

# MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2022

## Word Perfect

Greg T. Hall inspires  
through writing

## Jennifer's Journey

Adversity clarifies a  
local woman's goals

In the Kitchen With  
Lisa Combs

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

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## **ON THE COVER**

*Hard work and heart come  
through in Greg T. Hall's musings.*

**Photo by**  
Kobbi R. Blair.

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

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

*Oh, snap?*

Nightly, my husband, son and I have been reading *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*. While there are much more current works of related lessons, this was a thrift store find that, as many castoffs do, mysteriously found its way home with me. I figured it would offer valuable insight or family fodder and, either way, prove worth the half-dollar it cost. As writers, we Morrisses have a habit of editing aloud the books we read. When the material is meant to teach you something, that tendency can cause you to miss the message. But the laughs are often plentiful.

*7 Habits* almost immediately tickled our collective funny bone with an anecdote of a father referencing his son as a difficult-to-deal-with “whippersnapper,” and the book suddenly seemed older even than its 1989 publication date. We didn’t think it meant we couldn’t still find value in the book’s suggestions. We couldn’t even be sure that the author wasn’t intentionally aging the character with the outdated term to make him seem absurd. Nevertheless, it derailed us into an investigation of the old-fashioned label.

We learned whippersnappers was a late 1600s term for people hanging around snapping whips to pass the time. While in some instances it referenced a “small but sprightly boy,” it was more commonly a derogatory term for a know-it-all young man with little ambition and less regard for the law. In the spirit of equality, there was also a female version: whipperginnie.

While we haven’t yet enacted any of *7 Habits*’ suggestions, we learned two new words and gained another inside family joke. If for no other reason, I’d say 50 cents well spent.

*My kind of Snapchat.*



*Angel*

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# WOR

# Textfe

*Hoping to help folks escape from a complicated world, Greg T. Hall's passion for writing was re-ignited. "We're increasingly separated by social, political and lifestyle ideologies. I write stories that give readers a break from the negativism and remind them we share more in common than we can even imagine," Greg noted.*

Through his motivational musings, Greg has gained a following. "I'm astounded at the number of people who encourage me to keep writing," Greg admitted, promising a book as a goal for 2022.

Sharing bi-weekly on Facebook's Midlothian Talk and Positively Midlothian, the Nextdoor app, his website [Greghallwrites.com](http://Greghallwrites.com) and also appearing on [EllisDownHome.com](http://EllisDownHome.com), Greg focuses on shared experiences. "The love of our families, feelings of pain, happiness, heartbreak and even the joy that comes from a good laugh," Greg described.

Although a voracious reader as a child and an honor roll student at North Mesquite High School in the city where he was born, Greg took an indirect path to writing. "It took me 10 years to graduate from The University of Texas at Arlington with a BBA in business management. Before that, I flunked out of The University of Houston-Downtown, and twice at UTA I was 'invited' to take a break. I believe they called it academic probation," Greg explained.

"However, after the birth of my first child, and with the example of an academically successful wife, I became a serious student and put together four straight 4.0 semesters to finish strong," Greg continued, noting he worked 60-plus hour weeks as a restaurant manager to pay for college.

Making others comfortable is Greg's strong suit. He speaks to students at events like Career Days. "I often find myself standing next to amazing doctors, attorneys and captains of industry. I use my scholastic story as a cautionary tale and to explain that my failures were ultimately gifts. If there is any value in accomplishment, it is found in the struggles that preceded it."

Greg and his wife, Stephanie, bought their first home in rural Princeton, Texas, in which to raise their three children.



# D



— By Angel Morris

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that readers  
join the  
journeys I  
take in my  
stories and  
get invested."**





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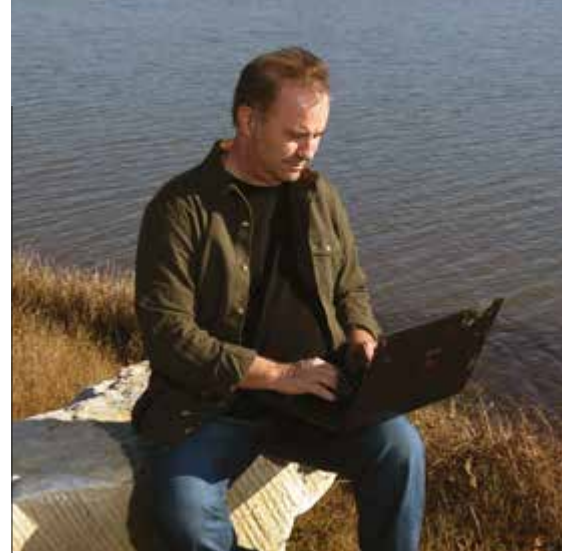
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Stephanie, a degreed journalist, began reporting for the local paper, and through her, Greg submitted a humorous story about a stray English bulldog that had terrorized his family. "It was well received, and they offered me a weekly column," Greg recalled.

Inspired by Erma Bombeck and Patrick F. McManus, Greg wrote for a few years until a promotion at his job required a move to Arlington. "My career and raising a family absorbed my time, and I took a long break from writing," Greg remembered.

Today, Greg is chief operating officer for Spring Creek Restaurants, where he began bussing tables and washing dishes 36 years ago. "The business has kept me humble. I'm as comfortable sitting in a board room as I am sweeping a kitchen floor," he said.

His career exposed Greg to thousands of customers, vendors and employees. "I feel like I have a Ph.D. in connecting with people from all walks of life, beliefs, backgrounds and political affiliations."

In 2019, the Halls connected with new friends and neighbors after moving to Midlothian. They found "Hall (1.15) Acres" on the south side of town. As a backyard bird fanatic, seeing the property already had an established Purple Martin colony sold him. Greg enthused, "During the purchase negotiations, I think the words, 'I'll pay anything' came out of my mouth."

After moving in, the Halls began meeting neighbors until COVID-19 limited those opportunities. "That being said, our house in Midlothian has quickly turned into a home," he noted.

Settled in, Greg was ready for a new start and knew it was time to write again. "My hope is that readers join



the journeys I take in my stories and get invested,” Greg encouraged. “It’s early, but as of this writing, I have yet to receive a single negative comment about anything I’ve posted. That’s not a compliment to me, but a compliment to the people of Midlothian and greater Ellis County.

“I’m so gratified when I hear from readers who say something I wrote touched them, conjured up fond memories or encouraged them toward a better outlook,” he continued.

“Some respond by sharing personal aspects of their own lives ... their trials and triumphs. I love that they feel comfortable in doing so.”

Greg finds inspiration for a story anywhere. “Sometimes, I just gaze at whatever is in front of me and imagine all the narratives. It’s about letting my surroundings speak to me, whether it be a fluttering butterfly, a person I meet on the street or an old lawnmower that refuses to start.

“Back in my newspaper days, I took an opportunity to challenge my ability to create a story. I was invited to speak to a class of third-graders about writing. I asked them to come up with a topic for my next column. After much debate, they settled on the title, ‘The Cat That Flew to America!’ It took a little imagination, but that unconventional yarn hit papers the following week!”

When not writing, Greg loves all things outdoors, except golf, a sport in which he claims to be so bad he is “banned from stepping foot on any golf course in Texas and its contiguous states.” He also loves bragging about his wife, a teacher at Waxahachie Prep, and children: Katy, a fifth grade teacher in Frisco; Hannah, a singer/songwriter/musician living in Nashville; and Sam, a senior at Texas Tech University.

“Lastly, maybe the most important thing to know about me is that I’m human like everyone else. I’ve experienced victory and defeat. I’ve made mistakes, said dumb things and let people down,” Greg clarified. “Through writing, and my faith, I find redemption and an opportunity to slow down, laugh at myself and see the beauty and value in the people and places that intersect my path. Sharing that beauty with my readers in a way that resonates with them is one of my greatest joys.” **NOW**



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# JENNIFER'S JOURNEY

— By Angel Morris

*Jennifer Law has worked all around the U.S. in volunteer roles and often with children, but she says the best job she's ever had is her current position with Midlothian ISD. "Locally, I've worked with AAFES and as a job skills trainer with Bridges, LLC, she said. "I've had some great jobs, but being a resource aide at Walnut Grove Middle School is hands down my favorite!"*

Jennifer's work with the district began in a volunteer capacity at Longbranch Elementary, where she helped develop a program for boys of exemplary character. "Lead Cats was for fourth- and fifth-grade boys to learn about things like respect, cleaning up after oneself and carrying on a conversation," Jennifer outlined. "The participants were expected to maintain required academic and behavioral standards to be in the club."

A desire to fill the gap between what boys were learning in school and home motivated Jennifer. She wanted to help them

grasp "the small things that will help them for life, that they likely weren't learning anywhere else." Jennifer arranged monthly speakers on things like kindness and leadership. The boys were required to shake the guest speaker's hand, thank them for coming and recollect one thing the speaker spoke on they found interesting. "Seeing the kids thrive and look forward to our time together was amazing. In those moments, I discovered exactly what I wanted to do in life," Jennifer admitted.

With an undergraduate degree in sociology from Dallas Baptist University, Jennifer had not always known which career path she hoped to follow. "It took me 14 years to re-focus and finish my Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. I was seven months pregnant at the time, and it was a very proud moment," she recalled.

Married to her high school sweetheart, Matt, Jennifer was accustomed to her husband's military career taking priority. "We moved to Upstate New York after we were married, then spent three very enjoyable years in Hawaii," Jennifer noted. "We came to Midlothian in 2015 and have been here since."

Like many women, Jennifer put raising her family first. A former high school soccer player, she was excited when her children took up the sport. "Their second season, they ended up not having enough coaches for teams. I was very pregnant and



very employed, but I knew that I wanted to share that experience with them. So, I volunteered to coach," she explained.

"I had no idea what to expect, but the parents were very kind, and the kids were hilarious. I fell in love with it and haven't stopped," Jennifer continued. "We have a great time, and they learn a little more every practice."

Just when it seemed Jennifer had found her footing as a volunteer and coach, her husband of 23 years passed away from COVID-19, November 28, 2020. "We had five kids together, and more memories than many people get in a lifetime," Jennifer shared. "Losing him left a huge gap, but our friends and family have given their all to make sure we are well-loved and taken care of."

And as she did when her children needed a coach, Jennifer took the reins as best she could. "I keep putting one foot in front of the other. There's really no special secret to making it work," Jennifer admitted. "You roll with it and do the best you can. It's exhausting, and most days include some kind of struggle, but we make it."

One way Jennifer gets through the hard times is blogging about her feelings. "The blog was born out of frustration and angst. After Matt passed, I needed an outlet to express what I was going through ... having five kids, working full time, volunteering and dealing with the everyday stuff was getting to me.

"It didn't hurt that my life is always comical. The kids provide plenty of material. When I'm able to write it out and share it, and I can see that it resonates with others, it's an amazing feeling," Jennifer noted of her Facebook blog, "Sincerely, The Exhausted."

Somehow, Jennifer also makes time for the simple things with her children, like seeing movies and taking trips. "Getting to experience new places and things is something we all look forward to," she said.

Despite everything on her plate, Jennifer anticipates completing her teaching certification in the coming months, then hopes to teach in MISD. To anyone facing adversity, Jennifer promises if she can do it, so can they. "When the odds are stacked against you ..." she said, "... it might seem easier to give up, but it is so worth pushing on." NOW



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## Zoomed In: Bob Turner

By Angel Morris

For his 75th birthday, Bob “Bobcat” Turner’s wife, Billie, wanted to do something special. “At our age, we do not need stuff. We just need to be remembered by friends and family,” she said. So, Billie asked Bob’s friends to send a card and 75 cents to him. “The plan was to match however much he received with a donation to the local food pantry.”

During a family trip to Breckenridge, the family surprised Bob with dozens of cards and \$375 for donation to Manna House. “I was completely blown away by the surprise trip, but also by the outpouring of wishes and greetings from my family and friends,” Bob admitted. “I truly am blessed.”



Midlothian's Desmond Davis and Kelcie Davis, with radio station K104's Niaps Spain, enjoy the KDD Winter Gala benefiting children with special needs.



Jeff Bucknam shares his contracting expertise during the Heaven's Attic resale shop remodel that wrapped up in February.



City leaders cut the ribbon on the final phase of the 105-acre Midlothian Community Park at 3601 S. 14th Street.



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# BusinessNOW

## Custom Electric LLC

— By Angel Morris

### Custom Electric LLC

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If you're in need of commercial or residential electrical work, Custom Electric LLC is a small electrical contractor striving to meet its clients' needs. "We believe in providing quality workmanship and services beyond the average standards. It's



more than providing our clients a service, it's about building a relationship," Owner Viktor Poliashov, promised.

Licensed and insured as an electrical contractor, Custom Electric LLC has been in the trade more than 15 years. "We are experienced and offer a full range of quality residential electrical services, and customer satisfaction is always our priority," Viktor explained.

Residentially, Custom Electric can upgrade lighting, add outlets, install generator inlets, generators and accessories, electric vehicle car chargers and more. "We specialize in home automation and lighting control systems ranging from simple Lutron Caséta systems to RadioRA2 and RTI systems," Viktor outlined. "We also troubleshoot repairs and do new custom home construction projects."

Custom Electric's lighting isn't limited to homes, but also includes pools and spas. The company handles everything from home-theater surround sound to panel changes and



service upgrades. "At Custom Electric, our end goal is complete customer satisfaction through transparency, customer education, personal responsibility and pride in our workmanship and service," Viktor stated.

Custom Electric also provides commercial electrical service. Some specific areas on which Custom Electric prides itself include: lighting updates, LED upgrades, tenant improvements and smart automation systems for offices from the simple to complex. "We also provide basic electrical service and routine maintenance and emergency services," Viktor listed.

While Custom Electric is based out of Midlothian, they will travel throughout Ellis County and to most of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. "We will strive to earn trust and meet customer expectations with our customers in Midlothian and surrounding areas through an honest, dependable and transparent approach, so our customers know why and what is being installed or done and what they are paying for," Viktor assured.

Married with two young children, Viktor recognizes the importance of quality service you can trust, building customer relationships centered on family values. He said Custom Electric LLC also recognizes the value of its clients' time. "We are aware of the urgency that can sometimes come with electrical services, and we try and deliver results and repairs in the most timely manner," he said. "We know no one has time for a project to drag on, and they can rely on us to get their project done as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Viktor said the company's projects speak for themselves and encourages people to view the Custom Electric LLC Facebook and Instagram pages, or the company website, for photos of their work. The company's Google page showcases more photos and excellent reviews, as well. Customers may also call to schedule an appointment for a free estimate. "Give us a call today for any of your electrical needs," Viktor suggested. "Your satisfaction is our priority, and you can trust us to deliver honest, reputable service!" **NOW**



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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### LISA COMBS

— By Sandra Walters



Lisa Combs credits her love of cooking to her mom and mother-in-law, but especially her grandmother. “At a young age, I recall running into my grandmother’s house and heading straight for her cake tin to see what was inside. My grown boys and grandchildren do the exact same thing in my home today,” Lisa explained.

Many of Lisa’s favorite recipes hold precious memories because friends and family live on through them. “I have been a hairdresser for over 30 years and accumulated some of the very best recipes from clients and co-workers,” she noted.

Like many cooks, Lisa considers the kitchen the heart of her home. “So many wonderful memories revolve around someone’s kitchen table,” she said. “Cooking brings people together in good times and bad.” **NOW**

#### Seattle Chicken

3-4 chicken breasts  
1 pkg. Uncle Ben’s Long Grain & Wild Rice  
1 cup celery, finely chopped  
1 cup onion, chopped  
Butter, enough for sautéing  
2 14-oz. cans cream of chicken soup

1 4-oz. can chopped green chilies  
3/4 cup mayonnaise  
Cooking spray  
1 cup LAY’S potato chips, crushed

1. Boil and shred the chicken breasts. Cook the rice.  
2. In a skillet, sauté the celery and onions

in butter; add the cream of chicken soup and green chilies. Stir together; add the mayonnaise. Mix thoroughly.

3. Add the wild rice and shredded chicken; mix together.

4. Spray a 9x13-inch glass baking dish with cooking spray; pour in the mixture. Cover the mixture with the crushed potato chips.

5. Bake at 350 F for 20-25 minutes

#### Texas Caviar

1 bell pepper, chopped  
1/2 onion, chopped  
1 bunch green onions, chopped  
2 jalapeño peppers, chopped  
1 Tbsp. minced garlic  
1 pt. cherry tomatoes, halved  
8 oz. zesty Italian dressing  
1 15-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 15-oz. can black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed  
1/2 tsp. coriander



- 1 bunch cilantro
- 1 bag FRITOS Scoops

1. Blend all of the ingredients, except for the chips, together; refrigerate overnight.
2. Serve with the chips.

## Spinach Salad With Strawberries

### Spiced Pecans:

- 1 egg white
- 1 cup pecans
- 3/4 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. water

### Dressing:

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. poppy seeds
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dried mustard
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 2 tsp. corn syrup

### Salad:

- 6 cups fresh spinach, washed and dried
- 2 cups strawberries, sliced
- 3/4 cup red onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced (optional)

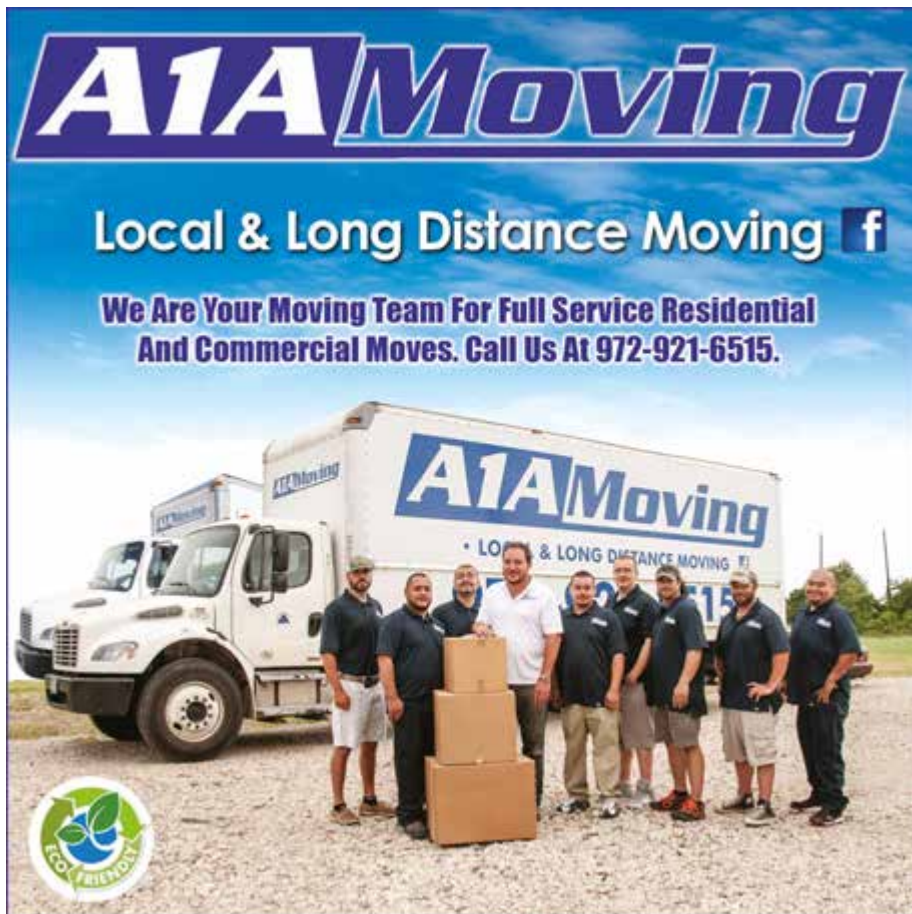
1. For spiced pecans: Beat the egg white until frothy, but not stiff. Add the remaining ingredients, excluding the pecans.
2. Add the pecans; mix to coat. Spread the pecans on a baking sheet in a single layer; bake in a preheated oven at 200 F for 45 minutes, turning every 15 minutes.
3. For dressing: Shake together all ingredients.
4. For salad: Toss together all the salad ingredients. Add the dressing to the salad; toss just before serving. Sprinkle the salad with the spiced pecans.

## Taco Soup

- 1 lb. hamburger meat
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 16-oz. can chopped tomatoes, undrained
- 2 15-oz. cans Ranch Style Beans, undrained
- 2 15-oz. cans whole kernel corn, undrained
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 4-oz. can chopped green chilies
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 pkg. dry ranch dressing mix
- 1 1/2 cups water

### Toppings:

- Sour cream, to taste
- Cheese, to taste



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Chicken & Dumplings

1. Brown the hamburger meat with the onion; drain.
2. Add all the remaining ingredients; simmer for 30 minutes.
3. For toppings: Serve with sour cream and cheese.

## Spaghetti Salad

- 1 lb. spaghetti, cooked and drained
- 1 2.6-oz. jar McCormick Supreme Salad Seasoning
- 1 cup celery, diced
- 1 cup bell peppers, chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup red onions, chopped

- 1 small can chopped black olives
- 1 16-oz. bottle Seven Seas Italian Dressing

1. Mix all of the ingredients together; marinate in a refrigerator overnight.

## Cilantro Lime Corn

- 3 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 1 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1 sweet red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 1 16-oz. bag frozen sweet corn, thawed and drained

1. In a small bowl, combine the butter, lime juice, cilantro, pepper and salt.
2. In a large skillet, melt the butter mixture over medium heat. Add the onions, red peppers and jalapeños; sauté until tender.
3. Stir in the corn, cook until thoroughly heated.

## Chicken & Dumplings

- 3-4 chicken breasts
- 3/4 stick butter
- 2 14-oz. cans cream of chicken soup

- 2 cans Grand Butter Biscuits
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste

1. Boil the chicken breasts in a large pot; shred. Save half of the pot of chicken broth. Add the butter and cream of chicken soup; bring to a boil.
2. Tear each biscuit into about 12 pieces to keep the dumplings from being gummy; drop into the boiling broth mixture. Allow the biscuits to plump up and rise to the top. Continue to stir with a spoon until all the pieces have been added and are floating. Add the shredded chicken, salt and pepper; stir well.
3. Cover the pot; reduce heat to simmer. Cook 20-30 minutes, stirring regularly.
4. Remove the pot from the heat; let cool for 15-20 minutes.

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By Donna Garrett  
Executive Director Sonora Chamber of Commerce


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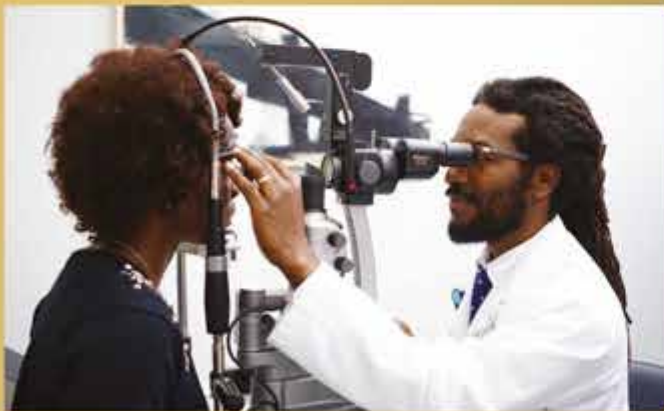






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# A REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PATRIOT

— By Virginia Riddle



*Born in Germany on April 5, 1801, Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was the oldest son of Emmanuel Sterne, who was an Orthodox Jew, and his wife, Helen, who was a Lutheran. At age 16, Adolphus was working in a passport office when he learned he was going to be conscripted into German military service. He forged his own passport and emigrated to America through New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1817. He found employment in a mercantile and studied law.*

Having become a businessman with interests from New Orleans to Nashville, Tennessee, Adolphus made Nacogdoches, Texas, his home around 1824, and upon joining the New Orleans Masonic Lodge in 1826, he became one of the first Masons in Texas. He became friends with Sam Houston through business interests. Despite having taken the required Mexican government's loyalty pledges, Sterne assisted in Nacogdoches' 1826 Fredonian Rebellion by smuggling weapons for the War Dog rebels, a local militia group that was attempting to establish their own republic due to the political and cultural differences between the Anglo-Americans and the Mexicans.

Adolphus was tried for treason by the Mexicans and ordered shot. While his case was reviewed, he was incarcerated in the Stone House, now the Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches. The New Orleans Masonic Lodge interceded, arranging his parole. He was released, agreeing to never take up arms again against the Mexican government.

He helped in the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 but did not take up arms. In violation of the Texas Constitution of 1824, Mexican Colonel José de las Piedras ordered townspeople to surrender all firearms to his 300-plus troops. Instead, residents of Nacogdoches and surrounding towns formed a National Militia. The militia marched to the square where the Mexican army opened fire and hand-to-hand combat began. Sterne instructed the San Augustine Red-landers how to outflank the Mexicans trying to flee. A peace treaty was signed, and Mexican troops were never again garrisoned in East Texas.

Attempting to raise funds and recruit fighters for the New Orleans Greys, who fought in several battles, including the Alamo, during the Texas Revolution, Adolphus spoke at their first rally. Volunteers filled the Grey's first two companies, and thousands of dollars were donated to support the cause for religious freedom and the establishment of the Republic.

Adolphus supported most of Houston's policies during the Republic's early days, except his Indian policy. Sterne commanded a militia company at the Battle of the Neches in 1839, expelling the Cherokees from East Texas.

Between 1840 and 1847 Adolphus became the Nacogdoches postmaster and a land agent. He served Nacogdoches County as court deputy clerk, associate



justice, justice of the peace, the board of land commissioners' clerk and the commissioner of roads and revenues clerk. In 1847, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served a second term. In 1851, he served in the Texas Senate.

He and his wife, Eva Catherine Rosine Ruff, had seven children. Adolphus enjoyed dancing, occasional drinking and playing games of that era. His published diary, with entries from 1840-1851, chronicles early life in Texas. He owned 16,000-plus acres of land worked by slaves. Self-educated, Adolphus was an interpreter in English, French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Portuguese and Latin.

After passing away on March 27, 1852, in New Orleans while on a business trip, Adolphus was buried there but was later interred in Nacogdoches' Oak Grove Cemetery. His home, built in 1830 at 211 S. Lanana Street in Nacogdoches, is now the Sterne-Hoya House Museum. Sterne, an early colonist, businessman and politician, hosted prominent guests, including Davy Crockett and Sam Houston. Sold to the Hoya family in 1866, the home was donated to the city of Nacogdoches in 1958. The museum and library hold the history of the early days of Texas, including Sam Houston's sword and Adolphus' published diary. **NOW**

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5. Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas, Archie P. McDonald, online.
6. [www.easttexashistory.org](http://www.easttexashistory.org), Briana Weaver.

*Photos, unless otherwise noted, courtesy of the city of Nacogdoches Historic Sites Department.*

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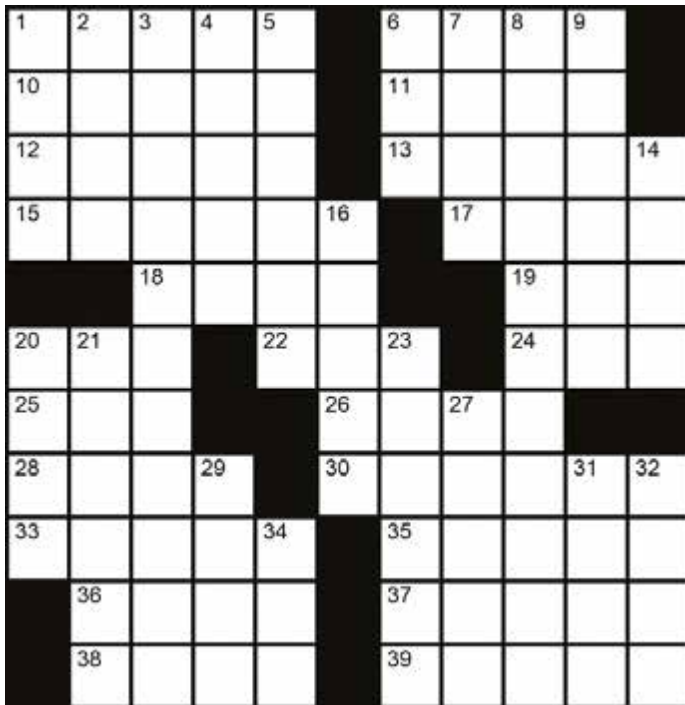
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Andrew Carnegie and Alexander Graham Bell
- 6 Bonny girl
- 10 Case place
- 11 Fairy tale opener
- 12 Rite site
- 13 Like the "sisters" in "Macbeth"
- 15 Flunky
- 17 "— Only Just Begun" (Carpenters hit)
- 18 "Render — Caesar ..."
- 19 Mint
- 20 Federal public lands agency
- 22 Assist
- 24 Exclamation
- 25 Stick up
- 26 Where the pews are
- 28 Unreturned opening shots
- 30 Evinces disdain
- 33 Challenged
- 35 19th century pianist — Schumann
- 36 Suggestive grin
- 37 Professional wrestler a.k.a. Jeffrey Scullo
- 38 Small whirlpool
- 39 Tapered tucks in dressmaking

## Down

- 1 Con game
- 2 "Anything Goes" composer — Porter
- 3 Facing a bigger army
- 4 Work out
- 5 Levels of society
- 6 Down in the dumps
- 7 Once again
- 8 Showcase for more analytical students
- 9 Waitron
- 14 Innocent
- 16 Lower part of the abdomen
- 20 Thin nail
- 21 Spot
- 23 Twisted?
- 27 Mexico's Pancho —
- 29 He/she might fire off a lot of 28 Across
- 31 Brotherhood
- 32 Impertinence
- 34 Teetotal

Solutions on page 44

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 44

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3/3

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3/5

### Midlothian FFA Tune Up Show:

Auction, food, fun and games! Our students will take part in their final practice Points Show before our upcoming Ellis County Youth Livestock Show. 9:00 a.m., Midlothian Ag Barn, 1851 Mockingbird Ln.

3/19

### Nature Walk:

A 1/2-mile guided tour of Mockingbird Nature Park, hosted by the members of the Texas Master Naturalist's Indian Trail Chapter. No reservations required. Walk cancelled in the event of rain. 9:00-10:00 a.m., 1361 Onward Rd.

3/26

### Grand Opening Play Day:

Midlothian Community Park Phase 2, free fun for all ages with a concert and fireworks finale. 3:00-9:00 p.m., 3601 S. 14th St.

### Midlothian ISD Athletics Hall of Honor Banquet:

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3/31

### Denim & Diamonds:

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|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | S | 2  | C | 3  | O | 4  | T | 5  | S | 6  | L | 7  | A | 8  | S | 9  | S |
| 10 | C | 11 | O | 12 | C | 13 | O | 14 | T | 15 | U | 16 | N | 17 | T | 18 | O |
| 19 | A | 20 | L | 21 | T | 22 | A | 23 | R | 24 | W | 25 | E | 26 | I | 27 | R |
| 28 | M | 29 | E | 30 | N | 31 | I | 32 | A | 33 | L | 34 | W | 35 | E | 36 | V |
| 37 | E | 38 | U | 39 | N | 40 | T | 41 | O | 42 | N | 43 | E | 44 | W | 45 |   |
| 46 | B | 47 | L | 48 | M | 49 | A | 50 | I | 51 | D | 52 | C | 53 | R | 54 | Y |
| 55 | R | 56 | O | 57 | B | 58 | N | 59 | A | 60 | V | 61 | E | 62 |   |    |   |
| 63 | A | 64 | C | 65 | E | 66 | S | 67 | S | 68 | N | 69 | I | 70 | F | 71 | S |
| 72 | D | 73 | A | 74 | R | 75 | E | 76 | D | 77 | C | 78 | L | 79 | A | 80 | R |
| 81 | L | 82 | E | 83 | E | 84 | R | 85 | E | 86 | L | 87 | I | 88 | A | 89 | S |
| 90 | E | 91 | D | 92 | D | 93 | Y | 94 | D | 95 | A | 96 | R | 97 | T | 98 | S |

Easy

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

Medium

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