WeatherfordNOW

APRIL 2022

From Unique Perspectives

Kat Braddock joins her loves of nature and writing

In the Kitchen With Chris and Christie Wilson

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business: Legacy Tree & Landscape Specialists

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FROM UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES

A local teen creates tales with a fresh point of view.

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ON THE COVER

A love of animals inspires Kat Braddock.

Photo by

Constance O'Bryan.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Recollections of April ...

Although Easter means a great deal personally, it doesn't normally lead to nostalgia. Of course, my writer's mind often traipses down a path of its own making, and I can fight that tendency or skip along and see where those rabbit-trail thoughts take me. Today, they roam back to childhood.

My mother, an avid seamstress, made new dresses for us every Easter. One year, my older sister made my Easter outfit during her home economics class. A white fabric with bright yellow flowers, the sleeveless dress coordinated with a solid green lightweight jacket. At around 6, I loved that my sister chose me for her project. Perhaps I remember that dress because I wore it when baptized that summer. That same sister, who now lives in Bluff Dale, Texas, has pictures from April 2007 and an accompanying story, "Snow on the Bluebonnets." Yes, we had a freak, unexpected April snowstorm in 2007 for Easter. She captured a photo of her yard with bluebonnets popping up from snow-covered grass.

Easter always meant family for me. We started at church and ended up at Granny and Granddaddy's. We liked the egg hunts and baskets, but the food ... I come from a long line of amazing cooks. The thought of Aunt Margaret's Mississippi Fudge Cake makes me salivate and gain five pounds. I miss those days. While I can't recreate them, I relish the thought of making fresh memories with my family. Maybe I should pull out that weathered recipe and teach my grandkids about the fine art of Southern chocolate sinfulness.

Have an Easter filled with pleasant memories!





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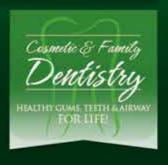


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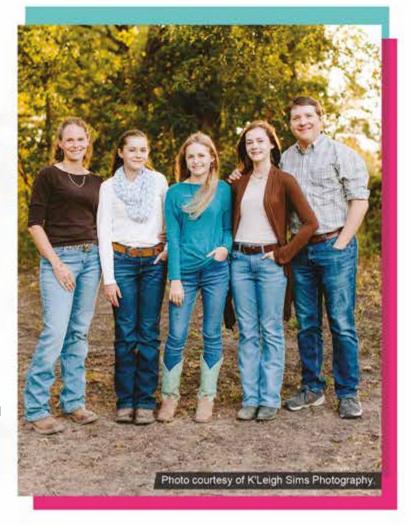


At 16, Kathryn "Kat" Braddock spends most of her days with family at Golden Rewards Sanctuary among one of her greatest loves — horses. "We go there at least three times a week and have done so for the last 15 months," she said. Ironically, those gentle creatures didn't inspire Kat's stories, which became a three-book series. In fact, the novels don't contain a single horse. Instead, she wrote about good and evil wolf packs, and in the process, told the stories primarily from the perspective of the young female wolf destined to become a magnificent leader.

According to Kat's mother, Courtney Braddock, she writes all the time and has created stories since early childhood. "She came to me at about 13 and wanted to publish," Courtney remembered. Knowing nothing about publishing, they reached out to a close friend, Katy Johns, for help. In joining a writing class, Kat learned more about writing skills and the world of publishing.

Kat grew more serious about writing two years ago, and at 14, she began working on the first of three novels in *The Guardian* series. Although she loves horses, the family visited a wolf sanctuary in Colorado. "It was before we found GRS, and the mysterious nature of the wolves inspired me," she shared. "Katy encouraged me to publish independently and helped along the way."

The young author gets ideas from dreams, events and brainstorming. Once she has an idea, she likes to sketch the main plot and characters. She also likes to create plots for additional books in a series at that point. After that, she simply starts writing, working from the beginning to the end of the manuscript.







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On Staff

Once she finishes the final chapter, Kat considers whether she has anything else to add. At that point, she may include an epilogue, share an excerpt from the next book, or simply end the story. Then it is time for a celebration.

"I tell myself I'm gonna relax, but then I start writing. The atmosphere doesn't matter. I can write anywhere. I may put on headphones with music that fits the tone of my writing. Instrumental is best," she explained.

Like many authors, Kat faces writer's block sometimes. She has unfinished books, but she tries to plough through to finish them. With the release of her first publishing efforts, Kat entered the Cisco Writers Club's contest and did a radio interview. "It was really, really fun," she related. "I wasn't nervous, which surprised me."

Courtney said, "I'm pretty amazed by it. She's written since she was little, but I'm thankful we had Katy's guidance through the publishing process."

The family moved from Benbrook to Weatherford in 2018 because they wanted more land and not to live in a subdivision. After moving, they discovered the volunteer opportunities with GRS and enjoy doing that as a family.

Already working on two new series, the young woman ventured into an Icelandic Medieval feel, and recently finished the first of four books. However, Kat admitted that being with horses inspires her, and she also has a new series in progress that includes horses as her characters. "They remind me of toddlers," she confided. "I'm writing those novels from the horses' point of





views." The time they spend with horses enables Kat to observe and capture the personalities of various horses, which helps her give her horse characters unique qualities, too.

"For a Christmas gift to Melissa Hadley (GRS Owner), she wrote 'The Horse Diaries.' The short story showed individual personalities for each horse," Courtney explained.

Kat insists she will continue writing as an adult. An inner desire for storytelling pushes her to continue creating. She also hopes to have a farm in the future and pursue marine biology.

In the meantime, Kat adores writing. Her twin sister, Maddie, also writes. "We've always been writing together," Kat revealed. "She's working on publishing her first book. It's amazing." The two girls feed off each other and enjoy sharing encouragement. A little ahead of the game, Kat looks forward to assisting Maddie with the publishing process and watching her twin succeed.

With a teachable spirit, Kat understands her skills have room for improvement, and she strives to pursue opportunities to learn more. She treasures having a mentor in Katy and other writers who help her improve. Although she falls into the YA genre, Kat's stories entertain many age levels, yet leave readers with important values for life.

At such a young age, Kat proves anyone can follow his or her dreams and see them fulfilled by taking a chance. Most importantly, she finds joy in pursuing her passion for writing and makes time for the work involved with publication. With well-honed selfdiscipline, she writes books now and plans to continue for many years to come. NOW





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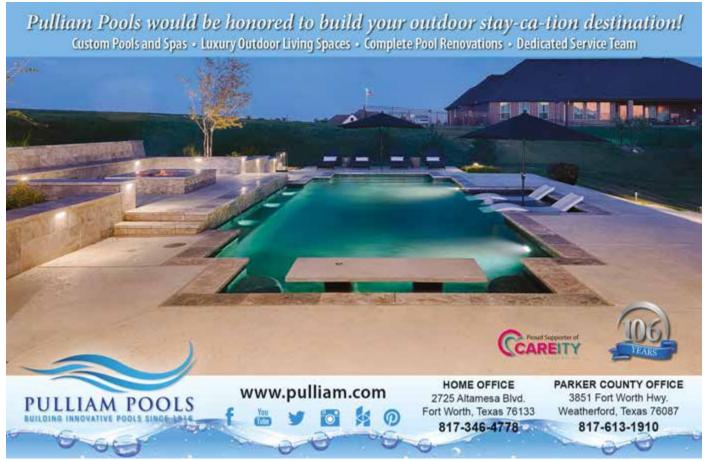


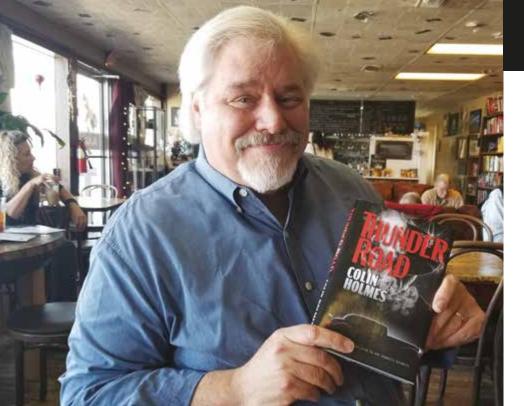
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Around Town



At Wild Bird Center, Debbie Newkirk looks forward to entering spring with fresh houses for feathered friends.

Zoomed In: Colin Holmes

Throughout high school and college, Colin Holmes wrote for school newspapers. After graduating, he went into advertising and copywriting. Around 20 years ago, Colin did pro bono work for an orphanage. "I thought someone should make a movie of their story," he reminisced.

Taking advantage of a UCLA screenwriter's certification program, Colin expanded his skills, wrote and sold the script. Several screenplays later, the story he wanted to tell in Thunder Road grew too long for a screenplay. Following friends, he ventured into novel writing, then took part in Twitter's Pitch Madness contest. After an arduous process, he signed a publishing contract in January 2020. At almost 60, they released his first novel on February 15, 2022. Colin reminded, "You're never too old to try."



AgriLife Extension recognizes outstanding club members Kathy Hardin, Ellen Carpenter and Diane Stanfield (accepted by Loraine Lester).



Weatherford College honors 40 teachers from across the region at the annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers.

By Lisa Bell



At the dog park, Tom Roethler and Camille MacDermott enjoy conversation.



Weatherford Chamber celebrates the Cosmetic & Family Dentistry of Weatherford ribbon cutting with Dr. Mulkey, Dr. Decker and Dr. Romack.



Overjoyed, Aunna Anderson and Kallee Hudson pause playing for their photo op.





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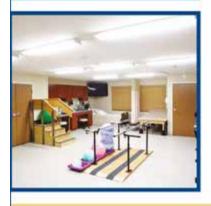
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- By Lisa Bell

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For Megan Bevis Day, legacy means everything. "I'm proud of our legacy. It's in our name," she said. In 2018, she and her husband, Dylan, became third-generation owners of Legacy Tree & Landscape Specialists. "My mother, Jamie Bevis-Hicks,

retired from daily operations, but she remains an active partner. She and my grandmother, Joyce Thompson, are great resources with 40-plus years of knowledge," Megan added.

Joyce and her late husband, John Thompson, began the company in 1978 under the name Thompson Tree and Exterminating. When they retired, Jamie and her late husband, Randy Bevis, took over operations, and Jamie continued running the company until 2018.

Randi Kay Willemin works alongside Megan as the office manager, and Megan's husband, Dylan, serves as the ISA Certified Arborist and Texas Oak Wilt Qualified technician. Randi and Megan are both working on their arborist certifications. When they finish the process, the company will have three ISA Certified Arborists on staff. With a fantastic crew of technicians, Legacy Tree keeps up with the demands of a growing community. "We're always growing," Megan shared.

"We've expanded since 2018, and future growth means we can service a larger area." Currently, they serve most of Parker County.

Many companies in the area provide tree trimming and landscape services, but that's not what Legacy Tree does. They focus more on the health of trees and plants, helping primarily residents preserve their trees and lawns. They offer a variety of treatments and preventive measures for insects and diseases. Legacy Tree also provides consultations and tree fertilization to maintain landscape health. For oak wilt prevention and treatment, they use methods recognized as effective by the Texas Forest Service and Texas A&M. "They aren't always the easiest methods, but they are the best," Megan explained. With mosquito and fire ant season just around the corner, Legacy Tree also provides customized treatments that safely deter the pesky mosquitos without harming shrubs, where they love hiding. They also have options to stay on top of fire ant control.

"We love sharing knowledge and educating homeowners. When driving down the street, we visually notice the difference we make in the community with healthy trees that would've died."

A native of Aledo, Megan stated, "We are a part of this community, and we love it. We see our customers in grocery lines and all over town. Because we love educating everyone in the community, we're here as a resource, even if you don't become customers."

As a business, Legacy Tree supports Lena Pope Home in Fort Worth and the Aledo Marching Band. "I was in band at Aledo High School," Megan said. They also donate and provide discounts to several local organizations.

In Parker County, known as an oak wilt hot spot, avoid trimming any type oak tree from February to June. "Don't hesitate to reach out to us. We do a lot of tree telemedicine," Megan shared. They also accept text messages through the phone. "You can tell a lot from a picture sometimes. If we don't need to go out, we won't. We can usually help in some capacity." With a love for educating, they enjoy helping homeowners know whether they truly have an issue. NOW





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- Virginia Woolf



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Parents of four children, Chris and Christie Wilson love cooking together. "We cook to show love," Christie divulged. "We get overjoyed to share meals and desserts with our friends and family. While Chris prefers to smoke and grill over charcoal, Christie loves down-home cooking. Surrounded by cooks willing to teach, she started cooking around age 13. Her mother, father, Grandma Joy, Grandma Connie and Oklahoma Grandma (her great-grandmother) all showed her the way around the kitchen.

Chris learned much from his Grandma Wilson but also taught himself. "My father is Hispanic, so he and Grandma Connie greatly influenced my cooking," Christie said. When not cooking, the couple enjoys garage selling, antiquing, trying new restaurants, traveling and spending time with their kiddos — Brennen (17), Kyran (16), Abby (13) and Rewster (11). Kow

Chicken Enchiladas

Makes 14-16.

- 2 rotisserie chickens
- 1 16-oz. container heavy whipping cream (divided use)
- 4 cups Monterrey Jack/Mexican blend cheese (divided use)
- 1 15-oz. can green enchilada sauce (divided use)
- I 4-oz. can green chilies Garlic powder, to taste Cumin, to taste Onion powder, to taste

Chili powder, to taste

14-16 homemade flour tortillas

1 stick butter

6 Tbsp. flour

1 14.5-oz. can chicken broth

1 16-oz. container sour cream Pepper, to taste

- **1.** Pull all of the chicken off the bone; mix with 1/2 cup cream and 1 cup of cheese, a little of the enchilada sauce, green chilies and spices. Roll up in the tortillas.
- **2.** In a saucepan, melt the butter; add the flour and chicken broth; whisk until bubbly.

Remove from the burner; add the remaining enchilada sauce, sour cream and 1/2-1 cup of cream.

3. Season with garlic, pepper, onion, and cumin. Pour the sauce over the enchiladas. Top with the remaining cheese. Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes; broil for 2 minutes.

Great-grandma's Chili

This old family recipe originally called for Pikes Peak Roast, put through a meat grinder using a large plate. Substituting stew meat makes it simpler.

3-4 lbs. stew meat

4 large pods garlic, chopped

I large onion, chopped

2 Tbsp. Shelling's brand small pod whole red peppers, chopped

I heaping Tbsp. salt

1/4 tsp. black pepper

1 1-oz. bottle Gebhardt's Chili Powder

1/8 tsp. comino powder

1 1/2 cups hot water

2 heaping tsp. cornstarch

1/2 cup cold water

I. Sauté the meat in a hot stewing pot, stirring until the meat changes color and the juices form.

- 2. Stir in the garlic, onions, peppers and seasonings. Pour in the hot water; simmer for about 2 hours.
- 3. Mix the cornstarch and cold water well; pour into the hot chili while stirring to thicken.

Five Minute Fudge

- 1 12-oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 12-oz. pkg. butterscotch chips
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
- **I.** Place the chocolate and butterscotch chips in a pan; pour in the sweetened condensed milk.
- **2.** Melt over low heat, stirring constantly until the chips completely melt.
- **3.** Remove from heat; fold in the nuts.
- 4. Pour the mixture into an 8-inch round pan with a Saran-covered can in the middle to make a ring.
- 5. Let cool and harden; slice to serve.

Strawberry Agua Fresca

Makes 8 cups. Contains 17.8 carb grams per cup.

4 cups water 1/3 cup sugar 6 cups strawberries, halved 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 2 limes)

- 1. Combine the water and sugar, stirring until the sugar dissolves.
- 2. Place the strawberries in a blender; process until smooth.
- 3. Combine all ingredients; stir well.

Tart Cherry Cake

Serves 8.

- I stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1 14.5-oz. can sour or tart cherries.
- 1 cup, plus 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour (divided use)
- 1 1/2 cups sugar (divided use)
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 3/4 cup milk
- I tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Pour the melted butter into an 8-inch square baking pan.
- 2. In a small bowl, combine the cherries with 1 Tbsp. flour and 1/2 cup sugar; mix well.
- 3. In a large bowl, mix together the baking powder and remaining flour and sugar.



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Stirring constantly, gradually add the milk to the mixture to form a thin batter. Stir in the vanilla and salt.

- **4.** Pour the batter into the pan over the melted butter; spread out evenly. Do not mix the butter and batter together. Spread the cherry mixture over the batter.
- **5.** Bake until golden brown and just firm to touch, about 45 minutes.

Jalapeño Fudge

Serves 8.

- 1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 lb. Monterey-Jack cheese
- I cup pickled jalapeño peppers, whole or chopped

2 eggs 1 cup flour

- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- **2.** Grate the cheeses; mix together. Spread the cheese evenly in a square 8x8-inch or 9x9-inch ungreased pan.
- **3.** Scatter the jalapeños over the cheeses.
- **4.** Mix the eggs, flour and evaporated milk with a fork; pour over the cheese and jalapeños. Bake 40 minutes at 350 F.

Smoked Pork Butt

1 8- to 10-lb. bone-in pork shoulder Mustard, to taste

Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste

- **1.** Smother the pork with mustard; sprinkle it heavily with salt and pepper.
- **2.** Smoke at 225 F for 2 hours per pound. Once the pork reaches 165 F, cover it with foil or butcher paper to finish cooking. Cook until an internal temperature of 200 F is reached.
- **3.** Let rest at room temperature for 1 hour, then shred.

Spicy Potato Soup

1 lb. sausage 4 potatoes

1 16-oz. container heavy whipping cream

Water, to cover potatoes

Oregano, to taste Garlic, to taste

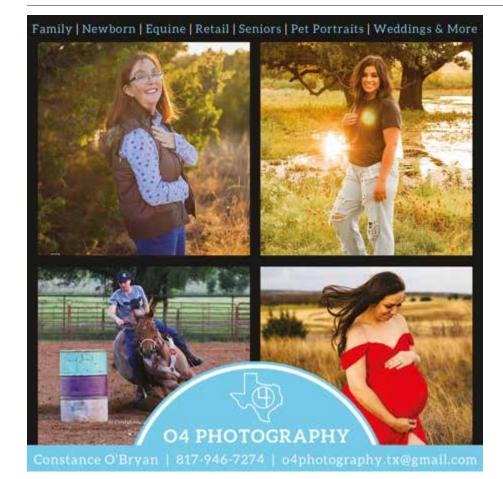
Basil, to taste

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

1 8-oz. bag shredded cheese

- **I.** Brown the sausage; set aside. In a separate pot, place all the ingredients, except the sausage and cheese. Simmer until the potatoes are done.
- 2. Stir in the sausage and cheese.













Crossword Puzzle

	9	8	7		6	5	4	3	2	1
12	\vdash	\vdash	11		1	1	t	+	-	10
	\vdash	H	14		t	H	t	+	-	13
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34	33	32	31		t		30	\vdash	H	29
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	t				39		\vdash	1	1	38
	\vdash				41		+	+	40	

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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 Shrill 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

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Solutions on page 28



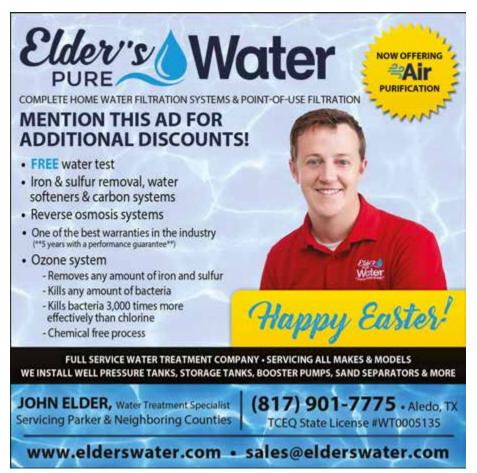














4/1-4/2

Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll & Hyde Play:

Free admission. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Weatherford College Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Dr. www.wc.edu.

4/2

Bearcat Big Bass Fishing Tournament:

Event benefits Aledo High School Class of 2024 Project Celebration. Boat launch: safe light; entertainment: noon-2:00 p.m.; Weigh-in: 2:00 p.m., Rough Creek Park at Lake Granbury Marina, 2209 S.

Morgan, Granbury. For more information, visit www.aledopc2024.com.

4/8

Duo Azul Piano Concert:

Dr. Amy Gustafson and Dr. Hyeyoung Song free piano recital. 7:30 p.m., Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Dr. www.wc.edu.

4/8-4/10

Ten Days in a Madhouse: Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off the Square, 114 N. Denton St. www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

4/9

Master Gardener Plant Sale:

Annual event. Cash or checks only. Free to attend. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Heritage Park Pavilion, 317 Santa Fe.

Adoption Event:

Grace House Ministries annual event. Free come and go. 10:00 a.m.-noon, 1400 Texas Dr. www.facebook.com/ events/508874773772370.

4/13

PCE Education Spring Fling:

Education, development and fun. \$12 includes lunch. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Couts UMC Family Life Center. Tickets (817) 598-6168.

4/29-4/30

Romeo & Juliet:

TOTS off-site live production of Shakespeare's famous play. 6:00 p.m., Hudson Oaks Amphitheater. www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

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

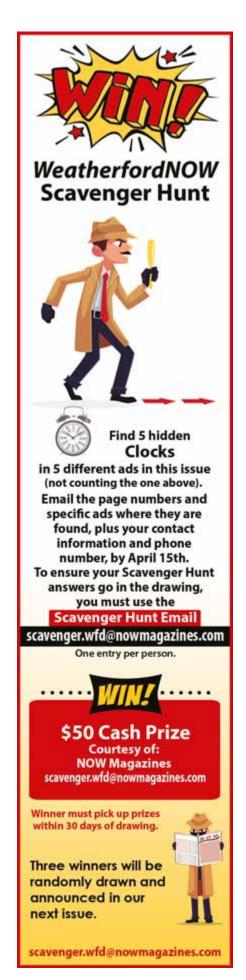


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