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ON THE COVER

Michael and Lisa Evans treasure time with their granddaughter, Rhylee Rose Evans.

Photo by
Lori Baur.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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This is a month of action . . .

Hats off to the 2021 graduates, and their families and teachers. We extend our wishes for your best summer yet. You deserve it! You may relax a bit, but you also can treasure this pivotal time by making the most of it. It is by our actions that we set ourselves apart and move into our futures. In fact, as one friend recently told me, "You become an attraction when you take action." New jobs are waiting to be found, new paths begging to be forged and new connections waiting to be made.

As people are gingerly stepping out again, the director of Mansfield ISD Education Foundation, Lynn Wilkie, is excited about their golf tournament on the 14th of this month. Last year's event was cancelled, but this year, they feel confident hosting what is their most fun, and productive, annual fundraiser. Special grants provided to teachers through the MISD Education Foundation allow for unique projects tax dollars won't fund, but which uncover and polish the unique potential in students throughout Mansfield.

As I reflect upon the promise within this sixth month of 2021, I can't help but think about the parents in our community. Last month we celebrated Mother's Day, honoring the sacrifices mothers make for their children. On the third Sunday in June, we recognize the impact dads have on their children's overall well-being, especially their social, cognitive and emotional development. Father's Day only happens once a year. Yet every day, week in and week out, the fathers in Mansfield have quite a job teaching their children how to lead lives of integrity.

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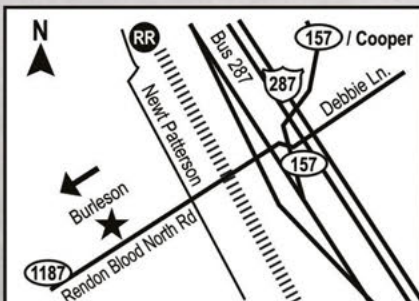
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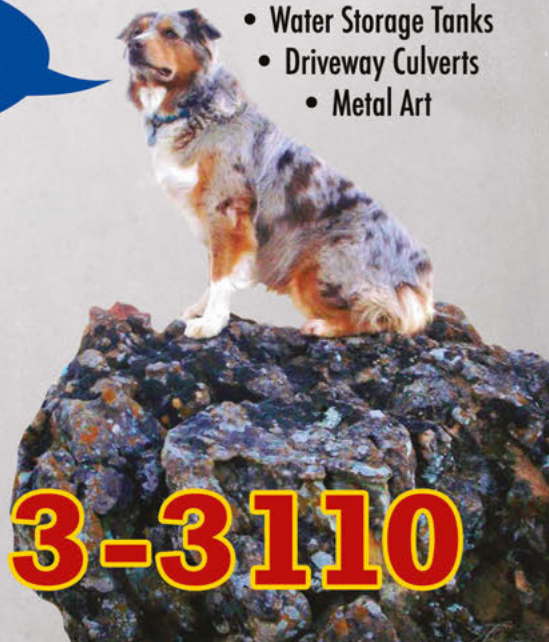
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The active verbs in Dr. Michael Evans Sr.'s vocabulary are 100 percent positive. Thoughts like, You will see, I am hoping and I am dreaming, introduce his visions of Mansfield for the not-so-distant future. Phrases like, "I am blessed," "I have given," "I want" and "I learned," punctuate his reflections on his own journey.

Even before taking office as the first African-American mayor in the 130-year history of Mansfield, Texas, Mayor Evans had been a father figure in the community. As pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, his has been and continues to be a life of service with foundations in his own family. As a former board trustee and president of the Mansfield Independent School District as well as a former board trustee of Tarrant County College during the last three decades, Dr. Evans made an impact on thousands of people.

When he and his wife, Lisa Evans, came to this area 32 years ago, his intent was simply to get a grade for his field studies requirements from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, where he was working on his master's degree. Already a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, his plans were to go into Naval Chaplaincy or back to Houston, which the couple used to call home. "Lisa and I were 22 years old, and we fell in love with the community, which wrapped their arms around us," Mayor Evans said. "They did not let us go, and we didn't let them go."

He held on tight during his first few historic months as mayor of Mansfield. Poised to be of service by virtue of his pastorate, which he described as "the mother of necessities that causes you to fight for people," he also credits his mother's tenacious, firm and loving parenting for preparing him to be a proactively compassionate person. The eldest of six children, Mayor Evans was expected to care for his five younger siblings. "I was not going to disappoint my parents," he explained. "I was blessed to embrace that role. Our family survived many hardships, but over time, we began to thrive."

Within three weeks of his swearing-in ceremony, Mayor Evans found himself working overtime during the week of record-breaking cold in early February. His response was all about making sure people's bare necessities

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— By Melissa Rawlins

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were being met. "If your neighbor has no electricity and it is -3 F outside, the electric conglomerate becomes the giant in the David vs. Goliath system. You are the mayor, and you've been called to advocate for the people in Mansfield, whether they voted for you or not."

As the city's director of emergency and disaster management, Mayor Evans relies upon Greg Cutler, whom he appointed to advise him. Those decisions are, in turn, communicated to county, and then to state and, finally, to federal officials. "I am one vote in a partnership with six other well-meaning citizens — council members who work for and are selected by the residents of Mansfield. The people in our city expect us to work together despite our national political leanings," he said. Working from a regional focus with his new friend, City Manager Joe Smolinski, and his executive team, Mayor Evans leverages his unique relationships with people from all backgrounds and skill sets to serve Mansfield's residents.

In the future, the mayor expects he and his colleagues will not only structure bond programs to build and repair streets and roads, but also create agreements, commitments and partnerships in the community for building a Veterans Memorial Park; a first-class, public services building; and a larger, multigenerational recreation center, as well as expanding the library and parks system. "I want us to have the kind of amenities that will satisfy as well as attract younger people and seasoned adult citizens," he said. "I believe we should have a world-class downtown, where, for example, the outdoor theater is booked every weekend, and individuals who live in Mansfield can walk our beautiful linear trails."





When the Evanses' granddaughter, Rhylee Rose Evans, was 10 months old, she loved for her "Big Daddy" to push her down the city's greenbelt trails. She still wants to walk with him. Her visits to her grandparents' home are the joy of their lives.

Family time is a priority for Mayor Evans. He and Lisa make time for "date nights" and breakfast together every day. They pray together in the mornings and evenings. They developed that practice while their two sons were still at home, and he was working at UPS, or as a fifth-grade teacher for Fort Worth Independent School District or later as a counselor and GED Coordinator at Tarrant County College. In addition, every Friday is dedicated only to Lisa.

Now, he balances service to family and city with his full-time pastorate, while Lisa works at the church in its academy. "We're a team. There are some of my commitments Lisa tolerates, and other times she will say, 'Baby, you need to focus *here*.' Lately, I'm learning more about the importance of Sabbath rest — getting away, recentering. Oftentimes, Jesus would separate himself from the group in order to pray and recenter himself, and I'm learning how to do the very same thing," the mayor said.

His balancing act revolves around how he speaks to himself. For instance, he says: *Failure is not really flunking out. Failure is a man or woman's attempt to be a better person.*

His recent election provided Mayor Evans more opportunities to proactively impact the people of the community where he grew up as a man and found a home. He perceives every obligation of his position as a blessing. "When people operate in their liberating spaces," he said, "we can experience that calm and spiritual peace that passes all understanding." This bona fide Mansfield guy stays positive, as well as honest with himself — well aware that he is a work in progress. **NOW**



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— By Melissa Rawlins

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The people at St. John Lutheran Church are making a place for anyone feeling the least bit alone, and not simply a padded seat in the sanctuary, either. “After the year we’ve been through, we’d love to help you discover that you matter to God, and you matter to us,” Senior Pastor Jon Thomas said.



Newcomers quickly feel welcomed in the 800-plus congregation, which has been growing since it started almost 40 years ago. Filled with singles and families comprised of every generation, there are still six charter members. When they bought the acreage on Debbie Lane, congregants traveled a dirt road to the church, which was surrounded by only cornfields.

Now, St. John Lutheran Church buzzes with generous, praying people. “Before anybody gets involved in serving, we want to know how God has wired you,” Pastor Jon said. “Everyone is discovering what God has uniquely called them to do through our voluntary Gifts of Grace assessment, which gives us a report back on everything from your personality to your strengths to your missional interests.”

Each time a new person connects, the church donates \$10 to the Mansfield Mission Center. St. John also gave \$21,300 to Mansfield Responds to help restore people’s sanitation, safety and comfort after this winter’s disastrous freeze.

One year ago, the church hired Sue Dorn as the full-time director of missions to engage the church more fully in the

community. For nine years, Pastor Tim Perkins has counseled and encouraged members in crisis or transition. Pastor Jet Jones has led the worship team for the past 10 years. For 25 years, Nannette Lenz has directed the preschool, currently in the heart of the sprawling building. Its hallways will soon bustle with preparations for the new kindergarten class starting in the fall.

"YOU BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED."

But first comes Vacation Bible School, produced by Children's Minister Roxanne Boyer. "Right after Father's Day, from June 21 through 25, VBS will provide a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to Jesus, and to each other," Pastor Jon said. "We've considered questions revolving around COVID-19 protocols and believe we need to take as many kids as we safely can because kids need to be around other kids."

Mrs. Boyer also produces St. John Lutheran Church's Drive Thru Nativity, Eggstravaganza and Trunk or Treat. "Our pumpkin patch is run by Cory Smith, family life minister of our middle and high school kids," Pastor Jon said. "Two of our newest people were impressed when they came to buy a pumpkin, and Cory and the youth seemed to care more about them than about selling pumpkins."

The congregation asked Pastor Jon to leave his post in Southern California five years ago, so that he could serve as pastor to the families of St. John Lutheran Church. "When God calls you, He gives you the gift," said Pastor Jon, who grew up in Michigan. His father was a U.S. Marine, a veteran of World War II, and his mother a hymn-singing, piano-playing Lutheran. "Now, I'm talking about Jesus for a living and wouldn't trade it for the world."

"You bloom where you're planted," Pastor Jon said. When you decide you are ready for growth, visit St. John Lutheran Church. Find out for yourself how comfortable you can really feel around people who know how to welcome you into their church home. **NOW**



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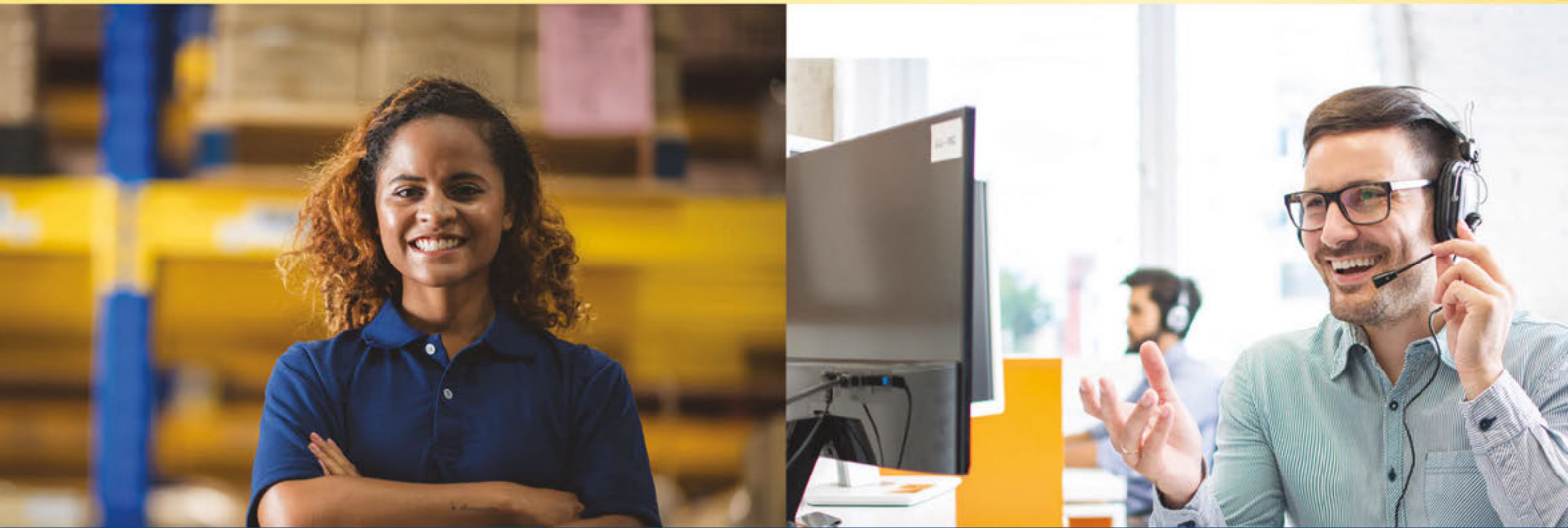
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Zoomed In: Michelle Cozine

By Melissa Rawlins

Stressing the benefits of discipline, goal setting and confidence building, Michelle Cozine taught her students at Katherine Rose Park recently how to build mental strength through exercise. “Committing to regular exercise will help you reach your full potential,” Michelle said. “Crushing your fitness goals is no different than overcoming the obstacles in life, and increases endorphins, serotonin and other neurotransmitters that help reduce the effects of stress and anxiety. Use fitness as the catalyst to pave your path to success!”

Michelle works as director of education for the Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce, one of only 190 chambers across the nation that has been honored with accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. As Michelle said, “Success is not something you stumble on — it’s the reward for persistent tenacity in hard work.”



A group of locals warm up before they run in the Thrive 5K to benefit The Mansfield Mission Center.



MansfieldNOW Magazine’s Bryan Frye proudly holds his hours-old grandson, Anthony James.



Erika McMinn, Florence Schjetnan and Loriane Morazzano celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Walnut Creek Country Club’s new member mixer.



Rylee and Avery Wolfe and their friend, Hazel Hissam, fish with homemade poles at Elmer W. Oliver Nature Park.



LRHS jazz student Dillon Ackerman soaks up as much wisdom as possible from Assistant Band Director Benjamin Searce before heading off for a summer playing in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.



Manager Miguel Luis and his sandwich master, Christian Musungu, sell another Jersey Sub in support of MHS Spirit Night.



The Saxon family enjoys Sunday on the deck of Jalisco's.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

JAXON REMILLARD

— By Melissa Rawlins



When Jaxon Remillard was little, his grandmother made memories with him by letting him mix a red velvet cake. By 11, he started cooking and going door-to-door selling cupcakes. Then he set up his home-based Batter Jax Bakery. Jaxon finally realized he was a good cook when he was invited onto Season 6 of Food Network's television show, *Kids Baking Championship*.

"My favorite baker is Duff Goldman, because on the show he taught me so much and how to improve when baking," said Jaxon, who also has fun playing baseball, tennis and paintball. His own best critic, Jaxon compiled a few eye-pleasing, tummy-thrilling recipes passed down from his great grandmothers. He reminisced, "They are all my dad's favorites that he loves to eat." **NOW**

Red Velvet Cake

Cream Cheese Buttercream Icing:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened**
- 4 cups powdered sugar**
- 1 Tbsp. milk**
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened**

Cake:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. cocoa powder**
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil**
- 1 cup buttermilk, room temperature**

- 2 large eggs, room temperature**
- 2 Tbsp. red food coloring**
- 1 tsp. white vinegar**

- 1. For icing:** Combine all the ingredients; beat to a smooth, fluffy consistency. (If you prefer a simple buttercream icing, increase butter to a full cup and do not use cream cheese.) Cover the icing with a kitchen towel; place in the refrigerator until ready to decorate the cake.
- 2. For cake:** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Sift the dry ingredients into a large bowl.
- 3.** In a separate bowl, mix the wet ingredients.
- 4.** Once the wet ingredients are combined well, pour the mixture into a bowl with the

dry ingredients; mix well.

- 5.** Evenly divide the cake batter into 3 8-inch round, well-greased and floured baking pans. Bake for 30 minutes, or until done.

Vanilla Wafer Cake

- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 sticks butter**
- 6 eggs**
- 1/2 cup sweet milk**
- 1 12-oz. box vanilla wafers, crushed**
- 1 cup coconut flakes**
- 1 cup pecans**

- 1.** Cream the sugar and butter until fluffy.
- 2.** Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating after each addition.
- 3.** Add the milk and crushed wafers. Fold in the coconut and pecans.
- 4.** Pour into a greased Bundt pan; bake at 300 F for 1 hour, or until done.

Squash Casserole

- 2 cups cooked squash**
- 2 eggs**

1/2 tsp. pepper
 1 cup cheese, grated
 2 cups cracker crumbs
 3/4 stick margarine
 1 tsp. salt
 1 cup evaporated milk

1. Mix all the ingredients together well.
2. Pour into a greased dish; bake at 375 F for 40 minutes.

Granny's Peach Cobbler

1 stick margarine
 1 cup sugar
 3/4 cup milk
 1 can peach slices, with juice
 1 cup self-rising flour

1. Melt the margarine; combine with the sugar, milk and peaches. Mix well.
2. Add the flour; mix until well blended.
3. Pour into a greased baking dish; bake at 375 F until the top is golden brown.

GG's Tea Cakes

2 sticks butter, softened
 2 cups sugar (divided use)
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 Tbsp. vanilla
 3 cups flour
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. baking powder

1. Cream the butter and 1 1/2-cups of the sugar together.
2. Add the eggs and vanilla; cream them until smooth.
3. Sift the flour with the baking soda and baking powder.
4. Combine the mixtures well.
5. Scoop small balls of dough onto a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet.
6. Spray the bottom of a flat-bottomed surface (a drinking glass will do) with cooking spray.
7. Press each ball of dough until flattened, then sprinkle with the remaining 1/2 cup of sugar.
8. Bake at 375 F for 9-11 minutes.

Ravioli Bake

1 lb. ground beef or ground turkey
 2 24-oz. jars spaghetti sauce (divided use)
 2-3 cups mozzarella cheese (divided use)
 1 25-oz. bag frozen ravioli (beef or cheese)

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Red Velvet Cake

1. Brown the ground meat; drain the grease.
2. In a 9x13-inch baking dish, spread a thin layer of spaghetti sauce in the bottom. Add a layer of mozzarella cheese. Spread the frozen ravioli on top; repeat spaghetti sauce and cheese layers.
3. Sprinkle with the cooked meat; add the remaining spaghetti sauce. Top with a layer of cheese.
4. Cover with foil; bake at 350 F for 1 hour.
5. Remove the foil; broil on high until the cheese begins to brown and becomes bubbly.

Cheddar Biscuits

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. salt

- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F
2. Combine the flour, cheddar cheese, baking powder, garlic powder and salt in a bowl.
3. In another bowl, combine the milk, 1/3 cup of butter and egg. Mix into flour mixture until chunky.
4. Drop batter by the tablespoonful onto a greased baking sheet. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes.
5. Brush the melted butter on top; continue baking until golden brown (approximately 5 additional minutes).

Vanilla French Macarons

Cookies:

- 3/4 cup almond flower
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 large egg whites
- 1/4 cup sugar

Buttercream Filling:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 Tbsp. milk

1. For cookies: Sift together the almond flour and powdered sugar; set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, beat the egg whites for 2 minutes, until soft peaks form. Add the granulated sugar; beat for 2 more minutes, until stiff, glossy peaks form.
3. Gently fold the almond flour mixture into the egg white mixture, until it's all incorporated and looks like falling lava from your spatula.
4. Spoon onto a baking sheet in small circles; bang the pan on a table to get the air bubbles out. Set out, uncovered, for 30 minutes at room temperature; bake at 325 F for 6 minutes. Pivot the pan 180 degrees; bake for another 6 minutes.
5. For filling: Combine the butter with the powdered sugar and milk. Beat to a smooth, fluffy consistency. Pipe a small dollop onto 1 cookie; top it with another cookie, making a sandwich. Repeat with remaining cookies and filling.

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Leslie Pierce, winner of the \$50 Cash Prize from NOW Magazines, said, "My students and I look forward to the **MansfieldNOW** Scavenger Hunt each month. We saw that I had won while searching through the new issue."



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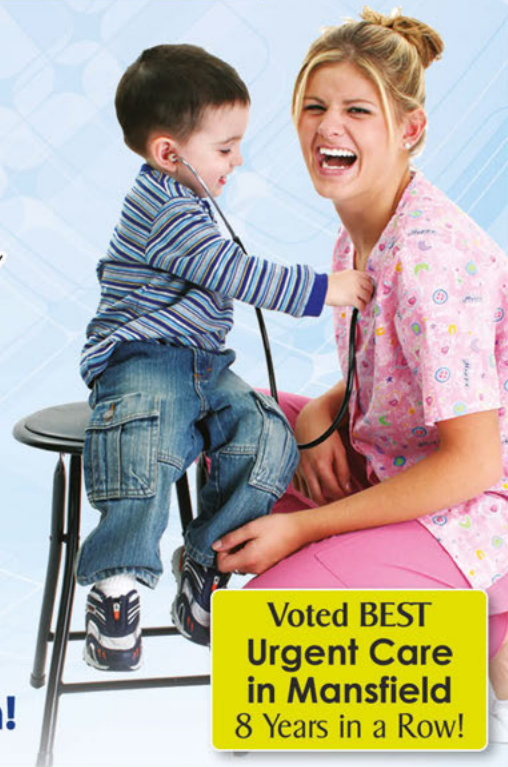
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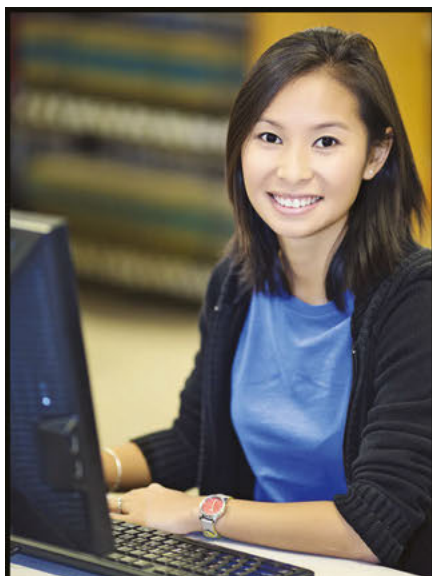
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When he's not at work, Preston enjoys unwinding with his dogs, Loki and Chili, and girlfriend, Ashley.

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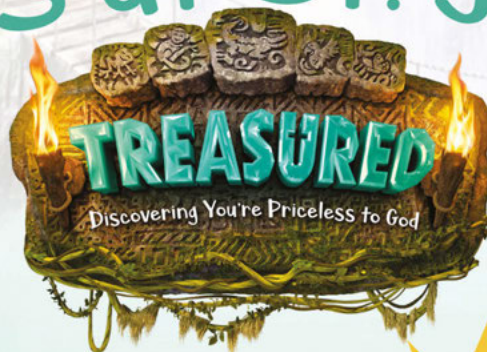


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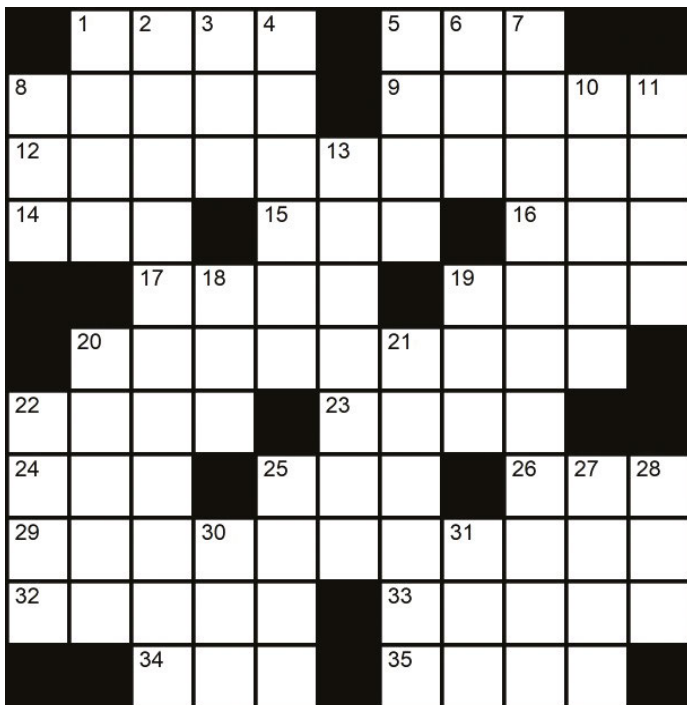
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Across

- 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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		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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Happy Father's Day

JUNE

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

6/5

Under the Big Top:

The Lone Star Circus will amaze you and your family during this fundraiser for The LOT Downtown. \$10. Noon-9:00 p.m. 110 S. Main St. <https://fb.me/e/InkuBxxhS>.

6/8

Gazebo Fundraiser: Support the Mansfield Garden Club's renovations of the city's iconic structure. Donations and raffle. 6:00-8:00 pm., Legacy H.S. Performing Arts Center, 1263 N. Main St. www.mansfieldgardenclub.org.

6/10

Step-By-Step Painting Class:

Supplies provided for this socially distanced, in-person program. Registration required. Free. Noon-1:30 p.m., Community Room, Mansfield Public Library, 104 S. Wisteria St. Call (817) 728-3690.

6/12

Downtown Jazz & Blues Festival:

Kirk Thurmond, Retrophonics and Michael Lee help you relax under the big sky at The LOT Downtown. Free. Noon-9:00 p.m., 110 S. Main St. Visit <https://fb.me/e/NRkRfMs2>.

6/14

MISD Education Foundation Chip In fore Education Golf Tournament:

Fundraiser for programs to enhance MISD student education. \$175-\$700. **Breakfast and sign-in:** 7:00 a.m., **Shotgun start:** 9:00 a.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, The Oaks and Pecan Courses, 1151 Country Club Dr. <https://www.mansfieldisdFOUNDATION.org/news-events/golf-tournament.html>.

6/18 and 6/19

Frozen Jr.:

Adult: \$14; **Senior:** \$12; **Child/Student:** \$10. **Friday:** 7:00

p.m.; **Saturday:** Noon, St. John Lutheran Church, 1218 E. Debbie Ln. mdshreve@att.net, or www.mainstageclassicaltheatre.org.

6/19

Juneteenth Celebration:

Enjoy fine food and fellowship while memorializing the day emancipation of all slaves was proclaimed in Texas. Free. 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., McClendon Park East, 740 W. Kimball St. Email arts@mansfieldtexasarts.org.

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



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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7		
	P	E	G	S		C	H	I		
8	P	A	V	E	L		9	L	U	N
12	P	R	E	L	I	13	M	I	N	A
14	M	E	N		15	C	A	P		16
		17	A	P	E	R		19	D	U
	20	C	L	A	S	S	21	M	A	T
22	F	L	I	P		23	H	A	N	S
24	D	O	T		25	S	A	X		26
									27	28
29	I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N
32	C	E	L	L	O		33	M	A	L
	34	E	K	G			35	S	O	L

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

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

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