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APRIL 2021

Creative Men

Rex Shrauner relishes
an ancient skill and
new technology

In the Kitchen With Jay Hutton

Also inside:

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
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ON THE COVER

*Rex and Debbie Shrauner
love quilting together in
retirement.*

Photo by
O4 Photography.

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and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in
the Weatherford and Aledo 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



Lisa

Lisa Bell
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Have you ever considered ...

Even the coldness of winter and sometimes harsh storms of spring resurrect life. Look around. Those trees with bare branches sucked up sustenance all winter long. Now, they have tiny buds, perhaps a few leaves. The roots of grass slept during the cold, drinking in moisture far below the surface, waiting for warmer air and sunshine to revive their multiple shades of green. Unfortunately, the nasty weeds slumbered and awoke with the grass. But I choose to save that for another month. Driving along the highway, we spot the treasured bluebonnets, our beloved Texas state flower. We drink in the beauty, which sometimes steals our breath, leaving us awestruck, unable to describe adequately what we see.

In the dead of winter, we forget what happens below the surface. True in nature — true in ourselves. During the harshest moments, we lose sight of life, hope and faith. Yet, they lay dormant, waiting for the sunshine to resurrect them. As spring returns, we yield to the brighter warmth and longer days. Something inside experiences renewal as the earth sets an example for us.

This month, we celebrate Easter. With all the baby chicks and rabbits, eggs and fun atmosphere, let us not forget an important reality. Easter brings something deeper for many. Hope. Faith. Life. These make up the things we need most. For without them, we struggle to survive and thrive. As spring breaks around us, may our hearts also break free from the coldness of winter. Enjoy some frivolity this month, and welcome life — inside and out.

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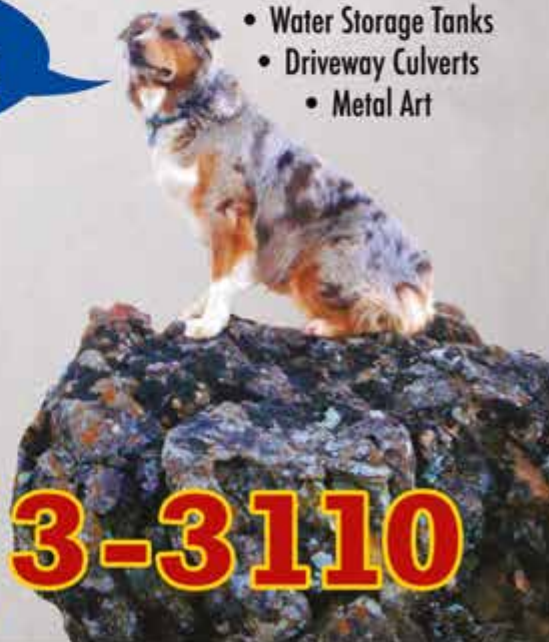
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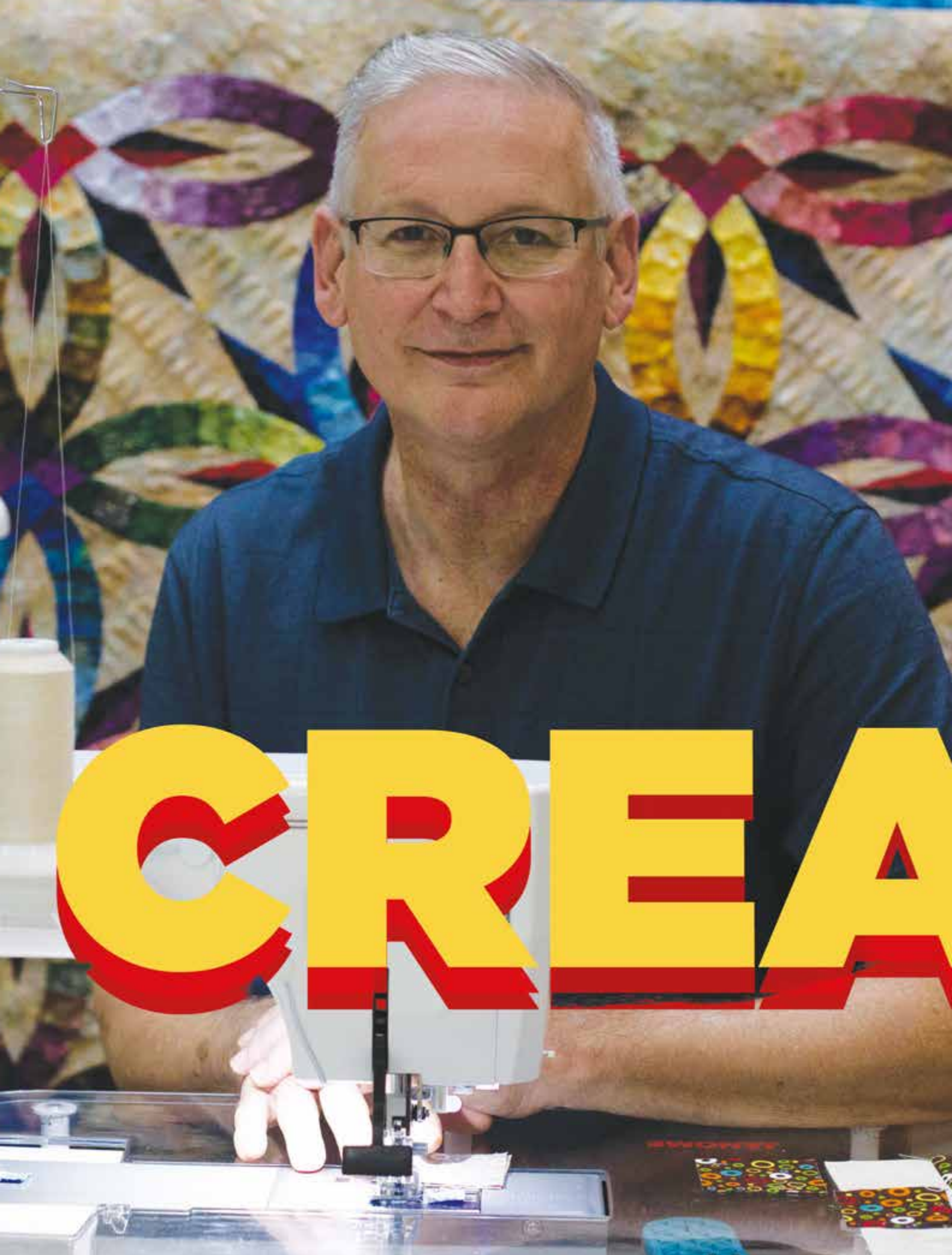
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While women most often take the title of acclaimed quilters, Rex Shrauner didn't let that stop him from taking on the challenge. When his daughter entered college at Texas A&M University, she wanted to make an Aggie quilt. Having watched his grandmother perfect the skill, Rex agreed to join his daughter in the effort. Once he started, the bug bit him. Later, he told his wife, Debbie, "You should try this." She did, and now the couple enjoys time in their home studio making beautiful designs — large and small, traditional and unique.

For Rex, the programmable long arm brings technology to the world of quilting. Admittedly, Debbie does most of the piecework, while Rex spends most of his time running the long arm. Nevertheless, he thoroughly enjoys looking at patterns, designs and colors. He envisions how he wants to create the final quilting. That grabs his mind, and then he puts together the final design of the top.

Although 98 percent of all quilters are women, Debbie said, "When you find male quilters, they're usually very good." She doesn't look for new designs often, since Rex manages to drag her into his envisioned quilts. As she sits at her machine stitching and then displays the finished product, she doesn't seem unhappy about their entwined project work.

Rex observed that many male quilters come from an engineering background. Perhaps that mindset gives them an intrigue for sewing machines in general and the technologically advanced long arm. "It's becoming more common with men. They're just quieter about it," he shared.

A flannel wall in the studio holds work in progress. The couple created the wall by covering lightweight insulation board with inexpensive flannel-backed tablecloths. "The tablecloths don't sag," Rex said. "My current quilt in progress has 169 blocks, so pinning it up helps visualize the final outcome."

While some quilters stick with timeless designs or those others create, Rex and Debbie enjoy coming up with original quilts or using a pattern and tweaking it to fit their style. When finished, they give the quilts to family or friends, or they display them in their studio. They also support the Parker County Quilter's Guild by donating some work for the Comfort Quilts program. In 2020, the

— By Lisa Bell

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members supplied 196 quilts for senior living centers, the police, young mothers and others as they identified needs. The couple admitted to winning a few awards here and there.

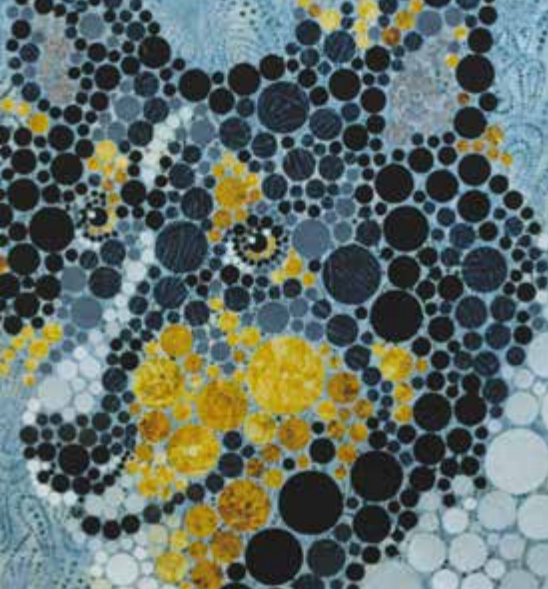
Rex serves as the president of the guild, overcoming the challenges of continued meetings through Zoom during the pandemic. For those who can't access Zoom, the members host small watch parties. The organization contains members from 94 all the way down to teenagers. "There are some very good quilters and beginners," Rex said. "It's fun to watch mentoring as quilters are natural teachers. I always like learning new techniques."

While the guild supports traditional quilters, the members have an option of a modern bee for those who desire nontraditional quilts. For Rex, working with the group is all about learning and teaching. In September, the group will raffle off a beautiful quilt, but they sell tickets starting in March.

"We usually go to the Houston quilt show, and we look at Pinterest for ideas. Look at fabrics — see it in your mind. Rex has always been very visual," Debbie stated. "I started quilting after watching him and our daughter. I had been a scrapbooker before that, but my beginning pattern wasn't a beginner quilt."

A teacher by vocation, Debbie offers sewing lessons to children who are at least 8 years old. They start with a simple pillow case. She has both boys and girls interested in learning the art. "It's our way of using our creativity to give back. It's our ministry," she offered. They also have a Sunday school group working to make a full-size quilt to display.





While some people invest heavily in specialized machines, Rex assured, "You don't need much in a machine to make a quilt." Domestic machines can accomplish all types of quilting, especially the simplest ones. With 15 to 20 of his grandmother's quilts, he relishes not having to quilt by hand.

An aspiring quilter needs a few basic items — a sewing machine, iron and ironing board, rotary cutter, cutting mat and a ruler. Rex and Debbie purchased a free-standing island and covered the surface to create a large cutting table, but spreading a mat on a hard surface works well, too. Of course, pins help with the project, and the type depends on the project. A new product, powder basting, can save a lot of time in putting together a top, and the final quilting holds everything in place permanently. Whether using wool, polyester or cotton batting, all are machine washable, although an heirloom quilt should never see a machine. "Wool is nice for Texas because it breathes. Wool gives loft [the thickness of the batting]," Rex said. For functional quilts wash, but perhaps avoid the dryer.

Rex encourages quilters to visit a guild meeting and use their website to learn tips and tricks. "We always welcome visitors," he said. "I like the guild because I always get new ideas."

While anyone can quilt, learning from others makes the process more fun and less stressful. In the end, a quilt may outlast the creator, but it always brings comfort for the recipient and pride for the one who made it. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more, visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.



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Welcome Spring With an **Easter Wreath**

— By Angel Morris

From florals to faux eggs, decorating an Easter wreath is a simple way to usher springtime into your home. While tulips and speckled eggs are traditional Easter wreath add-ons, you can count on DIYers to get more creative and craftier. Whether emphasizing the religious significance



or using all things bunny-themed, an Easter wreath lets you put your stamp on the holiday, which falls on Sunday, April 4, this year.



If you don't want to invest in a pre-made wreath but you're a first-time DIYer, starting with a simple grapevine wreath may be for you. These can be pricey at craft stores, but they can often be found for half the price, or cheaper, at yard sales and thrift stores.

Very few supplies are needed to transform a grapevine wreath into a holiday- or season-specific piece of decor. Dollar stores have really upped their floral game, and are a great place to find everything you need to create your springtime door decor.

Supplies:

- Grapevine or willow wreath in the size of your choice
- Florist wire (Pipe cleaners or bread ties work, too.)
- Wire cutters
- 2-3 faux flower stems (Tulips are used here, but any spring flower will do.)
- 2-3 stems of smaller flowers or greenery (optional)
- Item to cover where stems meet (A wicker butterfly is shown, but you could use a bird's nest, a crafted bunny, a wooden monogram letter, a bow made of ribbon, etc.)

Easy Approach —

Step 1: Separate each flower from your flower stem, so that they are individuals.

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Starting at the right (where our image shows a butterfly), space your stems one by one curving around the wreath toward the opposite side.

Step 2: Use your floral wire to secure each flower to the point where you want it to sit on the wreath. (Some crafters prefer hot glue to floral wire. It's your choice, but using wire allows you to swap out florals from season to season with the same grapevine wreath as your base!)

Step 3: Fill in vacant spots with your second set of stems, using leafy greenery to help hide floral wire.

Step 4: Place your focal item (wicker butterfly, bow, monogram letter, etc.) at the point where your floral stems first meet on the right side. Secure it with floral wire or hot glue.

Step 5: Wrap a wire or pipe cleaner into a circle atop the back of your



grapevine wreath, twisting the ends together through a good portion of the wreath's stems for security. This is how you will hang your wreath, either to a nail, hook or wreath hanger made for doors.

Easier Approach — A twist on this first approach to an Easter wreath is to simply encircle the top of your grapevine wreath with your tulips, leaving no portion of your wreath uncovered. In this case, you follow the same steps, but completely cover the wreath's surface.

While there is no need for a ribbon or decorative item to cover where the floral stems started, anything could still be added directly atop the flowers, if desired. Speckled craft eggs could easily be tucked around this type of wreath, either by gluing them to floral sticks, or gluing them directly to the wreath itself.



Easiest Approach — Perhaps the simplest take on a springtime Easter wreath is to take your two stems of flowers, without cutting each flower off, and place them end to end, so that the stems overlap and one set of buds is on the right, the other on the left.

Secure the stems atop one another with one wire, then secure the entire bundle to your grapevine wreath with a second wire. Bend the stems so the flowers are angling around the wreath, and cover the stems with a large bow. You can even just secure a single set of stems to your wreath for the simplest approach of all.

There are, of course, countless options when it comes to ringing in spring with an Easter wreath that depicts your style. Whimsical or modern, religious or secular, have fun creating a minimalist or over-the-top crafty piece that says, "Happy Easter, Happy Spring" to you! **NOW**



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— By Susan Simmons

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Dawson shows his mom, Bethany Grissom, how little boys play.

Zoomed In: Christi Derington and Bodie Yarbrough

By Lisa Bell

Christi Derington saw a post on Facebook about a vet who needed a car. Bodie Yarbrough had a vehicle — one not being used and that needed work. “Neither of us are veterans,” Christi said, “but we have friends who are. I wish we could do more.” Despite no connection with any organization, the two of them decided to donate the car. “God said do it,” Bodie shared. “And you don’t argue with God.” Bodie works a full-time job and sells firewood to supplement his income. Rather than sell the car, the donation allowed the two to help someone else. “We’ve never been volunteers with any organization, but we’re definitely interested in doing so now,” they both said.



Passing away at 82, Parker County Sheriff Larry L. Fowler leaves a beautiful legacy.



Sierra Tiffin loves going down the slide at Cherry Park.



Carmen Mendoza and Blanca Villaviecenio receive WC Presidential Core Value Coins, going above and beyond during the storm.



Michael Freeman enjoys a sunny day, waiting for his sandwich at Yesterday's new location.



Peggy Hutton welcomes new Weatherford resident, Kathy Kricensky.



While waiting for car repairs, Jenny Reitz takes a walk around the downtown area.



Setting a good example for everyone, Bobby Ponder finishes her daily walk.

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“At home, I do the cooking, not so much out of love but just to eat good food,” Jay Hutton shared. He learned to cook over the years, mostly from watching food shows and travel channels. Through trial and error, he improved his skills. “I am by no means a chef, and I never had cooking lessons,” he said. Jay prefers taking a recipe, tweaking and making it unique. He also likes making things easier, taking shortcuts when possible.

The accumulation of hanging out and cooking with friends while learning new ways of cooking and combining ingredients remains one reason Jay loves to cook. “I will always love cooking,” he admitted, “but there is no way to find happiness in doing all the dishes.” **NOW**

Pizza Egg White Omelet

3 mushrooms, chopped
3 servings egg whites
6 slices pepperoni
1/3 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
Italian seasoning, to taste
Sun-dried tomato oil

- 1.** Cook the mushrooms in a medium-size nonstick skillet on high heat until soft; set aside.
- 2.** Using the same skillet, pour in the egg whites over medium heat.
- 3.** As the eggs start to cook after a minute,

layer mushrooms, pepperoni and cheese on half the eggs.

- 4.** Fold the egg whites up on both sides of the filling to roll up the omelet.
- 5.** Remove from the skillet; top with Italian seasoning and sun-dried tomato oil; serve.

Jalapeño Popper Chicken

4 large chicken breasts
8 oz. cream cheese
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
2 medium-size jalapeños, chopped

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 420 F.

- 2.** Slice the chicken breasts on the side to create an opening.
- 3.** In a medium-size bowl, combine the cream cheese, cheddar cheese and jalapeños; mix evenly.
- 4.** Stuff the chicken with the cheese mixture; place in an oiled deep pan. Place in the oven for 30 minutes.
- 5.** Best served with rice and vegetables of your choice.

Avocado Chicken Salad Croissants

1 5-oz. can chicken
1 cup plain Greek yogurt
1 cup red grapes, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
1 large avocado, mashed
1/2 lemon
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
Large croissants

- 1.** Drain the can of chicken; pour into a large bowl.

2. Add the Greek yogurt, grapes, celery and avocado; mix until evenly incorporated.
3. Squeeze the lemon into the mixture; add salt and pepper.
4. Fill the croissants with chicken salad mixture.

Smoked Salmon Avocado Toast

Makes one serving.

- 1 slice sour dough bread
- 1 small avocado, mashed
- 1 Tbsp. feta cheese
- 2 oz. smoked salmon
- 1 tsp. sun-dried tomato oil

1. Toast the bread to a light char.
2. Coat the bread with the mashed avocado; top with cut salmon.
3. Sprinkle feta on top of salmon; drizzle oil over all and enjoy.

Spicy Chicken Thigh Tacos

- H-E-B brand spicy chicken thighs, to taste
- H-E-B brand Mixla tortillas (half corn, half flour), to taste
- Lettuce, chopped, to taste
- H-E-B hot pepper queso, to taste
- H-E-B premade pico de gallo, to taste

1. Cook the chicken thighs in a skillet over medium heat until cooked through.
2. As the chicken is cooking, sear the tortillas in another pan over low heat.
3. Chop the chicken into small chunks; fill the tortillas.
4. Top the meat with lettuce, warmed queso and pico.

PBJ Nasty

- 1/2-lb. burger patties
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Thick-sliced bacon (1 slice per burger)
- Butter, for toasting buns
- Kings Hawaiian Bread Buns
- 2 Tbsp. creamy peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp. maple syrup
- Cream cheese, to taste
- Jalapeño jelly, to taste

1. Season the burger patty with salt and pepper; cook in a skillet or flat top on high heat alongside bacon.
2. In another pan, melt some butter; toast the buns in the butter.
3. In a small mixing bowl, combine the peanut butter and syrup.
4. Spread the cream cheese on the bottom



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Smoked Salmon
Avocado Toast

bun; place the burger patty on top of it.
5. Coat the patty with jalapeño jelly; add 1 slice of bacon. Drizzle peanut butter mixture on top of the bacon; place the top bun. Enjoy.

Grilled Cinnamon Peaches

3 large peaches (freestone Parker County peaches preferred)
1 cup caramel syrup
1 Tbsp. cinnamon
1/2 shot cinnamon schnapps

hole where the stone used to be. Continue cooking for 3 minutes on the grill, flesh side down.

4. Set each peach half on a plate next to a scoop of ice cream. Drizzle the cinnamon caramel sauce over the peach and ice cream. Enjoy.

Stuffed Zucchini

3 large zucchini squash
Olive oil, for drizzling

1/2 Tbsp. butter
6 scoops French vanilla ice cream

1. Cut the peaches in half; remove the stone. Place the peaches on a grill with the inside down at 400 F for about 5 minutes.

2. While the peaches are cooking, add caramel, cinnamon and cinnamon schnapps to a bowl. Mix together to make a sauce; set aside.

3. Flip the peaches over; put butter in the

Italian seasoning, to taste
1 lb. sausage of your choice
1 jar Prego Marinara Sauce
Parmesan cheese, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Cut the zucchini in half lengthwise; use a spoon to scoop out the middle of the squash to make a boat.

2. Put the zucchini in an oven-safe deep dish. Drizzle with olive oil; sprinkle Italian seasoning on top.

3. Place the dish of zucchini in the oven for 20 minutes.

4. While the zucchini cooks, brown the sausage in a skillet over medium-high heat.

5. Remove the zucchini from the oven; fill with sausage and marinara sauce evenly. Sprinkle the top of each boat with Parmesan cheese.

6. Return to the oven for another 20 minutes, and then serve.

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THE DALLAS MYSTIQUE

— By Bill Smith

Underneath the familiar 10-gallon hat was a genuine Texan, not just a character from Hollywood groomed for his world-famous role. Larry Hagman was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 21, 1931, and though having spent some of his childhood in California living with his grandmother, he returned to the Lone Star State and graduated from Weatherford High School.

Larry maintained ties with his hometown even after his most well-known character was in syndication. Former Parker County Judge Mark Riley recalled the actor returning to Weatherford in the mid-1980s to speak at a benefit for the local library. "Some years earlier, while I was working for a radio station, I received a large picture of Larry Hagman. I really did not know who sent it or why I kept it for so long, but I knew my mother was a huge fan of Hagman. Mom was in the hospital and could not attend the event, and the word we had from Hagman's advance crew was that he was not going to do interviews nor sign autographs. However, I mentioned having the picture and wanting to get it signed for Mom to one of the organizers of the event. He told me to bring the picture and keep it at my table, and he would see what he could do. To make a long story short, Hagman autographed the picture *To Maurine, Love you, Larry Hagman*. I was able to put the picture in Mom's room, and it was the best medicine she ever had. We don't always see that side of celebrities like Larry Hagman."

Like most thespians, Larry took many small roles in theater and television before his rise to stardom, but being the son of

Mary Martin, aka "Peter Pan," certainly appears to have assisted his career. They acted together during a long run of *South Pacific* in London before he joined the United States Air Force, where much of his activity included producing and directing others in live military productions.

There was even a starring role in the popular soap opera *The Edge of Night* that Larry commanded for two years, before his widely recognized role as the bumbling astronaut Major Anthony Nelson in *I Dream of Jeannie*, where he starred alongside Barbara Eden. The sitcom drew consistently high ratings for five seasons. In the first episode, the marooned astronaut finds Jeannie in a bottle, and though their relationship is one of master and genie, the sexual tension between the two characters was thick, and many agree that the tension was the glue that held the show together. After the characters Nelson and Jeannie married during the fifth season, the tension was lost, and ratings fell to the demise of the program.

We probably never consider Larry as a vocalist, but many of his stage performances were musicals, and he appeared in the TV version of the musical *Applause* with the great Lauren Bacall. That was in 1973, but the role that brought Larry his greatest success and fame was to come along five years later, when the hugely popular prime-time drama *Dallas* debuted.

Each episode began with the popular theme song that everyone can hum along with and a view of Dallas as a helicopter panned the iconic Reunion Tower and the rest of the Dallas skyline. Perhaps the idea of playing a villain like J.R. Ewing appealed to him because it was contrary to his nature. If the rest of the world did not already believe everyone in Dallas, Texas, wore big hats and western boots, lived on a ranch and owned oil wells, they soon did due to the addiction to the highest-rated television show of the era.

Other television shows drew high ratings by ending a season



with a cliffhanger — *The Fugitive* from the 1960s for instance — but none captured the attention of the world like “Who Shot J.R.?” We were left wondering whether J.R. lived or died, and, of course, wondering who pulled the trigger in the final episode of Season 3. Larry was negotiating his contract with the producers of *Dallas*, and reportedly consideration was given to using the “shot” as a way of writing him out of the script. Negotiations worked out, and J.R. appeared in the final minutes of the first episode of Season 4, but we did not find out who shot J.R. until the fourth episode of the season.

While the J.R. Ewing character may have been the stereotypical Texan to much of the world, Larry Hagman may have been his alter-ego, based on the charitable nature he exhibited later in his career. There are conflicting accounts about where his ashes were spread after his death and cremation in Dallas in November 2012, but at least some of his fans believe they are all over Southfork Ranch. **NOW**

Sources:
IMDb.com
larryhagman.com



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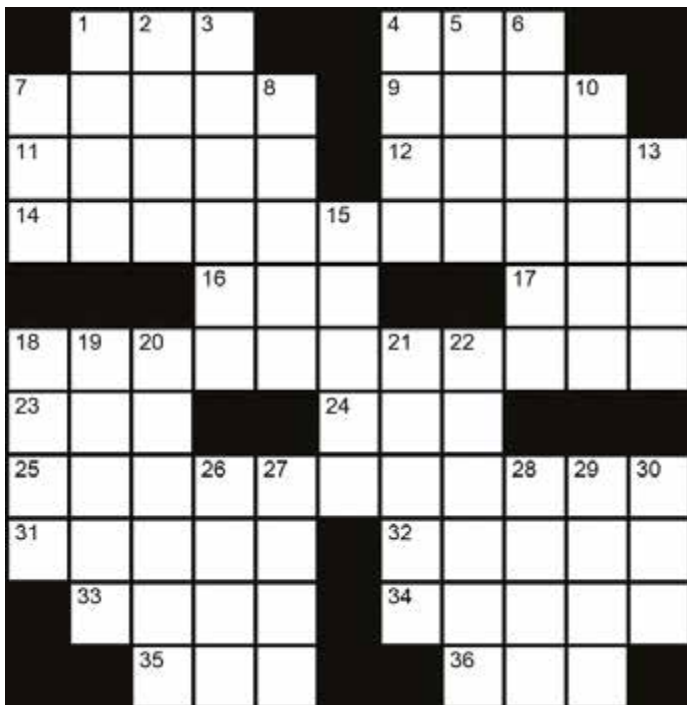
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Across

- 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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		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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4/3

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4/16

Movies in the Park:

Free showing of *The Croods: A New Age*. Movie begins at sundown, or come early to grab a good spot and food from the vendors. Bring a blanket or chairs to get comfy. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater, 378 Jack Borden Way. www.experienceweatherford.com.

4/17

Resolution 2021:

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

Medium

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



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