# MidlothianNOW

APRIL 2023

# Founding Female

Darcey Smith earns
Eagle Scout rank

### Rock Solid Evidence

Regardless of its origin, the formation that gave Rockwall its name is fascinating

In the Kitchen With Jamie Patton

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:

Access Self Storage And Truck Rental

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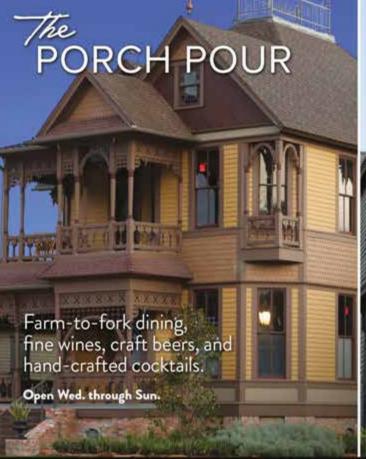


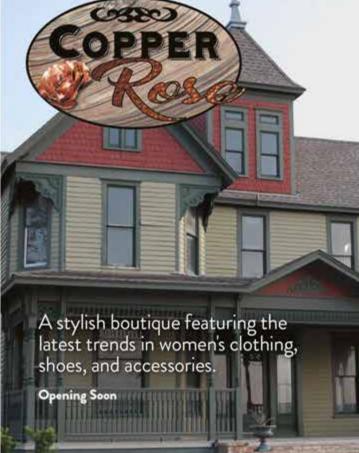
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### ON THE COVER



From an unofficial Cub Scout to Boy Scouts of America's top rank, Darcey Smith proves she enjoys a challenge.

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Speaking my language ...

There are any number of reasons why people misunderstand each other, but I'm increasingly noticing there is a particular language fewer and fewer folks seem to understand. Some have cognitive reasons for misunderstanding, while others just seem to lack the sense of humor required for comprehension. This form of communication is incredibly common in our society, however, so one can be at a disadvantage if they're not versed in its nuances. I'm talking about my beloved second language — sarcasm.

Smithsonian Magazine highlighted just how prevalent it is: "Sarcasm so saturates 21st-century America that according to one study of a database of telephone conversations, 23 percent of the time that the phrase 'yeah, right' was used, it was uttered sarcastically. Entire phrases have almost lost their literal meanings because they are so frequently said with a sneer. 'Big deal,' for example. When's the last time someone said that to you and meant it sincerely? 'My heart bleeds for you' almost always equals 'Tell it to someone who cares,' and 'Aren't you special' means you aren't."

While the dictionary definition of sarcasm — a sharp and often satirical or ironic utterance designed to cut or give pain — suggests it is frequently caustic, sarcasm is also a mode of wit depending for its effect on irony. Or, simply put, saying the opposite of what you mean in order to be funny. In my experience with fluent sarcasmists, this snarkiness can paradoxically be traced not only to deep empathy but also to great intellect. Scientific research even shows how sarcastic banter can increase people's creativity.

While Oscar Wilde called sarcasm "the lowest form of wit," he also credited it as "the highest form of intelligence." A language that sparks laughter and makes us smarter?

Now you're talking!











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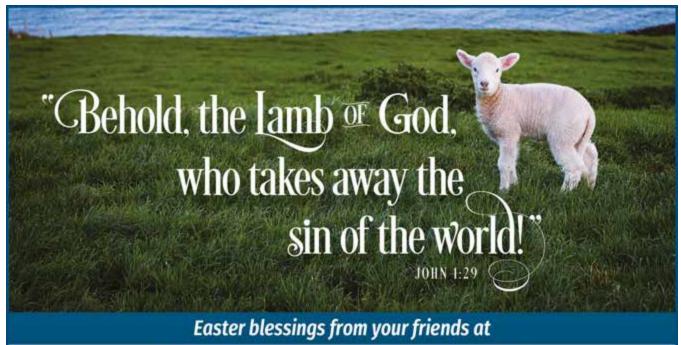
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# FOUNDING FEMALE

— By Angel Morris

Becoming the first female Eagle Scout in Ellis County was a path that began in second grade for Darcey Smith. "When my brother was a Tiger in Cub Scouts, I would tag along to meetings, go on camping trips with them and eventually became an unofficial Scout," Darcey recalled. "My dad became the Cub Master the next year and made it known that I should be allowed to participate with the boys."

While Darcey tried Girl Scouts, she said she couldn't find a consistent troop. "Also, in the troops I was in, brothers and fathers weren't really allowed to participate with their Scouts. Participating with the other Cub Scouts, even though I could never get credit for it, was a lot more fun, and it was time I got to spend with my whole family," Darcey noted.

While attending Baxter Elementary, Walnut Grove Middle School and then Midlothian High School, Darcey would go on to experience many firsts in Scouting. "Being a founder of my troop was a big challenge. We had no real guidelines, aside from looking at paperwork examples of how to run a troop. It didn't help that along with founding Troop 215 in 2019, I also helped found Crew 42 in 2022. That's a whole other adventure," Darcey remembered. "I was the first Senior Patrol Leader, and I had to set the tone of what leadership should look like. We definitely had some bumps in the road, but overall my troop has grown and is thriving. We did it ourselves."

During that time, Darcey made many favorite memories: The first female to earn the shotgun merit badge out of Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch; earned the 50 Miler Award — traveling 40 miles by canoe, hiking over 10 miles, all while helping pick up trash; and, participating in, then staffing National Youth Leadership Training. "I also got to be on the climbing staff at Boy Scouts Winter Camp, where I've made so many fun memories and gotten to do some really cool things. Working for the climbing tower, I met and talked to so many different people, and I learned cool new skills I can take outside Scouting."

For example, during 2020, Darcy's Troop and the other female Troop from Cedar Hill, Troop 520, traveled to Fredericksburg, and created a summer camp. "One of the merit badges we had the opportunity to earn was the Aviation merit badge. Me and one other Scout from 520 learned about navigation and how to fly planes. Coincidentally, our summer camp was located right







by a flight school. Our wonderful merit badge counselor reached out to them, and we were able to tour the facility and even help co-pilot a flight!"

While all those activities were special, Darcey's favorite Scouting memory was during those days of unofficial membership. "Although I technically wasn't a Cub Scout and couldn't earn any awards then, I did everything the other Scouts did. My Den Leader surprised me with the Arrow of Light Award, and it is one of my fondest memories of my 'Cub Scout' years," Darcey admitted.

From that spark of recognition, Darcey would go on to become an Eagle Scout, something only 2 percent of all Scouts achieve. The project that earned her that rank involved cleaning headstones at Prince Hall Fraternal Cemetery in Waxahachie. "Several Scouts from Troop 512 (the brother to my Troop 215) had done projects out there in the past, and I went out to visit to see just how neglected the cemetery was. I spent hours doing research on how to properly clean headstones without causing damage to the stones, and I teamed up with fellow Scout, Stetson McDonald, and we did our projects on the same day," Darcey outlined. "Stetson was resetting stones, and I cleaned stones in the surrounding area. July 31, 2021, was the day of the project. The initial goal, after a thorough examination, was 20 stones. In the end, we cleaned 28 stones in four hours. Making sure that everyone who helped was doing OK and staying cool was a big priority. I am so thankful for everyone who came out to help and couldn't have done it without them."

In addition to project and people management, Scouting has provided Darcey with some invaluable





experience for the future. "First aid training, time and money management and survival skills learned through merit badges to name a few," Darcey said. "Also, skills from acting in leadership positions and training such as NYLT. The Scouting community is huge, and it helped me get comfortable meeting new people and developed my social skills."

Darcey's time in Scouting also led her toward a career path in nursing. "I graduated 17th in my class with both my CNA and phlebotomy certifications. I plan on becoming a nurse, whether I become a traveling nurse or an elementary school nurse, I'm not sure," Darcey predicted.

Darcey had achievements outside Scouting of which she is proud, as well: 14 years of dance, including two as a drill team Pantherette; six-plus years playing trombone, plus serving as a section leader and historian for school band; National Honor Society; yearbook staff; HOSA secretary; and Health Science Practicum participation. She is also active with First United Methodist Church, Midlothian, alongside her mom, Alice; dad, Mike; and brother, Jackson.

Currently in her first year at Tarleton State University, where all the Scout patches she has earned and collected hang on her dorm room wall, Darcey said Scouting continues to be a big part of her life. "It's the weirdest thing when you see people from Scouting outside of Scouting events. I've met people from all over the state, nation and even from other countries!" Darcey stated. "There are always Scouting events going on, and you see these people all the time, some even becoming lifelong friends." NOW







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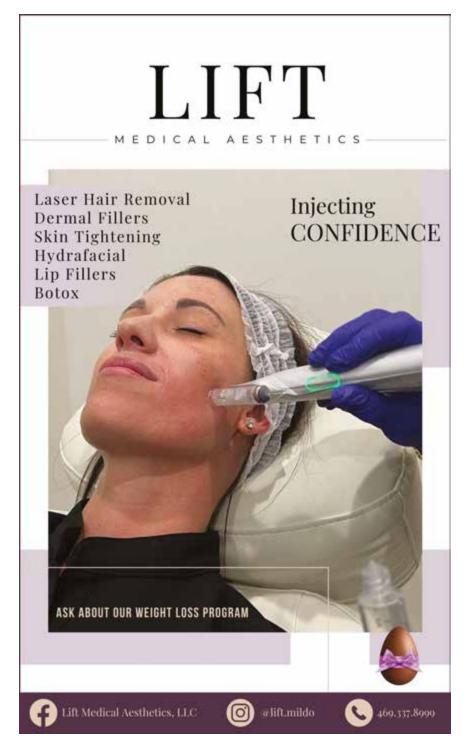


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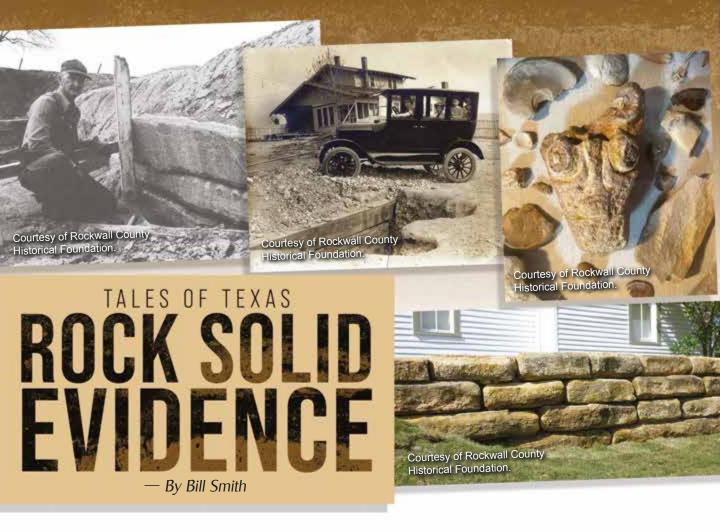


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"Geologist Richard Burleson forms the opinion that they are 'igneous occurrences." Archeologist Vount Byron de Prorok ... concludes they were constructed by a prehistoric race. Dr. R.S. Hyer, former professor of physics at SMU, concludes the formation is natural. Dr. Kenneth Schaar of The University of Texas at Arlington concluded that both sections he examined were natural formations but does not rule out the possibility that another portion could be manmade." These are just a few of the conclusions of men, quoted on the Rockwall County Museum website, who have examined the curious wall that meanders through a portion of North Texas. Even with all of this evidence, the jury is still out. Is the wall that gave Rockwall County its name a natural formation or manmade?

Texas has 254 counties. There is a simple answer to the question, "Why?" It is because Texas is just so big! In the early days of the state. Texas followed a simple guideline that no one should be more than a day's travel from their courthouse. Travel was mostly on horseback, so the counties had to be relatively small. Rockwall County leads the way as the smallest county. The Constitution of 1876 said new counties had to be at least 900 square miles. Rockwall County was in an area that was part of Nacogdoches County in 1836, and by the time Texas joined the United States in 1845, it was part of Henderson County. Kaufman County was formed in 1847, and the Rockwall area was included therein until 1873, when the residents felt the county seat of Kaufman was just too far away. And in 1873, Rockwall County was formed. Since it was formed before the 1876 Constitution, the diminutive county was able to organize with just 147 square miles.

Today's Rockwall County Courthouse is a magnificent edifice, constructed in 2011, and features terrazzo floors, granite wall paneling and mahogany ceiling paneling. It is a far cry from the original structure built in 1875 and the subsequent structures completed in 1892 and 1940. While the first two structures no longer exist due to fire and safety issues, the 1940 courthouse is still in use today by the county commissioners and tax office.

One Republic of Texas action that helped with the establishment of the city of Rockwall and of Rockwall County was the construction of the Central National Road. According to the Texas State Historical Association, in 1844, the Texas Congress established a five-man commission to select a right-of-way, see that it was cleared and supervise the building of necessary.

bridges." The road would run from the Trinity River in the Dallas area crossing Rockwall County near Rockwall, then farther north and east to the extreme northwest corner of Red River County. The foresight of Congress was great and was, in fact, an "international" vision. "At its southern terminus, it connected with the road opened in 1840 between Austin and Preston Bend on the Red River, in effect making an international highway between St. Louis and San Antonio." Population shifts kept the highway from meeting its full international potential, and the later development of new towns decreased the importance of the Central National Road.

It was sometime in the early 1850s that farmers digging a well discovered a rock wall that crossed the future county and, at some places, appeared at ground level. When the town of Rockwall was formed, it was named after the rock formation, and subsequently, of course, the county took the name also. As recently as 1976, part of the wall was excavated near present-day FM 549 and Cornelius Road. The excavation was open to the public, and hundreds of school children visited the wall. In 1996, Architect John Lindsey concluded that "evidence of a prehistoric structure is mounting." Then in 2012, the America Unearthed program, "The Great Wall of Texas," concluded it was a natural formation.

Today, the walls in situ are buried and closed to the public on private property. However, pieces of the walls have been moved and reconstructed at Rockwall County Museum Park, and a small segment of the wall is visible at the old Rockwall County Courthouse. Texashillcountry.com titles its blog about the wall, "The Rock 'Wall' in Rockwall, Texas: Prehistoric Man, Extra-Terrestrial, or Natural Phenomenon?" Regardless of its origin, the wall makes a nice foundation for the city of Rockwall and Rockwall County. NOW

### Sources:

- 1. https://rockwallcountymuseum. com/rock-wall/.
- 2. http://www.texasescapes.com.
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### **Around Town**



Ellie Randel enjoys an afternoon on the swings at Jaycee Park.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association representative Dewey Larochelle recognizes Midlothian's Rex Carey for serving as Chapter 1191 president.

### Zoomed In: Ryan Tate

Awaiting his next trainee at Main Street Gym, Ryan Tate is a personal trainer currently studying kinesiology in college. "My goal for the future is to have my own training facility, clothing brand and to overall help others be healthy," he explained.

A lifelong soccer player, Ryan played three years on varsity at Midlothian High School, where he was an all-district, all-region and all-area honoree, and was also named Defensive Player of the Year. He said training for the sport introduced him to health and fitness, and now he wants to share that passion with others. "That's how I learned to love working out," he admitted. "I tell others, if you're 100 percent committed, you will learn to love the process ... and then the results will come!"



Police Chief Carl Smith and Fire Chief Dale McCaskill prepare for groundbreaking ceremonies of Midlothian's new Public Safety and Court Facility.



Harper Hensley-Fuller, Marti Butlar, Erika Hensley and Brandon Hensley prepare clothing distribution at Midlothian Church of Christ's twice-monthly Jesus Clothes Us program.

By Angel Morris



Journey Slayton, with Journey's Mobile Eats and Treats, returns for the Midlothian Farmers Market kickoff April 15.



Third-grader Taylor Stokman represents Longbranch Elementary at the Midlothian ISD Visual Arts Showcase.



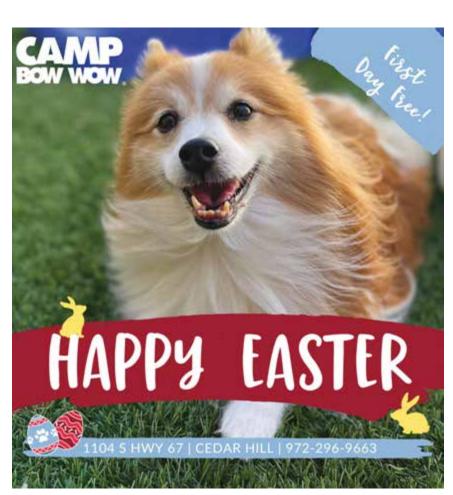
Jackson Ebanks tracks dinosaurs at EarthTones Greenery.



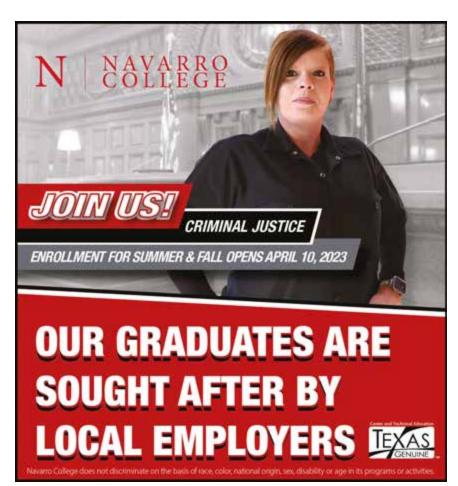
















**BusinessNOW** 

# **Access Self** Storage And Truck Rental

By Angel Morris

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Access Self Storage Owner Doug Hunt has watched the industry change during his 38 years of involvement. "When I first started, many facilities had no security — certainly not climate-controlled units. Management would be in an office the size of a match box. The facility was a metal building with roll-up garage doors," Doug reflected. "Our storage facilities now are much more attractive, with the majority climatized. They are totally enclosed with a coded keypad for entry and cameras recording every move."

At Access, storage units as large as 10-by-25-foot or as small as 5-by-5-foot are available by month or long term. Credentials are required to access the gated facilities, which are staffed by a resident manager. "With their new access control system, customers don't even have to get out of the car. The gate will open via a Bluetooth app on their phone," Doug explained.

Shredding stations, packing and moving supplies and even a conference room for customer use can be found at Access. Also, U-Haul trucks can be rented for local or crosscountry transport.

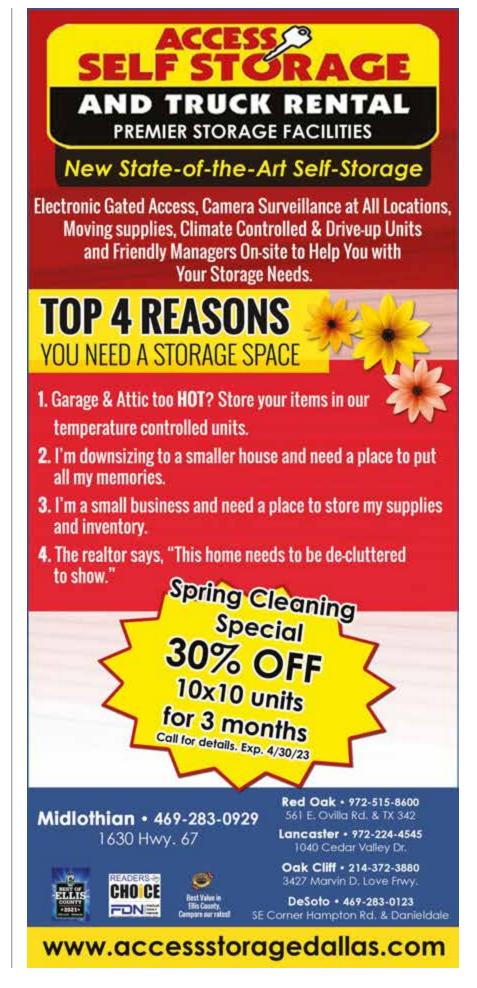
Doug opened his first Ellis County location in Red Oak in 2009, providing features that are standard at all his new locations, including Midlothian, Lancaster and DeSoto. Customers range from those moving and in need of temporary storage, to those clearing their homes of infrequently used items. "Many people use storage due to a crisis. Someone dies and the family needs someplace to put everything, so the house can sell. Divorce causes people to use storage, or roommates going their different ways. Fire, flood, tornadoes — you name it. There are lots of tragedies causing need for temporary storage," Doug, who has provided free storage for victims of local tornadoes in years past, noted. "I'm glad to be there for people in those times of need."

Founded with Doug's father in 1972, and maintained with his brother, David, Access makes a habit of giving back. "Access likes to partner where we can make the greatest impact. We've been a big supporter of the Chambers of Commerce in our areas," Doug explained. "We also like to partner with education foundations. We've been the Louis Vuitton sponsor for Handbags for Hawks since Red Oak Education Foundation started it."

Access Storage further assists others through camp and college scholarships, as well as donating to nonprofits. Doug has served many terms on the Ovilla City Council, earned the Red Oak Masonic Lodge Volunteer of the Year Award, Lancaster Chamber Golden Gaither Award and Man-of-the-Year from DeSoto Chamber of Commerce. Doug and David are also co-chairs for fundraising with Texas Self Storage Association, raising almost \$2 million for the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Galveston.

Access Storage is the recipient of many recognition awards, including the Consumers Choice Award, received every year for a decade, and Best Storage Facility by the Waxahachie Daily Light. "The profit we make in this business helps us help others," Doug admitted. "I love what I do and enjoy giving back to the community."

Doug encouraged would-be storage users to visit one of his Access Storage locations. "Just look at how full your garage is," he suggested. "This summer, don't make your car bake out in the driveway ... let that car get out of the sun!" NOW



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A memorable cooking moment for Jamie Patton involved — suitably for Easter month — a mishap with carrots. "I get a lot of carrot cake requests and always top the cake with candied carrot spirals," Jamie noted. "Once, my son noticed smoke coming from the oven — the carrots were smoldering. That's not the norm, so I opened the oven. They all caught fire! I quickly shut the oven, and the fire went out. Still no idea what went wrong,"

Jamie's interest in the kitchen began through baking with her grandmother. "She did a lot of caretaking through food. I like to think that I do the same," Jamie, whose parents moved to Midlothian in 1983, said. "My grandfather bought property here for his electrical company, and my parents followed shortly after. I grew up here and never really left." NOW

### Southern Living's Best Carrot **Cake With Candied Carrots**

2 cups all-purpose flour 2 tsp. baking soda 1/2 tsp. salt 2 tsp. ground cinnamon 3 large eggs

2 cups sugar

3/4 cup vegetable oil

3/4 cup buttermilk

2 tsp. vanilla extract

2 cups grated carrots

1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained

1 3.5-oz. can flaked coconut

I cup pecans or walnuts, chopped

Buttermilk Glaze:

1 cup sugar

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 cup buttermilk

1/2 cup butter or margarine 1 Tbsp. light corn syrup 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Cream Cheese Frosting:

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened II oz. cream cheese, softened (about

1 1/2 blocks)

out clean.

1 16-oz. pkg. powdered sugar

1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

**1.** For cake: Line 3 9-inch round cake pans with waxed paper. Lightly grease and flour; set aside.

**2.** Stir together the first 4 ingredients. Beat the eggs and the next 4 ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the flour mixture, beating at a

low speed until blended. 3. Fold in the carrots and the next 3 ingredients. Pour into the prepared pans. Bake at 350 F 25-30 minutes, or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes

**4.** For glaze: Bring the first 5 ingredients to a boil in a large Dutch oven over mediumhigh heat. Boil, stirring often, for 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. Drizzle the glaze evenly over the layers. Cool in the pans on wire racks for 15 minutes. Remove from the pans; cool completely. 5. For frosting: Beat the butter and cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla extract; beat at high speed for 10 seconds or until smooth. Spread between the layers and on the top and sides of the cake.

### **Candied Carrot Curls**

1-2 large carrots, peeled 1 cup water 1 cup sugar Additional sugar (optional)

- 1. Preheat the oven to 225 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Lightly grease with cooking spray. Remove 15 to 20 long strips from carrots, using a vegetable peeler. (Strips get wider as you reach the core.)
- 2. Bring the water and sugar to a boil in a large, heavy-duty saucepan over mediumhigh heat. Add the carrot strips. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer the strips for 15 minutes. Drain in a wire-mesh strainer: cool for 5 minutes.
- **3.** Spread the cooked strips 1 inch apart in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes. As the strips bake. they become translucent. Remove from the oven. (The strips will be warm but cool enough to handle.)
- 4. Working quickly, wrap each carrot strip around the handle of a wooden spoon, forming curls. Gently slide off the spoon. Sprinkle with sugar, if desired. Sit at room temperature until completely dry, about 30 minutes, before using as a topping.

### The Little Kitchen DoubleTree Cookie Copycat Recipe

1/2 cup rolled oats, pulsed to fine or semi-fine

2 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

I tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon

I cup unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup light brown sugar, packed

3/4 cup granulated sugar

2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1/2 tsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice

2 large eggs

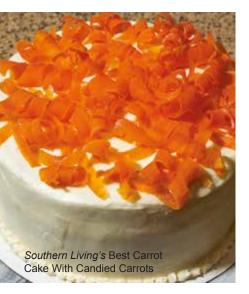
3 cups semi-sweet miniature or regular-sized chocolate chips

I cup walnuts or pecans, chopped

1. Add oats, flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon to a small bowl; mix thoroughly with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon.







- **2.** To a medium-sized mixing bowl, add the butter and both sugars. Cream together with an electric hand mixer. Add the vanilla, lemon juice and eggs. Mix until smooth, scraping the bottom of the bowl with a spatula at least once.
- **3.** Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients; mix with a spatula, being careful not to overmix. Add the chocolate chips and nuts, mixing until evenly distributed. Again, be careful not to overmix.

- **4.** Scoop onto a lined baking sheet. Freeze or refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.
- **5.** Heat the oven to 350 F. Place the dough onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or a Silpat at least 1 1/2 to 2 inches apart. Bake 13-14 minutes for medium cookies (less time for smaller scoops).
- **6.** Cool completely on a cooling rack if storing. Store in a sealed container with a slice of sandwich bread to maintain softness. I make these in bulk and then flash freeze the dough-balls so fresh cookies are always minutes away.

### Emeril's Easy Sous Vide Créme Brûlée

6 large egg yolks
1/2 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
1 vanilla bean, split and seeds scraped, pod reserved
1 1/2 cups heavy cream

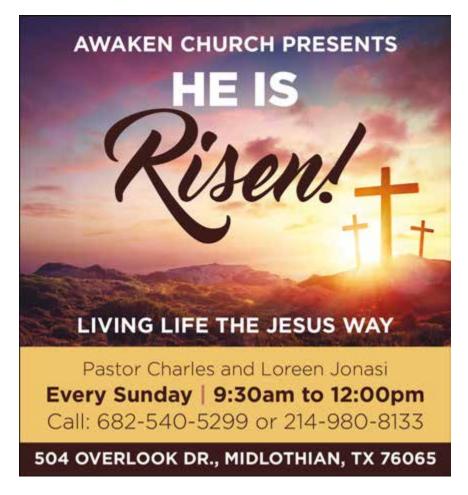
1/4 tsp. almond extract

- **I.** Whisk together the yolks, sugar and vanilla seeds until smooth and pale yellow. Whisk in the cream and almond extract.
- **2.** Divide the mixture evenly between 6 4-oz. jars with tightly fitting lids. Assemble a sous vide machine according to

manufacturer's directions; pre-heat the water bath to 179.8 F.

- **3.** Transfer the jars to the water bath; cook I hour. Carefully remove the jars from the bath; let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. (Remove the lids to prevent condensation from dripping onto the tops.)
- **4.** Transfer the jars to the refrigerator; replace the lids. Chill for at least 3 hours. To serve: Sprinkle the remaining sugar on top; brûlée the tops using a blowtorch. Gently move the flame back and forth over the sugar until it has melted and begins to caramelize; serve immediately.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.





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Sit back, open the windows, take in sea breezes and feel the calm as the bustle of Miami gives way to slower traffic in keeping with "island time" on U.S. Highway I, also known as the Overseas Highway. Surrounded mostly by water, the highway's multiple bridges provide the only access by land to the Florida Keys, a tropical archipelago comprised of almost 1,700 islands. Southernmost is Key West with its interesting history, architecture and laid-back reputation.

Early European explorers found the Gulf Stream tides challenging, and there were many shipwrecks. Native American tribes fought one another over the bounty. Conquistadores found the tribes' bones, naming the southern-most key *Cayo Hueso* (ky'o-way'so) or "island of bones." Bahamian settlers who followed changed the Spanish name to Key West. By the early 1800s, this prominent point, located nearer to Cuba than Miami, was a booming seafaring port town. The U.S. gained the Florida territory in 1821 and located a strategic naval base at Key West, making it the largest and wealthiest town in the territory. With many hiding places in the channels and shallows, piracy flourished, despite the navy's presence. Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway Extension connected the keys to the mainland in 1912, bringing tourists and industry to the city. The opening

of U.S. 1 in 1944 brought more tourism, with all forms of recreation and accommodations, entertainment, shopping, dining and historical places to visit.

Days begin with magnificent sunrises over the eastern shore and end with the Mallory Square Dock Sunset Celebration. Plenty of sunshine most days makes Key West delightful for those who enjoy the outdoors. Bahia Honda State Park offers a natural beach, winding roads through mangrove thickets, campsites and charter boat excursions. The park's tarpon fishing is popular with anglers. Picnic along the rocky beach surrounded by soaring pines or go snorkeling in the clear, deep water at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park. Clarence Higgs Memorial Beach Park, the Waldorf Astoria Casa Marina Resort's neighbor, features a kids' playground. And don't forget to visit the White Street Pier.

At the West Martello Tower is a Civil War fort that overlooks the African Refugee Cemetery. Slaves who were rescued by the U.S. Navy from ships near Cuba, but who had become ill due to unsanitary conditions and died, were buried there in unmarked graves. The cemetery and tower are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Don't miss the city's famous key lime pie, margaritas, fresh seafood, Bahamian conch fritters and Cuban *ropa vieja*. Dress in "Keys-casual" — sandals, colorful shirts and shorts and a sunhat — even at upscale restaurants. After a relaxed meal with libations, work off the calories while skydiving, bicycling, golfing or participating in various water sports.

Sailboats and catamarans can be chartered for sunset cruises or bird-watching. Take the Yankee Fleet Ferry to Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas National Park for an ecohistorical tour of this former Civil War-era prison.

A stroll down Duval Street and cross streets in the Historic



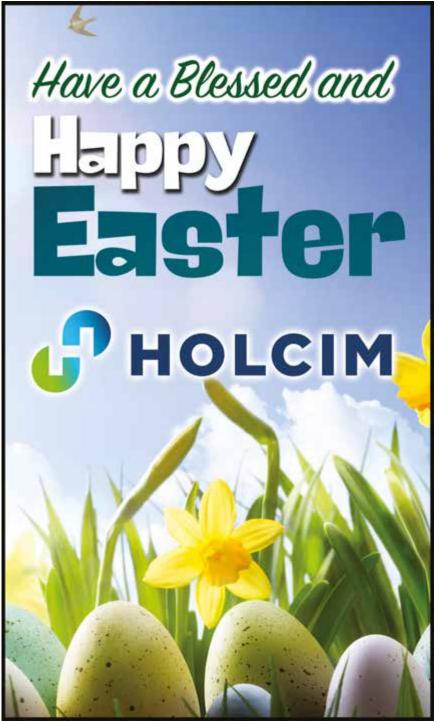
District takes visitors from the Key West Aquarium, a charming WPA project, to other major attractions. A visit by John J. Audubon to Key West is celebrated at the Audubon House and Tropical Gardens, where engravings created by Audubon on that visit are displayed. The Harry S. Truman Little White House was that president's favorite place for R&R. It's still used by his successors and other notable dignitaries.

Eco-interests are piqued through a visit to the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory and the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden. Bibliophiles will enjoy the romance and lore of the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, where 40-50 of his polydactyl (six-toed) cats' progeny live. Hemingway finished A Farewell to Arms and wrote about Key West in To Have and Have Not while living here with his wife, Pauline.

Southernmost Point Buoy is a last-photo-destination must. Few folks are true "Conchs" (conks), Key West natives, but everyone can enjoy "island time" in Key West. NOW

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.









Every parent knows that things are different today. Our children and teens are growing up in a different world with very different stressors. Your family is being exposed to things that you never heard about until adulthood. Violence, gender issues, political division, social media influences - it's overwhelming!

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If you haven't dyed Easter eggs since your children were little or even since your own childhood, a world of new egg trends awaits you! While the simple, single-colored tablet dye kits and even fancier versions exist, there are many ways to get more creative with Easter egg coloring. Here are a few ways to jazz up your Easter baskets this year, keeping in mind any cutting or overly messy steps are best for grownups to handle. (Of course, you don't need children to dye eggs — grownups are allowed to enjoy these ideas all on their own!)

### **Tie-dyed Easter Eggs**

*Supplies:* Cookie sheet or plastic tray, paper towels, rubber gloves, food coloring, white vinegar, water, small spray bottle, hard-boiled eggs, rubber bands and plastic bags

Instructions: Cover a cookie sheet or plastic tray with a layer of paper towels. Wearing gloves, drop spots of food coloring atop the paper towel, covering the towel as much as you wish while making sure various colors can be seen around the towel.

Mix 3-4 teaspoons of vinegar with water in your spray bottle. Then evenly spray the paper towel entirely (covered but not soaking wet). Center an egg on the paper towel, and wrap the towel around the egg tightly, securing it with a rubber band. Place the egg inside the plastic bag and secure

again with a rubber band.

Leave the eggs sitting in the paper towels for several minutes before removing to reveal your "tie-dye" designs. Alternate approach: Wrap the eggs in the paper towels first, then drop the food coloring around the egg and spray with vinegar/water. This is potentially messier, but it may allow more control of the overall design. Either way, allow the eggs to dry completely before handling.

### **Melted Crayon Easter Eggs**

Supplies: Crayons, cheese grater (that you do not wish to use for cheese ever again!), napkins/paper towels or small paper plates, hard-boiled eggs (please note, the eggs must be hot as you decorate them in order for the crayons to melt atop them), plastic bottle caps

Instructions: Peel the labels from the crayons, and cut crayon shavings with the cheese grater. It is probably best to shave each color onto its own napkin or small plate. With a hot hard-boiled egg in one hand, sprinkle the crayon shavings on top to the design of your choice. You can press the shavings around the egg, but use caution as the egg is hot! Alternate approach: You can roll the hot eggs in the crayon shavings instead of sprinkling them on to achieve a different look. Add as many colors as you want before the egg cools.

Stand the egg in a bottle cap to allow the shavings to continue to drip and melt as the egg cools. After a few minutes, brush away any unmelted shavings with a napkin.

### **Volcano-dyed Easter Eggs**

Supplies: Rubber gloves, several small bowls or cups, I tablespoon baking soda, 2-3 teaspoons water, food coloring,

hard-boiled eggs, cookie sheet or plastic tray, paint brushes (and cup of water for rinsing brushes between eggs), deep bowl, vinegar

Instructions: While wearing rubber gloves, take the bowls/cups and mix the baking soda, water and food coloring (mixing each color separately) to create paste paints. Paint the hard-boiled eggs to your liking (they need not be smooth; excess baking soda will enhance the volcanic effect to come). Holding the egg over a cookie sheet/tray, drip splashes of food coloring atop the painted eggs (using a dropper can help contain the mess).

Place the egg in the deep bowl, and slowly pour the vinegar on top to create a "volcanic" reaction. Once the reaction settles, pat off the excess vinegar. Set aside to dry while making your remaining eggs "erupt" in style.

# **Marbled Easter Eggs**

Supplies: Rubber gloves, muffin/cupcake tin or small bowls, shaving cream, food coloring, hard-boiled eggs cooled to room temperature, paper towels

Instructions: While wearing rubber gloves, fill the tins/bowls with shaving cream. Drop 5-7 drops of food coloring in each container. Lightly swirl the coloring into the cream without blending it entirely — one or two stirs only, as you want lots of the white shaving cream to remain seen.

Carefully twirl the eggs, one at a time, through the shaving cream/food coloring mixture until the entire surface is covered. Quickly remove the egg. Wipe the excess mixture from its surface. No need to rinse, just set aside to dry.

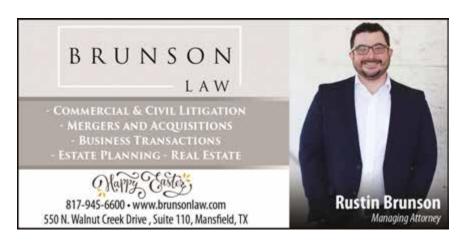
A few supplies that you may already have at home can result in a variety of creatively colored Easter eggs. As with any children's crafts, some assistance will be needed with the messier steps and with sharp or hot objects. Whether you're involving the kids or getting in touch with your inner child, may these ideas reignite the joy of Easter egg crafting!

#### Sources:

I. https://buggyandbuddy.com/9-unique-ways-to-decorate-easter-eggs/.
2. https://www.clumsycrafter.com/easter-eggs-using-melted-crayon/.
3. https://www.clumsycrafter.com/diymarbled-easter-eggs/.









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# **Crossword Puzzle**

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		
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33		$\vdash$		$\vdash$	T		34		$\vdash$	+
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Crosswordsite.com Ltd

#### Across

- 1 Encountered 27 At a great distance
- 4 "Whoops!"
- 28 M L B long 8 "Triumphal balls March\* opera
- 9 Just out
- 12 Eldest "Brady Bunch" son
- 13 W E B Griffin's "--- Arms"
- 14 Bill producer
- 15 Mail-order option
- 16 Home for some rats
- 17 Star tenor has son cut up
- 20 Pageant host
- 21 Kind of large book

Down

29 Far from strict

30 Singled out

32 Charge per

33 Surgical seam

34 Government

financial

stability

agency

attention

knowledge

36 Range of

35 Careful

unit

- 1 Merriment
- 2 Fluid buildup
- 3 Label
- 4 Insouciant
- 5 Telemarketers' equipment
- 6 Wise one
- 7 "And what have we here?"
- Flash, it's -- ... " (Rolling
- Stones) 10 Central Asian "land"
- 11 Soliloguy starter in "Hamlet"

- 18 Little zebra
  - 19 Common cargo for old
    - time clippers 21 Banned
    - aerosol propellants
    - 22 "From Here to Eternity" island
    - 23 Mad dog's mouthful
- 8 "Jumpin' Jack 24 Bit of grass 25 Tacitus' tongue
  - 26 Office big cheese
  - 31 Not Johnny
  - Cash's favorite name for a son
- 15 Summoning command

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

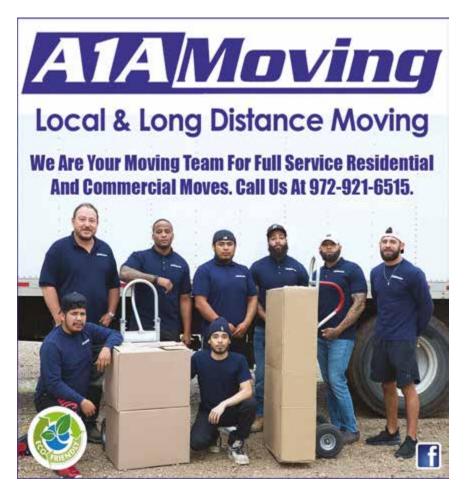
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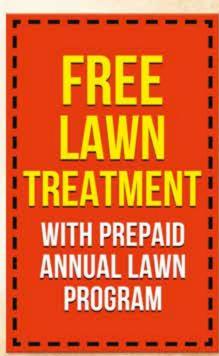
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OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/23





# 4/1

#### **Spring Craft Fair:**

Crafts, auction, food sales and more hosted by Midlothian Band Boosters. \$5 for early bird admission at 9:00 a.m., or \$2 general admission. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Midlothian High School, 923 S. 9th St. For more information or to participate as a vendor, email midlothiancraftfair@gmail.com.

#### **Community Egg Hunt:**

Egg hunting by age group, I to 12 years, plus photos with the Easter Bunny. A new inclusive hunt area has been added for this year. 10:00 a.m., Midlothian Community Park Baseball Fields, 3601 S. 14th St. Rainout date: 4/7.

# 4/8

## **Citywide Household** CleanUp Event:

Dispose of bulk items such as furniture, appliances and brush. Recycle electronics and more. Proof of residency required. No sign-up needed. 8:00 a.m.-noon, Public Works Service Center, N. 1050 Hwy. 67. For more information, go to https://www.midlothian. tx.us/721/Cleanup-Day-Events or call (972) 775-1083.

# 4/12

#### **Chamber Luncheon:**

State of the School District presentation. Lunch included

with purchase of a ticket. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Drive. Registration required at www.midlothianchamber.org/ events-calendar.

# 4/13 and 4/20

#### **Candidate Forum:**

April 13, hear from those running for City Council in upcoming elections; April 20, School Board and Mayor candidates. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Drive.

# 4/15

#### Kids' Crafty Saturday:

Free for first-through fifthgraders. 11:00 a.m.-noon, A.H. Meadows Library, 923 S. 9th Street (inside Midlothian High School). Registration is required at https://www. midlothian.tx.us/504/A-H-Meadows-Library.

# 4/21

## Bling, Bang, Bash **Designer Bag Bingo and** Gun Raffle:

CASA of Ellis County and Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center fundraiser. 6:00-9:00 p.m., SOKOL Hall 2622 TX-34, Ennis.

# Fish Sticks Comedy:

Comedy connection series. \$5-\$10. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Rock

City Fellowship, 2124 Hwy. 67 North. Purchase tickets at https://fishstickscomedy.com/ event/rock-city-ccs04/.

## 4/22

#### **Kids Fishing Derby:**

Pre-registration required, no sign-ups the day of the event. Spectators welcome. Midlothian Community Park, Fishing Pond, 3601 S. 14th St., 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Register at https:// www.midlothian.tx.us/KidsFish.

# 4/22 and 4/28

#### **Nature Walks:**

Guided and presented by the Texas Master Naturalists. Indian Trail Chapter of Ellis and Navarro counties. Most park trails are natural surface and closed-toed shoes are recommended. April 22 is a wildflower walk, 9:00-11:00 a.m. April 28 is moth night, 8:00-10:00 p.m. In the event of rain, events are canceled.

# 4/27

#### **Candidate Meet & Greet:**

Reception of candidates running for Mayor, City Council and MISD School Board. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Midlothian Historic Gymnasium, 700 W. Ave. H.

# 4/29

#### **Ellis County Homeless Coalition Walkathon:**

Fundraiser event featuring food

trucks, live music and family fun. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St., Waxahachie. Email info@elliscountyhomeless.com for more details.

#### Wine & Arts Festival:

Midlothian Chamber of Commerce festival featuring Grady Spence and The Work. 2:00-8:00 p.m., downtown Midlothian. Learn more at: https://www. midlothianchamber.org/ wineartscraftbrew.

# Second and Fourth Wednesdays

#### **Jesus Feeds Us:**

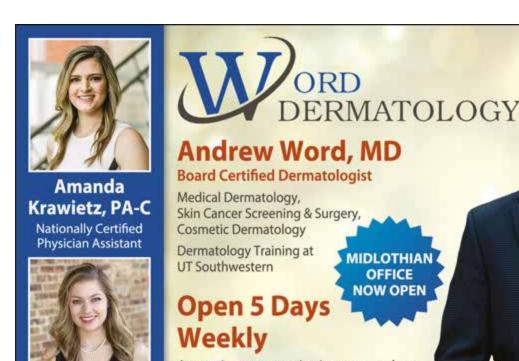
Free grocery distribution. 3:00 p.m. until supplies run out, Midlothian Church of Christ, 1627 N. Hwy. 67.

# Third Saturdays

#### **Urban Well Food Pantry:**

Everyone receives a large box of fresh foods while supplies last. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Creekside Church, 5491 E. Hwy. 287 Text (817) 944-0318 to volunteer.

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



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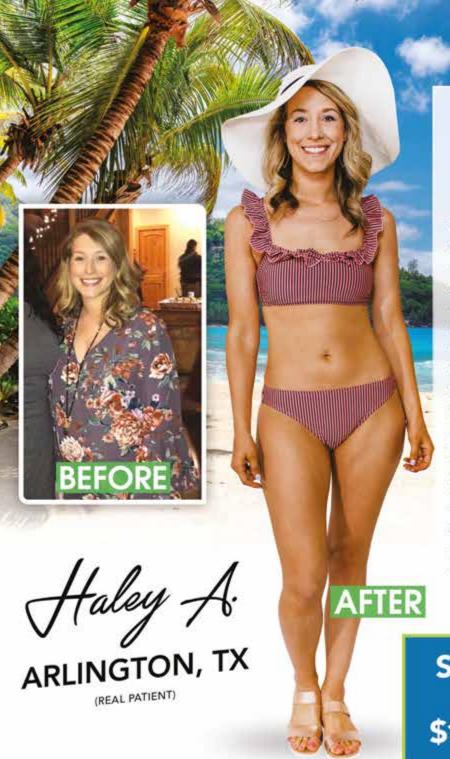
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