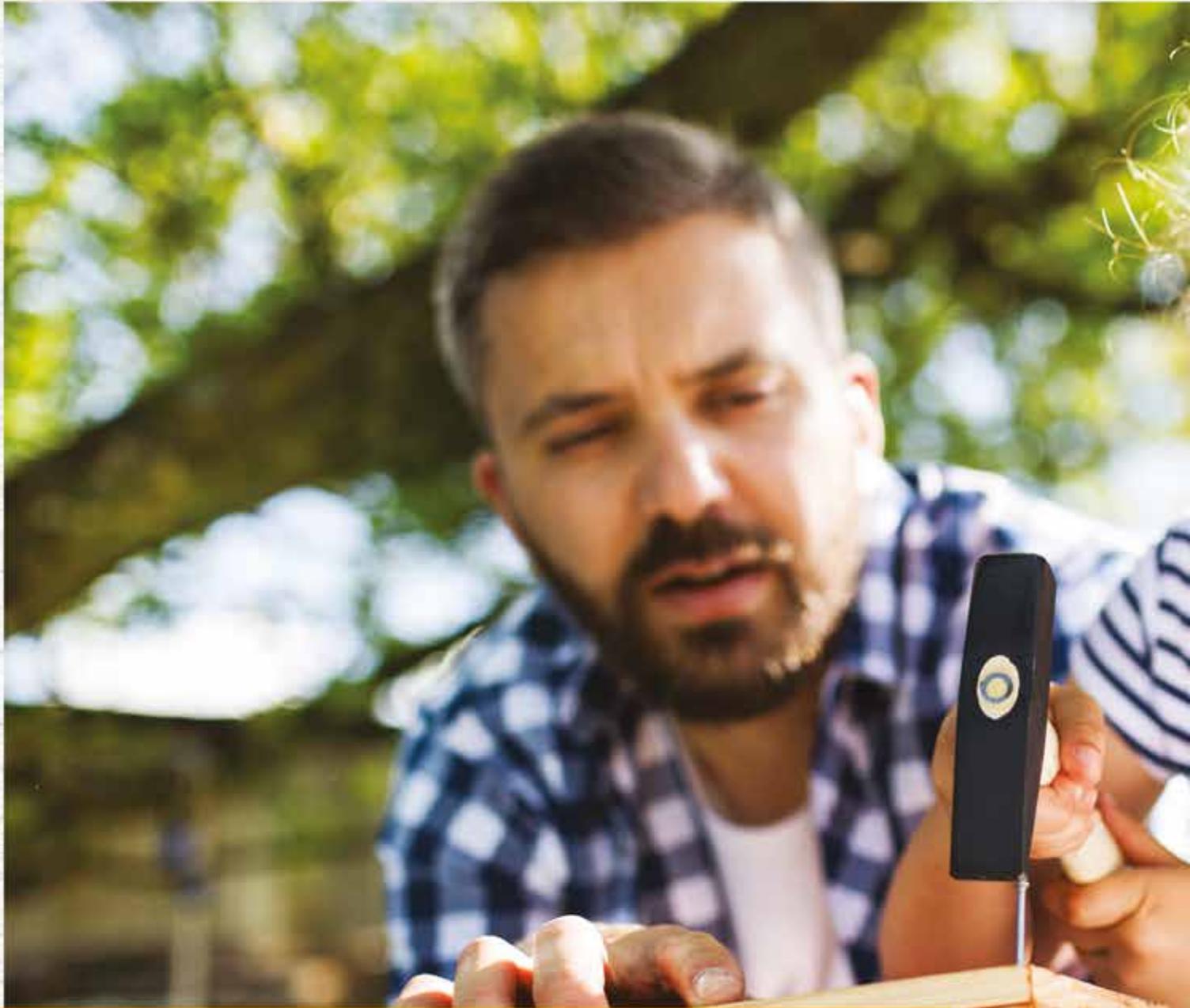
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BIRDHOUSE

— By Angel Morris

Bonding



If the idea of getting back to the basics while bonding with your children, grandchildren or another favorite child appeals to you, building a simple birdhouse together may be a great place to start. From basic kits available at hobby stores to slightly more complicated plans from scratch, the difficulty of this project is up to each builder.

Stores such as Michaels and Hobby Lobby sell birdhouse kits including all the supplies you'll need to tackle this simple construction project. Michaels' most basic birdhouse is super budget friendly at just \$5.49 and includes a ready-made wood house for you to add to as you see fit or paint exactly as is. They even have styles that fit traditionally feminine or masculine interests, from floral themes to log cabins.

If you're feeling a bit more ambitious than ready-made, however, options abound online and in hardware stores. Lowe's offers the following guidelines for novice builders who want to introduce children to the basics of construction, assembly and painting.

SUPPLIES

1-in. x 6-in. x 6-ft. pine board
(actual: 0.75-in. x 5.5-in. x 6-ft.)
1/2-in. poplar round dowel
Interior or exterior paint or stain
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Painter's tape
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TOOLS

Miter saw
Handsaw with miter box (optional)
Drill with bits
Clamps

Follow these simple steps to build your own birdhouse, turning over the parts you feel are age-appropriate to your child assistant:

STEP 1 – GETTING STARTED

If you have never constructed a birdhouse before, you can locate a cutting diagram online. One simple option is available at www.lowes.com/n/how-to/one-board-birdhouse.



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Here you can see exactly how to cut each side of your birdhouse from your pine board, including front, back, two sides, the roof and base.

After marking dimensions and making your cuts, you might allow little hands to sand all parts smooth with sandpaper. In the meantime, you can cut a 2-inch perch from your 1/2-inch dowel rod.

STEP 2 – GLUING AND CLAMPING

Once sanding is complete, you are ready to drill a 1 1/2 inch opening and a 1/2-inch hole for your perch on the front face wood piece. Your construction partner can add glue to the perch and place it in the hole, then glue the two sides to the back panel with your help. Use clamps to hold the sides together while drying.

Once these pieces have dried, you are ready to glue, then clamp, the bottom and front to the back and side sections. While the glue on the bottom and front dries, glue together the two roof panels, securing them together with painter's tape until dry.

STEP 3 – ASSEMBLY AND COMPLETION

Applying glue to the top edges of the front and back, you are now ready to set your assembled roof to the walls. This part should be a thrill for your young construction partner, as it brings the birdhouse to life! Again, use

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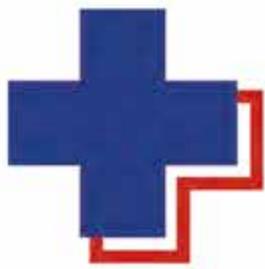
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painter's tape to hold the roof to the walls as the final round of gluing dries in place. It doesn't hurt to be generous with the tape to help keep your wood components from shifting during the drying process.

Once the glue dries, the real creative process can begin. Let your child decide if he or she prefers to paint or stain the birdhouse, then select the color he or she favors. Keep in mind whether the birdhouse will stay outside or inside, explaining to your child which paints/stains are most suited for either location.

You might also want to paint or glue on additional decorative pieces to showcase your child's personality — from flowers and fences to butterflies and insects — as you make the birdhouse one-of-a-kind. Lastly, consider having an "open house" to unveil the project to the rest of the family.

Cover the birdhouse with a cloth, then invite guests to hear how the project was completed step-by-step, from supplies to construction. Let your assistant explain as much as possible to help him/her recollect what they learned. Then they can remove the cloth to reveal the birdhouse you built together, a small monument to time spent with one another, lessons learned and skills for the future. **NOW**

Source: <https://www.lowes.com/n/how-to/one-board-birdhouse>



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According to the Social Security Administration, in 1950, 16.5 active workers supported each person receiving Social Security benefits. In 2019, there were only 2.8 workers supporting each Social Security beneficiary. Projections indicate there will be only 2.2 active workers to support each Social Security beneficiary by 2040.

Social Security payments are typically adjusted for inflation, but personal income and expenses may rise at a faster pace.

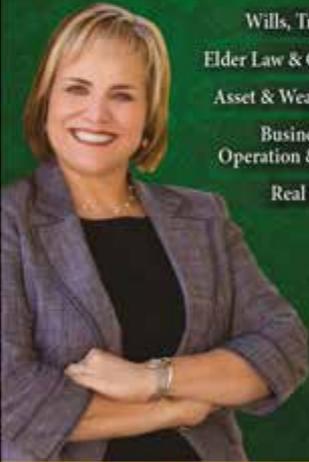
And you might have to wait longer than you anticipated to qualify for full benefits. It used to be that full benefits were available after you reached age 65. But since 2003, the age to qualify for full benefits has been increasing on a graduated scale based on year of birth. By 2027, the age to qualify for full Social Security benefits will have increased to age 67, where it is currently scheduled to remain.

That means you may have to wait *longer* to qualify for full Social Security benefits to start replacing a *smaller* percentage of your pre-retirement income. When calculating retirement income, Social Security benefits may play a more limited role. Some financial professionals suggest ignoring Social Security altogether when developing a retirement income plan. Focus on individual accounts like IRAs, Roth IRAs, 401(k)s and brokerage accounts to boost retirement income. **NOW**

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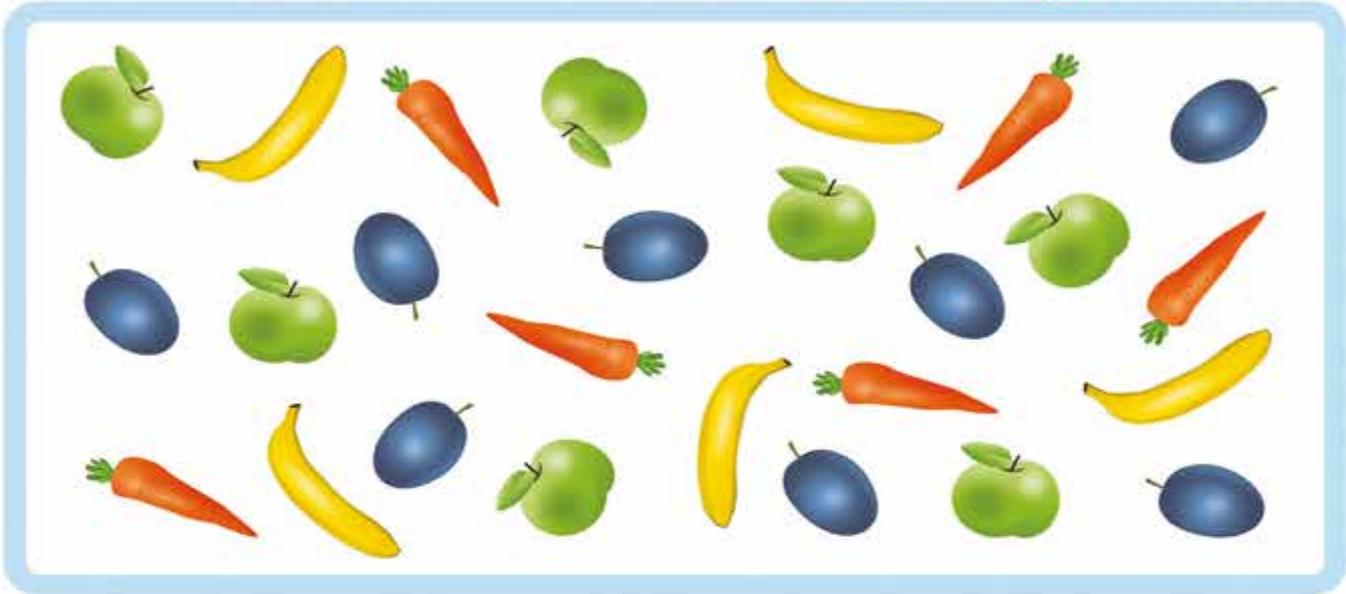
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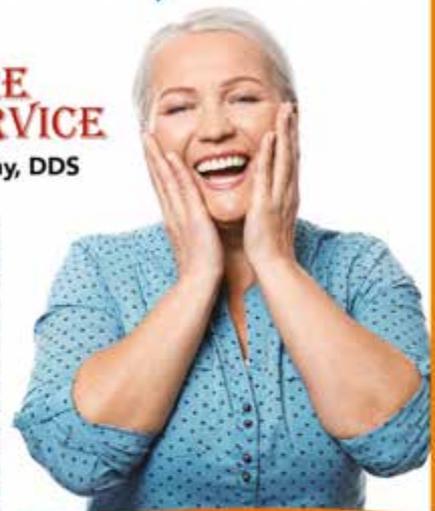
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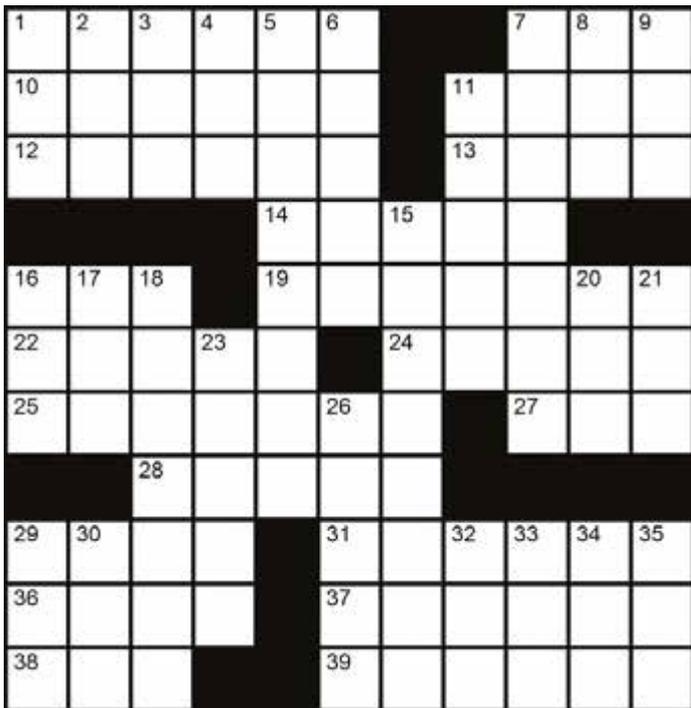
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Across

- 1 For some time
- 7 Convert hide into leather
- 10 Stimulating drink
- 11 Harbor
- 12 Quaint love letter opener
- 13 Creep
- 14 Frothy concoctions
- 16 LA summer setting
- 19 Holy threesome
- 22 Get-well treatment
- 24 Salk's conquest
- 25 Type of show, such as Anne Hathaway's "Grounded"
- 27 Hill VIP
- 28 Same here!
- 29 Well-informed about
- 31 Alters formally
- 36 Niagara has a Maid of this
- 37 Tempestuous
- 38 Big Apple aria spot
- 39 Pull into

Down

- 1 Rocket interceptor
- 2 Sardonic
- 3 Suckered
- 4 Apply a cake's top layer
- 5 Tiniest amount
- 6 Mistake
- 7 Oft-removed throat tissues
- 8 Curve
- 9 Utmost
- 11 It has 88 keys when full-size
- 15 Old Dodge
- 16 In favor of
- 17 Lair
- 18 Beyond all others
- 20 Railroad cross-member
- 21 Way over there, poetically
- 23 Representative
- 26 Bellows
- 29 Now let me think ...
- 30 Chart variety
- 32 Self-esteem
- 33 Pinch
- 34 Material studied by Watson and Crick
- 35 USMC noncom

Solutions on page 52

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 52

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3/3

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3/5

Mansfield Reads! 2020

Kickoff Reception:

Join the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library to celebrate the city's annual event encouraging everyone to read the same book at the same time. 6:00-7:30 p.m., The Taphouse Sixteen, Market Street, 3145 E. Broad St. (817) 728-3690.

3/6-3/9

Fractured Fairytales:

The Magnificent Theatre Company presents multiple performances of this side-splitting original adaptation of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. **Friday, Saturday and Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.; **Monday:** 10:00 a.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. Rosalie Gilbert, (817) 728-3383.

3/7

STEM Little Engineers Workshop:

Kids 7-12 years of age will engineer two projects from everyday objects in this unique workshop — one to take home, and one to show and tell at the end of the day. 4:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria St. (817) 473-1943.

Rudy Gatlin in Concert:

Rudy Gatlin of The Gatlin Brothers shares his life — personal, professional, spiritual — in an evening of songs and stories. \$30 General Admission. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Willie Pigg Auditorium, 1520 N. Walnut Creek Dr. MCTinfo@MainstageClassicTheatre.org.

3/7-3/8

Downtown Walking Tour:

Learn about the historical and architectural significance of the buildings on the historic block. **Saturday and Sunday:** 2:00-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Historical Museum and Heritage Center, 102 N. Main St. (817) 473-4250.

3/9

Spring Scavenger Hunt Hike:

Wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes, and enjoy learning about the wonders of nature on a guided hike with a naturalist and other families. Pre-registration is required. 4:00 p.m., Elmer W. Oliver Nature Park, 1650 Matlock Rd. (817) 473-1943.

3/12

Business Unplugged:

Sophisticated individuals with like minds will unplug from their social networks to get some face to face networking done. Free. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Kelly Moore Paint Company, 1405 N. U.S. 287, Ste. 107. Kathleen D'Agostino, (817) 864-8771.

3/12-3/14

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A list of accepted items is at www.mansfieldtexas.gov/ecc. **Thursday and Friday:** 3:00-7:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Environmental Collection Center, 616 S. Wisteria. (817) 728-3655 or ecc@mansfieldtexas.gov.

3/14

Show N' Shine Car Show:

The Sweethearts & Orphans Car Show is back for its 21st season. Free admission. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie Courthouse Square.

Art Exhibition:

Mansfield Commission for the Arts hosts artwork for public viewing (and for sale) in support of area artists. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., The Bays on Smith Street, 210 Smith St. Rosalie Gilbert, (817) 728-3383.

Josh Weathers in Concert: Mansfield's own Josh Weathers

combines songs of hope with a high energy rock 'n' soul live show. 7:00-9:00 p.m., The LOT Downtown, 110 N. Main St. (817) 225-6840.

3/19

Small Business Finance Conference:

Learn from four speakers talking from a consumer and commercial point of view. \$30 for members of the Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club 1151 Country Club Dr. Kathleen D'Agostino, (817) 864-8771.

3/20-3/22

Mansfield International Film Festival:

View the competition between new and experienced film directors. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. Rosalie Gilbert, (817) 728-3383.

3/21

Barks & Rec Running Club:

Weekly team runs with partners from the Mansfield Animal Shelter. 4:00 p.m., Katherine Rose Memorial Park, 303 N. Walnut Creek. (817) 473-1943.

4/1

Senior Health Day:

Vendors from around the community meet with active older adults at the Arlington-



3/13-3/14

Pickle Parade: Get your groove with the Pickle Dude, Pickle Queens and Pickle Protectors. **Friday:** 5:00-11:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Mansfield, 100 N. Main St. www.pickleparade.org.

Mansfield YMCA to provide resources for healthy living. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Cooper Family YMCA, 7120 S. Cooper St. Kim Tran, (817) 299-9629, ext. 1700.

By Appointment

Mansfield Mission Market:

Families, seniors or anyone in MISD who needs access to food is welcome to call. Pets are provided for, as well. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mansfield Mission Center, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. For more information, call (817) 473-6650 or visit www.mansfieldmission.org.

Mondays

Sunrise Toastmasters Club:

Become the speaker and leader you want to be. 7:00-8:00 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Hospital, Canedy Community Room, 2700 E. Broad St. kevinorsak@mhd.com.

Miracle Mondays:

We pray at no charge for people with any issues, and teach others to pray for healing and wholeness. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., The Healing Place, 600 Strada Circle, Ste. 210. Bill Dasch, (817) 319-0129.

Yin Yoga to Master Your Business:

Combine meditation with floor poses held in stillness to learn to maintain a positive mindset. Free. 4:00-4:45 p.m., Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Main St. (817) 473-0507.

WPT Poker Tournament:

Come out and enjoy happy hour specials and a few rounds of poker during one of two sessions. 6:30 and 9:00 p.m., Fat Daddy's Sports and Spirits Café, 781 W. Debbie Ln. Follow Fat Daddy's on Twitter at @fatdaddyslive or visit www.fatdaddyslive.com.

DivorceCare:

Men and women who are going

through a divorce, recently divorced or separated and in need of Christian support are welcome. 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Building C, First United Methodist Church, 777 N. Walnut Creek. (817) 477-2287, ext. 231.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.



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SCAVENGER HUNT WINNERS!



Jessica Thomas, winner of the \$50 Visa Gift Card from Knapp Sisters Self Storage, said, "I was totally surprised when I won the Scavenger Hunt. Thank you Knapp Sisters Self Storage and MansfieldNOW!"



Donald Marville, winner of \$50 CASH from NOW Magazines, said, "MansfieldNOW has great, LOCAL businesses, recipes AND fun games! It's my favorite magazine!"



Isabella Rios, winner of \$50 CASH from NOW Magazines, said, "My sisters didn't believe I'd win. I did the Scavenger Hunt as a joke to spite them. Thanks MansfieldNOW for proving them wrong and making me a WINNER!"

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	W	H	I	L	E		7	T	A	N	
10	B	R	A	C	E	R		11	P	O	R	T
12	M	Y	D	E	A	R		13	I	N	C	H
				14	S	O	D	A	S			
16	P	D	T		19	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y
22	R	E	H	A	B		24	P	O	L	I	O
25	O	N	E	G	I	R	L		27	S	E	N
				28	M	E	T	O				
29	U	P	O	N		31	A	M	E	N	D	S
36	M	I	S	T		37	R	A	G	I	N	G
38	M	E	T			39	S	T	O	P	A	T

Easy

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

Medium

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

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