Mansfieldi

Walking In Their Shoes

Kimberley Contu expects this year's geducilion coremonios to be incredible

Also inside: Scavenger Hunt Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

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In the Kitchen With 🍠 Krislie Cawihon

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WALKING IN THEIR SHOES

Empathy led Mansfield ISD's decisions for senior graduation ceremonies.

BUSINESSNOW Budget Blinds.

16 AROUND TOWNNOW

20 COOKINGNOW Kristie Cawthon.



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ON THE COVER

Hats off to young adults who are celebrating one of life's major milestones.

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Resilience!

It's a word my mother instilled in my psyche. As a special education teacher and an elementary school counselor, she understood the value of resilience in a person's character. It's a trait that she knew would carry me through strange seasons when expectations wouldn't be met.

Storms change circumstances for plants, as well as people. I've watched many a wind turn fierce in my south-facing backyard, and have gone to sleep assured that what will be will be. Upon awakening, I've discovered huge trees overturned at the roots. This has required men with chainsaws, and that either my economic reserves or my social currencies were strong.

Thinking on freshvista.com's definition of resilience in nature as the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic function, structure and feedback systems, I agree with them that resilience usually works within limits. "If a disturbance is too great," they say, "the effect of that impact will overcome the ability of nature to make corrections."

I'm a part of nature, and of a larger social ecosystem. Sometimes, I forget that. I've let myself think my disturbances are too great. Yet by surrounding myself with biblical truth and friends who value positivity, I have always been able to make corrections.

I think we've all learned to value our friends and connections even more during these last few months, when we've been challenged to flex our resilience muscles. I've enjoyed watching what people in Mansfield have done to recoup and carry on.

Enjoy our pages as we tell you more!

EDITOR'S NOTE







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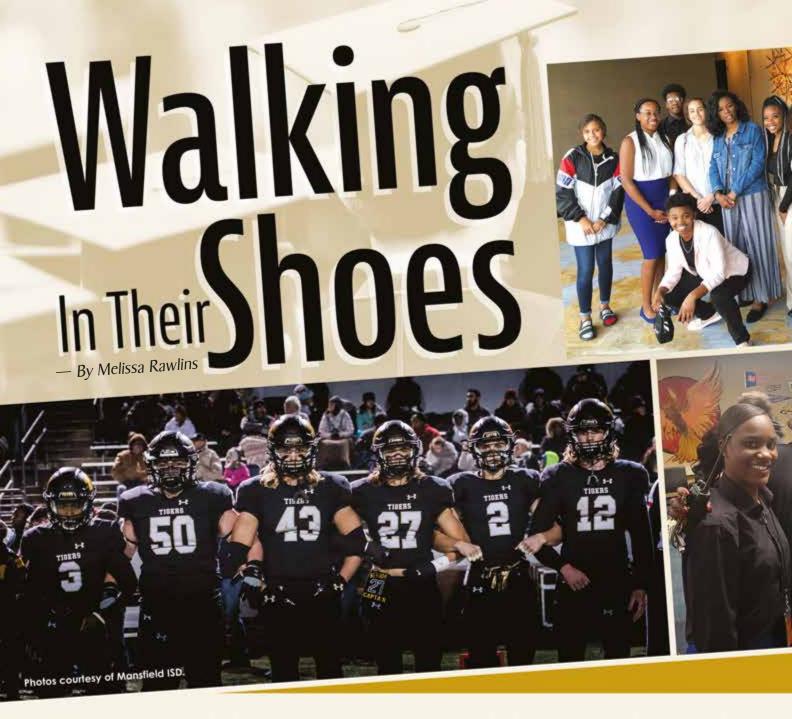




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Life as we love it is moving forward, and this year's high school senior class will enjoy a graduation ceremony like no other. As part of providing the highest quality public education, Mansfield ISD planned — in the face of an ever-changing unknown called COVID-19 — to provide the best graduation experience possible. "That is our duty," Superintendent Kimberley Cantu said. She recalls her graduation from Southwest High School in Fort Worth as full of excitement. "It signified transitioning, which meant I was not a kid anymore."

Dr. Cantu and administrators sought input from students, their families and the Texas Education Agency, while considering how to proceed. With or without standard graduation ceremonies, the district's goal was to make sure the students knew just how special they are.

"I understand the emotional component that comes with graduation," said Dr. Cantu, a former high school teacher and principal. Her daughter graduated from high school just two years before she accepted the responsibilities of the superintendency. "Then you layer on top of the emotions, each student's experiences, or lack thereof, since COVID-19 protocols went into effect. As our district made decisions, I kept in mind that if we walked in the shoes of seniors and their families right now, then we'd choose the right thing to do."

So, prior to receiving the TEA's guidance on May 5,



2020, the district sent a survey to seniors and their families, asking them to vote on which of four options they preferred. One of the options was a virtual graduation ceremony. Two involved students being present without family. Another offered a limited number of family members, based on social distancing guidelines, being present with their graduating senior at Vernon Newsom Stadium. Results from that survey were received about a week before the TEA guidance arrived, and more than 75 percent of parents elected for a ceremony where they could be present, practicing social distancing.

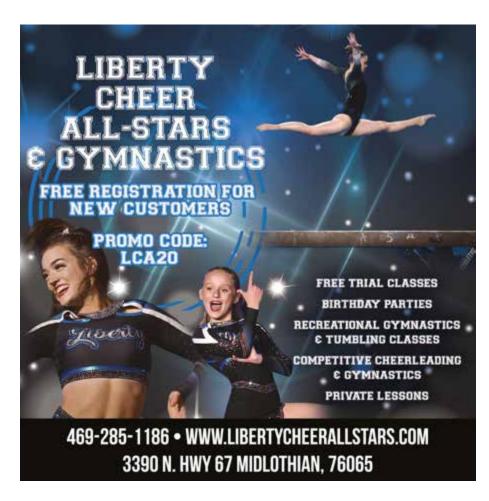
Meanwhile, Globe Life Field in Arlington, a venue with a retractable roof, reached out to the school district. "This provides such an incredible experience," Dr. Cantu said. On June 2 and 3, the brand-new baseball field, which has yet to be used for a game, will host graduation ceremonies for families with their seniors.

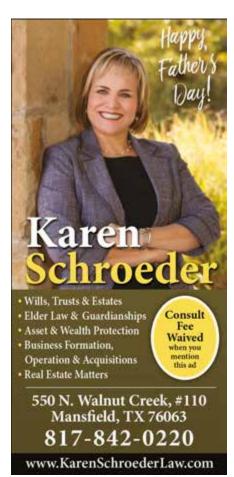
"The whole Mansfield community has been behind this

group of kids through this whole pandemic," Dr. Cantu said. "As they graduate, I want them to know how special they are. Each of them has been through an exceptional experience, which hopefully, no one will ever go through again. They've shown courage through the challenges. I've seen them smile through the disappointment. They've learned to adapt and change to an ever-moving target.

"While we've taught them academically, they have taken away courage, positivity and flexibility — things that can only be taught through experience," she said. "These seniors make me smile, and they encourage me."

That's a good thing, since Dr. Cantu and her team have more decisions to make over the course of the summer. "We have a lot to do. What's going to happen this fall remains to be seen," she said. "We want to be prepared for multiple scenarios, in order to provide the best possible experience wherever we are in this pandemic." NOW















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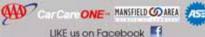


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Budget Blinds

By Melissa Rawlins

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Window coverings accomplish more than beautifying a room. They also insulate your home from the elements. Budget Blinds can bring improvements to your living space, adding value to your lifestyle.

Joseph and Raquel Elder, the husband and wife owners and operators of your local Budget Blinds, redefined their lives once they took the leap to buy this business. While newlyweds, Joseph was an installer for Budget Blinds, and Raquel was finishing her radiology degree. After Raquel began work at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center as an X-ray technologist, Joseph continued installing for Budget Blinds,

and they saved toward their first home purchase.

"The Lord worked it out that we were able to buy the franchise with essentially the money we were going to buy a house with," Joseph said. That was just over seven years ago.

Living conservatively, the Elders are a great team and work hard to pay everything off as they go along. Raquel joined Joseph as bookkeeper and scheduler for the business in 2014, when their daughter Lexia was born. In the last seven years, the Elders have had two more children, Rylie and Isaiah Justice, while operating their business in the black. Budget Blinds is a turnkey service with a colorfully wrapped Budget Blinds van, professional installers, a showroom and a full-time office manager, Jaymes Murphy. He can assist you with all your needs and answer any questions you may have.

Curious customers can visit Budget Blinds' showroom and put their hands and eyes on physical products, while considering their next room-changing project. Jaymes can schedule free,

in-home consultations with Joseph, whose service area extends throughout Mansfield, Kennedale and Burleson.

Due to the infinite combinations of materials possible for most interior window treatments, Joseph prefers to meet clients in their home for a free consultation, so he can find out exactly what they're looking for. In his relaxed, professional manner, Joseph reviews their windows, and then sits down to talk about the entire project with the homeowner. "I'll show them sample books containing hundreds of options for one type of window covering that will help with their needs, whether they desire a decorative shade, light control, insulation from heat and cold or simply to expand their view," said Joseph, who can find a window covering to fit their wants and needs.

Education is the key to Joseph's approach. Customers who have visited either the showroom or the website learn even more when they meet with Joseph about their myriad options. He also explains how the installation will affect their price and their lifestyle. Offering a five-year, no-questions-asked warranty on every Budget Blinds' product, and a lifetime warranty on color-fastness for the faux wood blinds and shutters, loseph is confident in the window treatments he both designs and installs. For each window covered, Budget Blinds' fiveyear warranty is amazingly helpful when children or dogs, for example, ruin an installed product.

By taking an appropriate amount of time to educate his clients, he is able to fully understand their needs and address any problems they desire fixed. He may discover the customer needs motorized solutions, like drop screens for convenience, aluminum shutters for security or plantation shutters for insulation.

While you're simply window shopping, feel free to come to Budget Blinds' showroom. But when you're ready to consider your options and make decisions, Joseph is just a phone call away. "We'll make an appointment when you're ready for our free, in-home consultation," Joseph said. "That is, after all, where the magic happens." NOW





Around Town



Matt and Robin Shofner take their dogs, Lexi and Quincy, to Britton Park for some fresh air and to see the bluebonnets.



Kathleen D'Agostino snaps a photo of two of her best friends, Kim West and Kristy Davidson, social distancing over lunch in Kathleen's backyard.



David and Sheryl Ingram dine with Amy Beckwith at Hearth on the first day the food they love was available on premises.



Darryl Lindsay and his mother, Natherdia Green, play a game of pool that feels more like a playoff basketball series.

Zoomed In:

By Melissa Rawlins

Callie Travers and Clay Cawood

On the day the new COVID-19 declarations allowed restaurants to open dining rooms up to 25-percent capacity, Callie Travers brought 50 donated combo meals from Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers to the administrative staff of Mansfield's courts, police and fire departments. "I'm grateful to be a part of Feed the Frontlines on Fridays," Callie said. "It's been nice to pull together as a community."

As Fire Marshal Clay Cawood took delivery, he told her, "This is really helpful. We are not working from home and are quite busy clarifying for citizens what they can and cannot do. On a site visit at a soccer field before lunch, we dealt with something new — how to enforce the rules allowing only four people to play. But everyone in Mansfield is pretty good at doing what they need to be doing."



Cat Krueger, Randy Wallace, Timi Meyer, Syd Askew, June Hill, Sharon Reid and Mary Ann Littleton donate quilts to Methodist Mansfield Medical Center.



Brent and DeLisa Aldridge and their daughters, Blake and Kenzie, get out of the house for a little road trip.



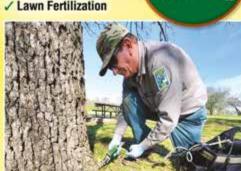
Josen Dietrich waters his family's backyard planter box that is full of peppers, jalapeños, and green onions.



Sanai (8) and Isaiah (6) Collins worship during quarantine.







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For years, Mansfield's small-town feel beckoned to Kristie Cawthon each time she visited her sister. "While it was a long, winding road, I have been very blessed to be part of the Mansfield community and the Mansfield ISD family since 2006," she said. During her summer break, she's looking forward to good food with good times, family and friends.

The recipes she shares here all play a part in good memories for Kristie. "I especially recall summers in my grandmother's kitchen cutting fresh strawberries and rhubarb from her garden, and then using pink and white Pyrex bowls to wash and prepare them for strawberry rhubarb pie," she said. "We would use those same bowls to wash and prepare fresh fish, from fishing adventures, and herbs from the garden." Now

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

Basic Homemade Crust:

2 1/2 cups flour, leveled and sifted

1 tsp. salt

6 Tbsp. butter

3/4 cup butter-flavored shortening

1/2 cup ice water

Pie.

3 cups rhubarb, leaves removed and stalks sliced into 1/2-inch pieces

2 1/2 cups strawberries, stemmed and guartered

1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup brown sugar

4 Tbsp. quick-cooking tapioca

1 Tbsp. orange juice

Lemon zest

Pinch of salt 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Dash of cinnamon

2 Tbsp. butter, cut into small pieces

1 egg

1 Tbsp. water

1/4 cup coarse sugar, for garnishing I tub vanilla ice cream (optional)

1. For crust: Mix the flour and salt together in a large bowl. Using forks or a pastry cutter, cut in the butter and shortening until it forms small coarse pieces. Add ice water, 1 Tbsp. at a time, until the dough forms large clumps.

- **2.** Put the dough onto a floured surface. Use your hands to lightly knead the dough to incorporate the ingredients.
- **3.** Divide the dough into 2 equal balls; flatten. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap; refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
- **4.** For pie: Preheat the oven to 400 F. Mix the rhubarbs, strawberries, sugar, brown sugar, tapioca, orange juice, zest, salt, vanilla and cinnamon together; let sit for 10 minutes.
- **5.** Roll out the dough for a 10-inch pie plate, rolling gently from the center of the lump and spinning as you go. (Too much rolling will make for a tougher crust. Roll the piece out evenly and big enough to cover the pie plate.) Quickly transfer to the pie plate, smoothing the surfaces and crimping the edges.
- **6.** Spoon the filling into the crust, leaving any excess liquid in the bowl. Spread dots of butter over the mixture.
- **7.** Roll out the dough for a second 10-inch pie plate. Cover the filling with the second piecrust, either whole and pinched at edges (making slits to vent) or cut into strips and

woven into a lattice pattern before crimping edges together to seal.

- **8.** Whisk the egg and water together; lightly brush over the crust. Sprinkle with sugar to garnish.
- **9.** Collar the edges with foil; place the pie in the oven on a cookie sheet. Cook for 20 minutes. Turn temperature down to 350 F; bake for an additional 25-30 minutes.
- **10.** Cool completely before serving, about 3-4 hours, to help thicken the juices. Top with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

Reatta's Mac and Cheese

2 cups heavy cream

1/2- to 3/4-cup Asiago cheese, grated

1/2- to 3/4-cup plain Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

- 4 cups elbow macaroni, cooked and drained
- 1/4 cup fresh jalapeño pepper, seeded and diced
- 4-5 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

- 1 1/2 cups dried breadcrumbs (optional)
- **I.** Preheat the oven on the broil setting. 2. Heat a large pot to medium; add the heavy cream. When the cream begins to bubble around the edges, add 1/2 cup each of the Asiago and Monterey Jack cheeses, stirring constantly until the cheeses are melted.
- 3. Remove from heat: add the cooked macaroni, stirring until thoroughly incorporated. Add the diced jalapeños and bacon. (Don't be afraid of the jalapeños. They don't add too much spice to be hot, just a slight kick.) The cheese mixture should be like glue now. If it's not, add a little more of the remaining Asiago and Monterey Jack cheeses until they are melted and the mixture isn't too wet looking. If the mixture seems too dry, add 2 Tbsp. of the heavy cream until it's the consistency you like. Sprinkle in a little salt and pepper.
- **4.** Pour the mixture into a large baking dish and distribute evenly. Top with the cheddar cheese and, if desired, the breadcrumbs.
- **5.** Place the dish under the broiler. It's done when the cheese on top begins to bubble and brown around the edges.

Air Fried Wings

- 1 Tbsp. smoked paprika
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. light brown sugar or Splenda
- 1/2 Tbsp. onion powder







1/2 Tbsp. ancho chili powder

I tsp. garlic powder

I tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

1 tsp. cumin

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper (more if you like it spicy, less if not)

 $1\ 1/2$ to 2 lbs. wings, drums and flats Olive oil, for drizzling

- 1. Mix all spices together in a bowl.
- 2. Heat air fryer to 390 F.
- **3.** Pat the chicken dry with a paper towel; put the chicken in a plastic bag. Add some of the spice mixture; shake to coat the chicken. Let the chicken sit for about 30 minutes, to bring it to room temperature.
- **4.** Place the chicken wings in a bowl or on a plate; sprinkle with more of the dry rub

mixture to evenly coat. Place the chicken in the air fryer basket; lightly spray or drizzle with olive oil. Put the basket in the air fryer for 12 minutes; flip and cook the chicken for another 10-12 minutes, or until done.

5. Serve the wings dry or place in a bowl and mix with your favorite sauce.

Spicy Garlic Sauce (a Buffalo Wild Wings knockoff)

1/2 cup buffalo sauce (Use extra hot to make it extra spicy.)

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1/2 tsp. sugar

I tsp. garlic powder

1/4 tsp. black pepper

1/2 tsp. cayenne powder

1/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 egg yolk

1 tsp. water

I tsp. cornstarch

I. In a saucepan, mix buffalo sauce, oil, sugar, garlic powder, pepper, cayenne and Worcestershire sauce together. Bring to a soft boil; then simmer for 5 minutes. Turn off the heat; allow to cool for 10 minutes.

2. Place the egg yolk in a bowl; use a spoon to divide it in half. In a separate bowl, whisk half the egg yolk with the water. Add the cornstarch; whisk until dissolved.

3. Slowly add egg mixture to cooled hot sauce, continuing to whisk to emulsify. Return mixture to the stove, stirring constantly until mixture boils: turn off the heat.









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- 1 Plea at sea
- 4 Acquire
- 7 Units of electromotive force
- 9 "A Little Bitty Tear" singer Burl ---
- 11 The ---, Dutch seat of government
- 12 Essayist --- Waldo Emerson
- 14 Infinitely repeated geometric pattern
- 16 Narrative song
- 17 Senior army rank
- 18 Eccentric
- 19 Morning must-have, for many
- 24 Your choice
- 25 Belonging to us
- 26 Source of gas at the track
- 27 Meet expectations
- 31 --- Merman
- 33 Nimble
- 34 Up-and-down toy
- 35 Colossus
- 36 Resk
- 37 Society newcomer

Down

- 1 Rise higher
- 2 Bond girl --- Kurylenko
- 3 House finish
- 4 Vermeer's wore a pearl earring
- 5 "Desperate Housewives" actress ---
- 6 Spread the word about
- 7 From 30 to 300 MHz
- 8 Words before keys or wheels
- 10 Dashiell Hammett's gumshoe
- 13 Twinned with Jekyll
- 15 Aluminum producer
- 19 Sleeveless cloak
- 20 Togetherness
- 21 Squeezing snake
- 22 the elbows, or down-at-heel
- 23 lcv
- 27 No neatnik
- 28 Set of pages
- 29 Excess fat
- 30 Hankering
- 32 Inspect

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

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

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

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Solutions on page 28





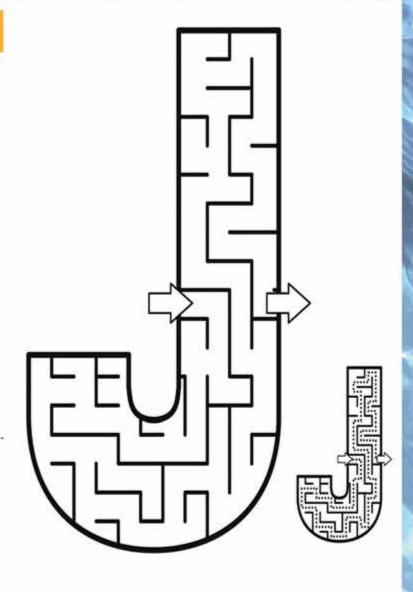
Mis Fun Page

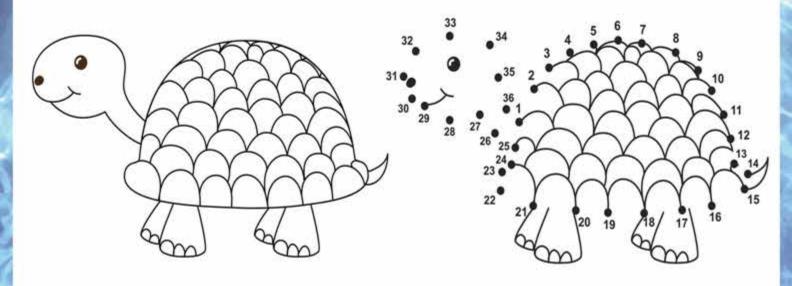
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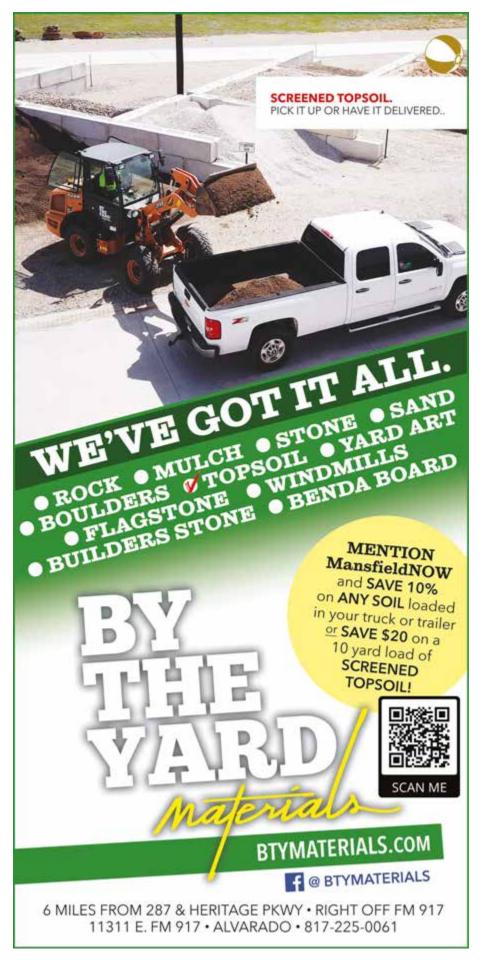
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Crossword -Sudoku Solutions



Easy

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

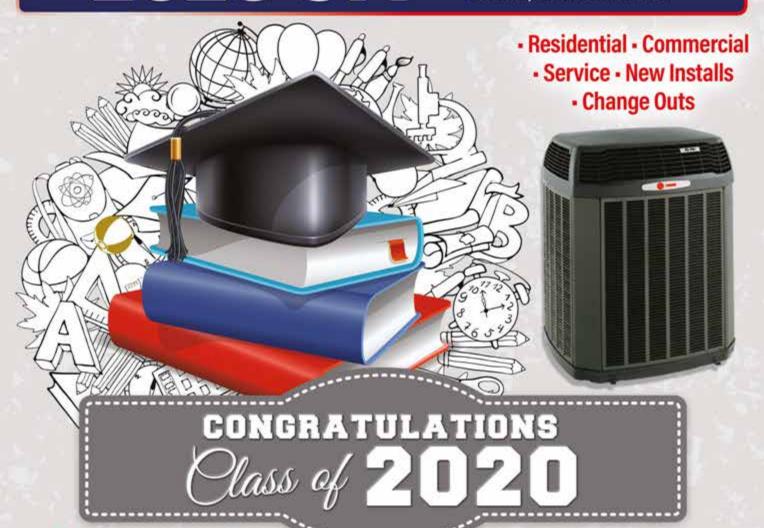
Medium

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



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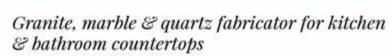
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