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APRIL 2022

A Creative Metamorphosis

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Impossible or True?

The Lady in Blue: a vision, a legend or a miraculous story?

In the Kitchen With Marsha Dameron

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ON THE COVER

*Kyle Hobratchsk looks forward
to 100 West's next 10 years.*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Readers!

The word, *April*, comes from the Latin verb, *aperire*, meaning "to open." My high school Latin is coming back to me as I work with my homeschooled granddaughter on her Latin and Spanish studies. Let's hope this spring's warmer weather opens our events, festivals, schools and meetings that have been cancelled periodically due to the COVID numbers rising this past winter. Fortunately, nature will do its thing and open blooms beautifully for us to enjoy, and our friendly hearts in Corsicana and Navarro County always stay warm, whatever COVID does.

Easter is coming this month, and while my sister and I were watching my mother's old home videos my brother-in-law kindly digitized, I was reminded of the days when Mother dressed my sisters and I for the occasion — in newly bought, all white, Mary Jane patent shoes, gloves, full net petticoats and frilly dresses, topped off with hats. As we were watching the home videos, in walked that same 9-year-old granddaughter. Looking over our shoulders, she remarked, "Why are you wearing paper plates on your heads?" Out of the mouths of babes, right? We got a good laugh. Yes, the hat fashions of those days look exactly like the paper plates of today! I don't miss those fashions — especially those net petticoats that scratched our legs on hot, no-AC-in-the-car days.

Pray for my old oak tree, for this will be the deciding month for its stay or removal. It has spread its limbs for well over 150 years, the arborist says, but the 2021 freezing weather hit it hard, like so many of our native oaks. It came back a little last summer, but ... we'll see!

Have a great month!

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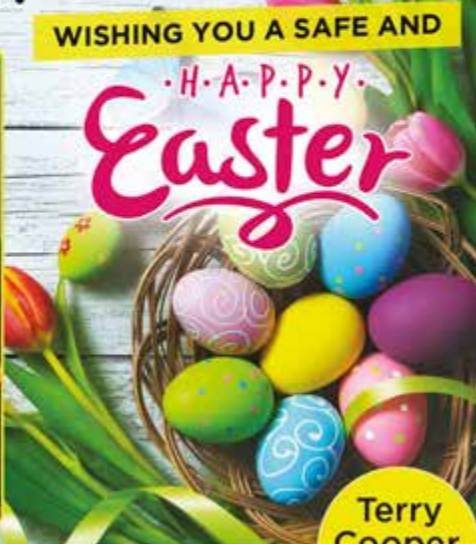
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A CREATIVE METAMORP



From dawn to dusk light floods into the cavernous studios at 100West. Soft sounds of a small city's streets waking to another day, accompanied by train whistles traveling the many tracks that crisscross Corsicana, have been welcoming artists and writers from all parts of the world to a working, residency haven for 10 years. "This year's anniversary is an opportunity to produce durable materials that will transcend time and look both forward and backward — be introspective — and re-establish our mission," Kyle Hobratschk, founder, stated.

An Open Studios anniversary celebration, overflowing into a street party on May 28, 2022, will feature a documentary film designed to show the mission at work from the beginning when local artists and writers, David Searcy and Nancy Rebel, joined Kyle in hosting other artists in a functional space designed for creative minds to flourish. "The documentary shows what this space has become to us, as we show the founders' works and also help the community understand our bigger narrative," Kyle shared. "100W and the other residency properties are interesting buildings to share with others, and we get to share Corsicana's attributes with our residents."

A current resident, Céline Leroy, a book translator from Paris, France, is an example of the residency stretching its scope into its next decade. "I've worked for 21 years translating American fiction, poetry and nonfiction to French," she said. "The residency gives me time to think with no pressure." Céline is currently translating a Peter Heller novel and Barbara Kingsolver's first book of poetry. She explained her role, "Even though I'm not the writer, I'm like a classical musician interpreting what someone wrote. Translation is an art form, a form of performance, but translators are invisible. Readers being able to read works from other places gives more layers of understanding. I'm grateful to be here, surrounded by artists. I like to observe people when traveling, and I'm seeing how the artists work."

Céline has traveled to other European countries and New York City as well as serving a residency in Canada. She was educated at Paris' Sorbonne University, where she studied American contemporary literature. Thus, she loves Corsicana's brick streets and being able to walk the downtown easily. She became aware of the residency through a mutual friendship with John Freeman, David's literary agent.

"We've been developing circles like that over these past 10 years," Kyle added.

Kyle's mentor, Jay Sullivan, served as the Meadows School of Arts chair at Southern Methodist University. He encouraged Kyle to found 100W and is its current board chairman. "After I looked at the possibilities in Corsicana, I told Kyle, 'You owe it to yourself the chance to fail,'" Jay stated. "Kyle is precise to



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— By Virginia Riddle



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a fault, and his precision is his greatest asset. He's willing to investigate and learn." Jay finds his work with the residency an extension of his teaching and administrative career. "I've worked with a large network of people, and through the residency, we're creating a larger community."

A sculptor, Jay has found that Corsicana answered another of his interests. A piece of his collection, *Architectures of the Body*, was cast by Corsicana's Oil City. "I've worked with them for about eight years with cast-iron," Jay remarked. While artists' residencies are usually in large cities, he finds Corsicana's location perfect, since it's near the DFW Metroplex. "Residencies give one control over his/her life to see, touch and feel within the local micro-environment," he added. 100W residents are given opportunities to interact with local school students and staff and show projects during Open Studio sessions hosted by the residency each term. "In Corsicana's residency an artist or writer must be self-sufficient. Residents can connect to people in different ways that allow them to think in other ways," Jay explained.

The residency's next 10 years are being planned as the celebration continues. "We're putting in place the structure to be financially stable," Jay stated. "We have a good, supportive, forward-thinking board. We've done well in growth, but the discussion now is centered on what's the right size for the residency after having spent years expanding its footprint. A key point is that this has been a volunteer organization focused on Kyle's work and





precision, but the institution needs to grow and be sustainable without that one person.”

Kyle readily agreed. “The residency has fed me, and I really found me and my hometown in Corsicana,” he said. “I think more like a big city kid, but as a small city kid, I get to live a little more.” With expansion to other properties in the “campus,” however, he’s found it challenging to “manage the material world. In the past two years, I’ve started turning the daily management of systems over to a small team of part-time employees,” Kyle said. With his SMU degree in painting, Kyle’s work in furniture design and making, drafting, carpentry and architectural rendering can be seen throughout the residency’s campus buildings. His mother, Celeste Allan, an architect, has also helped professionally. Looking into the future, Kyle expects to have more time for travel and to work in painting, furniture and printmaking.

“I’ve loved seeing 100W filled with people for our big dinner parties, and we cook the dinner ourselves. Those have been a blast!” Kyle remembered. “My other great memory will be the opening of Storefront. It’s great to see people engaged and see the fruits of the residency enjoyed by so many. The magic is the intimacy of it all.”

Depending on his time and residents’ needs, Kyle will remain available. The founders’ task of reviewing annually the more than 200 applications received and selecting the next year’s 18 residents is one he enjoys. We look for excellence and have a complex matrix of diversity across disciplines and media, national and international balance and diversity in age and backgrounds,” Kyle said. And when future residents take evening breaks, strolling the sidewalks that line the brick streets, Kyle and his dog, Pinto Bean, will likely be there, ever widening those circles and enjoying Corsicana’s small city rhythms. **NOW**

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TALES OF TEXAS

Impossible *or* True?

— By Lisa Bell

While legends often sound far-fetched, all of them have a basis of truth. In the case of María de Jesús de Ágreda, many pieces of her story have no explanation outside a mysterious and miraculous event.

Born April 2, 1602, María Fernández Coronel grew up with a zeal for telling people the Gospel story, wanting nothing more than to see people come to a saving knowledge of her Lord. From early childhood, she longed to become a missionary in the New World. Unfortunately, young girls of her era didn't have that career option.

Some say even as an infant, she had divine knowledge. A child prone to visions, preoccupation with spirituality and obsessed with compassion for the poor, her family misunderstood her. Often feeling wounded and unloved, she retreated to the depths of her soul. With desires of mission work squashed, María made a decision. At only 8 years old, the girl announced a determination to take a chastity vow and enter the sisterhood.

Seven years later, her father and two brothers entered a monastery. Following what they all believed as guidance from the Lord, María's parents converted their castle into a convent — the Franciscan Convent of the Immaculate Conception at

Ágreda. Sister María de Jesús (as she was known after taking her vows) entered the sisterhood without ever leaving her home.

Instead of esteeming her, the other nuns ridiculed and humiliated her. At one point, the Mother Superior requested an ecclesiastical examination. After much questioning, the Provincial of Burgos, Fray Anthorn de Villacre, declared her neither foolish nor mad. He declared that Sister María de Jesús attained true sanctity, a transcendent state of spirituality. The nuns then held her in the highest esteem, thrusting her into unwanted limelight.

Not long after that, during fervent prayer following communion one day, the young nun entered a trance. She found herself walking among dark-skinned men where they gathered, hunted and lived a simple life. Returning many times in the same fashion, sometimes two and three times a day, she taught them the fundamentals of Christian faith and lifestyle. Sister María de Jesús claimed over 500 visits to the New World, although she physically never left Spain.

Later, under the guidance of her confessor, Francisco Andres de la Torre, she detailed accounts of her journeys in a book titled, *The Mystical City of God*. Questioned extensively, Sister María de Jesús provided glorious details that she could not possibly know without having been among the native Americans.

The Jumano tribe, inhabitants of Texas and parts of New Mexico, have long shared stories of the Blue Nun. They say she appeared hundreds of times to them, coming from the sky.

Because of the cobalt blue clothing she wore, they called her the Lady in Blue. Many settlers also claimed this same woman came to them, ministering to their souls.

The Jumano Braves, moved by the nun, traveled to a mission in New Mexico and shared with the priests what they learned from her. From 1620, increasing numbers of native Americans came, requesting missionaries so they could learn more and receive blessings. When friars finally visited the village, the natives welcomed them with two wooden crosses, covered with flowers they said the Lady in Blue helped them decorate. When shown a photo of an older Franciscan nun, they declared their Lady in Blue wore the same clothing but was much younger and very beautiful.

The Jumano legend states that the morning after the Blue Nun's last visit, they woke to a field of beautiful flowers that matched the color of her cloak. According to them, the Texas bluebonnet appeared in her absence.

A few years after her death in 1665, the church declared Sister María de Jesús de Ágreda venerable. In the 20th century, they opened her coffin and found the beloved nun's body uncorrupted by death.

Did she indeed visit America at the same time she remained in Spain? Some believe she did, although no one can explain the possibility of such visits outside a miracle of bi-location.

Those who saw the Lady in Blue recorded and told their stories for generations. Whether a true visit by a miracle, or a vision that appeared to many people, the Jumano tribe, settlers and others learned about Christianity — enough to want more knowledge and blessings from the church. Sister Maria's deepest desire to see people in the New World learn about Christianity came to fruition — a fact history can't dispute. **NOW**

Sources:

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Zoomed In: William R. Bullard

By Virginia Riddle

A new face greets visitors at the Pearce Museum. William R. Bullard became curator of exhibits and collections in August 2021, after earning a master's degree in museum studies at Baylor University. Having earned his undergraduate degree at University of North Texas, William remarked, "I get to figure out what connects people to museums, and this is the first time I've worked in a small city. I find when I chat with someone, everyone knows everyone."

He enjoys the Warehouse Living Arts Center's shows and the Pearce's art collection. William stated, "I like writing and editing, mostly fiction, and drawing. I'm starting to travel, and I have two Siberian Huskies, who love to get muddy."



Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Dancing for Our Stars, Rocky and Kennedy Barham.



Brandi Stearman, Carroll Elementary counselor, earns Counselor of the Year from Region 12 and the National School Counselor Association.



Everyone's a winner at the Hull Creative Arts Foundation's Casino Night.



Twilight Nursing Home and Rehabilitation earns the Chamber's Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year Award.



Jan Noblett and Holly Gibson and fellow members of Corsicana UMC's UMW Circle I fill valentine bags with goodies.



The Legendary Creators share songs from the 1950s-1980s at Navarro College's Black History Month Celebration.



Michelle Knauth, chapter president, Alpha Rho, DKG welcomes speaker, Aimee Kasprzyk, CISD's director of fine arts and UIL.



Faith Holt listens as Navarro College Foundation scholarship recipient, Neyda Mirafuentes, reads her MLK essay.

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- Legal advocacy
- Computer lab and library (with Internet)
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- Family violence classes
- Help with protective orders
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BusinessNOW

Blake's Boats

— By Virginia Riddle

Blake's Boats

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www.blakesboatsales.com
Facebook: Blake's Boats

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Ready for a beautiful day on one of many area lakes or rivers or maybe a trip to the Texas Coast? Is your boat ready, too? Jason Blake, Blake's Boats vice president, can service your craft or help you upgrade to a new fun and functional choice. "We love helping people get out on the water with their family and friends," Jason said.

A locally owned family business, Jason and his dad, Lamar Blake, are marine and powerboat enthusiasts themselves. "We



enjoy getting out on the water when time permits," Jason added. Founded in January 1996 by Lamar, the business offers full service on outboard and inboard equipment and boat and personal watercraft repairs.

New and used boats, motors and personal watercraft and accessories are for sale with financing and insurance departments available on-site to help. "We are here to help customers see their financing options, and we work with the nation's top lenders to offer the most competitive loans available," Lamar stated. Free quotes are available for the purchase of new or used boats. Brands carried include Yamaha WaveRunner personal watercrafts, Lowe fishing and pontoon boats, Blazer bass and bay boats, Veranda Luxury Pontoon boats and Yamaha and Mercury outboard motors and parts.

Want to repair or customize your boat or watercraft and need parts? Blake's Boats' parts department can help. "We carry a wide selection of parts and accessories, so customers can maintain their vessels and make them their own," Lamar said. "If we don't have a part in stock, we're happy to order it."

Seven employees, in addition to Jason and Lamar, work in sales, service and management, to make sure that customer service is a primary function. Jason's grandmother, Betty Atchley, who is in her 80s, leads the way for Jason's brother-in-law, Matt Anderson, and the service guys, Jerald Montgomery, Ron Hunt and Ty Zabochnik. Jason's son, Dylan Blake, is the third generation to join the company, and Lamar's wife, Linda Blake, does the important job of payroll. "My dad brought me in as a full partner years ago, and my grandmother has worked for us for 20-plus years," Jason remarked. Lamar and Jason have worked in every aspect of the business and have specialized training in sales and service.

"We love helping people get out on the water with their family and friends."

The Blake family lives in Navarro County, hailing from the Barry area. "We enjoy the small Navarro County communities that offer a slower pace than that of the bigger cities," Jason said. When not working or enjoying a day on the water, Jason and his family enjoy traveling.


The business is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business. For the past several years, it has supported Child Advocates (CASA) of Navarro County.

Blake's Boats has been voted Best of the Best every year dating back to its founding in the late '90s. Additionally, the business has earned the National Marine Manufacturers Association's Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) Award for the last four years in a row. Jason explained, "We maintain exceptional service and sales methods, keep up with social media and marketing efforts and effectively manage people for the best results for our customers, all while keeping up with the many advancements in electronics." **NOW**



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A photograph of Marsha Dameron, a woman with grey hair and glasses, wearing a bright pink long-sleeved top. She is standing in a kitchen with a stone backsplash, holding a small round pizza or flatbread topped with cheese and dark toppings. The text 'CookingNOW' is overlaid in the top right corner of the photo.

CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With
MARSHA DAMERON

— By Virginia Riddle

Growing up in small town Healdton, Oklahoma, Marsha Dameron enjoyed watching her mother cook Southern recipes handed down through generations. As a teenager, she started cooking lunch for her working parents and took high school home economic courses.

An ardent Oklahoma University alumna, Marsha enjoys all cuisines and trying new recipes. “My husband was a great cook, and I was a customer service representative for gourmet white chocolate companies traveling to trade shows and eating in fine restaurants,” she recalled. “Nowadays, my inspirations come from celebrity chefs.

“I enjoy cooking because I love food, and I enjoy cooking and sharing recipes!” Marsha shared. “Cooking is a part of my life, not only nourishing my body but also my soul.” **NOW**

Cheese Egg Float

3 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. flour
1/2 tsp. onion powder
1/2 tsp. celery salt
1 1/2 cups whole milk
4-5 eggs
1 cup cheddar or Co-jack cheese, grated
3 English muffins
Butter, to taste
4-6 slices Canadian bacon, cooked

1. In a saucepan, melt the butter. Add the flour and seasonings; stir until smooth.
2. Add the milk; stir until the mixture has thickened. Pour into an 8x11.5x2-inch (2-qt.) baking dish.
3. Break the eggs on top of the mixture; top with the cheese. Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes.
4. Toast the English muffin halves; spread with butter to taste. Top each muffin half with a Canadian bacon slice; top with the egg and sauce mixture.

Tommy's Tampa Caesar Salad

2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 cup French bread, cubed
Kosher salt, to taste
Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
(divided use)
1 2-oz. tin of anchovies packed in oil;
finely chopped and mashed
1/4 tsp. dried mustard
4 drops Worcestershire sauce
3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
Juice of 1 large fresh lemon
2 heads Romaine lettuce, torn into
serving pieces
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
or shaved

1. Blend the garlic cloves with the olive oil to create garlic oil; set aside for 6-8 hours to flavor the oil.
2. After blending the garlic clove/olive oil mixture, use 2 Tbsp. of the garlic oil to make croutons by browning the bread until lightly browned. Season with salt and pepper.
3. **For dressing:** In a bowl, combine the anchovies with the remaining 1/2 cup garlic oil; add the mustard and a few grindings of

pepper. Add the Worcestershire sauce, red wine vinegar and lemon juice.

4. In a serving bowl, pour the dressing over the lettuce; top with the garlic croutons. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Burgundy Mushrooms

4 lbs. button mushrooms, washed
1 liter Burgundy wine
2 cups boiling water
1/2 lb. butter
1 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. dill seed
1 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground
4 beef bouillon cubes
4 chicken bouillon cubes
4 garlic cloves, peeled
Salt, to taste
Crusty bread

1. In a large stock pot, add the first 10 ingredients; stir to combine. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat; reduce the heat to low. Simmer, covered, for 6 hours.

2. Remove the lid; continue simmering, uncovered, for an additional 3 hours.

3. Add salt at the end of the cooking process; serve with crusty bread.

PaPa's Eggnog

12 eggs
1 cup sugar
Whiskey, to taste (optional)
1 qt. heavy cream
1 qt. milk
Nutmeg, to taste

1. Separate the eggs; beat the whites and yolks in separate bowls.

2. Add the sugar to the yolks before whipping. If adding whiskey, add it slowly to the yolks while whipping.

3. Add the cream and milk to the egg yolk and sugar mixture.

4. Fold the stiffly whipped egg whites into the yolk eggnog mixture. Serve sprinkled with nutmeg.

Crescent Court Chocolate Chunk Cookies

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
2 sticks butter
3 Tbsp. Crisco shortening
1 tsp. salt
4 eggs
3 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 cup whole milk

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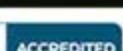
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2 cups pecans, chopped
8-oz. white chocolate chunks
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8-oz. semi-sweet chocolate chunks
1 cup mini-chocolate chips

1. In a bowl, cream the sugars, butter, shortening and salt. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition.
2. In a separate bowl, combine the flour and

baking soda. Alternating the flour mixture and milk, add both to the sugar mixture.

Mix by hand until the dough starts to come together.

3. In another bowl, combine the pecans, chunks and chips; fold into the creamed dough.

4. Using a large spoon, drop cookie dough onto a creased cookie sheet; lightly press down on each cookie.

5. Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Italian Cheese Bread

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 cups mozzarella cheese, grated
6 green onions, chopped
1 cup ripe olives
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
French bread loaf, halved lengthwise

1. In a bowl, blend the butter and mayonnaise; add the remaining ingredients except the bread. Spread the mixture onto the bread halves; piling it up high.
2. Bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes until bubbly.



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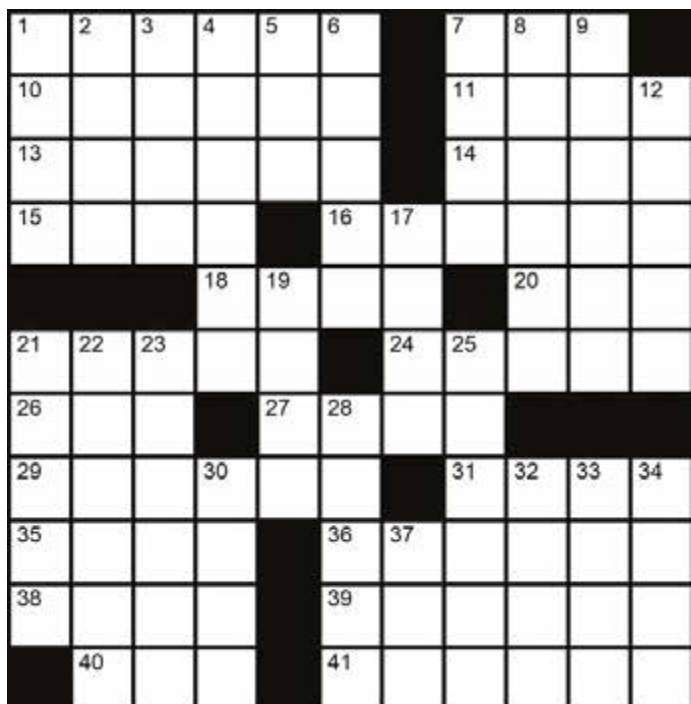
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Across

- 1 Workout woes
- 7 Kind of stock option
- 10 Go bananas
- 11 "... neither and you say neither..."
- 13 Pay back
- 14 Fermented rice drink
- 15 Kernel
- 16 Evita's successor
- 18 Isn't slang
- 20 Edge
- 21 Leaves port
- 24 Starts the show
- 26 Cribbage marker
- 27 Hawkeye state
- 29 Becomes violently active
- 31 Dull to learn by
- 35 Roman aloha
- 36 Aviator Earhart
- 38 On one's rocker?
- 39 German children
- 40 Beat it
- 41 Remodels

Down

- 1 Silent one
- 2 Wander aimlessly
- 3 "... take arms against ... of troubles" (Hamlet)
- 4 Crackers
- 5 Cast lead block
- 6 Bierkeller mug
- 7 Its most famous landmark does not look normal!
- 8 Working OK
- 9 Bamboozle
- 12 Shri! cries
- 17 Store afloat
- 19 "Till the Devil whispered behind the leaves, 'It's pretty, but ... Art?'" (Kipling)
- 21 Detailed requirements
- 22 Forward pass
- 23 Crested herbivorous lizard
- 25 Immediate ancestor
- 28 Honshu port
- 30 Composition in verse
- 32 Ye ... Tea Shoppe
- 33 Layer of a wedding cake
- 34 Corn spikes
- 37 .001 inch

Solutions on page 36

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Easy

Medium

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

			5		8			9
		5						8
8					2			6
3		7			9			
	9			4			1	
		2		7				
	6							4
					4		5	
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Solutions on page 36

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APRIL

4/2

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4/5

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4/8

Henry Cho, Comedian:

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4/14

Easter Hop:

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4/21

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4/22

Better Garden Club Meeting:

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4/27-4/30

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4/29-4/30

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	C	R	A	M	P	S		7	P	U	T	
10	L	O	S	E	I	T		11	I	S	A	Y
13	A	V	E	N	G	E		14	S	A	K	E
15	M	E	A	T			16	I	S	A	B	E
							18	A	I	N	T	
21	S	A	I	L	S		24	O	P	E	N	S
26	P	E	G				27	I	O	W	A	
29	E	R	U	P	T	S		31	R	O	T	E
35	C	I	A	O			36	A	M	E	L	I
38	S	A	N	E			39	K	I	N	D	E
							40	L	A	M		
							41	A	L	T	E	R

Easy

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

Medium

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

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