

BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2022



Playing in the Parks

Creating fun times in Burleson is Jessica Martinez's passion

2022 Hot Sounds of Summer Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With Conner Wright

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt
Crossword

Featured Business:
Budget Blinds

Postal Customer

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Barbara M., Burleson, TX

I am a 58-year-old grandma and wife. I have tried most every diet, and after time, the weight came right back on!

Over the past four years I have been trying to get weight off and nothing worked because I have thyroid disease and fibromyalgia. It just wasn't happening, and with my acid reflux I threw up all the time, and I had to stop eating by 5pm so I wouldn't get sick.

I saw a DSC ad on Facebook, and I did some checking on them for about a month. I messaged them and told them about my thyroid disease and fibromyalgia health problem. They said they never had had anyone with the fibromyalgia, but it did great on thyroid disease. So I went in and said my main goal was not the weight loss as much as I was wanting the pain to get better, and if I lost weight that would be great!

Immediately after I got on the program, the pain in my body got much better and in the first week I lost 7 lbs. What a surprise! I have lost 47 pounds of the 50 pounds and I have NOT cheated at all and I have felt absolutely GREAT. DSC has made losing weight so easy for me!

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ON THE COVER

Jessica Martinez poses at one of her favorite places, Russell Farm.

Photo by
Lori Baur.

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Dr. Peter Sutton, DMD, MSD

Dr. Sutton graduated #1 in his class from University of Kentucky and completed his orthodontic residency at one of the top programs in the country, University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Sutton has been practicing orthodontics in Texas for 7 years. Dr. Sutton wants orthodontics to be fun and engaging for his patients. He is skilled in many different treatment options from metal braces, clear braces to Invisalign Clear Aligners. His ultimate goal is to get each patient a great result and have fun during the process.



Dr. Kelsey Greene, DDS

Dr. Kelsey Greene, DDS completed her undergraduate degree in biochemistry with a minor in biology at Roanoke College. She graduated from VCU School of Dentistry in 2018 and went on to do additional training in general dentistry at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Hospital. Dr. Greene enjoys practicing all areas of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. She is focused on keeping up with the latest dental technology and practices, and she continues to exceed the hours of continuing education each year. During her free time, Dr. Greene enjoys volunteering at dental service projects, cooking and spending time with family. She looks forward to meeting you!

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
BurlesonNOW Editor
lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com
(817) 269-9066

Honor your mother ...

At my age, I am not naïve enough to think all mothers deserve honor. In honesty, this world contains women who give birth but should never raise those children. Ironically, most people harbor an innate desire to show honor to the woman who birthed us, especially those who see it as a commandment.

Perhaps you struggle with honoring your mom this month. May I suggest you forgive her shortcomings, employ strong boundaries to protect your heart and attempt reconciliation? In doing so, you show honor without destroying yourself. The time comes when we may face caring for parents without the desire. That means meeting their basic needs, but it doesn't include allowing anyone to abuse you.

If I'm honest, I can point to moments in life when I didn't deserve honor. We all make mistakes, some worse than others. Fortunately, my daughters forgave my shortcomings, and, hopefully, I learned how to live better as a mother and grandmother. I desire my family's honor as a woman, not only as their mother. I hope to live in a manner that makes them want to show honor toward me. Here's the catch — it becomes daily, maybe momentary, choices. Am I acting in ways that honor others? Do I care about people instead of focusing on myself constantly? Do I show random acts of kindness often? All good questions, and I can no doubt think of a hundred more while I strive to live in a manner worthy of honor.

As far as possible, honor your mother ...



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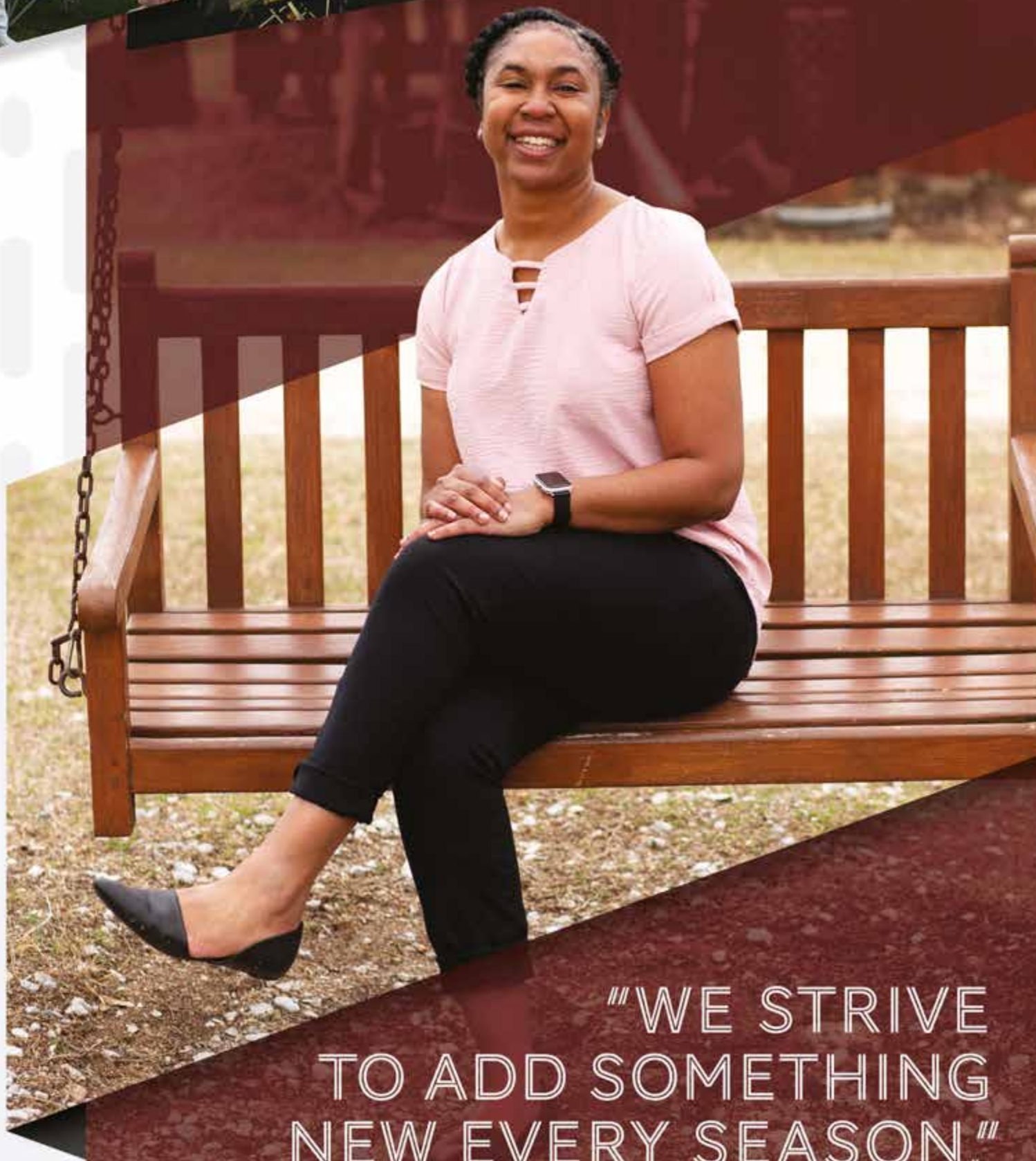
PLAYING *in the* *Parks*

— By Lisa Bell

As the recreation manager, one of Jessica Martinez's roles that keeps her busy is planning and coordinating special events throughout the year. As spring morphs into summer, the Burleson Parks and Recreation Department has wonderful things in store for the community. Jessica gives credit to Director Jen Basham, the entire Parks and Recreation team and the many volunteers who assist with the programs, events and services offered. "It takes all of these individuals to be successful," she said.

Jen treasures the value of Jessica's 12 years of experience. "I walked into my job a year ago to a seasoned veteran still on fire and passionate. We're fortunate to have someone like Jessica on our team," Jen said.

The commitment of Jessica, and those who work alongside her, shines any time the department hosts an event. Jessica always had a passion for recreation. As a younger woman, she saw recreation as a tool to get her college degree. After college, she started in the recreation field as a part-time recreation lead and personal trainer. With the desire to progress in the field, she discovered a state-of-the-art recreation center under construction in Burleson. Applying for the position of recreation coordinator, they chose her out of nearly 100 applicants. Her love for the community and opportunities to lead people, while



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also creating impact, gives her plenty of reasons to stay.

The summer of 2022 promises plenty of events and programs — some new and others recurrent — for all ages. When Jen became the Parks and Recreation director in 2021, she challenged the staff with a question. “How are you meeting people where they are?” she asked. Jessica took the challenge seriously, and it led to Food Truck Fridays, which they kicked off in fall 2021. They plan to continue the program. On designated Friday nights at a local park, they choose food trucks, set up family-friendly activities and invite the community to join the fun. By hosting at various parks throughout Burleson, this program allows families to join the event without traveling far from home. With 16 different parks, they introduce people to possibly unknown, yet fantastic, spaces.

In April, they plan on partnering with the Center for ASD for Light up the Night. Designated for families who deal with autism daily, the event also raises awareness and helps educate the community about autism spectrum disorder. With a glow run, face painting, a magician and animals, the night promises tons of fun for all ages.

Since the new dog park opened in March, Jessica and her team already plan for a Bark & Dash dog race in June. The event includes prizes and vendors, plus an opportunity for the community to get acquainted with one of Burleson's newest parks. The end of May also marks another exciting addition — the opening of the community's first splash pad. Joining the trend of many surrounding areas, the splash pad offers another way to stay cool in the Texas summer heat.

Jessica always looks forward to the summer in Burleson with summer camps and an enhanced slate of events for teens. Holding the first teen dance in February, the department looks forward to planning more dances and other special events for teens in the community. From teens to preschoolers, Burleson Recreation and Parks treasures the venues already in place for events such as a Tiny Tots Triathlon, and partnerships with the fire and police departments for preschool Touch a Truck events.

Of course, summer in Burleson



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Pol. adv. approved by Tarrant County Democratic Party

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means music, and Jessica proudly stated, "Hot Sounds of Summer will return this year." After a successful summer in 2021, she looks forward to another round of monthly concerts at Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza.

One of Jessica's favorite places, Russell Farm Art Center, has new plans in the works as well. "The Farm provides space for unique events." Russell Farm contains 30 acres where the city plans to offer date nights and wants to work toward bringing back archery, equestrian riding and other special activities. They already have a woodshop, open art, a community garden and a host of other ongoing events.

"We strive to add something new every season," Jessica divulged. "The farm can also host private events, which help fund additional programs." In 2022, Russell Farm returned to free or low-cost classes and workshops for canning, cooking, gardening, writing and more. Jessica's excited about the possibilities of all they can offer for Burleson's growing population.

By the end of 2024, the city expects to have 22 parks in Burleson, with some as pocket parks in neighborhoods. These include the new dog park and splash pad as well as a memorial park at Fire Station 16 in honor of Dawson Barnes. They also plan on refurbishing Cindy Park and Claudia's Playground.

A lover of anything outdoors and active, Jessica met her husband at the BRiCK. They got married two years ago. Jessica also serves as a board member with the Harvest House of Burleson. With many chances to impact people of all ages, she relishes her job and looks forward to turning 12 years of employment into many more. Her passion means citizens get to enjoy numerous options at a multitude of parks in Burleson all year long. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more about programs and events in Burleson, visit www.burlesontx.com.

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BusinessNOW

Budget Blinds

— By Lisa Bell

Budget Blinds

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Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Owners Joseph and Raquel Elder purchased a local Budget Blinds franchise in 2013, using money they saved for a home. As an installer for the company, Joseph knew the business, so becoming a franchise owner made sense. When their first child, Lexia, arrived in 2014, Raquel went from full time to PRN at her X-ray technician job and joined Joseph as the bookkeeper/scheduler. Since then, they added two more daughters, Rylie



and Isabella, and a son, Isaiah Justice, to the mix. As the community and surrounding area grew, so did Budget Blinds.

Operations Manager Jaymes Murphy joined the company in 2020. “I started in February, about three weeks before the world went crazy,” he shared. Joining Budget Blinds as the office manager/scheduler, Jaymes used the initial downtime of COVID-19 to learn about their products. “After about three weeks, we got super busy,” he added.

The increase in business led to hiring two installers, an office manager and, eventually, an office assistant. Jaymes moved to a position of operations manager and now enjoys the sales side of Budget Blinds. “I never imagined selling window coverings for a living,” Jaymes admitted. “But it’s way more than that. It’s about developing relationships. Relationships are most important and always my priority. I love any opportunity to share my story and hear theirs.”

Originally from LaGrange, Texas, Jaymes grew up in

Mansfield and Arlington. After two tours in Iraq as a Marine, he returned home and worked in the restaurant industry. With in-laws in Burleson, he and his wife, Jenny, moved to the community nine years ago. Jaymes said, "I love living in Burleson with its small-town feel."

He met Joseph through a men's prayer group. The company where he worked was going under, so Jaymes asked if anyone in the group had any leads so he could continue providing for his wife and children, Avery and Connor. Joseph offered him a job.

Budget Blinds started in Mansfield, serving homeowners locally and in Burleson and Kennedale. At the beginning of 2021, they purchased franchises in Corsicana and Cedar Creek Lake. With the expansion, Jaymes and Joseph both cover all the territory themselves, sometimes driving from Burleson all the way down to Fairfield. Budget Blinds offers multiple types of blinds, shutters, draperies, motorization and more, plus installation. With the backing of a nationwide company, they can offer knowledge and high-quality vendors at lower prices, yet maintain the feel of a small business with a personal touch.

When working with customers, they listen not only to what the person thinks he or she wants, but also to individual needs. Sometimes, they steer a customer in a different direction to better meet the desired outcome. Jaymes strives to treat potential customers like family members, showing best solutions rather than endless products.

The company strives to become more involved with the community, particularly supporting efforts to fight human trafficking alongside Answer International and Open Door Church. They always offer product expertise with best solutions for the customer, whether they want to block light, heat and cold, or simply enhance the home's beauty.

He recommends asking plenty of questions and looking at options as solutions. Know your wants, needs and budget. Budget Blinds works to answer honestly and leave homeowners happy. They have style and service for every budget, so they are bound to find a solution that checks all your boxes. **NOW**



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Regular: 05/02/22 - 06/18/22 **\$175**

Late: 06/19/22 - 06/30/22 **\$210**

Cheer:

Offering: Cheer (4 year olds to 12 year olds)

Regular: 05/02/22 - 06/18/22 **\$185**

Late: 06/19/22 - 06/30/22 **\$220**

Baseball:

Offering: 5U T-Ball to 18U Kid Pitch

Early Bird: 05/30/22 - 06/09/22 **\$135**

Regular: 06/10/22 - 07/17/22 **\$140**

Late: 07/18/22 - 07/24/22 **\$175**

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Softball:

Offering: 6U T-Ball, 8U Coach Pitch, 10U,
12U, 14U, 16U, 18U Fast Pitch

Early Bird: 05/30/22 - 06/09/22 **\$135**

Regular: 06/10/22 - 07/17/22 **\$140**

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Grapefruit (4 Year Olds):

Offering: Boys & Girls - 4 Year Olds

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Late: 07/18/22 - 07/24/22 **\$105**

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Offering: 7U to 18U Boys & Girls

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Zoomed In: Doris Robinette

By Lisa Bell

For years, Doris Robinette and her faithful companion, Natasha — a reading education assistant dog — thrilled children with tricks. “Natasha listened to kids read, and I helped if they needed it,” Doris remembered. Parents signed kids up for the reading program. In addition to local schools, they visited libraries and nursing homes. If she went into a local store without the dog, everyone asked about her.

“She brought smiles to everyone who met her,” Doris shared. “Now, she is somewhere over the rainbow, living in her heavenly mansion and no doubt, still bringing smiles to everyone she encounters.” Doris perseveres without her furry love but feels a need to live closer to family, knowing there will never be another dog as special as Natasha.



On a Saturday afternoon, John and Pat Haley celebrate 50 years of marriage.



A lovable bunny welcomes spring and Easter.



The city of Burleson honors Vietnam veterans.



Library fans welcome the new storyboard walk behind the library.



2-year-old Evelyn James puts on her frilly dress to hunt eggs.



American Ukrainian, Natalia Hays, and her son, Svyatoslav Tomilin, make ribbons in support of Ukraine.



Ashley Hicks shares information about the Elk Creek Community during Senior Center Health and Resource Fair 2022.



The annual aqua egg hunt at the BRiCk attracts many from the community.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

CONNER WRIGHT

— By Lisa Bell

From the age of 3, Conner Wright enjoyed helping in the kitchen. “I love making new things, and cooking is a way to do that,” he said. “I went to a cooking camp once, more of a baking camp, and still have the cookbook we used.” Conner loves cooking with his family. But adding his own seasonings and adjusting amounts of ingredients, he makes dishes unique. He admits Tony Chachere’s is his favorite spice blend.

As a seventh-grader, Conner hasn’t yet decided on a profession, but he wants to become a Navy Seal when he grows up. Besides cooking, he enjoys playing baseball, coding, drawing and science. He prefers using quick and easy recipes during baseball training — and Thanksgiving brings out his apple pie. **NOW**

Sausage Tortellini

- 1/2 yellow onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 lb. smoked sausage, cut into 1/4-inch half-moons (We like the brisket one from H-E-B.)
- 1 20-oz. pkg. refrigerated tortellini (any brand)

- 1 cup low-sodium broth (chicken, beef or vegetable)
- 1 28-oz. can petite diced tomatoes
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 2 cups shredded cheese (We prefer Mexican blend.)

1. Heat up a 6-qt. stockpot over medium heat; cook the onion for 3-4 minutes. Stir in

the minced garlic and sausage; cook until browned.

2. Stir in the tortellini, broth and tomatoes. Bring to a boil; stir frequently. Turn heat to low. Cover; simmer for 10-15 minutes.

3. Stir the mixture a couple times during cooking. There should be a little liquid left in the bottom of the pot, and the pasta should be tender.

4. Remove from heat; stir in the cheeses. Let stand for 5-10 minutes; enjoy.

Mexican Shells

- 2 Tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 8-oz. pkg. jumbo pasta shells
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 yellow onion, diced
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1 10-oz. can enchilada sauce
- 1 cup salsa
- Cooking spray
- 2 cups taco cheese, shredded

1. Bring a large pot of water and 2 Tbsp. cooking oil to a boil. Add the pasta shells; cook according to package instructions. Rinse when finished.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
3. While the pasta cooks, brown the ground beef and diced onion until cooked through; drain the grease. Stir in the taco seasoning; mix in the cream cheese until melted.
4. Combine the enchilada sauce and salsa in a small bowl.
5. Spray a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray; spread enough sauce mixture to cover the bottom of the pan. (The rest will be poured over the top.)
6. Fill each jumbo shell with a spoonful of the ground beef mixture; place open-side up in the 9x13-inch pan. Repeat until all the shells are full.
7. Pour the remaining sauce mixture over the top; cover with foil.
8. Bake for 30 minutes, or until hot. Remove foil; top with cheese. Return to the oven for 10-15 minutes, or until the cheese is melted.
9. Top with your favorite taco seasonings and enjoy! *Note: I make this in the morning and just pop it in the oven when we get home.*

Swedish Meatballs

- 1 14.5-oz. can (or 2 cups) low-sodium beef broth
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 Tbsp. A1 Steak Sauce
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
- 1 2-lb. bag frozen meatballs of your choice
- 1 16-oz. pkg. egg noodles
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt (or substitute sour cream)

1. In a small bowl, mix the broth, mushroom soup, steak sauce and onion soup mix.
2. In a 5- to 6-qt. slow cooker, pour in the bag of meatballs; cover with the sauce mixture. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 3-5 hours.
3. When the meatballs are almost done, cook the noodles according to the package instructions.
4. Stir the yogurt/sour cream into the meatballs and sauce.
5. When the noodles are done, pour them in with the meatballs. Mix everything together and enjoy!

Ham/Cheese Sliders

Makes 12 sliders.

Cooking spray

- 1 12-ct. pkg. Hawaiian Rolls
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

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Swedish Meatballs

6 slices mozzarella cheese
1 to 1.5 lbs. sliced ham (thickness doesn't matter)
6 slices provolone cheese

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray a 9x13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray.
- 2.** Cut the Hawaiian rolls in half, so you have a large top piece and a large bottom piece. Do not pull the rolls apart.
- 3.** Melt the butter; mix in the Worcestershire sauce and garlic. Brush the large bottom piece with the melted butter mixture.
- 4.** Layer the sandwiches: Mozzarella, ham,

provolone and the top bread piece. Brush the top of the bread with the remaining butter mixture.
5. Cover loosely with nonstick foil. You can spray the inside of the foil, so it won't stick, if desired.)
6. Bake for about 15 minutes. Uncover; continue cooking for an additional 10 minutes. Cool slightly; cut into individual sandwiches.

Garlic Steak Bites

2 lbs. steak, cut into small cubes
2 tsp. minced garlic

1 tsp. garlic powder
3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

- 1.** Mix all the ingredients in a gallon bag; place in the refrigerator to marinate for 2-24 hours.
- 2.** To prepare: Heat in a skillet until the desired doneness is reached — anywhere from 3-10 minutes per batch.
- 3.** Air fryer option: Preheat the air fryer to 425 F; cook for 6-10 minutes until the desired doneness is reached. *Note: This is easy to prep and easy to cook. Serve with a side of veggies or pasta.*

Mississippi Pot Roast

1 3-4 lb. roast (any cut works)
1 pkg. au jus mix
1 pkg. ranch dressing mix
1 stick butter
5-6 whole pepperoncini peppers with juice

- 1.** Place the roast inside a large Crock-Pot. Sprinkle the au jus and ranch dressing mixes on top of the roast.
- 2.** Place the stick of butter on top; arrange the peppers around the roast. Pour about 1/3 of the juice from the pepper jar on top.
- 3.** Cook, on low, for 8 hours.

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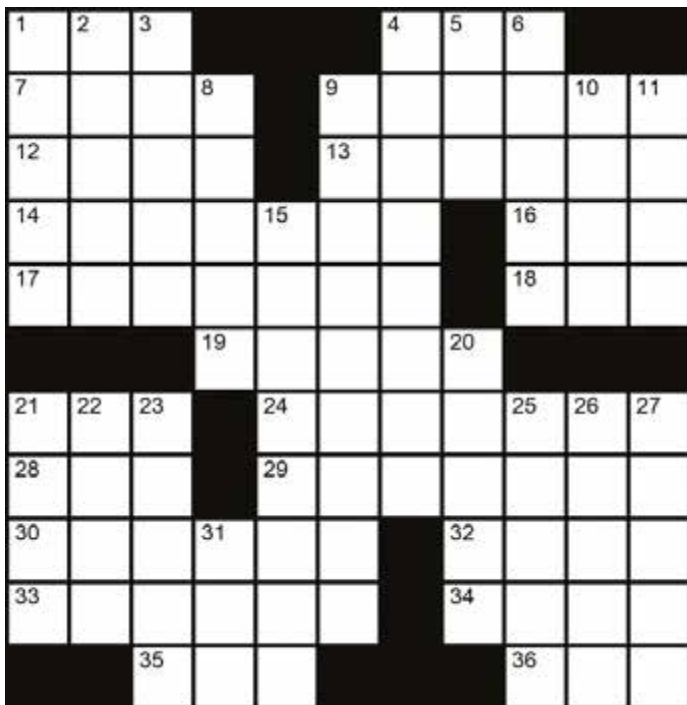
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Across

- 1 "--- in 'Sierra'"
- 4 Turn in a horizontal plane
- 7 European peaks
- 9 Duelist's assistant
- 12 Suffer from the heat
- 13 Wonder Woman's General, Steven -
- 14 This crowd controller's a real weepie
- 16 First of her kind
- 17 Iroquoian word for "beautiful water"
- 18 Scientific truth
- 19 "I --- be sedated" (Ramones)
- 21 Jayhawk state
- 24 Got agitated
- 28 Lawyers' league
- 29 Merry
- 30 Alamo commander
- 32 Travail
- 33 Cat shy about floaters
- 34 Took --- loan
- 35 Tire inflation measure
- 36 Enunciate

Down

- 1 Looked after
- 2 Unfamiliar
- 3 Bug's last sound
- 4 Public faces
- 5 Poker bullet
- 6 Original
- 8 No-one wants the short one
- 9 Durable type of steel
- 10 Old Chevy model
- 11 Pulled a gun
- 15 Tagger's art
- 20 "I shall not find myself so --- die": (Antony, "Julius Caesar")
- 21 Houston suburb
- 22 Start of an incantation
- 23 Civil rights org. since 1909
- 25 Religious
- 26 Short-lived Argentinian First Lady
- 27 Holdup
- 31 Old tape letters

Solutions on page 36

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5/1

Cinco De Mayo Parking Lot Party:

Benefits Burleson fire and police departments. 3:00 p.m., Miranda's Mexican Restaurant, 327 S. Burleson Blvd. www.happeningnext.com.

5/5

Community Job Fair:

Attention job seekers, local Burleson companies will be on hand looking for employees. Free; bring your résumé. 2:00-6:00 p.m., BRiCK, 550 SW Summercrest

Blvd. www.facebook.com/events/518210503217140.

5/14

Trash Bash:

Citywide cleanup. Register a group online. 8:00 a.m., Warren Park, 301 SW Johnson Ave. www.burlesontx.com.

5/16

BRAVE Event:

Learn how you can serve, advocate and support children in foster care. Free. 6:00-7:30 p.m., Pathway Church, 325 NW Renfro St.

www.eventbrite.com/e/brave-johnson-county-tickets-168990293517

5/21

Super Safety Saturday:

Family-friendly event includes safety education, bounce houses, fire truck and ambulance, plus more. 8:00-11:00 a.m., Texas Health, 2750 SW Wilshire Blvd. www.fb.me/e/1Pst6Z6aA or www.burlestontx.com.

Canning Class — The Best Salsa Recipe:

Each participant takes home a jar of homemade salsa and

the recipe to make more. \$25 includes all supplies. Register online. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Russell Farm, 405 CR 714. www.burlesontx.com.

5/27

Hot Sounds of Summer:

Emerald City (variety band) kicks off the 2022 season. 7:30 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 at Renfro St. www.burlesontx.com.

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



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Crossword Solutions

1	S	A	S				4	P	A	N	
7	A	L	P	S		9	S	E	C	O	N
12	W	I	L	T		13	T	R	E	V	O
14	T	E	A	R	G	A	S		E	V	E
17	O	N	T	A	R	I	O		L	A	W
					19	W	A	N	N	A	
21	K	A	N			24	F	L	A	P	P
28	A	B	A			29	F	E	S	T	I
30	T	R	A	V	I	S			32	T	O
33	Y	A	C	H	T	S			34	O	U
					35	P	S	I		36	S
											A
											Y

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