

WeatherfordNOW

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2021

Sticks, Stones and Art

Wood, pebbles and
twigs infuse Sharon
Boyd's art with life

Sons and Daughters

More than Travis,
Bowie and Crockett
defended the Alamo

In the Kitchen With
Peter Leung

Also inside:

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Sewing World of
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EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker | Weatherford Editor, Lisa Bell

Editorial Assistant, Lori Widdifield

Writers, Gregg Davis . Adam Walker

Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell . Rachel Rich . Virginia Riddle

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
London O'Connell . Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Chris McCalla

Photographer, O4 Photography

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives, Kelsea Locke . Cherise Burnett
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Billing Manager, Angela Mixon



ON THE COVER

Intricate realism makes it easy to get lost in Sharon Boyd's art.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
WeatherfordNOW Editor
lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com
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Welcome to a celebratory month ...

My great-grandfather migrated from Ireland during the Great Potato Famine of the mid-1800s. My Momo and Pawpaw worked as sharecroppers in West Texas. Irish blood flows entrenched in my veins, along with that of other European cultures. Being a native Texan, however, makes my heart soar. What makes native Texans puff up with pride? We do it. I won't deny it. I can't explain it, don't understand it, but I love it. Busted. I am a native Texan and proud of it.

On March 2, 1836, the people of Texas joined together, signed a declaration of independence from Mexico and formed a new country — the Republic of Texas. If we celebrate for no other reason, perhaps we need to celebrate our spirit of freedom. Then again, the government also designated March as Irish American Heritage Month. That means a double celebration for some of us. As I think back to my ancestors, I realize that hardworking spirit and desire for freedom came from them. Perhaps that's why I love being both from Irish descent and a born and bred Texan.

This month brings with it new life, as temperatures warm to spring, trees bud and green grass peeps out from the ground. Hopefully, with it, we find a renewed spirit for all we do. May we all take pride in our heritage, and for my fellow natives, Happy Texas Independence Day.

Have a happy March!



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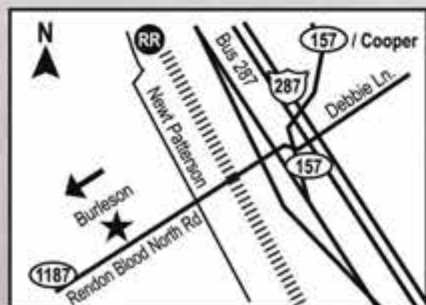
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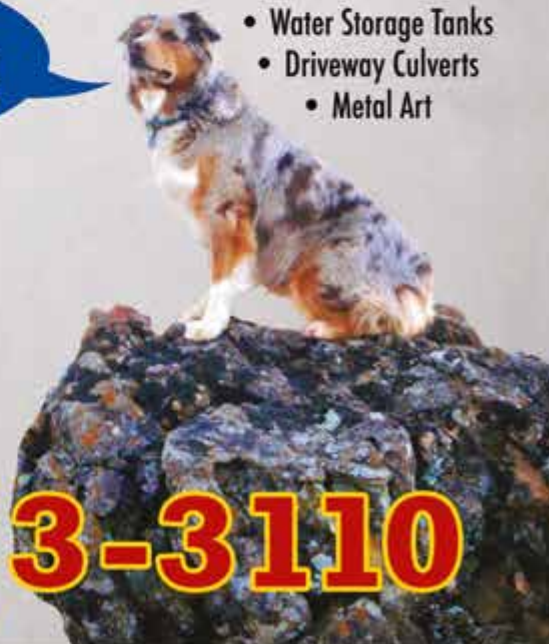
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When her artwork didn't feel quite finished, Sharon Boyd took a chance and added everyday elements to make her paintings complete. Although she took some art classes in high school, she didn't take her art seriously — at least not until a corporate buyout gave her a year off from work. During that time, she started painting, sewing, knitting and sketching. Although it didn't become a new career for Sharon, she found an outlet that helps her express creativity, which helps with her job using computer-aided designing.

"Raised in South Louisiana, we didn't have a lot," she shared. "I cut pictures from magazines, propped them up and made towns and people. I glued paper strips to stand them up." Sharon spent many hours as a child playing with her towns. "I think having nothing is where creativity comes from," she said.

In high school, Sharon took an art class where they designed ink dot pictures. She drew and dotted. Her teacher walked by and kept saying, "You're not done." For three days, this process continued. "I kept dotting, adding different materials, colors. Finally, it looked like a magazine," she said. "I still hear his voice saying those words when something doesn't look quite right."

Sharon started out her 30-year corporate career by taking drafting classes and creating designs by hand. Later, as technology changed, she learned CAD, and eventually, moved to management. Her husband, Ronny, and she purchased a weekend home on the Brazos River back in 2004. In 2014, they moved to Weatherford, and she commuted for about three years before her corporate job ended.

"I always liked old barns and old churches," Sharon said. Looking online for pictures to inspire her, she painted them. Self-taught mostly, Sharon played with brushes to get the final look she wanted. Sometimes, she used other objects to achieve better results. But her work didn't feel quite finished, as if it needed something more.

Sticks, Stones and Art

— By Lisa Bell







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A friend had a painting with a storefront made of wood, and that sparked an idea for Sharon. Why not give her paintings an extra dimension by adding some wood? Gathering small pieces from her yard, she added the elements, achieving a more desirable look and feel to her work. While she still likes to gather twigs, small rocks and such, she sometimes incorporates Popsicle sticks, toothpicks and wooden coffee stirrers. To make barbed wire, she uses welding wire, and tin cans transform to windmills. During trips, she might pick up small shells or pebbles, and she loves to add a bit of peat moss when she does a beach scene.

Out of 21 paintings, she sold 16, and her husband donated her favorite one to a mustang rescue for a fundraiser. A couple of people commissioned paintings of cabins or lake houses, which she recreated from their photos. In one of those, she used small limbs from trees in her yard to capture the wooded area around the cabin.

Much of Sharon's work draws inspiration from photos she sees online. But unless she recreates a specific scene, she prefers getting an idea from the photo and running from there. An old barn sporting the design of a Texas flag gets the most comments, but often people want the design with their school and perhaps names or dates painted into the artwork. She gets requests for Texas A&M most often.





The type of wood she uses depends on shapes and the final appearance she wants to accomplish. One of her paintings features a historic town scene with wooden and stone buildings. Toothpicks make great railings or fences. And most every painting focuses on the sky, usually laced with clouds of one type or another.

Back to work at a full-time job, Sharon admitted finishing one painting can take up to three weeks. She spreads tools and materials on a coffee table in her living room and works in the evenings for the most part. Fortunately, Ronny doesn't mind having her "studio" in the living room. "He loves my work, brags about them," Sharon said. "And he makes the frames for me."

With layers of materials, her artwork can become heavy, so she takes that into consideration when creating a piece. Still, the extra layers give her art a unique dimension, look and feel. She can create pretty much anything, although buildings are the easiest. She has one night-sky scene in progress and wants to try a wagon, although bending wood into a circle proves challenging. Someday she may try painting with oils, but acrylics dry faster, thus they remain her first choice.

While Sharon didn't turn her love of art into a career, she continues producing unique pieces. The process relaxes her at the end of spending the day on a computer. When finished, she can stand back and experience a sense of pride in her work, knowing at that point she can say it's done. **NOW**

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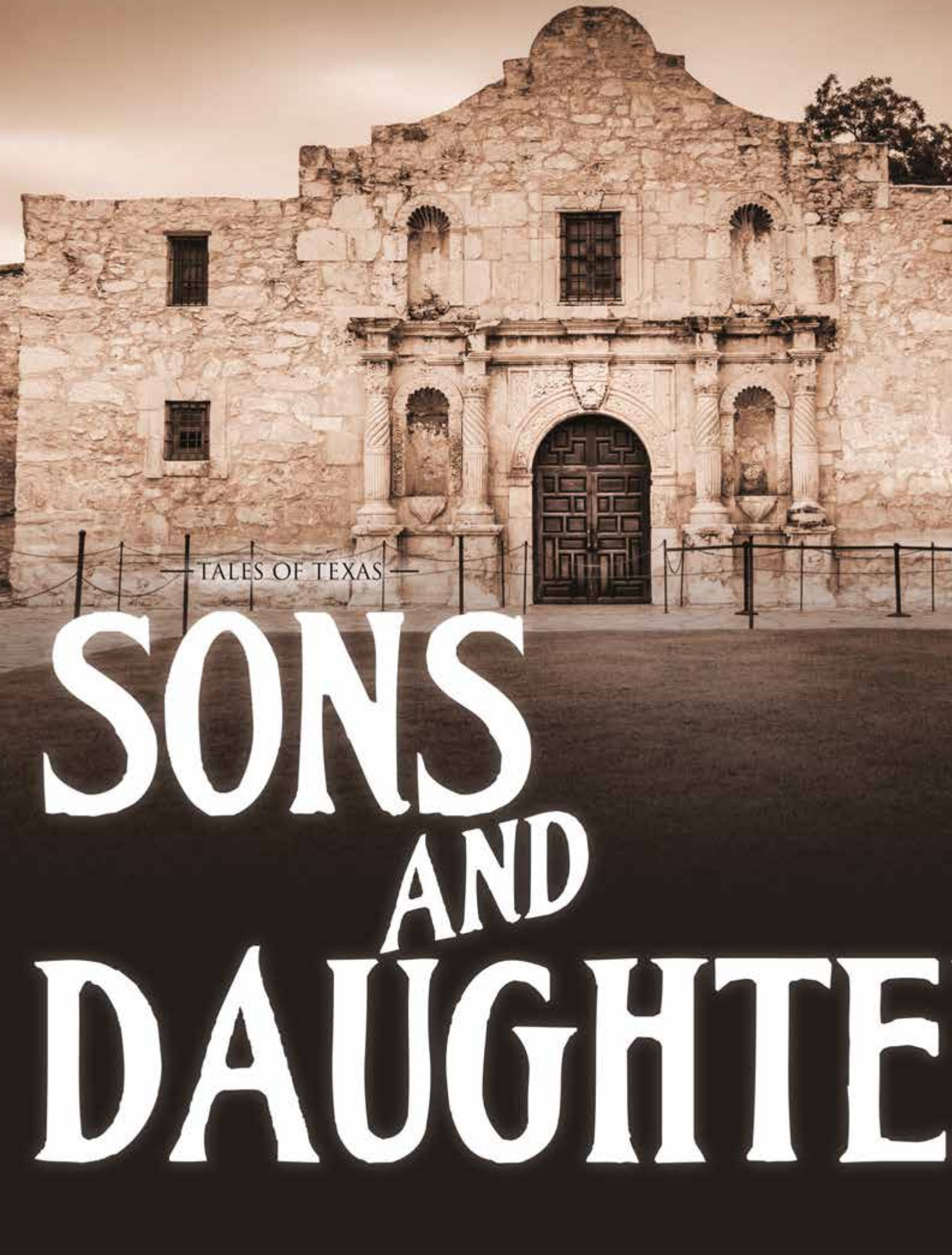
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— TALES OF TEXAS —

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

As Texans, we grow up being enjoined to, "Remember the Alamo!" But how many of us know much about this thing we are supposed to remember? We probably know something about Lt. Col. William Barret Travis, James Bowie and his knife and Davey Crockett and his cap. But there were a lot more people in that battle than those three famous men. There were Mexican citizens, Black slaves, women and children inside the walls of the Alamo during the siege. How many of their names do you know?

There were only six native-born Texans inside the Alamo during the battle: Juan Abamillo, Juan A. Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio Esparza, Antonio Fuentes and Andrés Nava. All of the native Texans who died in defense of Texas' freedom from Mexico were Hispanic. But 189 men died that day. All the rest of them were immigrants, either from other parts of Mexico, from various U.S. states or from European nations. And they ranged in age from 16 to at least 57.

Seventeen-year-old Carlos Espalier and his 24-year-old cousin, Charles Despalier, were Mexicans of French descent and friends of James Bowie.

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— By Adam Walker

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Both of their families were deeply involved in the fight for Texas' freedom. Carlos, with the bravado of youth, was one of those who slipped out of the Alamo to burn the huts Santa Anna's army was using for cover, and then returned to the mission's defense. Charles was a signer of the Goliad Declaration of Independence. Both cousins fought in Travis' unit, and both died defending the Alamo, as did all the Mexican men in the Alamo, when it fell to the Mexican army under Santa Anna.

There are highly conflicting stories about the African-Americans inside the Alamo during the siege. The sources don't even agree on the number. But they were there — some slaves, some freedmen — at both the December capture of the fort by the "Texians," and at the March fall to the Mexicans. One of the freedmen was Hendrick Arnold, son-in-law of Deaf Smith, who helped scout the Texas victory. Another was Joe, who was body servant to Lt. Col. Travis. When Travis fell in the first barrage, Joe fired several times in defense of the Alamo, before being captured. He was sold to pay off Travis' debts, but escaped and walked out of Texas, across Louisiana, Mississippi and part of Alabama to get word to Travis' family about his death.

And it wasn't just brave men at the Alamo. Courageous women endured the battle as well. Most were adults, but there was at least one 15-month-old girl inside the walls when the defenses collapsed. Her mother, Susannah Dickinson, and she were the only Anglo survivors of the battle, though Susannah never recovered from the trauma. Susannah is often noted as the only survivor of the Alamo, but that just isn't true. Another six Mexican women,



and their children, also survived. These women were now widows whose husbands died in the cause of Texas freedom. One of these women, Andrea Castañón de Villanueva Candelaria, lived to be 113, and told her story to newspapers and others over the years. Her stories changed quite a bit during her long life, and historians now doubt she was actually there. But no one seems to doubt the presence of Susanna, whose stories also changed significantly over time.

The only woman to die in the battle was Sarah, a slave woman who was found dead between two of the cannons. Joe, the body servant of Travis, reported that Sarah became frightened by the battle and ran out of her hiding place to meet her death.

Texas has always been multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual. Many of the threads that make Texas what it is today can be found here in the cradle of her independence. But that tapestry has only grown richer over the years. Born Texans and others who got here as fast as they could fought side by side to make Texas what it is today. Remember the Alamo! **NOW**

Sources:

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Sewing World of Weatherford

— By Lisa Bell

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At one time, every home owned a sewing machine — an indispensable appliance that was used daily. Randy Luster grew up with a dad who sold Singer machines in the '50s and '60s, then he went independent in 1967.

In the 1970s and '80s, ready-made clothing became more available and less expensive. At the same time, more women



joined the workforce, limiting their time to pursue the art of sewing. As years passed, sewing needs declined, but Randy never lost his love for the industry.

In 1975, Randy started working in his father's sewing machine store. Eventually, in 1996, they opened a Grapevine location. After his father closed a store on Jacksboro Highway, Randy and his wife, Stacey, noticed many Weatherford customers traveling to Grapevine. Turning to her parents, who helped them purchase a building, they opened a local store for loyal customers and the growing Parker County area. The Weatherford store continues to thrive although Randy spends most of his time in Grapevine.

His longtime friend, Clint Cook, joined Sewing World as a technician in 2004 and now heads up the Weatherford location. "When he came out here, I've never seen anyone work so hard," Randy said. "[He's a] good guy to have around. The ladies love him. He wins them over." Lance Leftwich joins Clint

as a technician in Weatherford, working hard to keep up with the repair demands.

During the last 15-20 years, they have seen a resurgence in sewing — especially with home decor, embroidery and quilting, and during the 2020 pandemic, they saw more customers than ever. People have been quilting and embroidering for thousands of years. Now it's much easier.

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For those looking for a new sewing machine, Randy said, "spend as much as you can and get what you want." Hundreds of dollars may buy a decent machine, but when it breaks, a replacement costs less than repairs. Both mechanical and computerized machines perform well, but a computerized one is much easier to use. Be sure to check their website for coupons and class schedules.

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Ella Parian takes 17-year-old Niko shopping — his favorite place to walk.

Zoomed In: Robert and Patricia Zemaný

By Lisa Bell

Generosity from strangers leaves Robert and Patricia Zemaný beyond grateful. An 84-year-old veteran, Robert battles cancer. Patricia makes jewelry to supplement income, but COVID-19 halted art and craft fairs, hurting them financially. After losing their home to a fire, they remained upbeat until the unthinkable happened. Someone stole and totaled their car. Responding to a Facebook post on Patriots United for Heroes, a local man donated a car that needed some work. The organization helped with repairs and connected the couple to others who assisted with housing and other needs. “I so appreciate the help,” Patricia shared.

Robert feels better, knowing they aren’t alone. “Patricia’s such a good person,” he said. “She does so much for the church.” Now others get to do something for them.



Heidi Rodosta (far right) and volunteers at The Hope Chest take a brief break from work.



The Johnson family catches fish at Holland Lake.



Seven members of a Parker County SWAT team are honored for bravery under fire.



Lady Coyotes play ball.



Raising funds for Rusty Spur Riding Club, Brynlee visits with Judy at Texas Butane.



Construction crews work hard to finish the new Tech and Career building at Weatherford College.



Mr. Bean approves of Addy and Kay's precious outfits from AddyMay Children's Boutique.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

PETER LEUNG

— By Lisa Bell

Born in Shanghai, Peter Leung studied at the Peking University and later as a visiting scholar at Tokyo University. He immigrated to the United States in 1994, starting in New York City with Japanese traditions, flavors and cooking styles. There he learned about French cuisine. Although Peter's heritage colored his flavors and style of cooking, adding the French element created a unique blend of cultures into some dishes.

After moving to Weatherford in 2018, Peter founded Ginza French Japanese Restaurant with Sgt. Dana Bowman, opening in January 2020. Peter said, "I am a very private person, but I enjoy cooking authentic and unique foods." Although he makes the process look simple, Peter has been making sushi and other wonderful dishes for more than 25 years. **NOW**

Basic Japanese Potato Cakes

Easy Berry Sauce:

3 1/2 Tbsp. berry fruit spread
1 1/2 tsp. spicy mustard

Potato Cakes:

1/2 tsp. salt
Water, enough to cover potatoes

4 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
10 Tbsp. cornstarch or potato starch
1 1/2 Tbsp. butter, for frying

- 1.** *For sauce:* Stir all sauce ingredients together until smooth and well blended; set aside.
- 2.** *For potato cakes:* Add the salt to the water; bring to a boil. Stir in the potatoes; cook until very tender. Drain thoroughly;

return the potatoes to the pan. Mash the potatoes quickly until smooth; let cool.

3. Add cornstarch or potato starch to the mush; mix well, using clean hands until no lumps remain.

4. Divide the mixture into about 15-18 portions, shape into flat rounds.

5. Melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat; fry the cakes on both sides until crispy and nicely colored.

Basic Homemade Tonkatsu Sauce

Also known as Japanese brown sauce.

1 Tbsp. ketchup
2 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 1/2 tsp. oyster sauce
1 1/8 tsp. sugar

- 1.** Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl; whisk together. Adjust the sauce according to your liking.

2. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 2-3 weeks or in the freezer for 3-4 months.

Pan Seared Ostrich

2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 Tbsp. butter
10 oz. fresh ostrich
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. French red wine
2 Tbsp. cooking sake
4 oz. broccolini

1. Heat olive oil and butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Season the ostrich with salt and pepper; place the ostrich in a pan to start the searing process.

2. Pour wine and sake over the meat. Sear on each side for about 2 minutes (no more than 5 minutes per side).

3. Steam the broccolini until lightly cooked. Serve the ostrich with broccolini and Basic Japanese Potato Cakes.

Tamanishiki Steamed Rice

2 cups Tamanishiki rice
2 cups water, plus extra for rinsing the rice
2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. kosher salt

1. Place the rice to a mixing bowl; cover with cool water. Swirl the rice. Pour off the water; repeat this process 2-3 times, until the water is clear.

2. Place the rice and 2 cups of water into a medium saucepan over high heat. Bring to a boil, uncovered.

3. Once it begins boiling, reduce the heat to the lowest setting; cover. Cook 15 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand, covered, for 10 minutes.

4. Combine the rice vinegar, sugar and salt in a small pan; heat thoroughly. (If using a microwave, use a small bowl and heat 30-45 seconds.)

5. Transfer the rice to a large wooden or glass mixing bowl; add the vinegar mixture. Fold thoroughly to combine and coat each grain of rice.

6. Allow to cool to room temperature before using to make sushi or sashimi.

Jumbo Shrimp

Oil for searing
3 scallops, chopped
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. sugar
2 tsp. soy sauce

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3 tsp. Basic Homemade Tonkatsu Sauce
10 oz. jumbo shrimp
1/2 lb. fresh spinach

1. Heat the oil in a skillet. Add the scallops, salt, sugar, soy sauce and Tonkatsu Sauce. Cook for 2-3 minutes. Flip; add shrimp.
2. Flip and cook until the seafood cooks through and evenly.
3. Serve on a bed of spinach.

Tuna Sushi Special

Tamanishiki Steamed Rice
Fresh bigeye tuna, sliced on the grain
(3 inches long, 1 inch wide,
1/4 inch thick)
Green Tobiko, to taste
Jalapeño slices, to taste

1. Make squares using the prepared Tamanishiki Steamed Rice by shaping by hand. Lay a slice of tuna across the top of each square.
2. Spoon green Tobiko on the tuna to taste. Top with a sliced jalapeño.

Sicilian Roll

Tempura Batter:
1 cup flour



Tuna Sushi Special

1 cup cornstarch
2 cups ice cold seltzer/soda water
2 eggs
1-2 pinches salt
Olive oil, enough to submerge

Roll:

1 lobster tail, cut into small pieces
4 grape tomatoes
1 English cucumber
1 avocado
1 mango
1 pkg. green soybean paper
Basic Homemade Tonkatsu Sauce, to taste

1. For tempura batter: Mix all of the batter ingredients, except for the oil. Stir until well blended.

2. For roll: Dip the lobster pieces into the batter; deep fry lobster in the olive oil until golden brown. Remove from oil; set aside.
3. Dice the tomatoes, cucumber, avocado and mango. Lay green soybean paper flat. Fill with equal amounts of lobster, fruit and vegetables.
4. Wrap the paper into a tight roll around the filling. Slice into round pieces; serve with Basic Homemade Tonkatsu Sauce.

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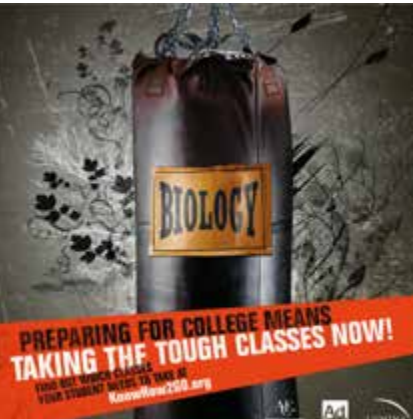


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NEVER FEAR

— By Melissa Rawlins



So, you've got a howling fur baby? No? It doesn't howl, but simply meows mournfully or, alternatively, bites your leg while hugging you with claws extended? Some people have them both, and the hardest thing in the world is to stand against their panic and continue in your mission to leave the premises. But rewarding cats or dogs for clinging to their human is not actually going to build their confidence. Neither will you find peace.

Tough love is the answer. Since punishing their distress responses to your absence from the home actually makes the problem worse, you must learn to be the tender, yet firm, leader of the pack. Both felines and canines will settle into your rhythm of life. But you'll need to meet your pet in the middle to deal with their separation anxiety.

Treatment will involve behavior modification techniques and, possibly, medicine. Cats and dogs can recover from anxiousness and behave beautifully when their human chooses neither to enable, ignore or punish the crazy-

making symptoms of anxiety. In both species, the best practice is to reward the animals for behaving the way you prefer.

When cats are calm, pet them, cuddle them, feed them and make your lap available. When cats follow their owner from room to room, grooming themselves too enthusiastically, constantly seeking attention, vocalizing excessively, eating their food too quickly, tearing doorjams with their claws and letting their bowels or kidneys relax outside the litter box, then it's time to get serious. Likewise, the signs of canine separation anxiety — urinating and defecating; barking and howling; chewing, digging and destruction; escaping; and pacing — should prompt careful analysis and action.

The first step is to take your pet to the veterinarian. The behavior they're displaying may have underlying medical causes. In cats, the vet will test for urinary tract disease, external parasites or skin allergies. In dogs, a number of issues — urinary tract infections, a weak sphincter caused by old age, hormone-related problems after spay surgery, bladder stones, diabetes, kidney disease, Cushing's disease, neurological problems and abnormalities of the genitalia — can cause urinary incontinence. If the veterinarian agrees that the sometimes-subtle symptoms indicate separation anxiety, they may prescribe any of a variety of anti-anxiety medications.

Most importantly, veterinarians will recommend behavioral modification training that will teach you and your pet how to respond to each other in a healthy manner. Experts agree that separation anxiety is the result of a dysfunctional attachment between your pet and you, the caregiver. Of all the factors that precipitate unhealthy dependency issues, boredom and lack of exercise are the two easiest for the human partner to control.

Cats appreciate interesting environments. Providing toys, cat trees, access to windows with birdfeeders on the other side of the glass, puzzle feeders and music or DVDs designed to stimulate their brains will distract them from anxiety.

Playtime and exercise are important factors for both cats and dogs. Not only should you provide these for your pet when you are home, but you can make arrangements for family members and pet sitters to visit your pet during a gradual behavioral modification program.

Over time, you must teach canines that the alone time he or she fears literally promotes good things. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' website, "Counterconditioning focuses on developing an association between being alone and good things, like delicious food. ... Every time you leave the house, you can offer your dog a puzzle toy stuffed with food that will take him at least 20 to 30 minutes to finish. Be sure to remove these special toys as soon as you return home so that your dog only has access to them and the high-value foods inside when he's by himself."

You have the thumbs. You are the one smart enough to make changes to your own lifestyle in order to address dysfunctions in your home. What better time than now, before your pet's new behaviors become habits. Never fear, though. Habits can be broken. Let the change start with you. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For in-depth information, visit either Ohio State University's Indoor Pet Initiative's website, www.petplace.com, or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' website, www.aspcapca.org.

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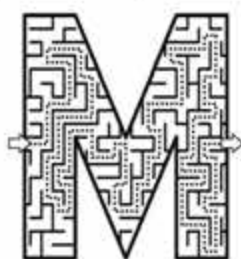
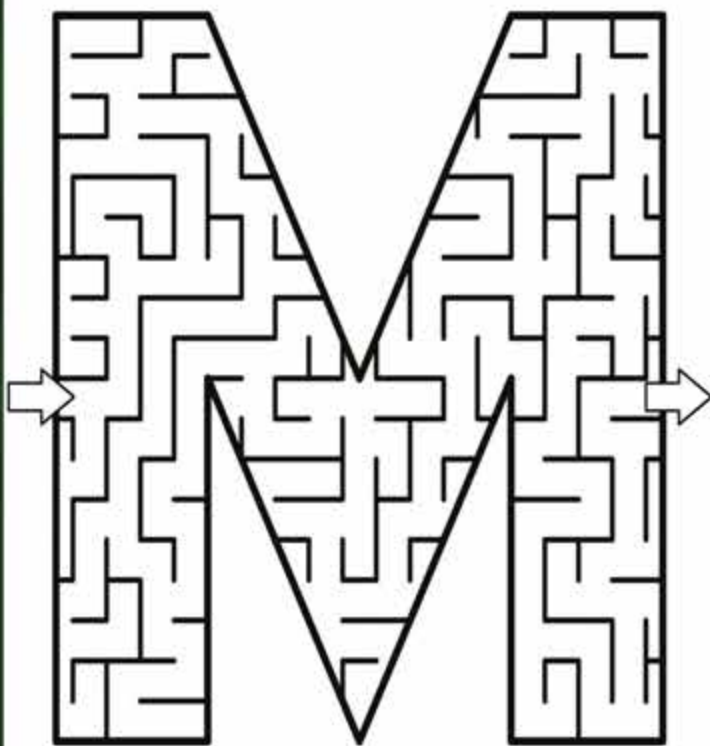
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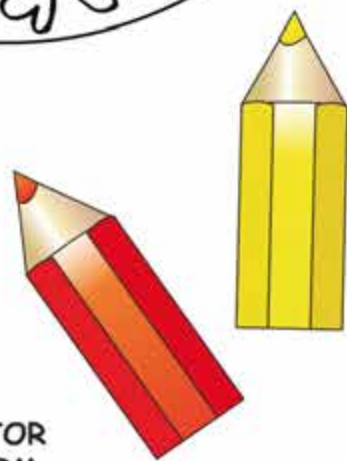
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Find and cross out all the listed words. The words may go horizontally, vertically, diagonally, not backwards. Ignore spaces, dashes and diacritics, if any.

The remaining letters will spell a secret word.

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DRUIDS
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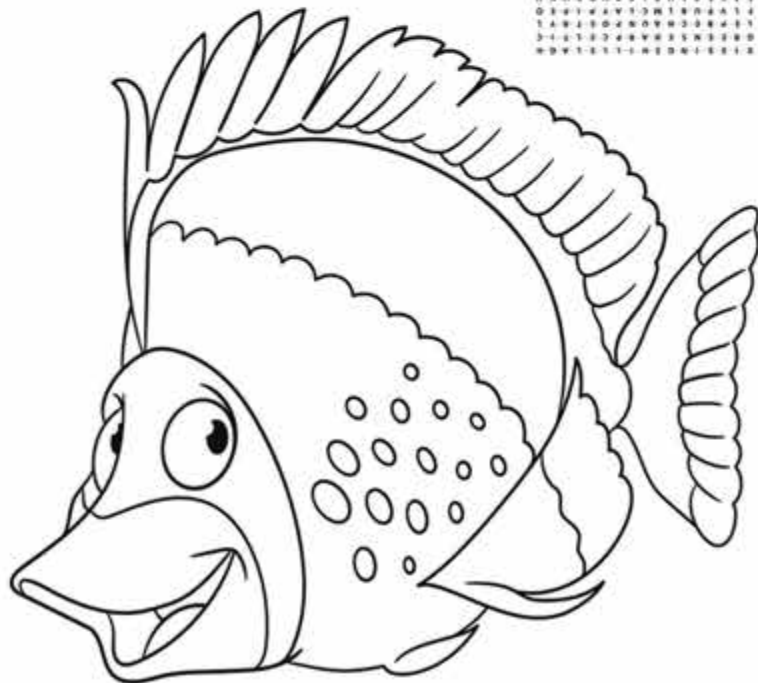
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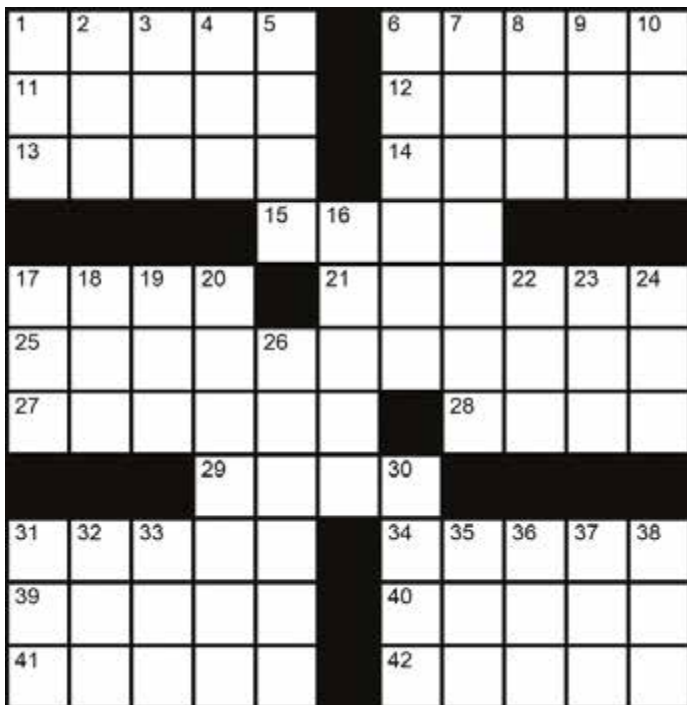
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42ND ANNIVERSARY

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Arm and a leg
- 6 --- Capped Romance (36 Crazyfists)
- 11 Egg producer
- 12 Uncle Tom's creator
- 13 Childe Harold author
- 14 Doesn't possess
- 15 Blacken
- 17 Tex. neighbor
- 21 "The --- File" (Frederick Forsyth)
- 25 Sailor's jacket, maybe
- 27 With sharp side first
- 28 Bloodsucker
- 29 Heavy blow
- 31 Contempt
- 34 Has become rancid
- 39 Like Muzak
- 40 Donald Duck's nephew
- 41 Rowdy ---, an early Clint Eastwood role
- 42 Descriptive record

Down

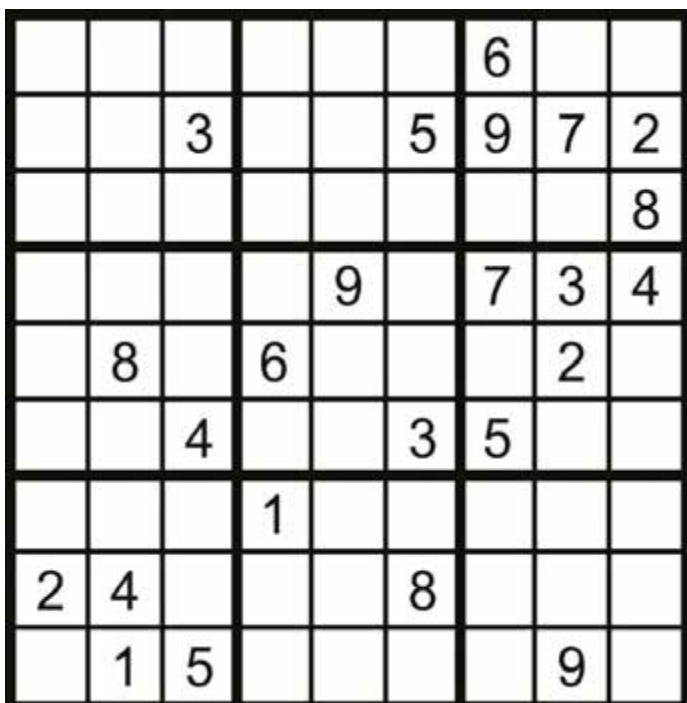
- 1 High shot
- 2 Excellent tree climber
- 3 Besmirch
- 4 Fraternity man, briefly
- 5 Harmony
- 6 Slightly
- 7 Eye impolitely
- 8 Discouraging words
- 9 "My --- Private Idaho" (1991 film)
- 10 Freshly painted
- 16 They're locked in battle
- 17 Have creditors
- 18 Little goat
- 19 Very cold fuel
- 20 Aim of every undergraduate
- 22 Snow runner
- 23 Fraction of a min.
- 24 Ancient boat
- 26 Bounces
- 30 Top gear for a house
- 31 Spot
- 32 Preceded by the O S S
- 33 Plump
- 35 One kind of offspring
- 36 Unfashionable
- 37 Cone producer
- 38 Visionary

Solutions on page 36

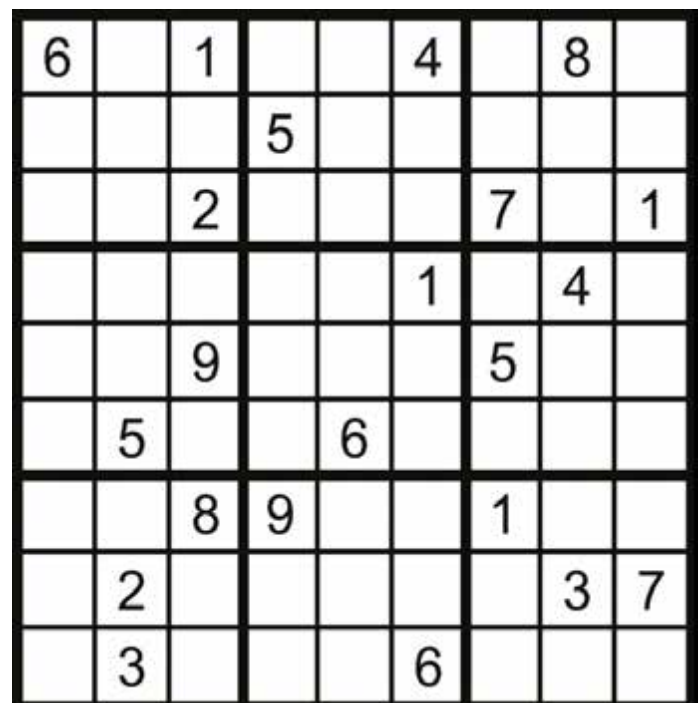
For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium



For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 36

Happy St. Patrick's Day

MARCH

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

3/12-3/28

The Wild Women of Winedale:

Live theater production. **Fridays and Saturdays:** 8:00 p.m.; **Sundays:** 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off the Square, 114 N. Denton St., www.theatreoffthesquare.org, (817) 341-8687

3/18

American Red Cross Blood Drive:

Visit the library, and help save a life. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. Schedule your appointment online.

www.redcrossblood.org; search sponsor code parkercountyarc. (800) RED-CROSS.

3/19

Movies in the Park:

Features *Trolls World Tour*. Come early to grab a good spot. Free admission. Food available for purchase. 7:30-10:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater, 378 Jack Borden Way. www.experienceweatherford.com.

3/20

Spring Fling 2021:

Celebrate the long-awaited arrival of spring. This annual

event features local artists and craftsmen, food and live music in the beauty of full blooms. Noon-4:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 W. Lee Ave. (817) 613-1700, www.ChandorGardens.com.

3/21-5/15

Walk Across Texas:

Join Parker County AgriLife Extension and other people in the community for this annual event promoting healthy lifestyles. Teams of eight compete to walk the farthest in Texas. (817) 598-6168. Register your team online. www.howdyhealthy.org/programs/.

3/27-3/28

Weatherford Music Festival:

This two-day event with live music on multiple stages includes national and local musicians. Food vendors, Kids Zone and more.

Ticket prices: 1-day: \$10; 2-day: \$15; and 2-day VIP Pass: \$50. www.eventbrite.com/e/weatherford-music-festival-tickets-88070728921.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com.



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What Can Investors Learn from 2020?

Now that we're a few weeks removed from 2020, it's a good time to reflect on such a momentous year. We can think about developments in the social and political spheres, but we also learned — or perhaps re-learned — some valuable lessons about investing. Here are four of them:

- **A long-term perspective is essential.** Volatility in the financial markets is nothing new, but, even so, 2020 was one for the books. Of course, the COVID-19 outbreak was the driving force behind most of the wild price swings. Soon after the pandemic's effects were first felt, the S&P 500, a common index of U.S. large-cap stocks, fell 34 percent but gained 67 percent by the end of the year. Consequently, investors who stuck with their investment portfolios and kept their eyes on their long-term goals, rather than on shocking headlines, ended up doing well. And while 2020 was obviously an unusual year, the long-term approach will always be valuable to investors.

- **Investment opportunities are always available.** The pandemic drove down the prices of many stocks — but it didn't necessarily harm the long-term fundamentals of these companies. In other words, they may still have had strong management, still produced desirable products and services and still had good prospects for growth. In short, they may still have been good investment opportunities — and when their prices were depressed, they may also have been "bargains" for smart investors. And this is the case with

virtually any market downturn — some high-quality stocks will be available at favorable prices.

- **Diversification pays off.** Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks. So, during a period of volatility when stock prices are falling, such as we saw in the weeks after the pandemic hit in March, the presence of bonds in your portfolio can lessen the impact of the downturn and stabilize your overall returns. And this, in essence, is the value of maintaining a balanced and diversified portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

- **The market looks ahead.** The pandemic-driven market plunge may have been stunning, but it made a kind of intrinsic sense — after all, the sudden arrival of a pandemic that threatened lives, closed businesses and cost millions of jobs doesn't sound like a positive event for the financial markets. But the strong rally that followed the initial drop and continued into 2021 has surprised many people. After all, the pandemic's effects were felt throughout the rest of 2020, and are still being felt now, so why did stock prices rise? The answer is pretty straightforward: The financial markets always look ahead, not behind. And for a variety of reasons — including widespread vaccinations, anticipated economic stimulus measures from Congress and the Biden administration and the Federal Reserve's continued steps to keep interest rates low — the markets are anticipating much stronger economic growth, possibly starting in the second half of 2021.

All of us are probably glad to have 2020 behind us. Yet, the year taught us some investment lessons that we can put to work in 2021 — and beyond. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	L	2	I	3	M	4	B	5	S	6	A	7	S	8	N	9	O	10	W										
11	O	V	A	R	Y	12	S	T	O	13	B	Y	R	O	N	14	H	A	S	N	T								
15	C	16	H	A	R	17	O	K	L	A	18	O	D	E	S	S	A	19	W	I	N	D	B	R	E	A	K	E	R
20	E	D	G	E	O	N	21	T	I	C	K	22	G	U	S	T	23	S	C	O	R	N	24	I	S	O	F	F	
25	P	I	P	E	D	26	L	O	U	I	E	27	Y	A	T	E	S	28	E	N	T	R	Y						

Easy

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

Medium

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

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