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June 2021

Vocal Gymnastics

Sandra Beason and Lone
Star Chorus members
create sweet harmony

Striking Black Gold

The Texas oil boom
changed the state
and nation

In the Kitchen With
Rita Hottel

2021 Hot Sounds
of Summer
Shopping Guide

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*Barbershop harmony
puts a smile on Sandra
Beason's face.*

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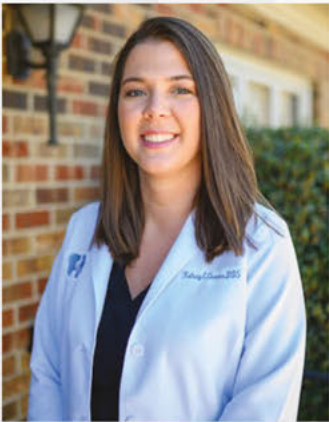
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monthly and individually mailed free of charge to homes and
businesses in the Burleson ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50
per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O.
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
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Summer memories don't always fade over time ...

When I reflect on childhood, memories of summer resurface with little coaxing. My grandparents lived on a farm during my most formative years. Those Sunday lunches and subsequent outdoor playtimes remain, a vivid picture skipping through my mind. We drove that worthless, rusted-out car everywhere imaginable and often rode the sawhorse to distant places. Free to roam, we had a few restrictions, but I never worried about them. I had no desire to climb up in the hayloft anyway.

The youngest of four children and small for my age, I adored my place as the one chosen to sit on the ice cream maker during the heat of summer. Sometimes, I shared the privilege with my sister, but that spot of honor meant tasting the first creaminess of the frozen concoctions Daddy produced. I especially loved his peanut butter ice cream. For those who never experienced the old-fashioned, hand-cranked wooden bucket, you can't fully appreciate my memory. Others of you thank God for the electric version. Back then, we had no little creamery in Brenham, but the homemade version produced pure joy on the tongue.

Sometimes, I miss those days when life seemed simple. As an adult, I realize much of the simplicity came from a child's perspective. As we enter summer months, perhaps we can purposely create memorable moments for our children and grandchildren. Maybe we don't hand crank ice cream any longer, but we can provide traditions and times they'll remember decades later.

Enjoy your beginning of summer.

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Vocal Gymnastics

— By Lisa Bell

Most every great music genre incorporates harmony. With barbershop style, the harmonies take a different shape, resulting in a sound built on vocal gymnastics where baritones and leads constantly switch places. “My mom was a Patsy Cline-type singer,” Sandra Beason shared. “I can carry a tune. I practiced and practiced, and they took me in.” In 1999, a co-worker invited her to chorus. She joined and now serves as a membership coordinator for Lone Star Chorus.

Becky Loveday, Lone Star Chorus co-director with Charlotte Hoffman, had a dear friend who found out about the group at a garage sale in 1991. “She came home and called me. We went together,” Becky said. “I didn’t know barbershop, but I started as a baritone.” She wanted to take advantage of the education their organization, Sweet Adelines International, provided at the national level.

Founded in 1945 by Edna Mae Anderson in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sweet Adelines came together as a small group of women who loved singing. Over 70 years later, the sisterhood spans the globe and contains almost 21,000 singers around the world. Committed to preserving the unique sound of a cappella barbershop harmony, they continue sharing a passion for music and empowering



communities. The organization provides opportunities for barbershop music education, multiple competitions throughout the year, special performance events and an international convention.

As part of the national group, local choruses must compete at least every three years with a minimum of 17 members. In 1993, the chorus, then named Fort Worth Metro, merged with another small chorus. After their first contest, the group adopted the new name of Lone Star Chorus.

"When joining, you instantly have 30 new best friends," Sandra stated.

Becky agreed, "There's such a camaraderie. We laugh a lot and have a lot of fun."

The women meet weekly and come from all over, although they want to see more members from the Burleson area. Normally, they compete annually in March or April. In past international competitions, they appeared using themes such as biker babes, ducks and bird-watchers among others. Half the fun comes from the costumes they choose.

Disappointed at not having the regional and international competitions for two years now, they faced the challenges of the pandemic by meeting temporarily via Zoom. Their perseverance paid off when they received an invitation to perform in Hawaii during a memorial for the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Excited, the group of women plan on showing up wearing their Texas vests. As official representatives of Texas, they have a proclamation from Governor Abbott they will present to Hawaii during the six-day, five-night trip.

As they prepare for December, the group hopes to find places to perform over the next few months. Practices throughout the



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last year provided many challenges. Although they used Zoom, and continue doing so for those who aren't comfortable meeting in person, they miss being together. With singing, more air particles release, but breathing behind a mask proves difficult, making singing harder. With 75 percent of their members vaccinated and the rest in line, most feel comfortable coming back together, even if they must meet in Sandra's massive backyard. They chose that option during early days of the pandemic.

"The ladies' safety is our primary concern," Becky assured.

Sandra added, "We'll keep Zoom because if someone can't be there in person, they don't miss out."

As always, Lone Star Chorus welcomes new members and those who want to visit and see what the group does. Members can join for long or short term. Some come long enough for competitions or Christmas events. Becky has no problem with short-term attendance, as long as each woman gives 100 percent while there.

With few requirements, they hope to see their small group continue growing, especially for the trip in December. "You have to be able to carry a tune — not





in a bucket,” Becky said with a laugh. “Seriously, you need a love of music, but don’t have to read music. I look for not the perfect voice, but one I can work with.” During auditions, she asks herself if that voice is teachable.

The group has dues, and each woman must pay for her costume and contests. Like most hobbies, it requires spending money. They work with members when necessary. “Because I drop money into this, I’m gonna give it my best,” Becky admitted. “Lone Star is coming back strong.”

As they meet in person again, they will take precautions and check temperatures each week. Though the group welcomes all ages, dues and fees cost less for those under 25. Although allowed to join, children must have a sponsor. Their youngest member, a 10-year-old girl, still participates through another group. “She came in fifth at Internationals, top five in the country,” the ladies boasted.

While most choral music follows a spherical shape, barbershop has a cone shape with bass at the foundation. With extremely tight harmonies, the notes lock and ring, producing a sound that, in actuality, no one sings. Performed a cappella, the audience hears only words and sweet melodies.

Although the practices require work, Becky and Sandra enjoy the weekly times with the other singers. Whether women come for only the meetings, to perform, compete or take part seasonally, the two find rejuvenation in the practices. “I’ve had times when I didn’t want to go,” Sandra confided, “but I never left regretting that I went.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: To learn more, visit www.lonestarchorus.org.



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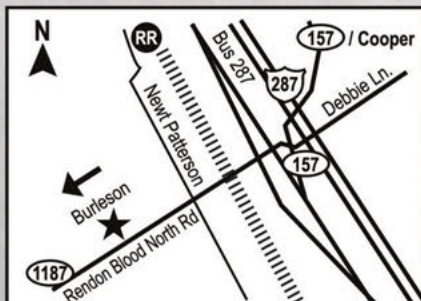
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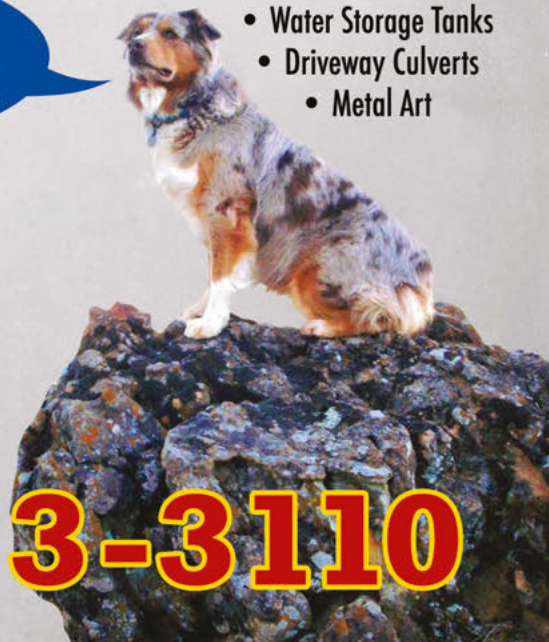
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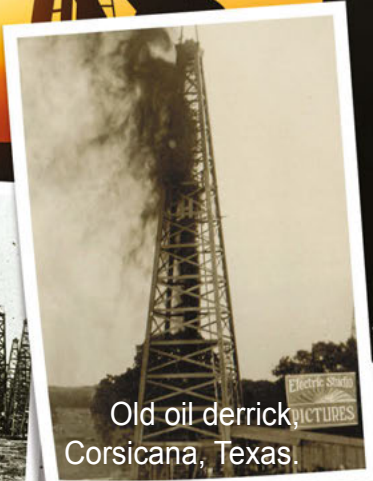
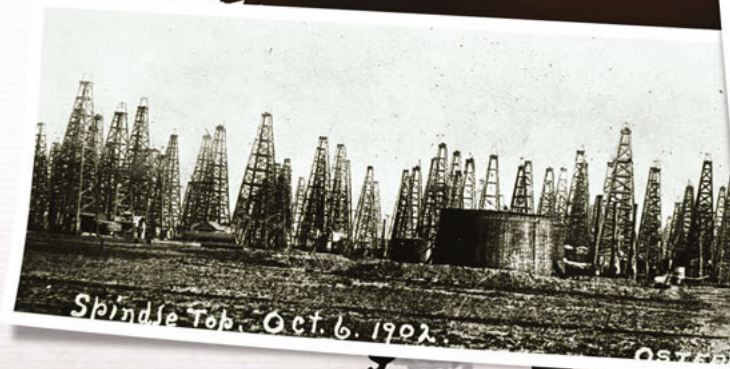
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— TALES OF TEXAS —

Striking Black

GOLD

— By Angel Morris



In the summer of 1894, an accidental discovery in Corsicana changed the course of the state's history. Hired by the city to find water, a drilling contractor instead found an oilfield, and the first Texas oil boom began.

The American Oil & Gas Historical Society explains how that oil well — which produced less than three barrels a day — is considered “the first significant commercial oil discovery west of the Mississippi.”

According to the society's website, the discovery changed Corsicana “from a sleepy agricultural town into a petroleum and industrial center. It launched industries, including service companies and manufacturers of the newly invented rotary drilling rig.”

Now, 127 years later, Corsicana celebrates the boom with its annual Derrick Days event. Even though Corsicana's wasn't the first oil well in Texas, its discovery helped establish the exploration and production industry in the state.

By 1897, Texas' first oil refinery was built in Corsicana and, within a year, some 287 wells were documented in the city. A few years later, the city of Beaumont joined Corsicana in the oil boom, when, on January 10, 1901, “an enormous geyser of oil

exploded from a drilling site at Spindletop Hill,” according to www.history.com.

This gusher reached more than 150 feet and produced nearly 10,000 barrels a day making it more powerful than any geyser in the world. “A booming oil industry soon grew up around the oil field at Spindletop, and many of the major oil companies in America, including Gulf Oil, Texaco and Exxon, can trace their origins there,” history.com explains.

As a result of Spindletop, Texas oil production dramatically increased, with the former small town now responsible for 94 percent of the state's oil. Offshore drilling began in Galveston in 1908, while counties such as Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Eastland and Limestone also struck oil.

The Panhandle added significant discoveries in 1921, joined by Caldwell County in 1922. Then Spindletop made a comeback in 1925 outdoing production of its original field. Other East Texas counties followed suit. After that time, according to the Texas Almanac, “The most significant subsequent oil discoveries in Texas were those in West Texas.”

Prior to Texas' oil boom, Standard Oil Company of Pennsylvania — owned by John D. Rockefeller — monopolized the country's oil and gas supply. Corsicana and Spindletop, however, brought independent oil contractors, known as “wildcatters” to Texas. Farmers left their land and joined the oil mix, graduating to “roughneck” status. This influx led to

shanty towns with unhealthy environments and questionable business practices, as some tried to make a buck off desperate diggers.

"Gas hung in the air for miles around an oil town. It was nauseating when you could smell it, and dangerous when you couldn't. Gas blindness or even gas-induced death was a daily gamble for workers on the seeping rigs," the Bullock Museum describes in its history of Texas. "There was also no shortage of gambling and fisticuffs in the ratty saloons. Things got so bad in one Texas boom town that Governor Moody sent the Texas Rangers to settle things down. Safe drinking water was nowhere and dysentery was everywhere. In short, a boomtown wasn't a healthy place to call home for very long."

Despite significant hardships, the oil boom was an economic windfall for Texas, to say the least. Oil men made big bucks, which they, in turn, funneled back into the state's education and culture.

The Texas oil boom began drawing to a close mid-century. The awe-inspiring "black gold" gushers were replaced by reduced but steady production of petroleum products.

The state would see its second oil boom with natural gas in the early 2000s, and the word "fracking" became part of the state's vocabulary. High-powered injection of water into underground areas to open fissures and extract oil or gas helped tap into vast natural resources.

Today, Texas oil remains a significant part of the nation's economy, with roughnecks still working the rigs and wildcatters still hunting that sweet "Texas tea." From the discovery of oil in Corsicana to the geyser at Spindletop, the oil boom changed Texas and the prosperity of the state and the nation unlike any other industry. **NOW**

Sources:

1. aoghs.org
2. www.history.com
3. texasalmanac.com
4. www.thestoryoftexas.com

Photo of Corsicana courtesy of the city of Corsicana, Texas.

Photo of Spindletop courtesy of the Texas Energy Museum.



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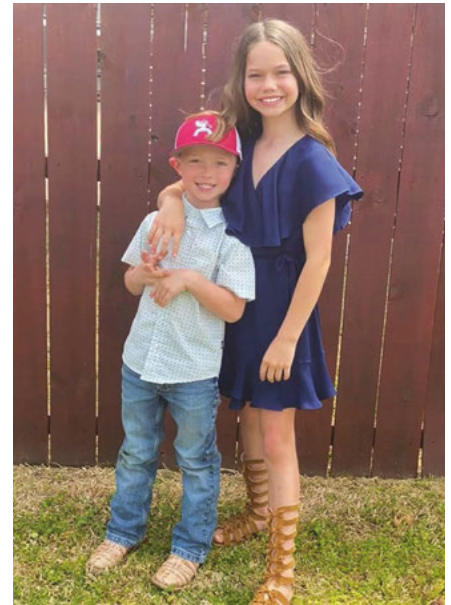
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Zoomed In: Barbara Reinier and Rocket

By Lisa Bell

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Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

— By Lisa Bell

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Executive Director Stacey Schumacher founded Texas Coalition for Animal Protection in 2002. Starting in Denton, they now have eight clinics throughout the DFW Metroplex, providing sterilization and vaccines at the lowest cost possible for those who can't afford a full-service veterinarian.

Saturday mobile events expand their reach to rural areas, partnering with local shelters and pet-related businesses to provide low-cost vaccines. "Pets are part of our families, but care can be expensive," Marketing Coordinator Tiffany Ditto shared. "When our budget allows, we offer free rabies vaccines." Normally, they charge \$5 for the vaccine.

TCAP exists to end animal overpopulation and improve community animal welfare by providing low-cost preventative services throughout North Texas. TCAP sets the standard for creating a community where every pet is wanted, cared for and provided the best, most affordable pet care in the industry. With this mission and vision in mind, they opened a facility in Burleson during November 2009. "We wanted to expand in the rural area south of the Metroplex," Tiffany said. At the time, the greater

Burleson area had few options and no low-cost provider.

"TCAP has never intended to replace full-service vets," Tiffany explained. "We only offer preventative care, staying true to our mission." For those with sick or injured pets, TCAP maintains a list of nearby veterinarians.

The organization never charges for office visits. Currently, they charge \$35 to neuter male cats and \$45 to spay females, while a dog costs \$55-\$65. Every month, they offer specials to decrease costs.

The Feral Fix Program provides free spaying or neutering daily for the first 12 feral cats, limited to four per caretaker. The caretaker must cover the cost of a rabies vaccination for each cat. By ear tipping the felines, caregivers recognize those already sterilized.

In addition, TCAP has a Wonderful Wednesday Program. Reaching out to area shelters, they select and provide services for one pet. Through email and social media, TCAP promotes the special animal. "Often that pet is adopted the very next day," Tiffany said. Those not looking to adopt may donate to help cover costs.

With a background in journalism and subsequent change to marketing, Tiffany joined TCAP in October 2019. "I always had a passion for animals, and volunteered at shelters," she said. "I transitioned to my dream job — helping people find affordable services for their pets and lessen senseless euthanasia while using my creativity. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing."

The pandemic impacted TCAP massively. Last year, they provided 63,410 sterilizations across the eight clinics, 15,224 free to pet owners. Tiffany explained, "Our goal was to keep people from choosing whether to put food on the table or care for their pet."

Sterilization offers health benefits, too. It can decrease the risk of some cancers and uterine infections in female animals and testicular cancer in male animals, and it may prevent emergency surgeries later. Neutering can also stop male cats from spraying to mark territories.

Tiffany urges everyone to keep pets updated on vaccines and to start early. Plan for the cost of spaying or neutering your pet, and schedule it when you have funds available. For other questions about cats and dogs, visit TCAP's website. **NOW**

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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* RITA HOTTEL

— By Lisa Bell

Before retiring in 1999, Rita Hottel served 31 years with the Burlison Police Department. Now, she enjoys being a Master Gardener, specializing in growing herbs. “I love cooking with fresh herbs and teaching classes to our interns or speaking to various garden clubs on how to grow and use them to make food more interesting,” she shared.

She cooks primarily for her husband, Nelson. Together, they have six adult children and grandchildren from 5 years old to their 30s. A favorite memory involves making pizza with her grandsons, Tanner and Taylor, when they were 7 and 10. They spent the day making everything from scratch with fresh ingredients from the garden. “We ended up with flour all over ourselves and the kitchen,” she said. “But it was so much fun!” **NOW**

Aunt Gen’s Western Chocolate Cake

My sis started making this cake when my kids were little. It is our family favorite and traditionally served for birthdays and other special occasions.

Cake:

2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
2 sticks butter

4 Tbsp. cocoa
1 cup water
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs, beaten

Icing:

2 cups granulated sugar
2/3 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 Tbsp. white corn syrup

1 stick butter (or 1/2 cup applesauce)
1 cup Ghirardelli 60% Cacao
Baking Chips
1 tsp. vanilla

1. For cake: Mix the sugar and flour together in a large bowl. Place the butter, cocoa and water in a saucepan over medium heat; bring to a gentle boil. *Note: I add a little extra cocoa powder to the cake to make it more chocolaty.*

2. Pour the hot mixture over the flour/sugar mixture; beat well. Add the buttermilk, soda, salt and vanilla; mix well. Add the eggs; mix well.

3. Pour the batter into a greased and floured 13x9x2-inch pan. For a moist and health-friendly option, use applesauce instead of butter. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes, or until it springs back to the touch.

4. For icing: In a saucepan, bring the sugar, milk, corn syrup and butter to a boil over medium heat.

5. Reduce to low heat; cook for 2 1/2 minutes. Remove from heat; add the chocolate chips and vanilla.

6. Cool completely; beat with a mixer until smooth. Spread on cake.

Zucchini Noodles With Coconut Cream

2 Tbsp. olive oil
 1/2 cup onion, thinly sliced
 1/2 cup red bell pepper, thinly sliced
 2 cloves garlic
 2 Tbsp. fresh sage, finely chopped
 2 Tbsp. garlic chives, finely chopped
 1 pkg. fresh zucchini spirals
 1/4 cup coconut cream
 1/4 tsp. nutmeg

1. In olive oil, sauté the onions and peppers until softened. Add the garlic, sage and chives; cook for 1 minute.
 2. Add the zucchini spirals, coconut cream and nutmeg; sauté until crisp tender. Serve warm.

Tex-Mex Salad

Dressing:

1/4 cup herb vinegar
 Juice from 1 lime
 2 Tbsp. agave (may substitute with honey)
 1 Tbsp. tomato paste
 2 Tbsp. fresh basil, chopped
 1/2 tsp. Mexican-style seasoning
 Salt, to taste
 Pepper, to taste
 1/4 cup avocado oil

Salad:

Greens of your choice
 1 15.5-oz. can black beans, drained
 1 15-oz. can whole kernel corn, drained
 Sweet cherry tomatoes, halved
 1/2 cup sweet onion, sliced
 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
 Cheese cubes, avocado slices or other vegetables (optional)

1. *For dressing:* Whisk together all ingredients, except the oil, until well-blended. Gradually mix in the avocado oil; set aside.
 2. *For salad:* Place the greens in a large bowl. Spread and layer the remaining ingredients.
 3. Drizzle the dressing evenly over the salad, or serve it on the side.

Lemon Dill Pasta Salad

Salad:

8 oz. whole grain penne pasta
 1 large red bell pepper, chopped
 2 cups broccoli, chopped
 1 cup cauliflower, chopped
 1 cup cherry tomatoes



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1/4 cup sweet onion, chopped
1/2 cup parsley, coarsely chopped

Dressing:

1/3 cup olive oil
2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
3 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
2 Tbsp. honey
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
1/2 cup fresh dill and/or dill flowers

1. *For salad:* Cook the pasta according to package directions; rinse in cold water.
2. Combine the cooked pasta and the vegetables together.



Banana Muffins

3. *For dressing:* Mix all ingredients, except for dill and/or flowers, with a whisk. Chop the fresh dill; add it and/or flowers to the dressing. Whisk again lightly.
4. Add the dressing to the pasta and vegetable mixture; stir. Chill and serve.

Banana Muffins

Makes 12 muffins.

Topping:

2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. rolled oats
2 Tbsp. almond flour

Muffins:

2 cups white, whole-wheat flour
1/4 cup almond flour
1/4 cup oat flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1/2 cup lightly toasted walnuts, roughly chopped
2 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup milk or plant-based milk
1/4 cup sunflower oil
1 cup mashed bananas
1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 cup baking chips (vanilla, chocolate or caramel)

1. *For topping:* Mix all the ingredients with a fork until crumbly; set aside.

2. *For muffins:* In a large bowl, mix all the dry ingredients. In a smaller bowl, mix all the wet ingredients.

3. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients; stir by hand until just mixed. Spoon into a greased muffin pan, filling each cup 2/3 full.

4. Sprinkle each muffin with the topping; bake at 375 F for 20 minutes, or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

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Financial Tips for the Self-employed

Being self-employed has some benefits: You get to choose your own hours; you don't have to count "vacation days"; and you'll never worry about getting downsized. On the other hand, you're truly on your own — there's no employer-sponsored retirement plan and no benefits package. So, if you've recently started a business or become a "gig worker," possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what can you do to get on the road to financial security?

There are several steps you can take, including the following:

- **Establish a budget.** When you're self-employed — and especially when you're first starting out — you need to keep tight control over where your money is going. So, establish a budget, and stick to it.
- **Open a retirement plan.** As a self-employed individual, you can choose a retirement plan, such as a SEP-IRA, a SIMPLE-IRA or an "owner-only" 401(k). When your earnings are limited, you can contribute modest amounts to any of these plans, but when your income rises, you can boost your contributions. While these retirement plans have some things in common, including tax-deferred growth of earnings, they differ in other areas, such as contribution limits, and one plan may be more suitable for you than another, depending on whether you have employees. You may want to consult with a financial advisor to determine which plan is best for your needs.

• **Build an emergency fund.** When you work for a business or other organization, your income is predictable — but that's usually not the case when you're self-employed. And when your earnings are uneven, you can be vulnerable to financial stress when you face an unexpected expense. To help protect yourself from these threats, try to gradually build an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

• **Pay down your debts.** Some debts, such as loans to help your business, may be unavoidable — and even productive. But other debts, especially those that can't be deducted from your taxes and carry a high interest rate, are far less useful, so you may want to set up a repayment plan. With your other expenses, you might not be able to whittle these debts down as fast you'd like, but, over time, your efforts can pay off.

• **Put money aside for taxes.** Because no employer is withholding taxes from your paychecks, you will likely have to make quarterly estimated payments. Plus, you're responsible for all your Social Security taxes, which, if you worked for someone else, would be split between you and your employer. To make sure you've got enough money available to pay your taxes, you might want to set up a special account — one that's not used for any other purpose.

• **Get proper insurance.** Depending on the nature of your work, you may or may not need some type of business insurance, but if you have a family, you should certainly consider the need for life insurance, and you may also want to consider disability insurance.

Self-employment can be quite fulfilling — and you'll find it even more rewarding when you make the right financial moves. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Edward Jones. Member SIPC. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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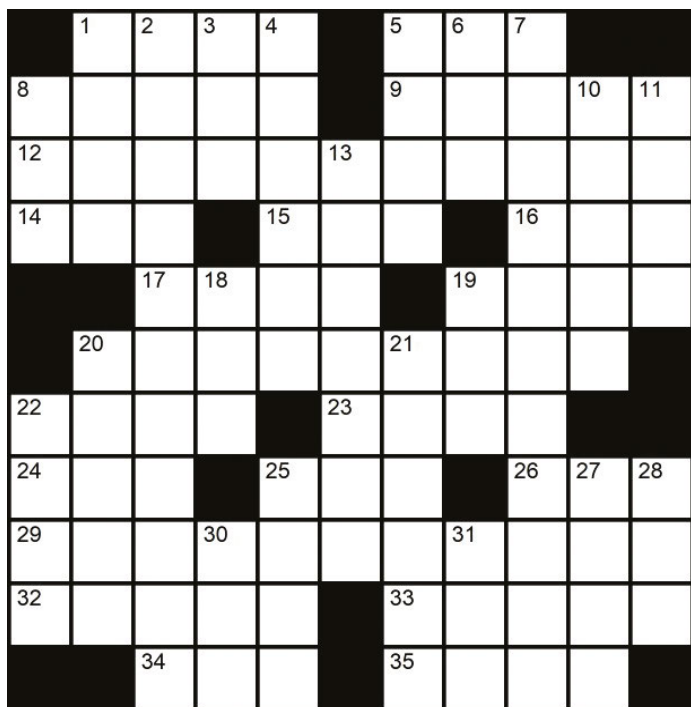
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Across

- 1 Scores, in cribbage
- 5 "The Sweetheart of Sigma ---"
- 8 Last President of Czechoslovakia
- 9 Burroughs' was naked
- 12 Primary
- 14 "So many ---, so little time" (Mae West)
- 15 Upper limit
- 16 Carpet fuzz
- 17 Copycat
- 19 Sand ridge
- 20 Fellow student
- 22 Kind of egg drink
- 23 --- Christian Andersen, fairy tale writer
- 24 One third of an ellipsis
- 25 Lisa Simpson's instrument
- 26 Dance
- 29 Bright
- 32 Played by Yo-Yo Ma
- 33 Island with two small neighbors, Gozo and Comino
- 34 Beat recording?
- 35 Unaccompanied

Down

- 1 Skin
- 2 In any way
- 3 Coagulate
- 4 Pizza portions
- 5 Cut out
- 6 Barbarian
- 7 Where to find a kernel
- 8 Concentration measure
- 10 Marsh bird
- 11 Promotional hoopla
- 13 Dillon or Earp
- 18 Mush
- 19 Karate proficiency measure
- 20 Exact duplicate
- 21 Axioms
- 22 Financial stability org.
- 25 Peg away
- 27 Upon
- 28 School group
- 30 Antlered animal
- 31 Congressional spending watchdog

Solutions on page 36

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 36

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6/4

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6/11

Emerald City Live:
Amazing lights, music and dancing. Bring chairs or a blanket. Free. 7:30 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St. www.burlesontx.com.

6/12

Family Play Day:
6-acres with space to play. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Mistletoe Hill Park, 960 NE McAlister.
www.burlesontx.com/facilities.

Minute to Win It:
Families invited to watch or participate in 1-minute competitions to win prizes.

Free event. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

6/18

7 Bridges Live:
Well-known Eagles tribute band. Bring chairs or a blanket.
Free. 7:30 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.
www.burlesontx.com.

6/19

Father's Day Fishing Trip:
Celebrate Father's Day with an epic fishing trip. Bring fishing gear and win prizes. Hot dogs, drinks and snacks available. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Bailey Lake,

280 W. Hidden Creek Pkwy.
www.burlesontx.com/events.

6/25

Cooder Graw in concert:
Texas country band rounds out June Hot Sounds of Summer Series. Free event.
7:30 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.
For more information, visit 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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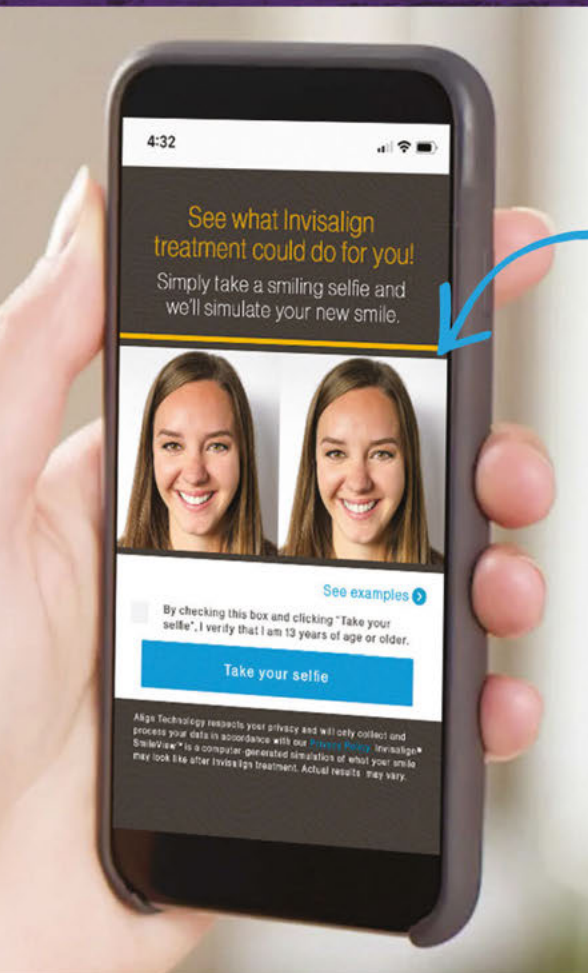
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