

WeatherfordNOW

M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2019

Technology Enhances Nature

Michael Voll joins
electronics and the outdoors
in the first musical park

A Wonderful World

Recreation Manager
David Mote coordinates
community fun

In the Kitchen With
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Kids' Fun Pages

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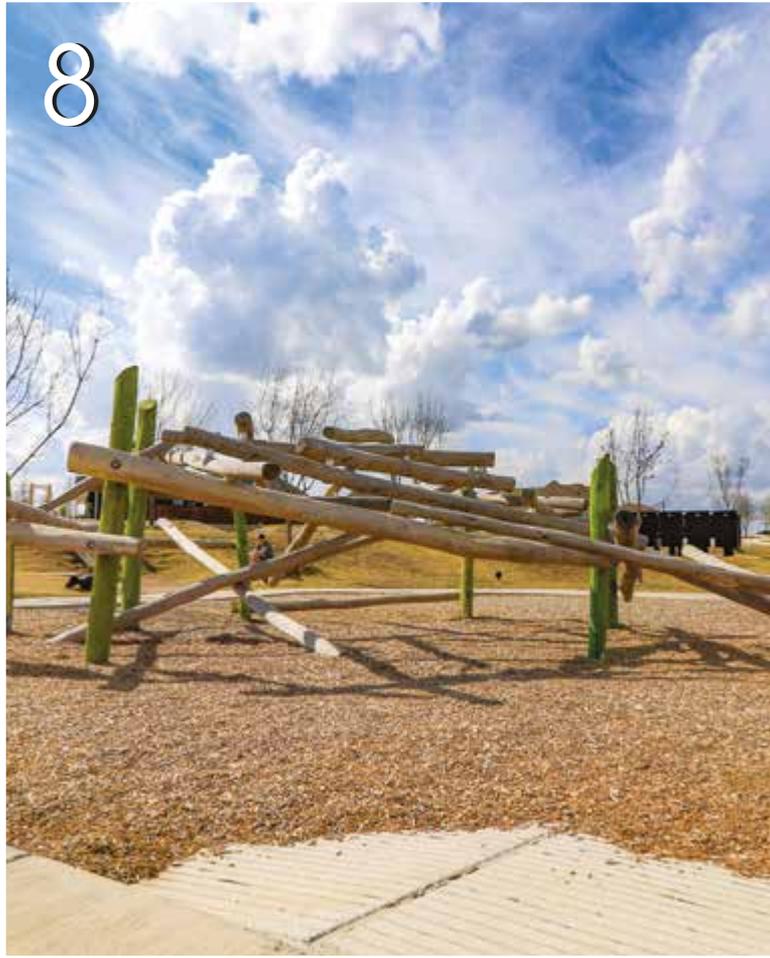
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ON THE COVER

Michael Voll and his son celebrate bringing music to playtime.

Photo by
Christy Voll.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

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It's already May?

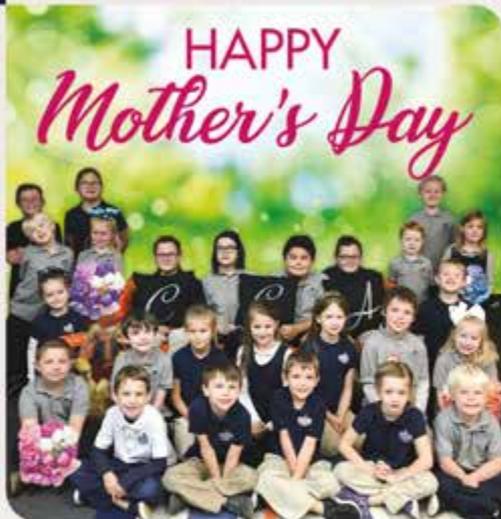
Wasn't it yesterday when we hunkered beneath blankets, sipping cocoa and enjoying a toasty fire? Now, we might enjoy a fire — if it's in a grill or fire ring. But I admit, I love May. Filled with family birthdays, Mother's Day and Memorial Day, plus warmer weather and thinking about potential summer trips — what's not to love?

This year, my baby girl turns 30 toward the beginning of the month, and her older sister will be 35 at the end. What? As a young mom, I had three preschoolers. What was I thinking? That I'd never survive. Then I had two in school, and number four arrived. Some days, it felt as if we lived in the zoo. And then they were all teenagers. My saving grace came from the oldest going off to college, but trust me — five females in a single home means lots of estrogen. We had our moments, but they weren't bad girls. Thank God for that.

As a single mom with many trials along the way, statistically, at least one of my girls should be really messed up. But they aren't. I look at them now. They're all married with kids, and they are great moms. Perfect? Nah. But neither was I. And maybe that's why they retain confidence when things don't go right or people question their choices. Being a mother isn't always easy, but it is good — even better when you look back and those days of littles are a distant memory.

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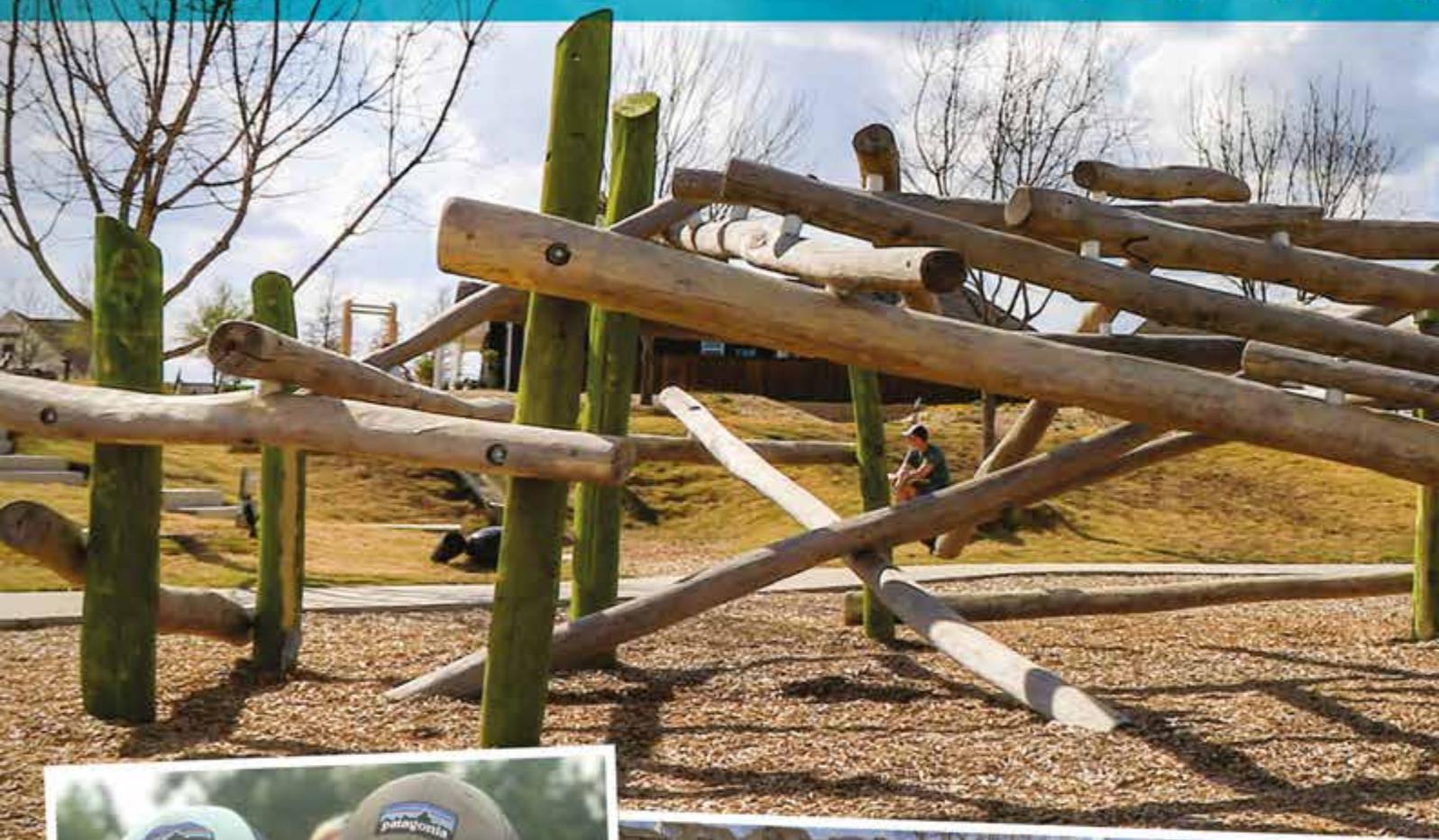
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ANCES NATURE

— By Lisa Bell



On a typical day, Michael Voll, CEO of FROG, approached his 7-year-old son with an idea. What if a playground made musical sounds? After he explained the concept, his son asked a simple question. “Can we really do that?”

“Yes,” Michael replied. “Yes, we can.”

The little boy grabbed a piece of paper and pencil, sketching out a conceptual playground in his mind. “I still have that drawing,” Michael admitted. Together, they built the prototype on the coffee table. Although the drawing contained more elements than currently included at the Walsh musical playground, they aren’t finished. They will add more pieces of musical equipment. And as the first actual live version, the patent-pending design opens a new type of play for children of all ages.

Imagine going down a slide and hearing the sound of a harp. And as children love ascending back up a slide, let the reverse scale bring a smile to your face. Then, wander over to a log structure where children adore climbing. Pick up a stick, fairy wand, any hard object, or simply stomp on a specific area. As you move around the structure, listen to drums, a piano, guitar, hand-bells and other instruments. Now for the coolest part — with control of the system, change those sounds for different learning experiences. They can include classical to rock instruments with a possibility for barnyard music. Are you ready to play?

Michael explained, “We want kids to get off electronics and go outside. But why not use technology to enhance that time outside?” Adding music brings additional benefits to playtime. Michael talked about author/speaker, Richard Louv, who passionately shares the need for children to spend time outdoors. Music occurs continuously in nature, if you stop long enough to hear it. Many studies show the benefits of music because it uses different parts of the brain. As children play on the equipment, they wonder how it all works. Michael shared how adults ask where to hit, so they produce the sounds. Kids, on the other hand, merely play until

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they find the sensors and keep going back, fascinated with the novelty of hearing music where they least expect it.

When Michael considered different areas to build the first live musical playground, he settled on Walsh because the community mindset fit. The community itself has core values of bringing technology and nature together to form an area where people come outside and have common areas to play and create. The community intentionally worked with builders to mix in diversity, which they believe makes a community great."

With two unique parks already in the community, Michael's invention aligned with their values. Theater Park, where the musical playground resides, also has some standard playground equipment in addition to a zip line, water pumps and oversized building blocks. Besides the two existing and two more planned parks, the makerspace is a favorite place for residents to gather. The building holds an indoor workshop, complete with a laser cutter for creating with wood. Several sewing machines have their space, as well. A 3-D printer and equipment for creating and printing unique T-shirts also wait for imaginations to come to life. Some younger residents came up with the idea to start a screen-printing business and create T-shirts for their friends. That's only part of the technology available for residents. And for every creative project, there's always someone willing to help. The children's area in the makerspace has creative outlets, as well, where younger kids play and create, while adults work on their own projects.

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This small portion of the community easily shows why Michael chose Walsh for the playground. While other playgrounds in diverse locations are in the planning stages, he shared the possibility of retrofitting existing playgrounds with the technology. For a community where great parks already thrive, he can add the components and bring new life to most parks without the extra expense of building something new. Of course, he doesn't mind working with new constructions either.

Michael spends every day working with technology. But he also loves nature and the idea of getting outdoors. Rather than force an either/or scenario, he developed this fantastic way of bringing the time competitors together. In a world where kids love technology and face losing a love of nature, he designed an alternative that appeals to both.

While Theater Park is the first of its kind, Michael hopes to see it expand and has a desire to create more like it in communities willing to embrace something out of the ordinary. For children, the technology presents a learning experience perhaps they never had before. But even adults can't resist the temptation to see what they can do. (Hint: a pair of drumsticks works great.)

Walsh is an open community. While some areas restrict use to residents, the parks are available for play, and anyone with a heart for nature may use them. The heart of Walsh matches Michael's vision. He said, "Inspire kids not just to imagine, but they can create anything. They can do anything." And people like Michael use imagination to create technology that enhances nature. Why not go outside and see what your imagination leads you to do? **NOW**

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In addition to scheduling and coordinating fields for adult and youth girl's softball, David oversees a fairly new program for younger children called Blastball. "It's basically a modified form of baseball that gets 3- and 4-year-olds ready for teeball and coach pitch, but in a fun aspect."

He's excited to see that this new program, which he inherited, is flourishing. "Kids and adults have fun," said David, who sometimes brings his 9-year-old stepson, Cash, while he encourages everyone to go out and live life. "Don't sit there in front of the TV or computer all day. It's a wonderful world out there. Go be in it. Live it."

A Wonderful World

— By Melissa Rawlins



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His philosophy developed through his youth. David grew up only an hour north of Weatherford, in Bridgeport, where he enjoyed dawn-til-dusk play. "We did not have all these video games," David said. "We were out with our bunch of friends, going to parks, picking teams and playing baseball or soccer all day long until our moms called us in to eat dinner."

After he graduated from Texas A&M University's sports management program, David interned at the Waco YMCA, and then spent 10 years with the Abilene and Fort Worth YMCAs. After that, David had a 13-year tenure in the city of Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department.

While there, David pioneered such classes as Goat Yoga, Grannies with Guns, PawPaws with Pistols and numerous new summer camps. "People thought I was crazy offering some of these programs," David recalled. "Those classes filled up every time I offered them. I also started Six Shooters, where seniors could sharpen their skills at a local gun range."

His motto, "Don't be afraid to fail because you never know if something is going to work until you try it," earned the respect of Jaycob Kirkpatrick, who once worked with David in Grapevine and now serves Weatherford as assistant director of parks, recreation & special events. Together, they're introducing new things to the city.

On March 23, Weatherford hosted its first-ever Cornhole Cook-off Tournament, bringing residents from Parker County and surrounding areas for a day of fun. The department is soon to inaugurate a wide selection of summer camps, all with the intent of getting people out into the community.





Meanwhile, Blastball is the perfect remedy to the Bunch-ball or Amoeba-ball effect seen when young children are introduced to a ball on a field. "This game gives the kids a taste of being in a sport, yet we take the competitiveness out of it," David said.

Sportsmanship lessons and fun are the game's end-goals. The equipment needed is minimal and provided by the city: a foam bat and a foam ball; the tee children bat off of; and the first base, wired with a horn. A Blastball game between two teams might take 45 minutes for three full innings.

Once the batter hits the ball, they run and jump on first base, and it honks. Two coaches help the players with fielding the ball. "The one who catches the ball, or stops it, yells, 'Blast,' and that lets all the children know the ball has been caught," David said. "Then they take it back to the pitcher's mound. The next batter gets the chance to swing four times, and on the fifth try, the coach helps them until they hit."

Blastball's five-week, five-game season forestalls the boredom 4-year-olds can easily feel with extended games. In July, the Parks and Recreation Department will open registration for the fall Blastball season. Games start at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, at Cartwright Park on North Main.

When he watches the kids play, David thinks of his childhood. "I'm also reminded things have changed since I grew up. We want to offer fun and safe programming for children to give them the opportunities to get out of the house," said David, whose career in the recreation field allows him to be outside often. "I'm out and about in the community creating fun programming, making sure fields are prepped for play and not sitting behind a desk looking at a computer screen. I couldn't ask for anything more." **NOW**

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“Today, in the field of water treatment, there are really two broad divisions that have emerged — ‘Water Treatment-Field of Advertising’ and ‘Water Treatment-Field of Science.’ The fact is, these divergent fields do not often touch one another,” Sarah Killingsworth, the representative of Nations Pure Water, said. The belief and application of science behind water treatment help them stand out in a sea of water treatment companies.

The 27-year-old multigenerational company has a substantial service fleet and more than 20 employees. Nations



Pure Water has led the field in Texas, bringing to market proprietary and innovative solutions, which solve problems that have eluded others.

Nations Pure Water provides water testing, the initial visit, consultation and customization for a different experience. “We don’t want to take water from negative to neutral. Instead, we try to improve it from negative to wow!” Sarah shared. “We do love and take care of our customers.” Adding a personal touch keeps them successful as they sell, install and service the best solutions.

Nations Pure Water addresses problems ranging from scale to water purity for both homes and businesses throughout many parts of Texas. While Parker County is No. 1 in terms of service efforts, they extend far beyond the local borders. Although they specialize in well water, they also treat water in all areas, even if it comes from the city.

Testing water is the priority, critical as a basis for good choices and solutions. Some water sources demand a single course of action from the treatment perspective, but at other

times, a customer may have a range of potential solutions. Joining customer preference to science allows Nations Pure Water to achieve excellent outcomes in solving issues — even when a problem may seem unsolvable.

Using unique, effective and cutting-edge solutions led to better outcomes for customers, and it also created a distinctive company. Nations Pure Water combines original equipment manufacturing, distribution, integrated field service and installation. “Our special relationship with thousands of customers over a quarter of a century provided the feedback and ‘on the ground’ observation to continually provide great solutions through innovative technology.”

NATIONS PURE WATER ADDRESSES PROBLEMS RANGING FROM SCALE TO WATER PURITY FOR BOTH HOMES AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT MANY PARTS OF TEXAS.

“We know a lot about water but learn something new every day,” Sarah said. “I’m grateful for all the incredible people who work here.” Each employee strives to provide successful application, water improvement and satisfied customers. The company guarantees results. Most of their business stems from referrals and repeat business.

After a new purchase, Nations Pure Water continues customer support. In many cases, the support spans multiple generations at ongoing customer locations. “We have the ability to reach out to any customer on any day of the year with locally based support. The phones are not only answered 24/7, but there is qualified staff behind them to respond.”

Whatever the water issue, Nations Pure Water does its best to provide a solution that fits the budget, needs and preferences of each customer. Call today to see how they can help provide pure water for you and your family. **NOW**



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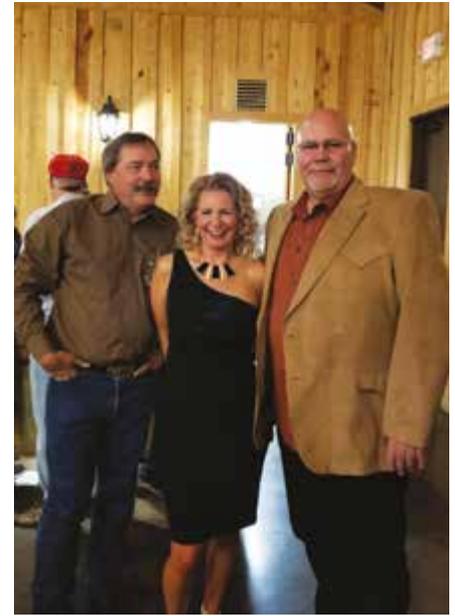
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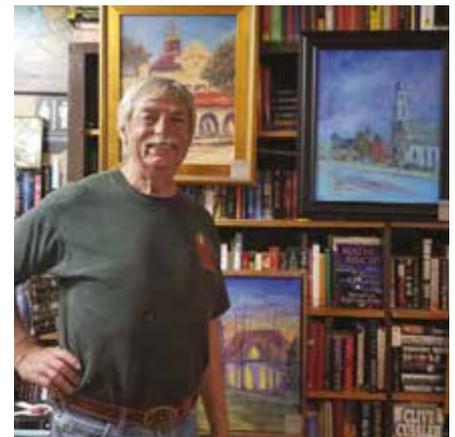


NOW's own Steve Randle and Rick Hensley pose with former rep, Shilo Treille at a Chamber awards banquet.

Zoomed In: Jeff Brazzell

By Lisa Bell

Referee and line clerk, Jeff Brazzell (left), knows his way around track. Talking with Coach Aaron Clark, Jeff has been a referee for nine years, but USA certified for 30 years. In April, he celebrated a 30-year anniversary with Mach 1 Track Club, which he founded. "My youngest daughter inspired me to start it when she was in sixth grade," he said. "There was a void." Over the years, Earl Mitchell came onboard as a volunteer coach. "He was the glue who held everything together," Jeff said. After coaching for 18 years, Jeff turned the club over to Lupe Torres, who built on what he began. "Kids from all over Parker County get scholarships through Mach 1," Jeff said, an achievement that fills him with joy.



Michael Oates shows his art during a special event at The Full Cup.



Congratulations to 12 WCS athletes for receiving All-District and All-State honors.



Parker County Heritage Society presents \$25,000 to the Doss in support of Pioneer Cabin Park.



Tanya Hodges and Kim Laws enjoy a Weatherford Chamber mixer.



WC Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate students meet with Phil King, advocating for support of addiction services legislation.



Melissa Legvold, Tristan Johnson and Alyssa Hart compete for the 13th Annual Joe Tison Outstanding Public Speaking Award.



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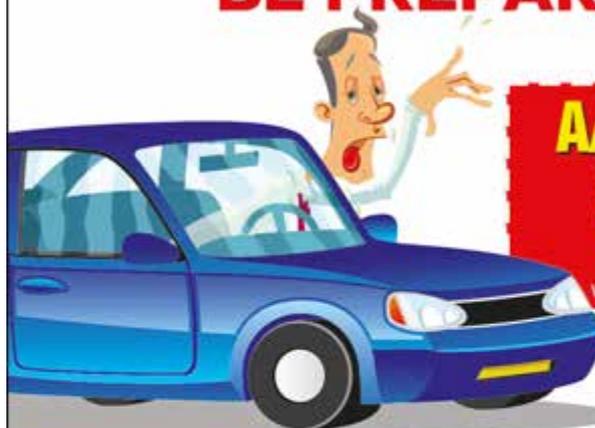
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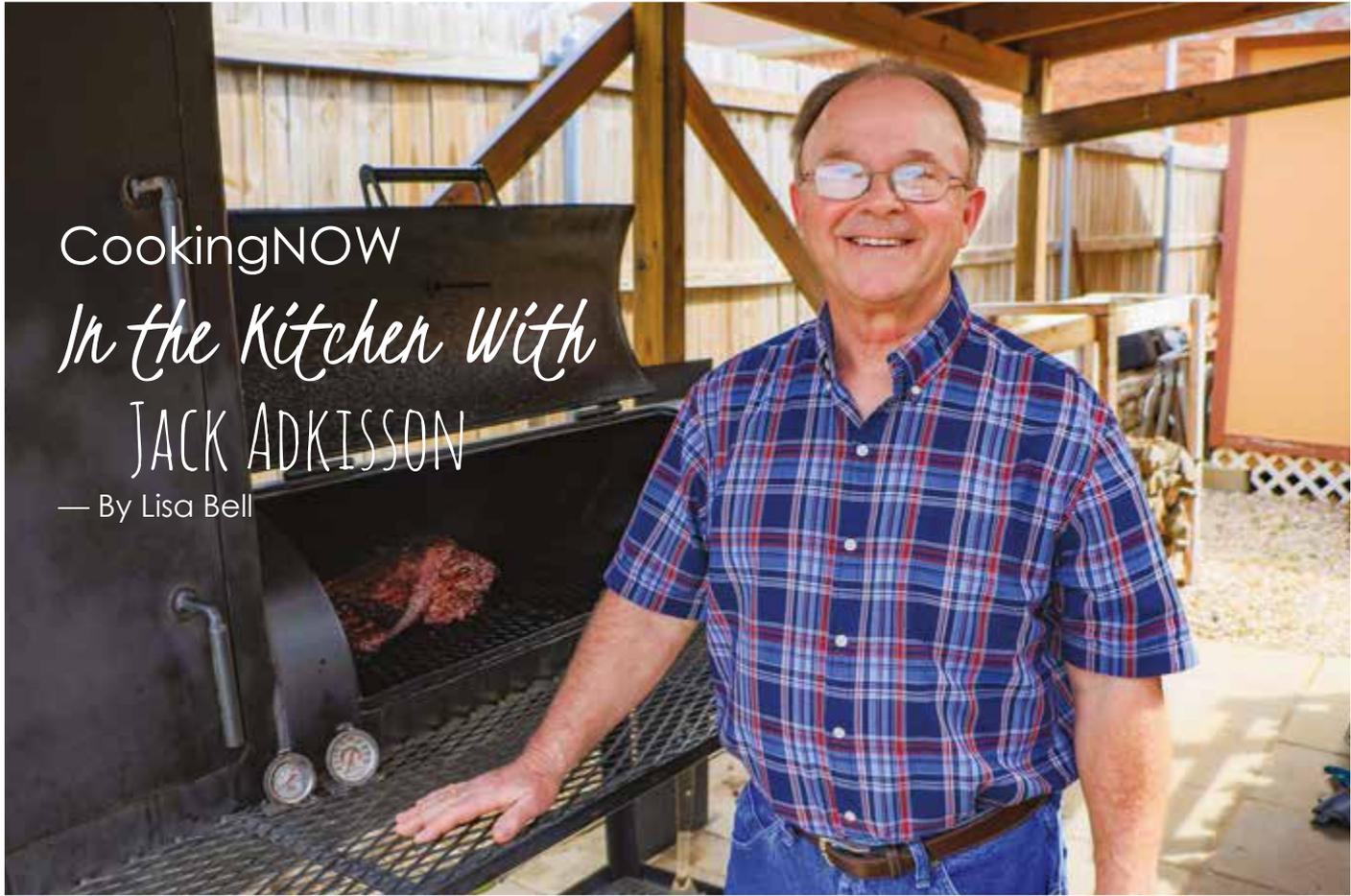
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

JACK ADKISSON

— By Lisa Bell

“I love my offset smoker!” Jack Adkisson declared. His current one weighs about 700 pounds. Over at least a year, he learned characteristics of having both horizontal and vertical cooking chambers. “As long as you understand the heat variances, you can cook in all but the upper portion of the vertical chamber,” he said.

Since retiring, Jack finds himself in the kitchen more than at the smoker or propane grill, but he wants to focus on that style of cooking. “Once you learn to cook with one of these,” he shared, “it opens up a new world of preparing a host of foods — not just meat.” Intrigued by pellet cookers, Jack hopes to add one to his collection and learn even more ways to cook. **NOW**

Wings

Wings:

- 3 lbs. chicken wings
- 1 cup Italian dressing
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- 1 Tbsp. poultry seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 2 Tbsp. seasoned salt
- 1 Tbsp. coarse black pepper (or cayenne)
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 2 Tbsp. baking powder

Cooking Sauce:

- 1/2 stick melted butter
- 1/2 cup Frank’s wing sauce
- 2 Tbsp. Cholula
- 2 Tbsp. Tabasco chipotle

1. *For wings:* Remove third bony section and discard. Separate drum section from mid-section.
2. Place all wing sections in a re-sealable or tie bag with the Italian dressing; place in the refrigerator for a few hours or overnight.
3. Add egg to milk; whip. In a separate bowl, mix together all dry ingredients.

4. Line a cookie sheet with foil; place a cooking grate on top of the foil. Spray with cooking oil.

5. Dip the wing sections in the milk/egg mixture, then into the flour mixture. Arrange wings on the grate. Try to keep them from touching.

6. Bake in a 425-F oven for 20 minutes. Turn; bake for 15 minutes.

7. *For cooking sauce:* Mix all ingredients together.

8. After 35 minutes of cooking time, remove wings from oven. Dip in cooking sauce; cook for 5 more minutes.

9. Put wings under the broiler for about 3 minutes (until tips are dark).

10. Serve with blue cheese dressing or reserved cooking sauce.

Brisket

- 1 packer trim brisket
- 1 cup beef broth
- Rub (make your own or use commercial)
- Pecan wood
- 1 cup Allegro Marinade
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tbsp. Liquid Smoke

1. Trim the fat from the brisket as best you can. (For a 15-lb. brisket, I usually remove 2-3 lbs. of fat.) Inject the beef broth into brisket, using a cookie sheet to catch the excess, and then pour it off.
2. Liberally sprinkle rub all over. Wrap in a large tie bag, such as an oven turkey bag. Put in refrigerator; leave overnight.
3. Using pecan wood, bring your smoker to 225-250 F; maintain that temperature throughout the cooking process. (Use an aluminum 9x12-inch pan as a water tray. Place it next to the firebox in the primary cooking chamber.)
4. The brisket needs to reach 205 F internally, which usually works out to about an hour per pound. (A 15-lb. brisket with 3 lbs. of fat removed requires around 10-12 hours.)
5. Halfway through the cooking time, place the brisket in a large aluminum tray (steam table type). Mix together Allegro, wine, Worcestershire and Liquid Smoke; pour over the brisket. Use heavy duty wide foil to completely cover and seal it. This changes the bark — the outside crust — making it softer and tenderer.
6. Covering it should decrease the cooking time, but it still needs 4-5 hours covered. For convenience, finish the covered cook time in the kitchen oven at 250 F.
7. Allow the brisket to rest 30-60 minutes, wrapped in foil, or just leave it covered in the pan. Always slice against the grain. (I usually separate the flat from the point because the grain is opposite for these muscles.) After slicing, pour the au jus from the pan over the meat.

Steak

My favorite way to cook steak is using my smoker. After at least a 5- to 6- hour cook, a very nice bed of pecan coals remains for cooking steaks.

Marinade of choice, prepared in advance (optional)

1- to 2-inch-thick steaks, your choice of cut

Salt and pepper, to taste

Coarse steak seasoning, to taste

2 pats butter per steak, optional

1. Marinate meat in marinade of choice, if desired. Remove meat from marinade. Season meat; allow to stand at room temperature for about 30 minutes.
2. Place steaks in the cooking chamber of a smoker at 225 F for about 30-45 minutes to bring the internal temperature to around 100-110 F.
3. Transfer the meat to the grate directly above the pecan coals. (Some fire here is OK.) Bring the internal temperature up to



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Brisket

your desired doneness, right at 135 F for medium rare.

4. Always let meat rest a couple of minutes prior to cutting. While resting, place butter on steaks; allow to melt.

Pork Ribs

Rack of ribs, your choice of baby back or St. Louis cut
Mustard (optional if needed as a binder)

Rib rub, make your own or buy a commercial blend

Pecan wood
Barbecue sauce, sweet variety

1. Start by removing the membrane from the bone side. If needed, use mustard as a binder for your rub. Use the rub liberally on both sides.
2. Wrap in plastic wrap, or place in a tie bag; refrigerate overnight.

3. Using pecan wood, bring smoker to 250-275 F; maintain temperature for the entire cook time. Use an aluminum 9x12-inch tray as a water tray; place next to the firebox in the primary cooking chamber.

4. Cook ribs for about 2 hours, looking for color here, not temperature. When they have a pretty mahogany color, pull them off. Slather with barbecue sauce; add a little more rub.

5. Wrap tightly in aluminum foil and cook for an additional 2 hours. When the ribs pull away from the bone, they are ready.

6. Slather with a little more barbecue sauce; place on the grate over the hot coals for a minute or so on each side to char the meat.

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Should You Borrow From Your 401(k)?

If you work for a business that offers a 401(k) plan, consider yourself fortunate, because a 401(k), with its tax advantages and variety of investment options, is a great way to save for retirement. But what if you need to tap into your plan before you retire? Is it a good idea to borrow from your 401(k)?

To begin with, you need to determine if a loan is even available. You can only borrow from your 401(k) if you're still working for the company that offers the plan, but even so, you'll have to check with your human resources area to determine if loans are allowed. If they are, you'll want to weigh the pros and cons before taking action.

On the pro side, it's pretty easy to get a 401(k) loan — there's no formal loan application and no minimum credit score required. Plus, you're only borrowing from yourself, and you can generally repay the loan with automatic paycheck deductions, typically over a five-year period.

However, you'll also encounter some cons when taking out a 401(k) loan, particularly concerning taxes. If you had not borrowed from your 401(k), the money you took out could have been growing on a tax-deferred basis, assuming you used pre-tax dollars to fund your plan, and your withdrawals will only be taxed once. But when you borrow from your plan, you will have to repay it, along with interest, with money

you've earned — and been taxed on — and then, when you withdraw it later, you'll pay taxes on it again.

Furthermore, if you leave your employer before fully repaying your loan, the outstanding balance likely will be taxable, although you may have a grace period in which to pay it off and avoid taxes. And, perhaps even more important, taking money from your 401(k), even if you repay it later, will almost certainly slow the growth potential of your account — which, in plain terms, means you may have less money available for retirement.

Of course, if you encounter an emergency, and you have nowhere else to turn, you may need to borrow from your 401(k). And some plans allow hardship withdrawals for medical expenses and other needs, although you'll still be taxed on the amount you withdraw.

But you'd probably be better off if you can prepare, well in advance, for situations in which you need immediate access to a sizable sum. One way of doing this is to build an emergency fund containing six months' to a year's worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. You also might find some resources in the part of your investment portfolio held outside your 401(k). For example, you can always withdraw contributions to a Roth IRA without incurring taxes (although the earnings on these contributions could be taxable if you take the money out before you're 59 1/2, and you've had your account less than five years).

In any case, you work hard to build your 401(k). So, no matter where you are in life, think carefully about how you will use the money. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.



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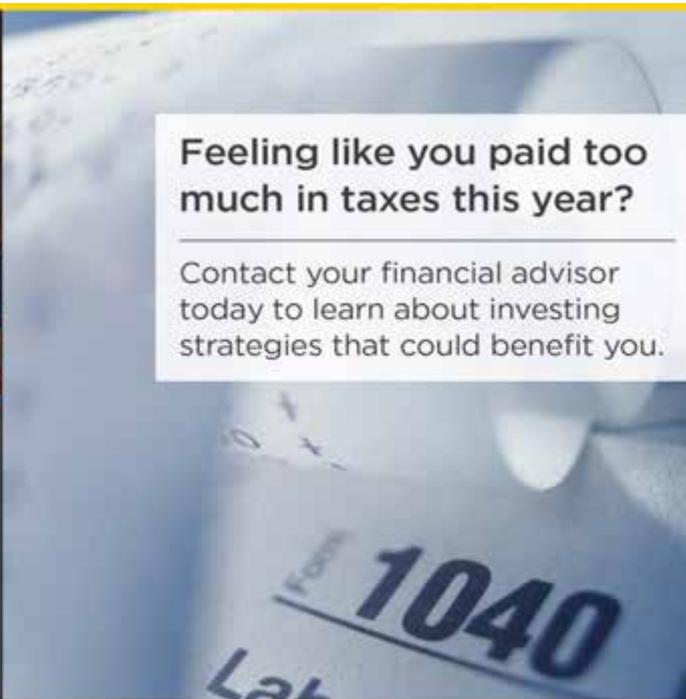
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Teddy Roosevelt said, "In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder, which is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. ... The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."

While man added buildings for the comfort and convenience of visitors, the canyon remains untouched and raw in exquisite beauty. Detours along the way make reaching that beauty an unforgettable excursion.

Nostalgic stops along Route 66 make the scenic drive to Grand Canyon Village a memorable adventure, each stop adding color to the journey. Graffiti at the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo. Cars and murals at the '50s-style Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, N.M. Vintage photos of movie and TV stars from the 1950s at the El Rancho Motel in Gallup, N.M. And, of course, Eagles' music fans can't pass up photo ops standing on the corner in Winslow, Ariz.



— By Wanda Strange

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Near the Grand Canyon, Williams, Ariz., is an unexpected treasure of its own. Shops and galleries line the streets in the small town, offering canyon memorabilia or arts and crafts from local artisans. Here, the Grand Canyon Railway departs daily for Grand Canyon National Park.

Built in 1908 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, the depot served as an oasis for travelers. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Williams Depot and original Fray Marcos Hotel (a Harvey House Hotel) represent the oldest concrete structures in Arizona.

While passengers wait to board the train, costumed entertainers treat the crowd to a Wild West show, setting the mood for a journey back in time. Since its initial trip on September 17, 1901, the millions of enchanted Grand Canyon Railway guests have included presidents, celebrities and ordinary individuals.

In the late 1800s, only the most adventurous explorers experienced the Arizona canyon. As railroads tied the nation together, the main line connected Chicago to Los Angeles passing through Williams, Ariz. Though originally intended to transport ore from the Anita Mines, investors soon realized the potential for tourism.

Because ore and mining proved unsustainable, the railroad relied on tourism to recoup its investment.





The \$3.95 train ride replaced the \$15 eight-hour stagecoach ride from Flagstaff, allowing visitors to experience the Grand Canyon. The adventure is definitely worth the 2019 ticket price.

Train hosts educate passengers about the history and topography of the area. As the train nears the station, hosts offer information about the layout of Grand Canyon Village and the many food options inside the park. The El Tovar Dining Room, a five-star restaurant, provides an elegant atmosphere for a delicious gourmet lunch.

Over the years, the Santa Fe built structures to accommodate an increasing number of tourists. In 1905, El Tovar became one of the finest hotels in the Southwest. In a progressive move, the railroad hired a woman, Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, to design buildings that became the signature of the Grand Canyon National Park. Landmarks include the Hopi House, Lookout Studio, Bright Angle Lodge, Desert View Watchtower and Hermit's Rest.

These structures are evidence of Colter's distinctive imprint, a natural style of Pueblo Indian architecture. Garden spots, the American flag and architecture of the buildings in the village enhance the canyon experience. Plants and wildlife naturally add color.

Time passes quickly in Grand Canyon Village. Some visitors hike deep into the canyon, while others linger in shops or museums. Many stand in awe at the rim and soak in the magnificence, attempting to commit every detail to memory, experiencing, as Roosevelt said, "the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loneliness and beauty of the canyon."

No words describe the breathtaking beauty. Pictures fail to capture its magnificence. Only personal experience explains why Roosevelt loved Grand Canyon. **NOW**

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- Virginia Woolf

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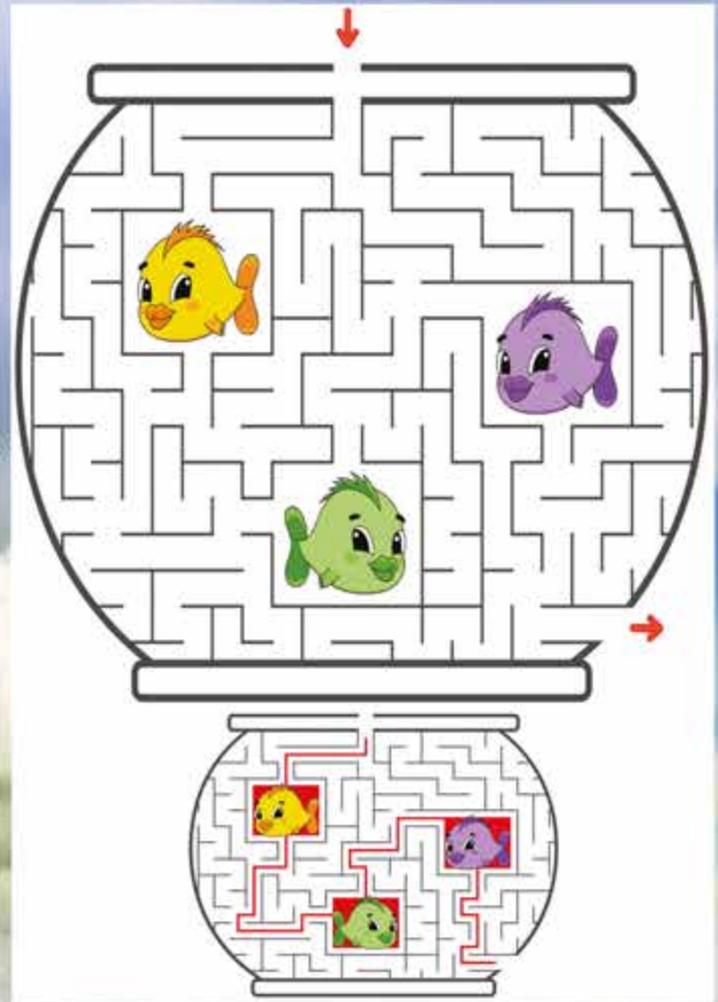
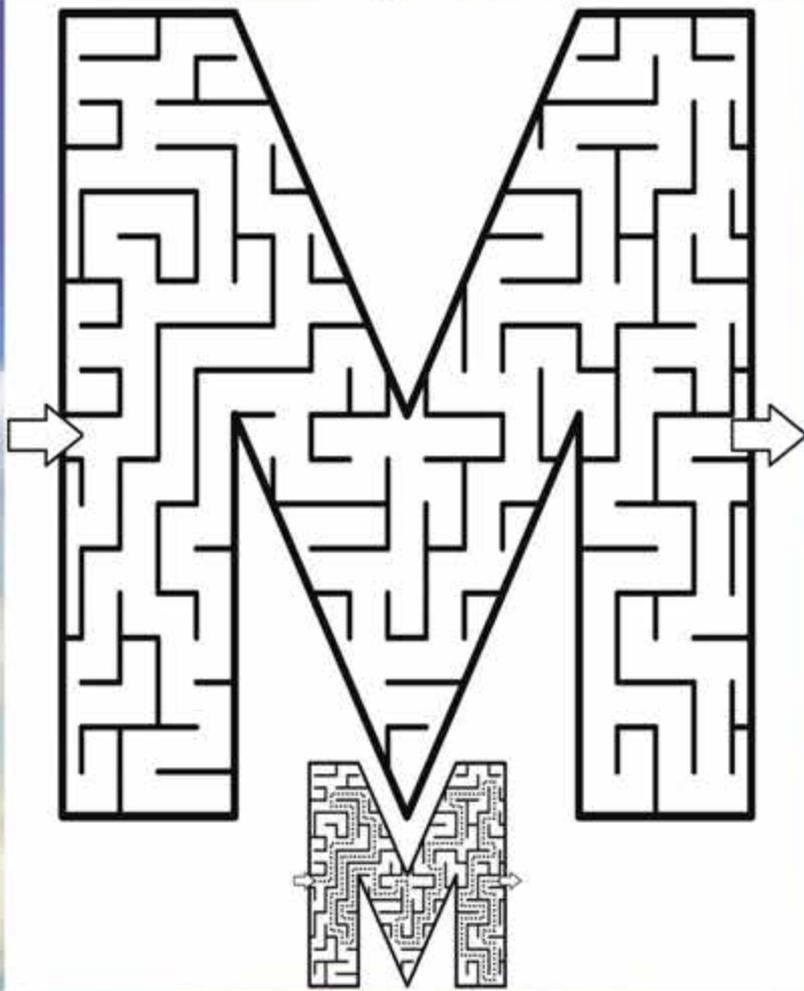
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Everyday - 1/2 Price Drinks 2-5pm
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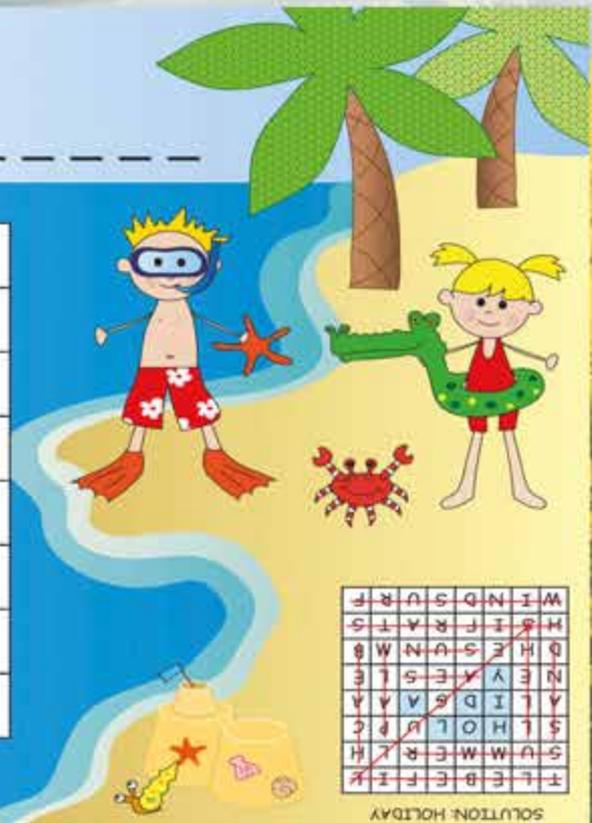
Kids' Fun Pages



MYSTERIOUS WORD: _____

- BEACH
- LIFEBELT
- PALM
- SAND
- SEA
- SEAGULL
- SHELL
- STARFISH
- SUMMER
- SUN
- WINDSURF

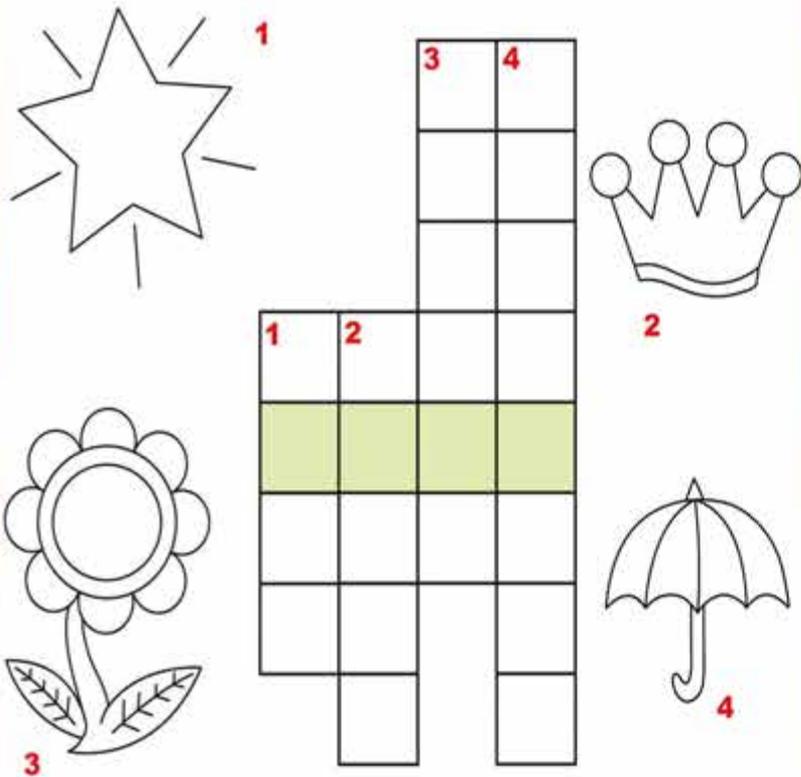
T	L	E	B	E	F	I	L
S	U	M	M	E	R	L	H
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N	E	Y	A	E	S	L	E
D	H	E	S	U	N	M	B
H	S	I	F	R	A	T	S
W	I	N	D	S	U	R	F



W	I	N	D	S	U	R	F
H	I	F	R	A	T	S	
W	N	A		H			
N	E	S	L	E			
V	L	D	S	A	V	A	
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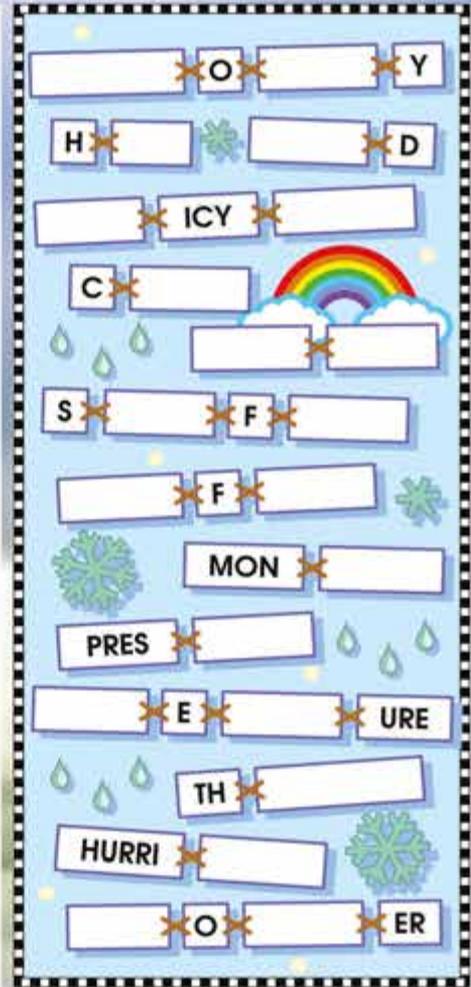
SOLUTION: HOLIDAY

Kids' Fun Pages



SOLUTION:

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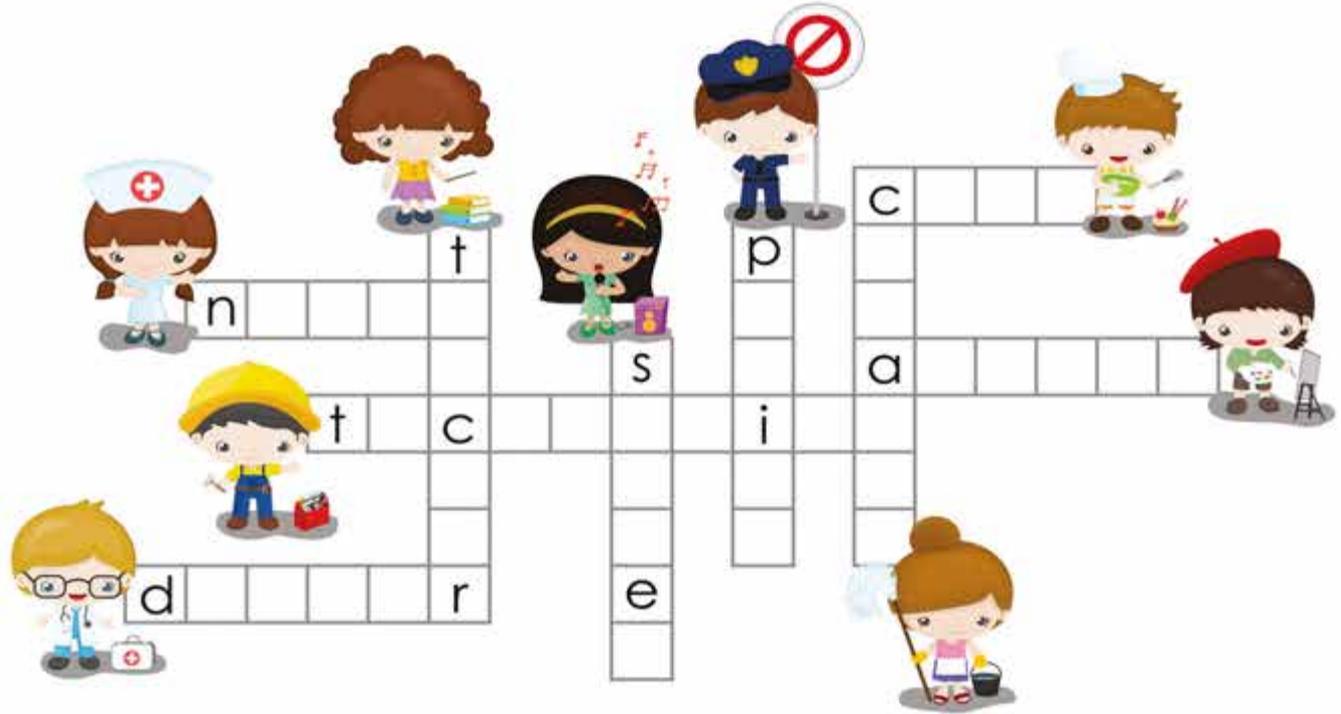


★★★★★
Fill in the blanks with the words ALL, ANT, BAR, BOW, CANE, CLONE, EAT, LAKE, LOG, LOUD, MET, METEOR, NOW, RAIN, RAT, SNOW, SOON, SURE, TEMP, UNDER, WIN to reveal 14 weather related words.

ANSWER:

BAR	ANT	CLONE	EAT	LAKE	LOG	METEOR	NOW	RAIN	RAT	SNOW	TEMP	UNDER	WIN					
SOON	SURE	TEMP	UNDER	WIN	BAR	ANT	CLONE	EAT	LAKE	LOG	METEOR	NOW	RAIN	RAT	SNOW	TEMP	UNDER	WIN

Jobs and Careers Crosswords





Did You Know ... Texas Wildflowers Are Always Blooming?

— By Derek Jones

Driving through Texas in spring, it is not uncommon to find vehicles parked along the roadside and families taking pictures among the waving seas of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes. Snapping photos among the wildflowers, particularly bluebonnets, is a favorite Texas tradition.

The city of Ennis, south of Dallas, was designated as the home of the Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail in 1997. The trail itself is a mapped series of country roads, which takes the driver through 40 miles of fields covered in bluebonnets. Whether viewing bluebonnets along the official trail, or just traveling between cities and towns, there is no shortage of opportunities to view these amazing wildflowers during springtime. As the bluebonnets emerge from their winter slumber, families will once again flock to these roadside destinations in hopes of the perfect spring photo.

The bluebonnet has been the official state flower of Texas ever since it was adopted by the state legislature in 1901. It was not until the creation of the Texas Highway Department in 1917, now known

as Texas Department of Transportation, that there was a systematic program to ensure the sustainability of bluebonnets and other Texas wildflowers near roadways. According to TxDOT, part of the conservation program involves prohibiting mowing alongside the highways until wildflower season is over.

TxDOT has expanded its wildflower program even further, now buying and sowing 30,000 pounds of wildflower seed each year. Thanks to these initiatives, Texas wildflower enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the spring bluebonnets and wildflowers alongside the highways for generations to come.

TxDOT has been instrumental in preserving Texas wildflowers, but perhaps no other name is as synonymous with wildflowers as that of former First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson. As First Lady, she was able to apply her passion for beautifying the nation's highways and cities and political influence to help pass the Highway Beautification Act in 1965. Because of her influence and involvement, the bill is informally referred to as, "Lady Bird's Bill."



Thankfully, she had the foresight to know making the nation a place of beauty also makes it a better place to live.

Part of making the nation a place of beauty requires focusing on native wildflowers and creating environments in which they can flourish. After her term as First Lady ended, Mrs. Johnson returned to Texas. Living in Austin, she partnered with actress Helen Hayes in 1982 to create the National Wildflower Research Center. Later, in 1997, the center was renamed The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Through the efforts of the research center, native plants and flowers of Texas are being restored in areas where they had been wiped out due to development. Today, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center stands as a legacy to a woman who devoted her life to adding a bit of color and beauty to the Texas landscape.

Although Texas may be famous for its fields of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes, the state is also home to many other unique wildflowers. For example, another favorite is the sunflower. The contrast of the bright yellow against a clear, blue Texas sky creates a breathtaking image and, like the bluebonnets, is worthy of family photographs. As with bluebonnets, these Texas favorites reach their peak in the spring before the heat from the harsh Texas sun withers them. Whether a favorite color is blue, red, yellow or a combination of these, the wildflowers of Texas do not disappoint.

For Texans who truly love wildflowers and have a discerning eye, spring is not the only time worthy of viewing. During any season or month, there are a variety of wildflowers blooming and flourishing.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website is a valuable tool for finding information about these lesser known wildflowers. For example, the website lists 20 wildflowers growing during the freezing temperatures of January and 24 examples growing during the heat of July.

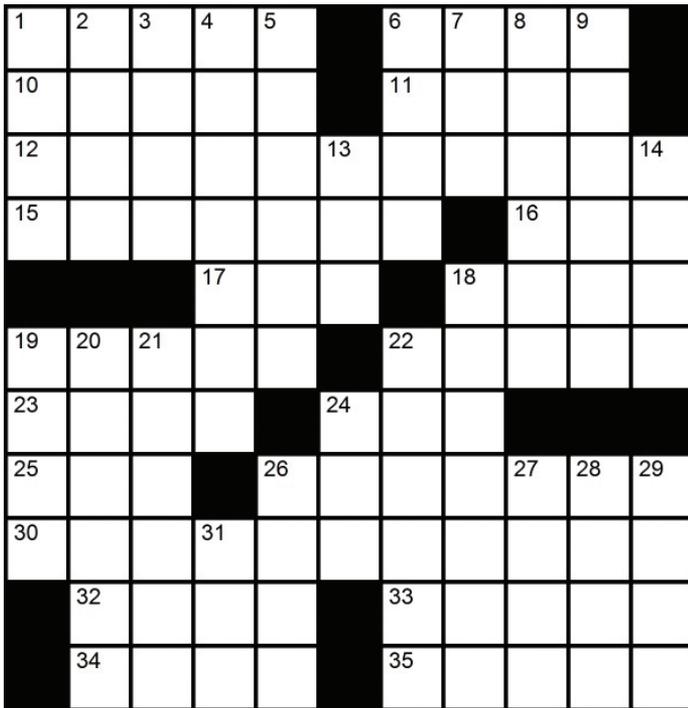
The extremes of Texas weather only serve to create great diversity among the wildflowers. Institutions such as The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and Fort Worth Botanic Garden offer exceptional spots for year-round viewing of wildflowers and plants found in Texas and serve as hubs for information about native plant life.

The extremes of weather contribute to the wide range of wildflowers in Texas, as does the state's landscape. Woodlands, prairies, coastal regions and desert can all be found in this great state, and each region serves as a perfect environment for acclimated wildflowers. For example, The Lady Bird Wildflower Center has a state-by-state listing of wildflowers. Most of them are listed within a single state. Texas, however, is listed by six distinct geographic divisions. The environment of the region determines which wildflowers grow. From lush environments to harsh landscapes, Texas wildflowers demonstrate their ability to thrive and adapt.

Wildflowers are a true Texas treasure. The variety found in the Lone Star State will satisfy even the most die-hard enthusiast. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.txdot.gov and www.wildflower.org.

Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 "... enough!"
- 6 Afrikaans speaker
- 10 Hitchcock had trouble with him
- 11 Skin eruption
- 12 Unputdownable
- 15 Virginian drive
- 16 Sticky substance
- 17 Male child
- 18 Abdul the Bulbul ---
- 19 Stigma
- 22 Frighten
- 23 Ornamental vases
- 24 Like 30 Across
- 25 Newfoundland catch
- 26 Prescription option
- 30 Bloody Mary ingredient
- 32 Strip
- 33 Defer
- 34 Maxims
- 35 Valuable item

Down

- 1 Sometimes found with that
- 2 Yarn quantity
- 3 Like many a student film
- 4 Grid for greenery
- 5 Like Steve Jobs's father
- 6 Foundation
- 7 When the Sup. Court's new term begins
- 8 Brain twister
- 9 Impressionist Pierre-Auguste ---
- 13 Stamp out
- 14 Pierce with a tusk
- 18 Pretended to be
- 19 Of like kind
- 20 Marches
- 21 --- Doria, Nantucket wreck
- 22 Could be the Moonlight or Kreutzer
- 24 Unnamed woman
- 26 Dippy-do and others
- 27 Barbecue dish
- 28 Small landmass
- 29 Guitar guru --- Atkins
- 31 Stitch

Solutions on page 44

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 44

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HAPPY Mother's Day

MAY

5/2

Much Ado About Shakespeare:

Discovery mini-camp for children ages 9 to 13. This isn't your usual history lesson or your usual theater class — it's both! 2:00-4:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

Beyond Homeschool:

Prepare for what happens after homeschool completion. Information on college admissions and alternative paths. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

5/4

Zonta's 3rd Annual Go the Distance 5K:

Proceeds help fund Parker County student scholarships and other service projects. Registration: 7:30 a.m.; race begins: 8:00 a.m., Gene Voyles Park, 210 Hudson Oaks Blvd., Hudson Oaks. Donna Couch, (817) 228-0228, www.zontaparkercounty.org.

5/6-5/30

A Matter of Balance Classes:

Free class offering practical strategies to manage falls and help prevent them. Classes meet **May 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 28** and **30**. 10:00 a.m.-noon, First Baptist Church, Springtown, 500 N. Main St., Springtown. (817) 598-6168, kl-smith@tamu.edu or www.texashealth.org/classes.

5/7

Stamped Air Dry Clay Bowls:

Get crafty at the library, learning about air dry clay to create beautiful clay bowls. We provide supplies and instructions at this free class. Come ready to learn and have fun! Must register. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

5/11

4th Annual Vietnam War Commemorative Ride:

This ride commemorates the ending of the Vietnam War with proceeds benefiting Texas Veterans & First Responders. Registration: 8:00-9:45 a.m., VFW Post 4746, 224 Zion Hill Rd. patriotsunitedforheroes@gmail.com or visit www.patriotsunitedforheroess.org.

5/13

Movie Monday:

After a break for tax season, this popular adult event returns with *Cold Mountain*. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

5/24

Teen Film Fest:

Good friends, a great film and popcorn — what more could you ask for? 12:30-3:30 p.m.,

Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

5/25

Memorial Day Celebrity Softball Classic:

Family-friendly softball game featuring veterans and other celebrities and benefits Carry the Load organization. Gates open: 3:00 p.m., Airhogs Stadium, 1600 Lone Star Pkwy., Grand Prairie 75050. www.carrytheload.org or www.mdcsg.org.

5/30

Discover Weatherford Activities Fair:

Discover all Weatherford and Parker County have to offer adults for sports, hobbies, community involvement, etc. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us.

Mondays

Lone Star Yoga Warriors:

Veterans are supported with science-based, trauma-sensitive exercises to regain resiliency. 1:30 p.m., Circle Y Yoga Ranch, 1303 Russell Bend Rd. (817) 609-6454.

Aledo Farmers Market:

3:00-6:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center Parking Lot, Aledo. Runs weekly until **November**. Support your local farmers. Contact City Hall at (817) 441-7016.

First Mondays

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days:

Event held on the first **Monday** of every month and the **Friday-Sunday** prior. One of the oldest open-air markets in Texas steeped in tradition and located in the heart of the historical district. Old traditions with a new look, attractions and fun activities. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 200 Santa Fe Dr. rhamilton@weatherfordtx.gov or (817) 598-4359.

Tuesdays

Storytime at the Doss:

Free educational program. 10:30 a.m., Doss Heritage and Cultural Center, 1400 Texas Dr. For more information, contact (817) 599-6168 or www.dosscenter.org.

Third Tuesdays

Parker County Cruisers:

The group for those interested in classic cars and specialty vehicles. 6:30 p.m., Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way. (817) 994-0074.

First Wednesdays

Zonta of Parker County:

Zonta is an international organization empowering women worldwide. Guests are always welcome. 11:30 a.m., North Side Baptist Church, Room 118. Brenda, (817) 771-9713.



5/16

Taste of Parker County:

Annual event benefits Weatherford College Foundation. \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Heritage Park. www.wc.edu/taste.

Second Wednesdays

The Twentieth Century Club:

Women's volunteer organization meets each month except in **July and August**. Begin with potluck lunch, followed by a short program and business meeting. Noon, 321 S. Main St. Karren Lucas, (817) 613-6697.

First and Third Thursdays

Connect Camp for Adults With Dementia:

Offers a respite for caregivers with

physical and cognitive exercises and social interaction for 'camper.' Donation-based. Registration required. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Clubhouse behind St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1812 Bethel Rd. (817) 609-6454.

Second Thursdays

Gardeners' Club of Parker County:

10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Road, Willow Park. (817) 919-6280.

Native Plant Society of Texas Cross Timbers Chapter Meeting:

Program this month is on monarch butterflies. Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way, 6:30 p.m. jw1829@swbell.net or www.npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers.

Third Thursdays

Quilter's Guild of Parker County:

Quilters of all levels are welcome. 6:30 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. Mary Williams, For more information, call (940) 682-4631 or visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

Second Fridays

Spring Creek Musical:

Old time musical with bluegrass, gospel and country music. Concession stand available with all proceeds going toward expenses. Free and open to the public. 6:00 p.m., 100 Spring Creek Rd. Spring Creek Musical on FB.

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

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