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SouthwestNOW

M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2020

Triumph in Adversity

Cedar Hill ISD
seniors succeed

Awesome Seniors

DeSoto makes
the grade

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Frost Bank

2020 Vision

Duncanville focuses
on the future

Best of In the Kitchen: Grilling

Postal Customer

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MEET MELISSA TYLER AND ANGEL HALE

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TO READ THEIR FULL STORIES.

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Class of '04



MELISSA TYLER
ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR





DeSoto Independent School District



Congratulates
the DeSoto High School



Class of
2020 



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The class of 2020 overcomes.

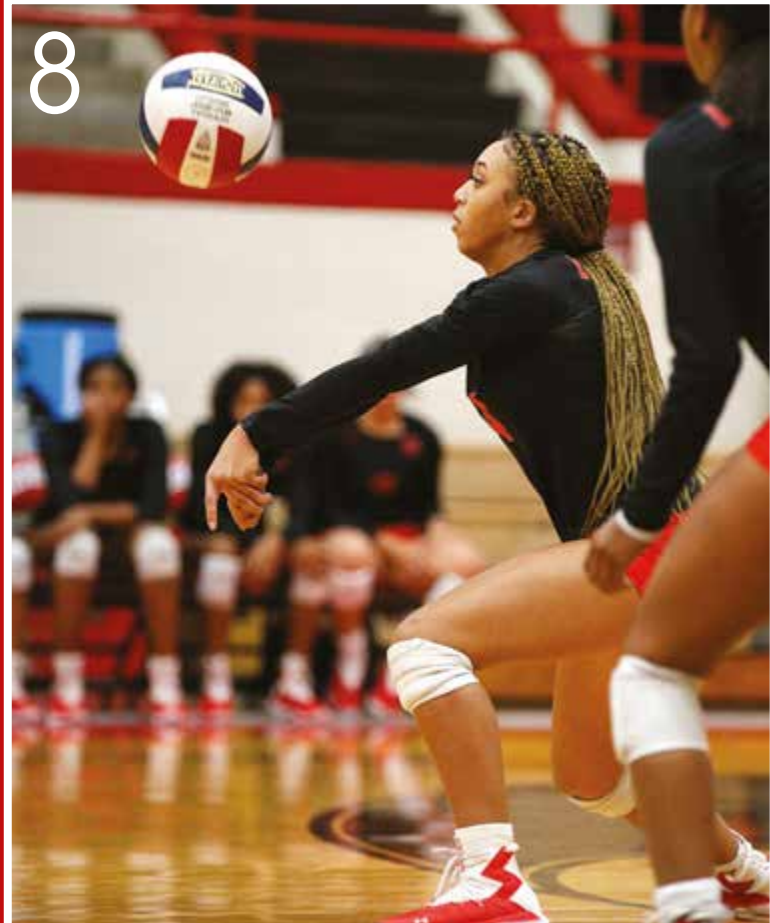
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ON THE COVER

Virus or no, we can still throw our caps!

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99 Art - Dreamstime.com.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 283-1170 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
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(469) 285-2008

This used to be science fiction ...

These last few months have been strange. I've spent most of my time at home with my mother and sister. But I haven't seen my brothers or their families in Duncanville and Cedar Hill, face to face, for months. I feel as connected to my friends in Solomon Islands as I do to my own brothers. They email me, and send me messages on Facebook to keep me updated about who in the village has had a baby or passed on or didn't get to take a job because there are no ships taking people between islands now. My brothers keep me updated on their lives, families, work and hobbies in the same ways now.

Some days, it feels like I know as much about life on the other side of the world as I do about what's happening right here. And that isn't far from true. Just 20 years ago, that would not have been true. Only 30 years ago, this pandemic would have cut us off from everything that didn't fit in the daily newspaper or the 5:30 news.

When I'm not writing for *SouthwestNOW*, I write science fiction stories. Some of the most common advice to writers is to write what you know. After I spent time in Solomon Islands, I was inspired to write about village life. Now, I find myself wanting to write stories about people isolated in domed cities on the moon or Mars. Times have changed. And they keep changing. And those of us who write science fiction have to keep up!

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Traditions are a huge part of high school, and the senior year is riddled with them. They give structure to the whole experience. This year, many of the milestones students look forward to were taken from them by a virus that turned everything upside down. But the class of 2020 is resilient and creative. Whether it's drive-by parades or porch proms, they've found ways to reinvent their senior year and make it unlike any other class in history!

Cedar Hill ISD Superintendent Gerald Hudson reached out to students to encourage them. "I've seen firsthand your resolve, patience and commitment to your classmates as an unforeseen and unprecedented crisis has altered the final semester of your precious senior year." He also recognized the challenges they have faced. "You are rightfully frustrated at the moment, and nothing I can say will bring back many of the moments that you have missed. However, please find comfort knowing that your futures are filled with hope, promise and success."

Dr. Hudson also praised their resilience and noted the legacy they are building even now. "Years from now, your children and grandchildren will ask you what it was like to be a high school senior during a very challenging time, and you will be able to share with them how you social distanced — even though you missed your friends and family — because it was the right thing to do. You have all been part of the solution, although you may not see it right now." He pointed out that adversity has been a part of their lives from the beginning. "When you were born, the United States was still reeling from the September 11, 2001, tragedy. You are the first generation to have grown up in a post 9/11 world. As children during that time, you provided hope to your families, even as they struggled to grasp a new reality during an uncertain time." And they have been making the best of life from the beginning. "I have no doubt that you will be sources of strength for your future families if, God forbid, we have another crisis in the future."

SouthwestNOW Magazine and the whole community of Cedar Hill, join with Dr. Hudson in saluting an amazing graduating class. You have been through a lot, and life doesn't come with guarantees, but you are strong, and you will rise to meet the challenges that life throws at you. Congratulations on dealing with this situation with grace and poise. May your next chapter be smoother sailing. Your dreams are still in your reach, even if you have to travel a different road to get there. **NOW**



Triumph ADVER



Photos courtesy of Cedar Hill ISD.

in

— By Adam Walker

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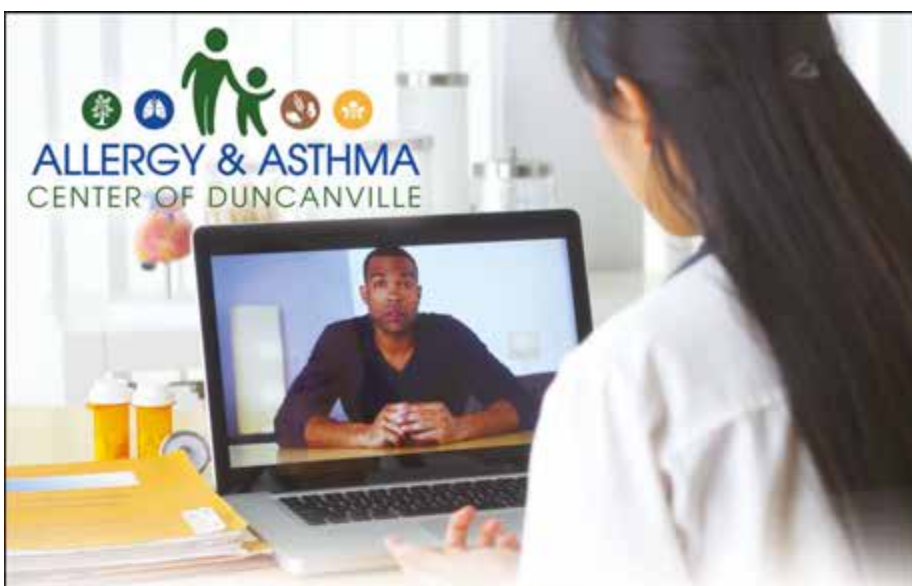
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AWESOME Sen

— By Adam Walker

DeSoto's class of 2020 will have stories to tell. The unique challenges they faced this year are unlike those faced by any previous class of DeSoto grads. Superintendent Dr. D'Andre Weaver speaks for all of us when he says, "I am inspired and encouraged by the resilience and courage of this group of graduates. They were born during the tragedy of 9/11 and will graduate during a global health pandemic that has halted each and every celebratory experience they have dreamed about and planned for over the course of their educational experience." Think back to your own senior year, and you'll recall how important all those special moments were. This class has been forced to reinvent or forego all the events that would have capped their final year.

We, as a culture, often don't give our young people enough credit. We are quick to criticize, but slow to praise. But there is plenty to be encouraged about. "In spending time and conversing with these students throughout the year, and as we developed decisions related to alternative plans for senior activities," Dr. Weaver confided, "I was in awe of their creativity, maturity, insight and mindfulness around this current social climate." In many ways, the creative ways these students have adapted and dealt with the disappointments these events have handed them should be an inspiration and encouragement to all of us, young and old alike.

Dr. Weaver praises these students whom he has fought for throughout this difficult year. "This class of students is deeply special, not only because of the year in which they are graduating, but because of the depth of character they have demonstrated in navigating the realities of this world. I have full faith and confidence in this class' ability to deeply impact



Photos courtesy of DeSoto ISD.

riors

the future of this world for the better and look forward to the ways in which they will make such positive change happen for future generations."

The class of 2020 may have put together the most epic senior skip day of all time, but they've also kept on track for pursuing their futures. One day, they will look back and see this strange detour as part of the journey, a twist in the road that led them to whichever future they built for themselves.

Class of 2020, we at *SouthwestNOW Magazine* join Dr. Weaver, DeSoto ISD and the whole community of DeSoto in saluting your achievement. It's never easy to complete a 13-year-long journey. It's never easy to keep on trying and succeeding when you'd rather quit. But when adversity like you've faced comes along, you have to know, you're ready to face anything that comes your way! **NOW**

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2020 VISION

— By Adam Walker

Photos courtesy of Duncanville ISD.



Duncanville High School has a proud tradition of graduating class after class of students who have built the city into what it is today. But as Executive Principal Michael McDonald pointed out, “This year will definitely go down in the history books!” No one could see what this year would bring when the class of 2020 started the final leg of their journey. And we probably would not have believed it if someone had told us. But Mr. McDonald knows what made this year work, despite everything. “The partnership between school and home has always been important, but never has it been more important than now. We thank you for your patience, your optimism and your participation.” Those three qualities will take you far in life.

This group of seniors has had the most unusual year anyone living can remember. “At DHS we have great students and families, but we also have



the quality teaching staff to teach and support our students and bring out their best," Mr. McDonald reminded. "Our teachers, teacher assistants and office staff have stepped up to the plate again and again and again. I just want to let you know that you are doing an amazing job!" No school year goes by without the help of lots of people. Everyone from the bus driver to the lunch lady to the janitor has their part in helping the students succeed. But in the end, it's the students who have put in the work to achieve their goals. And this year made it extra hard to succeed, but everyone, the whole community, came together to make that happen.

And the students kept a sense of humor about the whole thing — TikTok videos and Zoom classes, porch proms and drive-by diplomas, YouTube lessons and viral virus videos. This has been one strange senior year. When they tell their kids and grandkids about this one, they won't believe the tales! Everyone knows old people make stories up just to get students to work harder!

This class has been forced to take a big, looping detour to get back on track for their goals, but they've never taken their eyes off those goals. Staying focused will get them to their destinations, if they keep looking at the future where they want to arrive. Vision isn't blocked by virus. It may make the road a little unclear, but the class of 2020 will get there, if they have to cut a new road to do so!

Duncanville High School class of 2020, *SouthwestNOW Magazine* salutes you along with Mr. McDonald, Duncanville ISD and the entire community of Duncanville. Stay focused and keep on blazing your trail! **NOW**



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Frost Bank

— By Adam Walker



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Frost Bank offers their customers a wide range of financial services. They handle traditional banking, but also investment

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Monica wants customers to know how Frost Bank comes alongside to help. “We take a consultative approach. We want to know you and what your needs are. What are your business’ needs? Who were you before you came to us? Who do you want to be after today? We will help you think through the strategies that will get you there. We’ll help you understand your long-term goals and make recommendations based on that, to help you reach those goals. We tailor our services to you.”

Monica is a longtime resident of the area. “I’ve been in the community for 18 years. When people contact us, they want to talk to a real person, someone they know. But our customers don’t just have access to our tellers or branch managers — the people they see at their local branch. They also have access to senior management in San Antonio. I’m thankful that I get to do what I love, with people I know and trust.”

“We’ll help you understand your long-term goals and make recommendations based on that, to help you reach those goals.”

Frost Bank is a regional bank, based here in Texas. “The Texas economy is bigger than many nations. Our economy is about the same size as Australia. And Frost Bank is part of that,” Monica reminded. “This recovery is going to take time, but Frost Bank has been here for 152 years, and we pride ourselves on providing top-quality service, with high ethical standards. We are a safe and sound place to bank. We have been who we are for all 152 years of our service to Texas communities.”

Involvement in the community is something Frost Bank encourages. “We’re here, and we’re local. We’ve been in Duncanville since 2015, and also in Oak Cliff. And this year we’re opening another branch in Red Bird, across from the Starbucks. We’ve planted our roots deep. We plan to stay as part of the community. When I got involved with the Cedar Hill Education Foundation, the bank’s response was, ‘Yay, go!’ Making life better in the communities we serve is part of Frost Bank’s culture.”

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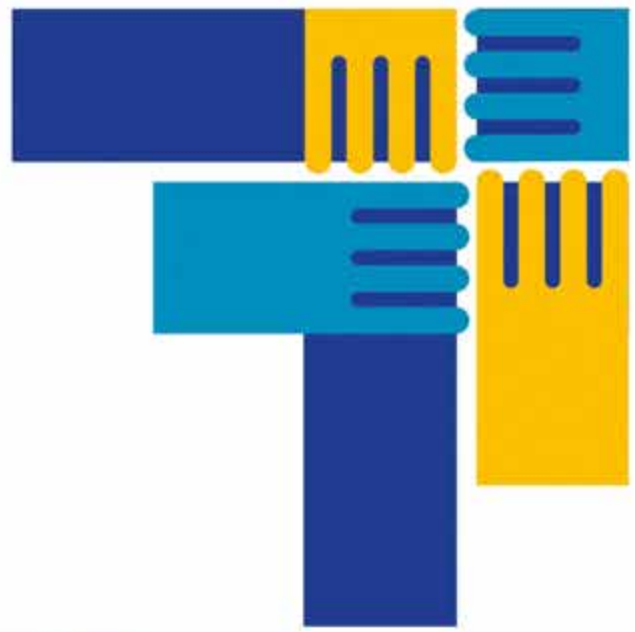


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Zoomed In: Carlos Perez

By Adam Walker

Carlos Perez stopped by police headquarters to deliver signs to Duncanville Assistant Chief LiVigni and the rest of the police department. "Due to COVID-19, this was the only way I could show my appreciation without increasing the risk to anyone. It was easy to do, and the signs will always be there to remind them," said the senior from Life School.

"I did it because I felt like the first responders aren't getting enough notice right now, and I wanted to give them joy to see that people appreciate what they are doing. They're still putting their lives on the line, and not just because of the virus. They need to know that not everyone takes what they're doing for granted, especially from the younger generation."



Addysen Burch learns about the moon.



Chief Brown, Asst. Chief LiVigni and Lt. Estell receive Little Caesars Pizza's gift covering all four shifts for two days.



Silas Dourillard is Cedar Hill's youngest homeschooler.



DeSoto ISD Trustee Vice President DeAndrea Fleming shows her Eagle Spirit.



Morgan and Kaden Akins work on flex learning online school work in the backyard.



Sumerta Reed uses her spare time to organize her pantry.



First Methodist School's 3-year-old virtual class gets on with the art of learning.



Cheri Simerly asks her husband, Tom, "Honey, does this make my face look fat?"



Jaya cooks breakfast for her family.



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NOW Magazines' Best of ... GRILLING

For those of you who are spending time outside grilling these days, we thought you might like some new recipes to change things up. We have selected one recipe from each of our nine market areas to add some flavor to your day! **NOW**

Fire Roasted Black Bean and Corn Salsa

Provided by Matt Mellott for the January 2013 issue of *North Ellis Co.NOW Magazine*.

4 large tomatoes, halved and seeded
3 jalapeños, seeded
2 serrano peppers, seeded
1 corn on the cob
1/2 bunch cilantro, finely chopped
1/2 cup canned black beans, rinsed
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 tsp. cumin
1/4 tsp. coriander
Salt, to taste

1. Place the tomatoes on a hot grill; char the outsides. Cool in a bowl.
2. Place whole jalapeños and serranos on the grill. Grill until skin is charred; place in the bowl with the tomatoes. Cover with plastic for 5 minutes.
3. Place freshly husked corn on the grill until it is golden brown. Cool; cut corn from the cob. Reserve the corn in a separate large bowl.
4. Remove plastic wrap from the peppers. Scrape charred peppers with a knife to remove the skins. Also remove the seeds. (If using your bare hands, wash right away with

soap, and avoid contact with your eyes. Or wear latex gloves to remove the seeds.)

5. Place the peppers and tomatoes in a blender; pulse to desired consistency (5 to 6 times is recommended).

6. Pour pepper/tomato mixture into the large bowl with the corn. Add cilantro, black beans, garlic, cumin, coriander and salt; stir to mix.

7. Refrigerate for 4 hours; serve.

Island Turkey Burger

Provided by Matt Boggs for the April 2019 issue of *MidlothianNOW Magazine*.

2 lbs. ground turkey
1 whole egg
1/2 cup Panko breadcrumbs
1 pineapple, sliced and cored
Red onions, thinly sliced
Your favorite teriyaki sauce (room temperature)
Whole wheat burger bun

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the ground turkey, egg and Panko breadcrumbs. Form into patties, pressing firmly together. Grill until the internal temperature is 155 F.

2. While the turkey is cooking, grill pineapple on both sides, just enough to warm pineapple but not to where it falls apart, about 2 minutes on each side.

3. On the bottom half of the bun, place the cooked turkey burger, pineapple slice and red onions. Drizzle with teriyaki sauce; add top bun.

Grilled Bourbon Peaches

Provided by Charles "Chuck" Burns for the April 2018 issue of *WaxahachieNOW Magazine*.

6 ripe peaches, pitted and halved
1 Tbsp. oil
1/4 cup Bulleit Bourbon
3/4 stick butter
2/3 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2/3 cup apple juice
Vanilla chocolate swirl ice cream

1. Prepare grill for direct heat cooking and preheat.
2. Brush the flesh side of the peaches with oil.
3. In a saucepan, on high heat, flambé the bourbon; add the butter, brown sugar, vanilla and apple juice.
4. Simmer; let it turn to syrup.
5. Remove from heat; let cool.
6. Lay the peaches skin side down on the grill rack; cook for 2 minutes, or until charring starts. Turn over; cook for an additional 2 minutes.
7. Remove the peaches from the grill; serve with ice cream and bourbon syrup.

Steak Balsamico

Provided by Cindy Pechal for the July 2016 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.

- 2/3 cup balsamic vinaigrette
- 1/4 cup fig preserves
- 4 beef steaks, your choice of cut
- 1 tsp. ground sea salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 1 6.5-oz. container buttery garlic and herb spreadable cheese (Alouette suggested)

1. Combine first two ingredients in a blender until smooth; pour into a shallow dish or large zip-top plastic freezer bag. Add steaks; marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

2. Remove steaks; discard marinade. Grill over medium-high heat for 5-7 minutes on each side, or to desired degree of doneness. Remove to serving platter. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; cover to keep warm.

3. Heat cheese spread in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring often until melted, 2-4 minutes. Serve cheese sauce in hollowed-out lemon halves with steaks.

Firecracker Marinade

Provided by Phyllis Peel for the April 2018 issue of WeatherfordNOW Magazine.

- 1/4 cup peanut oil
- 3 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. sesame oil
- 1/2 tsp. garlic rub (or 2 fresh garlic cloves, minced)
- 1/2 tsp. ginger/citrus rub (or 1 tsp. fresh grated ginger)
- Dash of sea salt
- Dash of fresh ground pepper

1. Mix all ingredients; marinate meat for 3-5 hours before grilling. Great for salmon, chicken and pork.

Rob's Famous Brisket Rub

Provided by Rob and Stephanie Schoendienst for the August 2015 issue of MansfieldNOW Magazine.

- 2 Tbsp. kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. granulated garlic
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 12-oz. can beer, any brand
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil

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2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/3 cup brown sugar

1. Mix all ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. Use as a rub and injection solution for brisket prior to cooking. Perfect for a 10-lb. brisket.

BBQ Chicken-on-the-Grill

Provided by Caleb and Oliver Jackson for the July 2011 issue of *CorsicanaNOW Magazine*.

1/2 cup ketchup
1 Tbsp. mustard
1 Tbsp. molasses
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 cloves garlic, chopped (optional)
2 cups water
6 chicken breasts

- 1.** Make barbecue sauce by mixing together all ingredients, except water and chicken, in a bowl.
- 2.** Using aluminum foil, form a pan to fit the grill.
- 3.** Add water to the foil pan.
- 4.** Place chicken breasts in the aluminum pan.
- 5.** Close the grill lid; cook about 20 minutes.
- 6.** Open the lid and baste the chicken with barbecue sauce every 10-15 minutes, keeping the door closed until the chicken is done.
- 7.** Total cooking time is about 50 minutes.

Armadillo Eggs

Provided by Robert Boot for the April 2016 issue of *BurlesonNOW Magazine*.

20 large jalapeños
2 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia cream cheese
2 16-oz. pkgs. extra-thick bacon

- 1.** Cut off the heads and gut the jalapeños. Soak jalapeños in water for a couple of hours before stuffing.
- 2.** Stuff jalapeños with cream cheese. Wrap each jalapeño with bacon. (It usually takes me two toothpicks per jalapeño to get the bacon wrapped well.)
- 3.** Put the peppers on the grill until the bacon is cooked and jalapeños are soft. (Cook over indirect heat; do not put directly over the flame.)

Summer Grilled Chicken Salad

Provided by Carla Hollie for the September 2014 issue of *SouthwestNOW Magazine*.

2 split chicken breasts
2 Tbsp. McCormick Montreal Chicken Seasoning
2 tsp. cracked black pepper
1 Tbsp. olive oil
3-4 cups spring salad mix (or your choice of greens)

1 cup fresh strawberries (divided use)
1 cup blueberries
1/2 cup walnuts, chopped

- 1.** Place chicken in a plastic bag; tenderize using a mallet to thin the chicken. Season chicken with seasoning and pepper. Heat grill or skillet; drizzle grill or pan with olive oil. Cook chicken approximately 5-7 minutes per side, or until done. Remove from grill or pan; let rest for 5 minutes before cutting into angled slices.
- 2.** Wash salad greens and berries. Toss greens with 1/2 cup strawberries and chicken slices. Sprinkle lightly with additional seasoning and pepper, if desired; top with remaining strawberries, blueberries and walnuts. Serve with favorite dressing.

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Doghome Sweet Doghome

— *By Angel Morris*

With animal shelters reporting all-time lows over the last few months, it appears many folks have welcomed a new pet into their family while sheltering at home. So, what better time than now to try one's hand at building a doghouse?

The website, doggiedesigner.com, has step-by-step illustrations to accompany the most basic plans for doghouse design. Step one, the site suggests, is determining what style home you want to construct — from basic box to igloo style.

For beginning builders, an A-frame design may be your best bet. Here's what you need to know to construct such a shelter for your new (or old) family pet, beginning with its size.

Prepping for Pooch

Measure your dog from nose to tail while he or she is standing, then from head to ground while sitting. This gives you the minimum dimensions for your doghouse and a starting point for purchasing two-by-fours and plywood. You will, of course, want to provide enough space to allow your dog to stretch and move around within the house, but keep in mind an animal's natural tendency to shelter in a cave-like space.

For the most basic of shelters, you can expect to purchase panels for the front/back, top/bottom and left/right sides; for a total of six sheets. The foundation of your house will require four boards, attached to create a rectangle or square, covered with a plywood panel. (Tip: If you know your dimensions before purchasing supplies, the hardware store often can make the cuts to your materials for you. Your front/back panels will need to be cut into a triangle on top to accommodate a pitched roof.)

Fido's Foundation

Your base boards can be attached by drilling two pilot holes at each end and attaching them to one another with either brackets, nails or wood screws. Nails or screws can then be used to top your foundation boards with the floor panel.

Ideally, you will elevate your doghouse from the ground several inches, either by allowing air between the floor panel and the ground or by raising your base with additional two-by-fours and insulating between them and the floor.

Pup Paneling

Once you have your foundation and floor, you are ready to attach upright two-by-fours to each corner and at the middle of the back and both sides. Then attach two-by-fours along the tops of those boards, to create a square or rectangle mimicking your foundation's shape. Lastly, run a two-by-four across the center of the top square, attaching it at both sides. (You may want to do this with two two-by-fours, both left to right and front to back.)

You now have the outline of your doghouse and may attach your plywood panels to the two-by-fours accordingly, to create your back and side walls. Before securing the front wall, make sure to cut an opening in the panel to serve as the entrance to the doghouse, keeping in mind your pet's size and shape. Depending on your climate, you may later want to attach a flap around the opening that allows your dog to move in and out but retains heat within the shelter.

Ready for Rover

Lastly, you want to secure a roof to your doghouse frame. It may be made of the same panels used for the walls, but it should be weather-treated, if not covered with asphalt shingles, to decrease the chances of leaking or rotting.

Now you are ready to decorate and style the doghouse. You may want to add bedding, carpeting or heat pads to its interior, and you can paint or stain the exterior if you wish. You may be as creative as you would like when making Rover's new shelter his doghome sweet doghome. **NOW**



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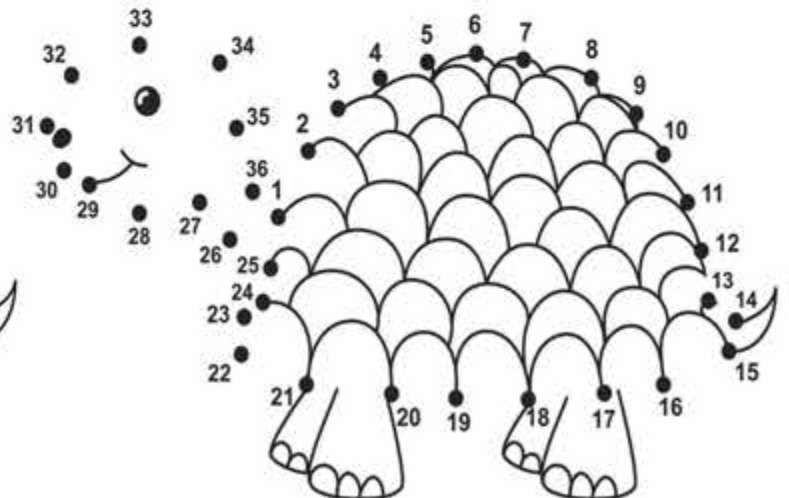
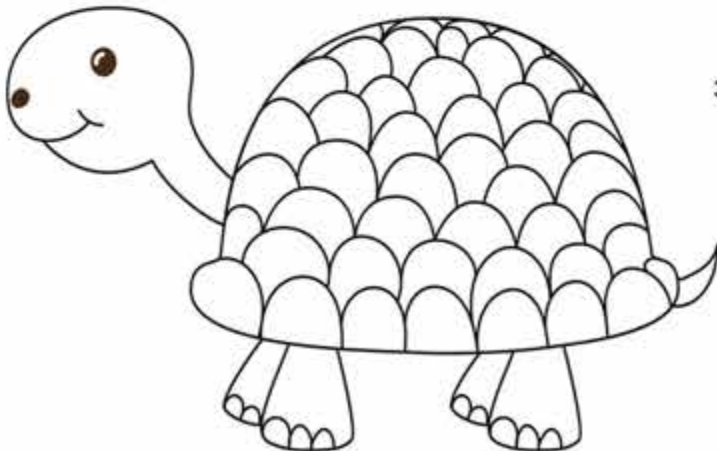
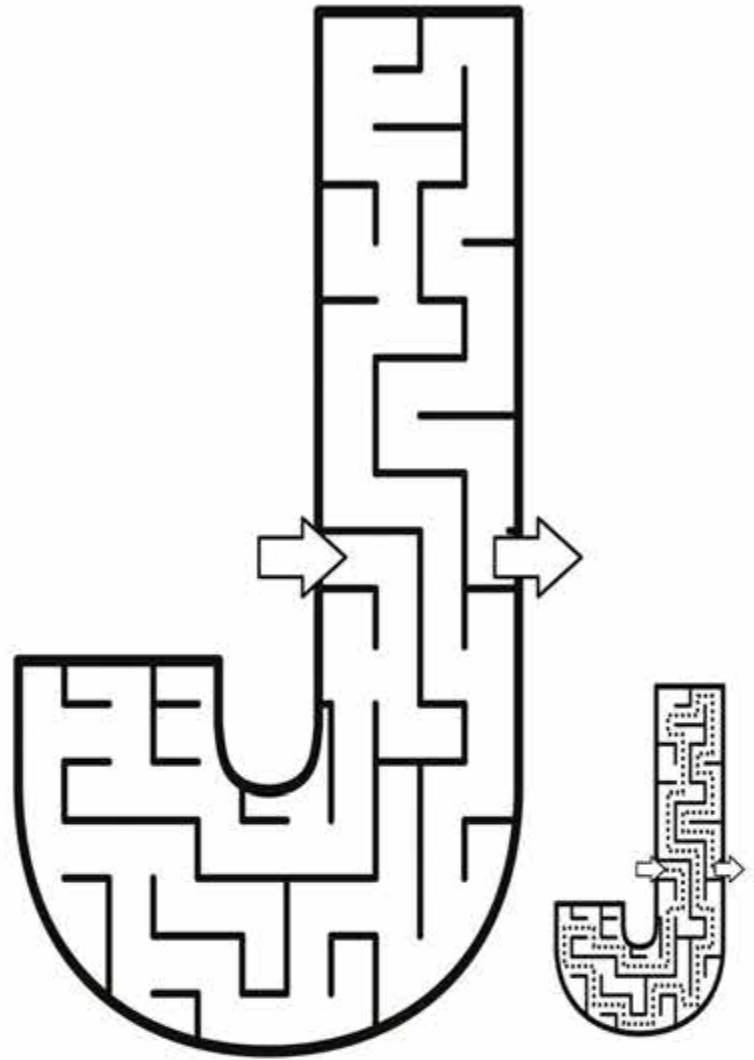
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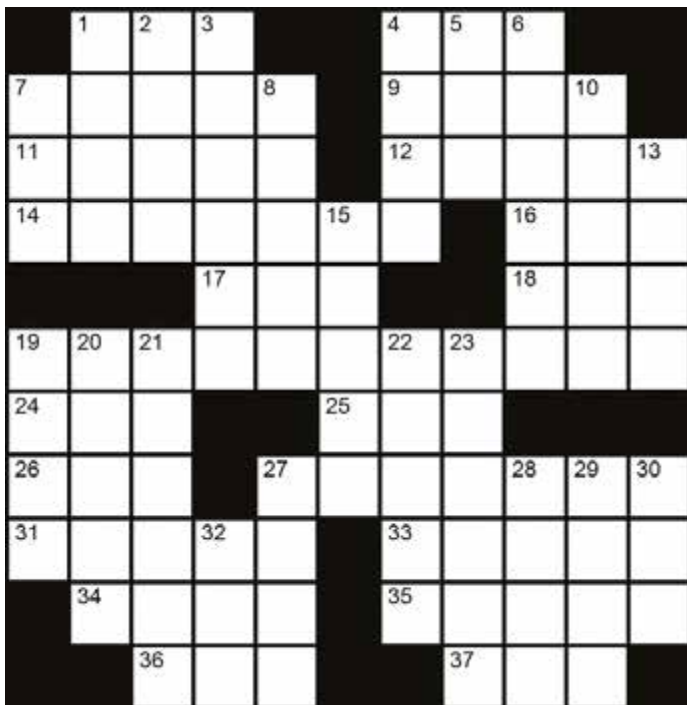
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 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 Beak
- 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 --- Longoria
- 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 Icy
- 27 No neatnik
- 28 Set of pages
- 29 Excess fat
- 30 Hankering
- 32 Inspect

Solutions on page 36

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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 36

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	S	O	S	4	G	E	T		
7	V	O	L	T	S	9	I	V	E
11	H	A	G	U	E	12	R	A	L
14	F	R	A	C	T	15	A	L	
						16	L	A	Y
						17	C	O	L
						18	O	D	D
19	C	U	P	O	F	22	O	F	F
23	E					24	A	N	Y
						25	O	U	R
26	P	I	T			27	S	A	T
						28	I	S	F
31	E	T	H	E	L	32			
						33	A	G	I
						34	Y	O	Y
						35	T	I	T
						36	N	E	B
						37	D	E	B

Easy

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

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
9	1	7	3	5	2	4	8	6
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

Happy Father's Day!

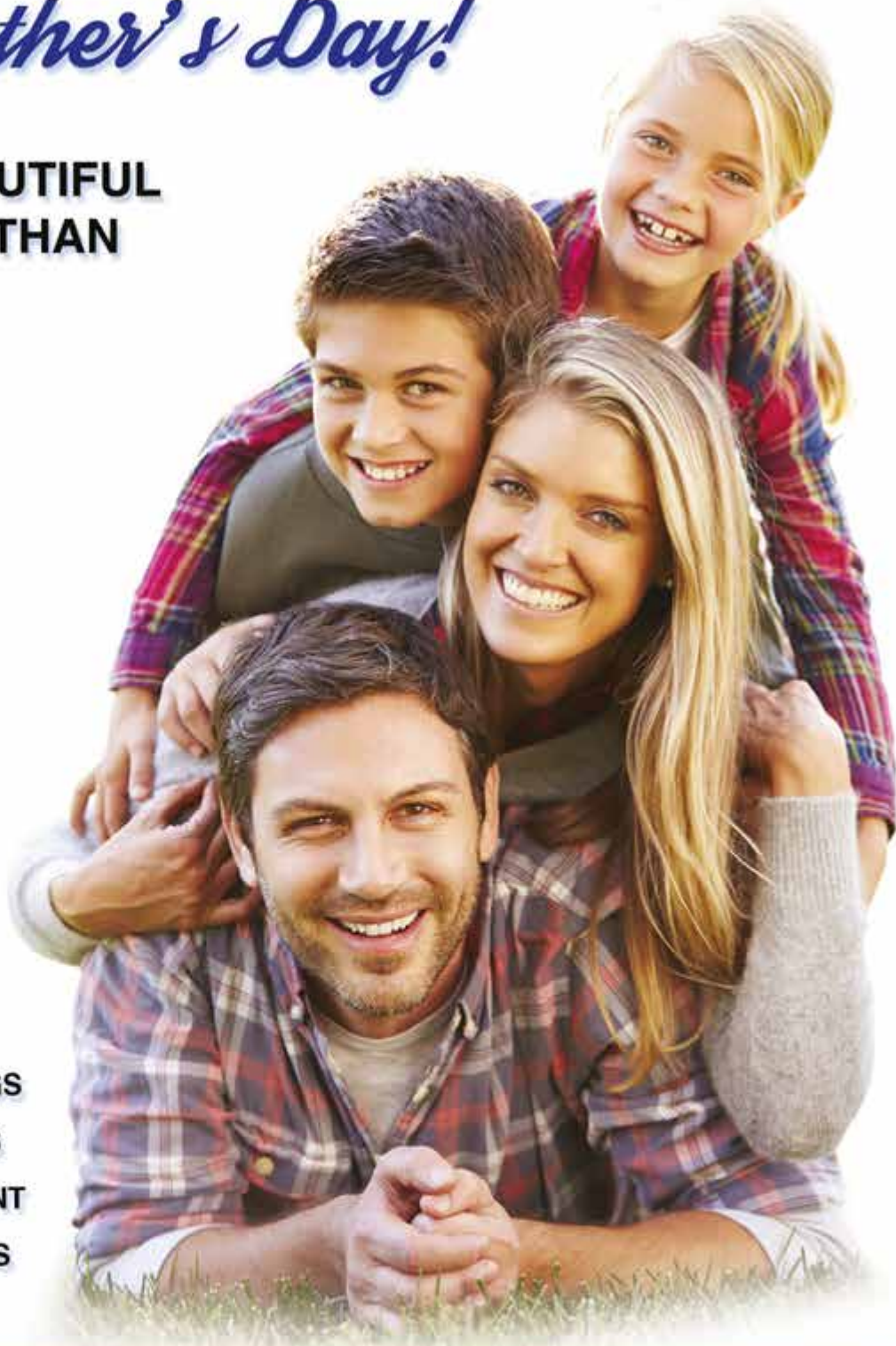
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