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APRIL 2021

Going Out in Style

Barbara Pipkins helps
kids shine in the
Prom Fashion Show

In the Kitchen With
Jennifer Holmes

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
B&M Auto Specialists

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ON THE COVER

*Barbara Pipkins and her
"escort," Bernard Pipkins,
have dressed to the nines for
13 productions of the Prom
Fashion Show.*

Photo by
Lori Baur.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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What I can put off until tomorrow . . .

... frees me to do the things I must do today. At least that's how I justify my procrastinations. Some of them are minor, like changing my linens. Some are major, like writing articles for the magazine you hold in your hands. Most recently, I've put off filing my federal income taxes.

At times, I've allowed what's on my proverbial back burner to simmer so long that the fuel simply disappears, the flame dies and the pot becomes so cold that the project once calling my attention is no longer attractive. This happens when what I relegate to the back burner has not been categorized by me, myself and I as "urgent." Put another way, this happens when the project stems from my own passions instead of survival instinct.

How do we keep our passions alive except by actually applying ourselves to them every day? I have learned that even 10 minutes a day devoted to the back-burner dream keeps it simmering until it's time to shift it to the front burner. And the effort I invest also fuels my own dignity.

As I consider my income for tax-filing purposes, I'm recalling all I put my hand to during the prior year, and all I want to accomplish this year. Many of my plans revolve around yours! My interest is keeping up with you. Please take time to email me about what you're doing in and for our wonderful community.

I want to tell Mansfield about your front-burner contributions!



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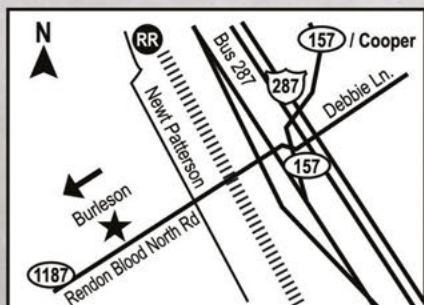
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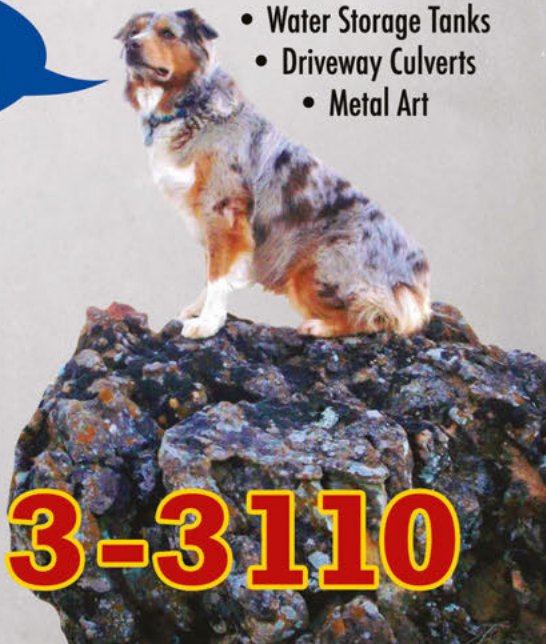
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When Barbara Brown Pipkins prepared to go to prom 40 years ago in Terrell, Texas, she was well aware she would be graduating only a month later and might never see some of her classmates ever again. “That prom was another milestone for that senior year, an opportunity to look good, feel good and go out in style,” Barbara said. She chose a sapphire blue gown, and her escort, Bernard Pipkins, wore a blue tuxedo. They would later marry, but that night they danced the night away to music by bands like Wild Cherry and Ohio Players. “We thought we were so ... mmm!”

Thirteen years ago, Barbara and Bernard went out of their way to help local students feel “mmm” special. Despite COVID-19, the Prom Fashion Show they started still hasn’t gone out of style. This year, the theme was *Battle For The Crown* and the fast-moving, high-energy virtual hour starred 20 models sporting 25 current prom fashions up and down the runway.

GOING OUT IN STYLE

“Prom can be a beautiful experience, but it’s accompanied by that sadness knowing that right around the corner, that’s the end of this chapter of my life,” Barbara said. Sometimes parents cry, seeing their child looking all grown up for the first time. “I told my committee this is bigger than us. Some of our kids are very shy. And yet if you give these kids just a spark, you give them opportunity to shine. They put on these clothes and their personality glows. That, in itself, brings me joy.”

Volunteer makeup artists, hairstylists and cosmetology students donate their time on behalf of the girls for the three hours prior to the show. Usually, it’s the models’ first time to meet each other. The girls in one room are loud and nervous. The boys in a different room get just as excited as the girls. “They’re all dressed and looking at each other, and it’s real competition with the guys,” said Barbara, who bustles about trying to make sure everything is ready for the final presentation.

The deejay, Tazia from K104 radio, must be set up. The photographer, Mr. Busby from Busby Photo Expression, must be ready. “When some of the girls are like, ‘Oh my goodness, my makeup doesn’t look right,’ I have to calm them down and ask, ‘Tell me what type of look you are looking for.’” When some get anxious they’re not going to be able to walk in their heels, Barbara advises, “Just put on footies, walk without heels and call it a day.”

Barbara asks people to donate dress shoes, because sometimes the models cannot afford their shoes. “They don’t have to pay for the makeup or anything. Everything is free,” said Barbara, recalling the mission she and Bernard have had since the early days of the Prom Fashion Show.



— By Melissa Rawlins



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Initial funding began with a golf tournament at the Wanda Creek Golf Course, since Bernard loves golf. Afterwards, they began producing The Prom Fashion Show, since Barbara loves fashion.

Her godmother, mother and father enjoyed dressing well. "Mine was the type of dad who said, 'If I look good, you're going to look good,'" said Barbara, who was voted best dressed in Terrell High School. She came to Mansfield 28 years ago, when she attended graduate school at The University of Texas at Arlington. During a career encompassing social work, criminology, counseling, human resources and health care, she became a mother. She and her sister merged their health backgrounds and opened their own business, Multicare Home Health.

Staying home with her two boys, Barbara volunteered at the schools and participated at Mary Orr Intermediate School's Coffee for Moms. There, as well as through Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she started getting involved in all types of community projects. She shared her vision for the first Prom Fashion Show with Dana Graham, the owner of WhatchamaCallit, who said,





"Count me in." She provided prom dresses and connected Barbara with Tuxedo Junction for dressing the girls' escorts. "Every year since then, Dana has donated prom dresses that I drop off at different schools for those kids in need," Barbara said.

Designed as an opportunity for students in the DFW area to apply for the foundation's scholarship, and also get community service hours, it wasn't too hard to find models for the inaugural fashion show. The Pipkins' sons, Darius and Lenzy, were 17 and 15, respectively, and had friends who were also willing to walk the runway with them. One young woman was chosen to model Barbara's showstopper, a Michael Jackson prom dress with custom-made sequined gloves and the Michael Jackson hat. "She was shy, yet so beautiful and excited that she tossed that hat off in the audience. Before she went to her prom three weeks later, she and her date drove up in the limo, so I could see them."

Year after year, juniors and seniors have showcased fashions provided by WhatchamaCallit and International Suit Wearhouse. As the students walk elegantly up and down the runway, feeding off the energy of the crowd, they turn the Prom Fashion Show into a sought-after honor for future models.

After all these years, the alumni still call Barbara, thanking her for the memories. Life goes on. And by helping kids shine during the Prom Fashion Show, Barbara and her volunteers can help the kids and their families make the transition from high school to what everybody hopes will be shining futures. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For details on supporting scholarships via the Dr. Michael A. Evans Sr. Foundation, contact Chairman Bernard Pipkins at (817) 988-6679.

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— By Melissa Rawlins

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Beyond their orderly efficiency, the five bays inside B&M



Auto Specialists buzz with kindness. The 12 men working here smile at new customers, while taking good care of their current ones.

Maintaining personal connections with their clients keeps owners Bryan and Tonya Davis humming. They address each customer's needs from their own experiences as car owners. "We're not here to sell them everything they can think of," Bryan said. "Our job is to make sure they're safe, help them prioritize their needs and gain their trust in everything we do for them."

Community feedback since Bryan began managing the business in 2011 indicates B&M Auto Specialists achieves its mission consistently. Seven years in a row, the business has been recognized as the top auto facility in Arlington and Mansfield through the Readers Choice Award from *Living Magazine*. "In five years' time, we were in the top 100 of 55,000 installers in the United States for Jasper engines and transmissions," Bryan said. "We work hard to know the customer is getting exactly what they expect, which is quality when they pull out of our driveway."

Whole families, and extended families and friends, trust the work accomplished by B&M Auto Specialists. "Family orientation is key," Tonya said. "I've gotten 20 phone calls, some as early as 1:00 a.m., after a customer has a wreck or needs emergency roadside assistance, and they call because they feel comfortable with Bryan and his advice. The first question we ask is, 'Are you OK?' Then we give them our guidance."

All of B&M Auto Specialists' technicians are ASE certified. "We offer a lot of services people don't even realize we're doing for them," Bryan said. He explained, "While we are conducting regular maintenance, we are inspecting for issues they did not know they had, so we can help them prioritize."

Within his own business, Bryan promotes efficiency by assigning specific tasks according to the ability of each technician. "I have one tech I would prefer to give the transmission or engine repairs and another I prefer to give the electrical repairs. Everybody has a strong suit. Every repair has challenges," he said.

Bryan or General Manager Kevin Northrop detail for customers the difference between their needed maintenance and their needed repairs as well as the difference between a repair and an investment. "The cost difference of some repairs could make up for itself within a year," Bryan said. "And having confidence in our technicians' abilities gives me the confidence to explain all this to my clients."

All B&M Auto Specialists' work comes with a 3-year, 36,000-mile warranty. And local customers are treated like royalty. "We're able to pick them up, take them home, bring them here, deliver the cars," Bryan said. The company even has financing options for virtually everything between repairs, maintenance and common services.

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Sheri Scott is a 26-year veteran of the title industry. Born in Burleson, TX, Sheri entered the title business after she graduated from high school. She worked part time as an escrow assistant for a title company while attending Tarrant County College and enjoyed escrow so much she made it her career. Sheri has lived in Arlington and worked as an escrow officer for over 20 years. She takes pride in creating a pleasant closing experience for her clients and shares their excitement when they close. Sheri is married with two children, two dogs and a cat.

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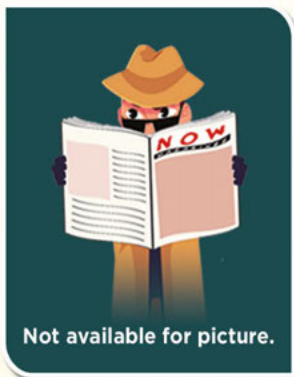
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Zoomed In: Elizabeth Molina and Eloy Molina

By Melissa Rawlins

It was one of those strange days on the verge of spring, when the morning tricked us all into wearing lighter clothing than the afternoon called for. At the beginning of the Mansfield Summit High School junior varsity tournament game at Mansfield Lake Ridge High School, everyone in the stands felt rather chilly. Mrs. Elizabeth Molina was proud to have her son, Eloy Molina, a 2018 MHS alumni, there with her to support her son, David Molina, the pitcher and outfielder for the Summit team.

“David’s a really electric pitcher,” said Eloy, who played third base while in high school and now plays short stop with a team that’s part of a league in Fort Worth. “Watching my brother brings back memories and that feeling of competitiveness, and it makes me eager to get out and play.”



Jerry Silvernale rests after an evening walk through James McKnight Park with his 8-year-olds, Bailey and Eli, who were both adopted from animal shelters.



Sabrina Pinales, with MansfieldTXResponds, helps with clean up from the recent winter storm.



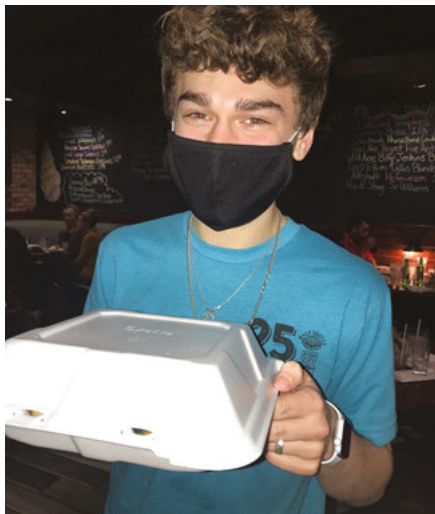
Jordan Eubanks welcomes NOW Magazines’ ad rep Bryan Frye to MansfieldNOW Magazine and wishes NOW Magazines’ Keri Roberson well as she moves to BurlesonNOW Magazine.



Melanie Hawkins and Carrie Martin-Vegue enjoy a picnic with their kids at Town Park.



Hazelann Angel, left, and Valerie Angel, right, indulge their obsession over painted rocks in Katherine Rose Park.



Chris McMahon takes pride in his work as a waiter at Fish City Grill.



General Manager Elias McNees and his server, Brianna, explain the history behind one of Mansfield's newest establishments, 54th Street Restaurant & Drafthouse.



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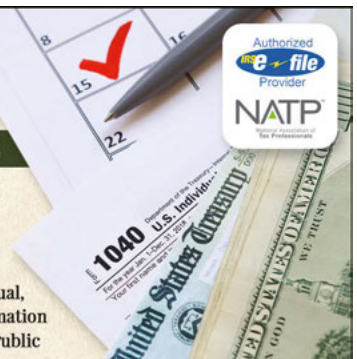
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With four active children and a busy career as a full-time Realtor, Jennifer Holmes developed skills for preparing quick and easy recipes seasoned and flavored from her heart. Her culinary interests evolved from baking pineapple upside down cake with her mother to pure generosity as a young adult in her first apartment in Columbus, Ohio. “I’d cook for my friends. I’m not sure if I was good, or if they were just hungry,” Jennifer said, with a laugh.

She and her husband moved to the Mansfield area for its school system and stayed for its close-knit community feeling. Her friends are grateful. Sometimes, Jennifer whips up a batch of her famous banana pudding to give out as gifts. “When they taste it and close their eyes, and you hear them say, ‘Mmm,’” she said, “mission accomplished.” **NOW**

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

- 2 lbs. boneless chicken breasts**
- 1 Tbsp. garlic salt**
- 1 Tbsp. white pepper**
- 1 Tbsp. Tony Chachere’s Creole Seasoning**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 1/2 white onion, finely chopped**
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom soup**
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 375 F. Season the chicken breasts with garlic salt, white pepper and Creole seasoning.
- 2.** Coat a pan with olive oil. Place the onion in the pan. Cook until soft.

- 3.** While the onion is cooking, mix the soups together. Add in the cooked onion; mix well.
- 4.** Place chicken in a 9x13-inch baking dish; cover with soup and onion mixture. Bake for 45 minutes.
- 5.** Serve chicken over rice with green beans and dinner rolls.

Summertime Cilantro Lime Swordfish

- 1 lb. swordfish steaks**
- 1 tsp. pink salt**
- 1 tsp. powdered ancho chili**
- 1 tsp. Slap Ya Mama White Pepper Blend**
- 1/3 cup cilantro, finely chopped**
- 1 Tbsp. garlic, minced**

- 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil**

- 1.** Season fish steaks with salt, ancho chili and a few shakes of Slap Ya Mama.
- 2.** Mix cilantro, garlic, lime juice and olive oil; pour over the swordfish, making sure to coat both sides. Refrigerate seasoned fish for 10-12 minutes. Do not marinate too long or the lime will begin to break down the fish.
- 3.** Grill fish on the stovetop or outdoor grill for 5-7 minutes on each side, or until done.
- 4.** Serve with risotto and spinach or asparagus. You can also add the fish as a protein to your favorite salad.

French Toast to the Good Life

Pairs well with Mimosas during brunch.

- 8 eggs**
- 2 cups milk**
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla**
- 1 Tbsp. Grand Marnier (optional for a boozy brunch)**
- 1 French brioche or sourdough loaf, cut into cubes or torn apart**
- 1/2 cup flour**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**

1/4 Tbsp. salt
1/2 cup butter, cut

1. Mix the first 6 ingredients above; place the bread in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover evenly with liquid mixture; cover and place in the refrigerator overnight.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 F at least an hour before serving time.
3. Before placing the pan in the oven, combine the final 5 ingredients. Blend well, to a crumble, and sprinkle evenly on top of the bread before placing in the oven to cook for 50-55 minutes, or until done.

The Tahitian Postcard

Serves one person.

3/4 oz. white rum
1/2 oz. lime juice
1/3 oz. passion fruit syrup (Use 1/4 oz. for less-sweet drinks.)
2 dashes Licor 43 or vanilla syrup (optional)
5 oz. champagne or sparkling wine
Lime twist, for garnish

1. Combine the rum, lime juice, passion fruit syrup and Licor 43 (if using) in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake thoroughly and strain into a chilled flute, cocktail glass or coupe.
2. Top with the champagne and add the lime twist. Serve.

My Family's Favorite Mississippi Pot Roast

1 3-lb. chuck roast
Salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 1-oz. envelope onion soup mix, dry
8 pepperoncini peppers
1 1-oz. envelope ranch dressing mix
1/2 cup butter
1 cup carrots, shredded
1 cup celery, shredded
4 potatoes, boiled and mashed

1. Season chuck roast to taste using plain salt and pepper.
2. Coat a skillet with olive oil and brown roast on both sides.
3. Place the roast in a Crock-Pot and add the next 5 ingredients. *Note: If I am making it in the morning before starting my day, I set it on low to cook slowly during the day. If there are a few hours until dinner, then I will set it on high to cook more quickly, but it still comes out just as tender.*
4. Garnish with carrot and celery shreds over mashed potatoes to make it look fancy.

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Summertime Cilantro
Lime Swordfish

Super Delicious S'mores Cake

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Cake:

- 1 15.25-oz. box Betty Crocker Super Moist Chocolate Cake Mix
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1/3 cup butter
- 4 eggs

Marshmallow Topping:

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 13-oz. jar marshmallow fluff or creme
- 1 12-oz. bag mini-marshmallows
- 1 24-oz. bottle chocolate sauce
- 1 14.4-oz. box graham crackers

1. For cake: Prepare the cake according to the box instructions using one extra egg.

milk instead of water and butter in place of oil. Bake in individual mini-Bundt pans.

2. For Marshmallow Topping: Beat butter and extract together in a large mixing bowl until smooth. Add in powdered sugar, beating until it starts to thicken like frosting. Once it's nice and creamy, add the marshmallow fluff. Marshmallow can be a bit tricky to work with the first few times. You can thicken the mixture, if needed, by adding a little more powdered sugar.

3. Once the cakes are cool, top with the marshmallow mixture. For fun, I love topping cakes with mini marshmallows, chocolate drizzle and graham cracker pieces.

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Before establishing a budget, review your financial goals. Start by making a list of your short-term goals like a new car or a vacation and your long-term goals like your child's college education or retirement. Next, determine the importance of the goal and how much you need to save. Armed with a clear picture of your goals, you can work toward establishing a budget that can help you reach them. To develop a budget that is appropriate for your lifestyle, identify your current monthly income and expenses. You can jot the information down with a pen and paper, or use one of the many software programs that are designed specifically for this purpose.

Start by adding up all your income. In addition to your regular salary and wages, be sure to include other types of income, such as dividends, interest and child support. Next, add up all your expenses. Divide monthly expenses into two categories: fixed expenses like housing, food and transportation and discretionary expenses like entertainment, vacations and

hobbies. Also identify any out-of-pattern expenses like car and home repairs or gifts. A review of canceled checks, credit card bills and other receipts from the past year will help. Finally, as you list your expenses, always remember your financial goals. Whenever possible, treat your goals as expenses and contribute toward them regularly.

After adding up your income and expenses, compare the two totals. To get ahead, you should be spending less than you earn. If this is the case, you're on the right track, and you need to look at how well you use your extra income. If you find yourself spending more than you earn, you'll need to make some adjustments. Look at your expenses closely and cut down on your discretionary spending. Remember, if you do find yourself coming up short, don't worry! All it will take is some determination and a little self-discipline, and you'll eventually get it right.

Monitor your budget periodically, and make changes when necessary. Keep in mind, you don't have to keep track of every penny spent. In fact, the less record keeping you have, the easier it will be to stick to your budget. Above all, be flexible. Any budget that is too rigid is likely to fail. **NOW**

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Hello, Spring!

APRIL

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.

4/3

4th Annual Women's Empowerment Ministry Business and Finance Workshop:

Fundraiser for Providence Community Outreach Ministries, an outreach to the homeless assisting single parent families find a stable place to call home. Free. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria St. wemaxpo@gmail.com.

Kirk Thurmond:

Soul, R&B and pop near our beautiful downtown greenbelt. Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m., 109 S. Main St. www.facebook.com/KirkThurmond/.

4/4

Resurrection Sunday Service:

Join people on Zoom to celebrate Resurrection Sunday online. Free. 7:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Facebook: @bbcmansfield; YouTube: @bethlehemmansfield; and Bethlehemmansfield.org/live.

4/14

Menu Makers:

Join Chef Carol via Zoom for cooking classes. Free, but registration must be complete by April 10. Pick up recipe kits at Mansfield Public Library during the week of April 10-12. 6:00 p.m. www.mansfieldtexas.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=22.

4/17 and 4/24

Local Spotlight:

April 17: Mansfieldian Josh Nix performs; April 24: a variety of Fort Worthians perform. Tickets: \$5/person. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. (817) 728-3383, arts@mansfieldtexasarts.org.

4/19

Disney's Frozen Jr. Camp Registration:

Mainstage Classic Theatre announces its 2021 Summer Youth Production Camp, scheduled for June. Spaces limited. Scholarships available; application form, on the website at <http://mainstageclassictheatre.org/camps>, is due in April.

Mike and Devona Shreve,
mdshreve@att.net.

4/30

Nite Bite:

Mansfield Parks and Recreation supplies the equipment and bait, as well as teachers of technique. Students 3-16 years of age must have a valid Texas fishing license. \$10 per child. Preregistration required. 8:00-9:30 p.m., Elmer W. Oliver Nature Park, 1650 Matlock Rd. (817) 728-3280.

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



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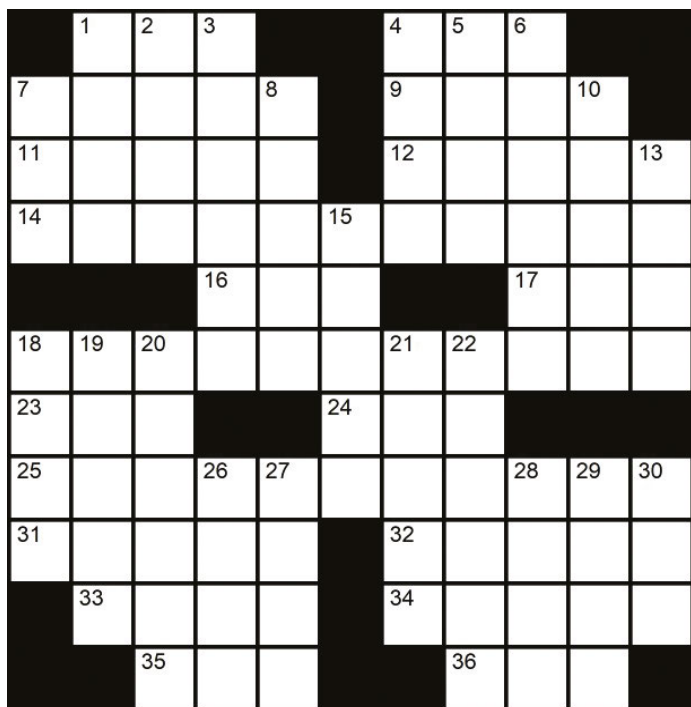
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Nickname
- 4 Engine speed measure
- 7 Kind of farm
- 9 Panache
- 11 Much the same
- 12 B vitamin acid found in spinach
- 14 Lebensraum, a driver of Nazism
- 16 Zilch
- 17 "The Man --- Would Be King" (Kipling)
- 18 They precede deliveries
- 23 Slender pussycat
- 24 John or Jane - could be anyone
- 25 Vision tester
- 31 Largest Flickertail State city
- 32 Thomas Edison, the Wizard of --- Park
- 33 Folk tale
- 34 Dissipate
- 35 Ready
- 36 Enterprise's Captain kept one

Down

- 1 Pickle parlor
- 2 Such as Yale or Princeton
- 3 Sweltering
- 4 Zebras
- 5 Stone-in-pond sound
- 6 Formerly Nyasaland
- 7 Amigo
- 8 Big Red?
- 10 Corner of the market
- 13 Corporate big cheeses
- 15 Forest open space
- 18 College "Teach"
- 19 Settle up
- 20 Unspeaking actors
- 21 Possible response to "Who did this?"
- 22 Grain
- 26 Big brute
- 27 Pyrenean peak
- 28 Keen on
- 29 Slimy pest
- 30 Eclipse


Solutions on page 36

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Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." ~ John 11:25*



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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 36

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- **Advocate for all students.**
- **Represent MISD families and our diversity.**
- **Support our schools' teachers and staff.**
- **Promote fiscal responsibility and community collaboration to meet students' needs.**

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Corinne is a longtime education advocate and fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.

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 - School PTA Board Member
- **Leadership ISD Tarrant County Alumna**
 - Leadership MISD member
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