

MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

June 2021

Striking Black Gold

The Texas oil boom
changed the state
and nation

In the Kitchen With
Donna Crimmins-Bonnell

Caring Couple

Donovan and Emily
Dock form a youth
support group

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

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ON THE COVER

Teaching students how to develop their dreams is this local couple's mission.

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

Angel Morris
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Life is a highway ...

I think the most amazing thing about this time of year is all the high school and college graduates who are setting their sights on the future. Their views are vast with possibilities, but perhaps narrow in reality. Sometimes, I think, it's the blinders of youth that allow one to doggedly pursue their dreams. It's those moments when we stop to look left and right that we get sidetracked — those detours in our peripheral vision that lure us into side trips or derail us altogether. Isn't it true that attaining goals can require hyper-focus, sometimes at the expense of all else?

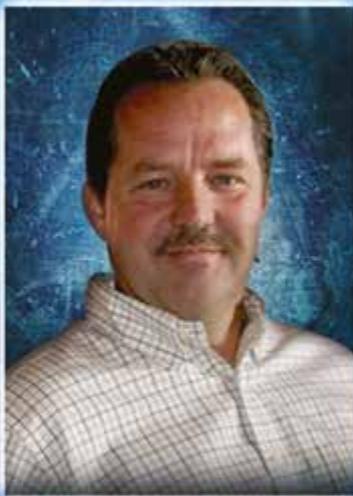
But life is full of options, and the road to adulthood is paved with choices. The slightest shift and we veer off course, like removing your hands from the steering wheel, if only for a moment ... before you know it, you are in another lane or off-road altogether. Maybe it is best to keep the blinders on as long as possible. Then again, re-routing may lead you to a destination at which you were meant to arrive without ever having known.

Only you, dear graduate, can decide if you must drive steadfast in one direction toward success, or if there is time for dirt trails while seeking your passion. There are pros and cons to both, but it is your road to choose. The only advice I can give is to pull over at a few rest stops along the way, and make time to take in the scenery. Whether yours is the road less traveled or the path of least resistance, here's to making your own way.

Take the wheel!



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CARING

COUPLE

— By Angel Morris





While some might consider success to mean being rich and famous, others would consider it simply having a home and a hot-cooked meal waiting there. Midlothian couple Donovan and Emily Dock recognized the disparity between those two ideas and decided to step in and help area students navigate their way to success, no matter how humble their beginnings.

In 2013, Donovan was the keynote speaker for the Bridges Safehouse banquet, where Bridges Safehouse board member Jennifer Mena approached him and asked if he could modify his corporate coaching program to reach junior high students. At the time, Jennifer was the guidance counselor at Ferris Junior High. "I began working with her and the principal and for a year coached their students both in school assemblies and smaller groups," Donovan reflected.

Working with at-risk youth opened Donovan's heart, and in 2014 the nonprofit, Succeed Forever Community Transformation, was born. Its mission is to help youth look beyond their current circumstances and set goals for their lives. "We are combating poverty, negativity, abuse, insufficiency and everything else associated with being at-risk through a personal development platform," Donovan outlined, "Because every child deserves the opportunity to succeed."

Serving Midlothian and surrounding communities, the program reaches youth from a variety of backgrounds, but their common thread is struggle. "Many times, they are economically disadvantaged, lack housing, healthy food and transportation, and, as a result, have high potential to drop out of school," Donovan explained.

Emily and Donovan use Succeed Forever Community Transformation to work with principals and best meet the needs of individual schools. "Our programs include school seminars, large- and small-group coaching and individual coaching, utilizing a curriculum we have developed and tailored for those we serve," Emily reiterated. "Many times, we are working with students who are not set to graduate high school, and principals will ask our coaches to work directly with those students on future plans and goal setting."

Over the last year, the Docks have expanded the program to include retreat opportunities for students and parents. "We have seen so much student transformation through the years, but, ultimately, the students' biggest coaches are their parents or caregivers," Donovan reminded. "Hosting student and family retreats and camps, providing much-needed rest and family bonding opportunities, as well as tools to grow together as a family, help us expand our reach."

The Docks are currently in the fundraising process to purchase property for these events, enabling them to reach even more students and their families in the area. "Utilizing the property we are interested in, we hosted a four-week camp in the fall for homeschool students and virtual school students," Donovan reported.



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While COVID-19 kept the couple from sharing their in-school programming this year, they have hosted outdoor learning events, including a rock-climbing wall, zip lines, a water slide, hikes and more with social distancing guidelines in place. "We were thrilled to host a spring break camp in March, Camp VisionHackers, that was open to not just homeschool/virtual or at-risk youth but all students," Emily expressed.

Through SFCT, the Docks also created The Limitless Program curriculum, teaching students how to set goals and develop action plans in order to reach their dreams. "Many students need a hard reset from what they have known. Our work involves powerful processes for thinking about your ideal future, and for the full understanding of what it is going to take to turn that ideal vision into reality," Emily said.

Participants are taught to use goal setting for short- and long-term motivation and begin to see how bad habits and procrastination can derail the most well-laid plans. "We show students how to stay focused and how to quickly spot the distractions that can lead them astray," Donovan said.

In addition to having adults share their own success stories with SFCT students, the Docks opened a local thrift shop to further involve the community in their efforts. The Outlet Store, which first opened inside Lighthouse Coffee Bar, is now located at 1000 E. Main St., Suite 303.





Donations of clothes, shoes, accessories and home goods are tax-deductible, with proceeds going toward SFCT programs. Adult volunteers run the store, while students are allowed to apply for internships there. “We always need talented and bright people to spread their joy and light in our community and our store,” Emily said, “and students learn the importance of serving their community here.”

Serving as SFCT executive director, Emily holds a bachelor’s in accounting and master’s in public affairs, as well as a master’s certification in nonprofit management. As founder and president, Donovan utilizes his bachelor’s in biblical studies as well as an expertise in financial planning, having previously been a top salesman in the nation with United American. “Donovan has worked with entrepreneurs and corporations in coaching and evaluation to bring their teams to peak performance,” Emily praised.

Prior to SFCT, Emily served as the executive director at two local nonprofits, Bridges Safehouse and Hope Mansion. “She also has a strong passion to equip nonprofit organizations to fulfill their greatest potential,” Donovan underscored of his wife.

“Ultimately, we want SFCT to help students dream big dreams and know how to set smart goals,” Donovan said. “With the community’s support, students can focus on accomplishing those dreams and goals, and learn to believe that they will succeed.” **NOW**

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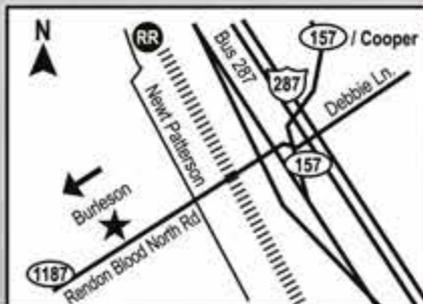
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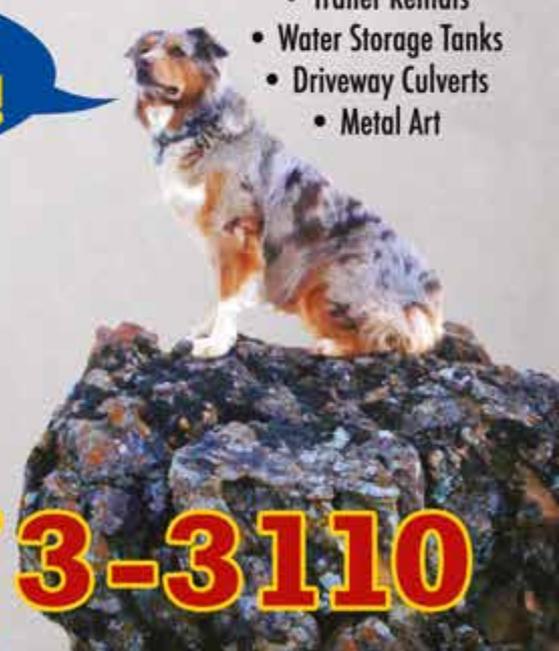
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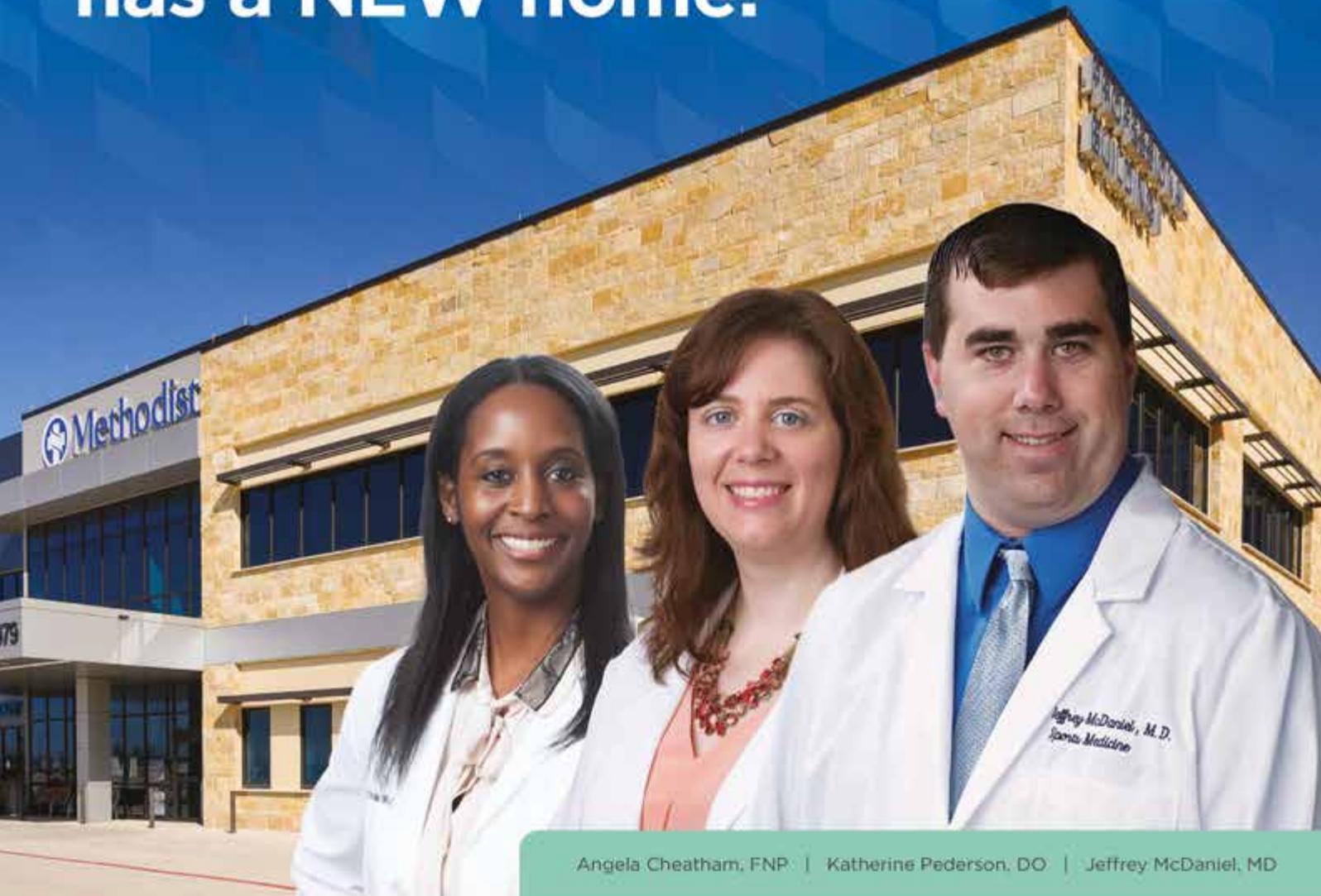
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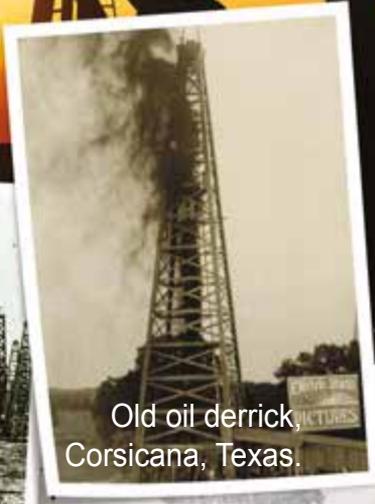
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— TALES OF TEXAS —

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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A wooden cutting board is the central focus, displaying several large, bright green pickles. To the right of the pickles are several white onion rings. In the upper right corner of the board, a small dark blue bowl contains more pickled items, including what appears to be a whole pickled pepper and some sliced pieces. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table. In the bottom left corner, a glass jar with a metal clasp lid is partially visible, containing more pickles.

Making homemade pickles usually evokes notions of jars of vegetables submerged in boiling water for an exact amount of time, and it seems rather daunting. The good news is that fresh, delicious, crunchy pickles can be made without the boiling water process! The only difference in these pickles (besides the work it takes to make them) is that they must be kept in the refrigerator, and they are only good for about a month.

The first step is to procure fresh cucumbers. The fresher the cucumbers are, the crunchier the pickles will be because as pickles ripen, they become softer. If one enjoys gardening, cucumbers are one of the easiest vegetables to grow. They are prolific producers, so there will be plenty to eat and have leftovers to turn into fresh pickles. If one is not into gardening, most grocery stores sell the small pickling cucumbers in their fresh produce department. Just be sure to make the pickles soon after picking or purchasing because every day they ripen, the pickles will be less crunchy.

A basic recipe to make simple pickles is:

- 2 lbs. small cucumbers
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup distilled white vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. fine granulated sea salt
- 1-2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup snipped fresh dill weed or dill seed
- 4-5 whole fresh garlic cloves

First, make the brine. Bring the water, vinegar, salt and sugar to a boil. Then, remove from heat and taste to adjust salt and sugar as desired. Let it cool completely. While the brine is cooling, cut the ends off the pickles. The stem end naturally produces a chemical that will make the pickles turn soft. Slice the cucumbers as desired. Some options are thin slices, thick slices, wedges, even spirals (if creativity is the

PICKLI

THE SIMPLE

goal). Place the cut cucumbers evenly in clean jars with tight-fitting lids. The next ingredients are all about adding flavor. This recipe, if followed exactly, will make a delicious dill pickle, but the flavoring ingredients can be altered to create a flavor that is precisely customized to an individual taste preference.

There is an endless list of foods that can be used to flavor pickles. Fresh vegetables, such as onions, scallions, bell peppers, hot peppers and lemon or lime wedges are great choices for creating special flavor profiles. Seeds and ground spices are also excellent flavorings. Celery seed, mustard seed, red pepper flakes, black pepper and ground cloves are only a few of the unlimited choices that can be used for creating the perfect customized pickle. Many types of vinegar can be substituted for the distilled white vinegar in simple pickles. The traditional way to make pickles requires a specific degree of acidity in order to prevent bacteria from growing because traditional pickles have an extended shelf life and do not require refrigeration. But since, as already noted, simple pickles must be kept refrigerated and expire after a month, they do not have specific acidity requirements. Apple cider vinegar and rice vinegar are two delicious vinegars that can be used to flavor them.

After all the flavoring agents have been added, pour the cooled brine mixture over the cucumbers, and make sure it completely covers everything in the jar. Tightly screw the lids on the jars, and shake to combine the ingredients. Immediately place the pickles in the refrigerator, and let them marinate for at least two days. The longer they sit in the brine, the more flavor the pickles will acquire. After all the pickles are gone from the jar, fresh cut cucumbers can be added to the leftover brine, and in two days, voila, new pickles! **NOW**

ING
WAY — *By Susan Simmons*



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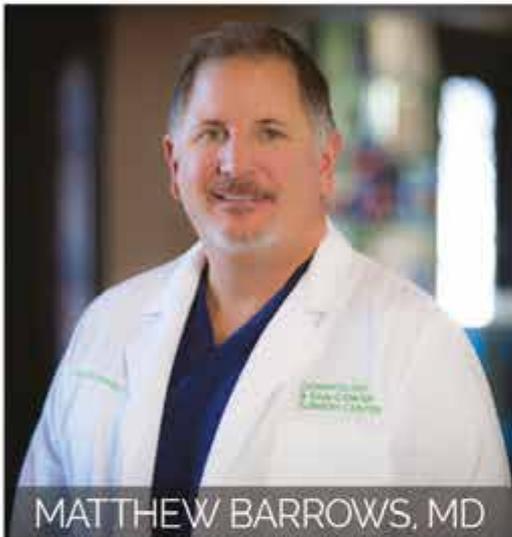
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Jeff and Prentice Lewis attend the grand opening of Midlothian's Pickleball Paradise.

Zoomed In: Harper McClendon

By Angel Morris

Harper McClendon and the graduating fifth-grade class of Longbranch Elementary ended the year by donating books to the school's new Love & Learn Library, a section featuring titles about ways students may feel different, from learning disabilities to grief to blended families. "Curated by the school counselor, Jeanette Arnold, to fit our school population, the books can be checked out individually or shared with a class to help children learn about special situations they and their peers may be going through in a way that is easily understandable," explained Harper's mom, Sundry McClendon, who brought the idea to Longbranch.

Families were able to choose a book from the curated list and donate it with a book plate inside, creating a lasting legacy. "Our bookplate was for our dog who died this year — *In Honor of Good Boy Barkley*," Harper shared. Each year, students will be able to donate and dedicate personalized books.



Officer Sullivan serves customers at the Roasted Beanery during Coffee with Cops.



Members of Need Prayer? meet at parks around town to gather blessing requests from folks in the community.



Angie Word, Jessica Lopez, Angela Nemesio and Heather Klein represent Family Eye Clinic at the Ellis County Market.



Mindy and other beauty agents at Salon 180 overcome pandemic struggles to continue beautifying clients.



The Black Student Union of Midlothian High School collects several carts of donations for Manna House.



Taytom Rose wins Overall Champion of the Kids Fishing Derby at Community Park.




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BusinessNOW

Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring

— By Angel Morris

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After 50 years under the leadership of Jerry Massey, Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring changed owners but remained in the family, passing to Jerry's son, Cliff. "Cliff took ownership June 17, 2019, and on the first day he became owner — at 8:00 a.m. on a Monday — the electricity went out in the showroom because of some confusion with the switch of the utilities," Michelle Massey, Cliff's wife, recalled.



Fortunately, Cliff and Michelle had the experience, along with their longtime staff, to handle the situation in the same way their family had managed the store for years — with care. "The one thing that hasn't changed and was promised to Jerry from Cliff is to do whatever it takes to make the customer happy and always do your best to greet them at the door and walk them out," Michelle explained.

Cliff began learning this motto while working summers with his dad at the store. He then started doing take-up jobs, like removing old flooring, and after a year or two, his dad started him on some of the smaller wood jobs. "Ultimately, Cliff got a crew together and installed wood, laminate and vinyl plank flooring for over 15 years," Michelle outlined.

Jerry always talked about Cliff taking over the store, and about five years ago, decided it was time to retire. When Cliff took over, he gave his trailer and tools to his longtime friend, Jay Waggoner, who now runs the same crew that Cliff did.

The store's employees and installers like David Lopez and David Gryder have not changed, although new people have

joined the team. Linda has worked at the store for 32 years, Keith for 25 years, Austin six years and Angie three. Kelly and Britney came on board soon after Cliff took over.

Cliff and Michelle's sons, Jimmy and Blaine, worked with Cliff for about a year, then installed on their own for a while. Then they came to work in the store. In the summer, you might hear the youngest Masseys, Karley and Brody, answer the phone. Daughters, Sydney and Britney, and grandchildren, Mayleigh and Henry, round out the family.

Fun fact: Jerry Massey's first carpet job ever was for Opal Mitchell, the great-great-grandmother of Henry on his father's side. Now the Masseys focus on bringing the quality of that very first installment to the community in which they have lived for three generations.

"Ellis County has been really good for our business, as well as Dallas, Mansfield and Ft. Worth. We draw from numerous areas. We have one of the largest selections of flooring in this area. We sell wood, carpet, luxury vinyl plank, laminate, tile, marble and porcelain. We sell everything!" Cliff explained.

Jerry's J&W Carpets installs flooring in hospitals, schools, other businesses and commercial work, as well as in residences. Although large projects are part of their business, they appreciate residential customers. "We try to treat each person as special. No job is too small. We have quite a following. We appreciate the business and the repeat business," Cliff admitted.

While the Masseys place importance on upholding the family tradition of excellence, they have implemented some changes to keep up with the times. "Internally, technical things have changed. Carbon paper — yes, carbon paper — was replaced with computers," Michelle laughed. "We also updated our own showroom by painting and installing new floors."

Cliff and Michelle encourage folks to review the financing options they offer and to give them the chance to bid on flooring jobs. "Our prices are comparable to, if not better than, most in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area," Cliff assured. "We try hard to please everyone and are most appreciative of those who come in our store. We deliver on our promise: Drive a little, save a lot." **NOW**

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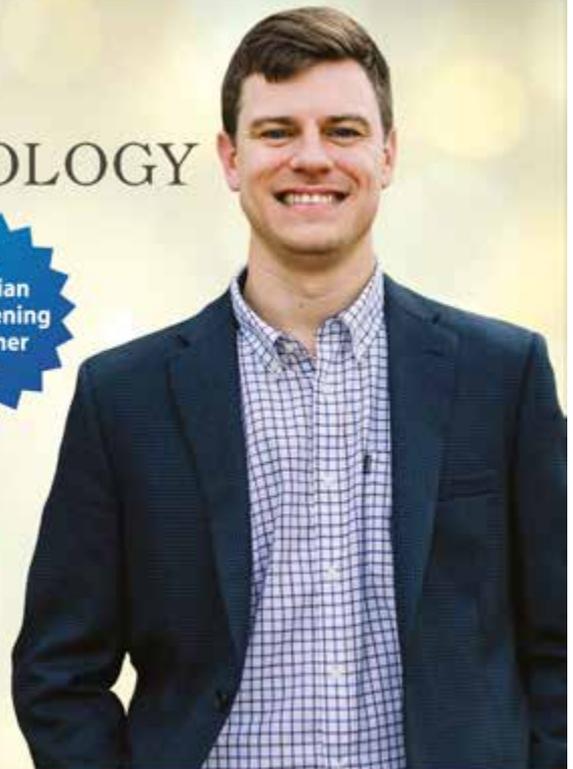
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

DONNA CRIMMINS-BONNELL

— By Angel Morris



Donna Crimmings-Bonnell's greatest joy is time with grandchildren and baking with her granddaughter, Kensie. "We've been baking together since she was 2. She's now 9, and I love how creative she is!" Donna enthused. "My side business, Nana B's Bake Shop, was inspired by her and my daughter, Danelle."

A nurse for 45 years, Donna continues serving through volunteerism on the Methodist Midlothian Advisory Board, Midlothian Parks and Recreation Board and as a Chamber ambassador. Still, meal preparation was her earliest form of service. "At a very early age, I helped with the family cooking. I was the only daughter in a large military family with five brothers who loved to eat," she recalled. "Today, I'm glad my husband, Gerald, friends and neighbors are willing taste testers for me!" **NOW**

3 C Cookies

Perfect for picnics.

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 cup maraschino cherries, chopped
- 1/2 cup coconut, shredded
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Cream the

butter and sugar; add the egg and vanilla. Beat until fluffy.

2. In a small bowl, whisk the flour, salt and baking powder. Add to the wet mixture until blended/incorporated. Add in the cherries, coconut and chocolate chips until blended.

3. Drop onto a greased or silicone-lined cookie sheet; bake 10-12 minutes, depending on the size of the cookie. Remove to a wire rack and cool.

Aunt Helen's Bars

A sweet summer snack.

1/3 cup butter

- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, to fully incorporate.

2. Add the dry ingredients together; whisk and add to the wet ingredients. Add in nuts and chips gently.

3. Bake in a greased 8x8x2-inch square pan for about 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cut into bars.

Ladies' Cocktail Punch

- 1 bottle Moscato d'Asti
- 1 liter cherry sprite
- 1 12-oz. can frozen pink or raspberry lemonade
- Strawberries (optional)
- Raspberries (optional)
- Orange slices (optional)

1. Mix together the first three ingredients in a glass punch bowl or large decanter. Add a few fresh strawberries or raspberries and orange slices. Chill and serve.

Martha Washington Candy

For holidays year-round.

- 2 lbs. powder sugar
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup nuts, coarsely chopped
- 1 14-oz. bag coconut
- 1 10-oz. jar maraschino cherries, drained and halved
- 1 12-oz. bag melting chocolate

1. Mix together the first 5 ingredients. Chill the mixture for 30 minutes. Take a medium scoop of the chilled mixture and mold it around each cherry. Place the cherry balls on a cookie sheet in the freezer overnight.
 2. Melt the chocolate; dip each cherry ball until covered. Place the cherry balls on a cookie sheet; freeze to set. These may be made without nuts and/or dipped in white chocolate.

Oven Caramel Corn

Movie-night must-have.

- 8 cups popped corn
- Nuts, to taste (optional)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1. Heat oven to 250 F. Pour the popcorn and nuts in a large roasting pan. (I use a disposable roasting pan.)
 2. Combine the sugar, butter, syrup and salt in a medium saucepan.
 3. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until the mixture comes to a boil, about 10-12 minutes. Once boiling starts, turn down the heat to low; continue boiling for 5 minutes without stirring.
 4. After 5 minutes, remove from heat; stir in the vanilla and baking soda. Pour the mixture over the popped corn; mix well until coated. Place in the oven for 1 hour, stirring the mixture every 15 minutes.
 5. Cool; place in a storage container.

Peach Crisp

- 6 large peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt

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- 1 cup sugar**
- 1/4 cup brown sugar**
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 cup butter**

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease an 8- or 9-inch square pan. Place the sliced peaches in the bottom of the pan, sprinkling the almond extract over them.
- 2.** In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, sugars and cinnamon.
- 3.** Cut the butter into the flour mixture until

it resembles small crumbles.
4. Sprinkle the mixture over the peaches; bake in the oven for 45 minutes until the peaches are bubbly and the topping is brown. When done, cool and serve with ice cream.

Angel Food Waldorf Cake

A light summer treat.

- 1 large angel food cake (store-bought or homemade)**

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream**
- 1 Tbsp. powdered sugar**
- 1 pt. strawberries**
- 1/2 pt. blackberries or blueberries**
- Slivered almonds (optional)**

- 1.** Cut the top of the cake off, about 1/2 inch from the top; set aside. Being careful, scoop out the center of the cake, leaving a tunnel/trench with 1/2-inch sides and bottom.
- 2.** In a chilled bowl, whip the whipping cream and sugar until soft peaks form.
- 3.** Fill the tunnel with 3/4 of the fruit and 1/2 cup of whipped cream. At this point, you can add slivered almonds if you'd like.
- 4.** Carefully place the cake top back over the trench. Frost the cake with the remaining whipped cream; garnish with the leftover fruit. Chill before cutting to serve.



Angel Food Waldorf Cake

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TravelNOW

Artful Inspiration

— By Lisa Bell

Imagine a place where art abounds, set in nature, yet with so many interesting things to see, a weekend might not be enough. Pack your bags, and head south to San Angelo, Texas. Be sure to include good walking shoes — hoofing it provides the best way to see amazing parts of the city.

Located a few hours from the DFW Metroplex, San Angelo has something to offer art enthusiasts and those who love spending time outdoors, visiting museums or enjoying music and shopping, along with some memorable history and a rich nightlife, too. After arriving, be sure to stop by the Visitor's Center and meet friendly staff who can tell you all about their city, but don't rush out. They have art and information for guidance during your visit. Conveniently located on the Comal Riverwalk, head down the rock stairway and begin

your adventure. Within moments, take in sculptures, painted sheep, mosaic automobiles and more, not to mention the serene flow of the river. The trail leads two directions from the Visitor's Center. With miles of sidewalks, you may want to plan two days.

Along the path, take time to enjoy various works of art and bronze statues. The Lady in Blue stands near a Jumano brave, commemorating the legend of her magical appearance to them in the 1800s. In another spot, a mermaid statue holds a Concho pearl as an offering of peace. Keep an eye open for other art while you stroll beside the peaceful water.

With many picnic tables, you can stop along the way for an old-fashioned picnic, or you might climb a flight of stairs and grab a burger at Twisted Root Burger Co. Featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, they offer a variety of hamburgers and other tasty items. Or venture over a few blocks to the historic Miss Mattie's Café for delicious food with atmosphere. While in the area, take in Miss Mattie's Museum to learn all about the madam and her girls.

The historic area has blocks of distinctive shops, including

Eggmeyer's General Store, taking visitors back in time. Whether looking for antiques, clothes, jewelry or the famous Concho pearls, you can find something special. With places to stop for food, drinks and snacks, reserve extra time to tour the area.

The Pop Art Museum also lives downtown in an open-air environment. Each painting contains a QR code for visitors to learn about the artists while admiring their works. And don't miss Paintbrush Alley, where artists feature



their talent on brick walls and even dumpsters. As you drive or walk, don't miss the myriad murals painted on entire sides of buildings. The wide variety of scenes won't disappoint. Wire sculptures greet visitors along the sidewalks with multiple painted sheep. But pay attention, because the sheep pop up all over the city.

While visiting, take in one of several other museums. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, Railway Museum of San Angelo, E.H. Danner Museum of Telephony, Fort Concho and others provide a taste of culture, enjoyable as an individual or with friends or family members. A memorial park and 9/11 memorial also offer a moment of reflection.

For more time outdoors, visit one of the area lakes, the San Angelo State Park and the San Angelo Nature Center. Near downtown, kids will love Kid's Kingdom or the city park, complete with a pool and water slides. As you plan your trip, prepare to enjoy full days. You'll need them to see everything. **NOW**

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Amanda is an Escrow Officer with more than 7 years of experience in the title industry, including residential, commercial and land transactions. Prior to starting her title career, Amanda worked as a Communications Specialist for a large national airline. A native North Texan, Amanda graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor in Communication (Journalism) and Minor in English. In her free time, Amanda loves spending time with her husband, helping him with his tree company, their two spoiled German Shepherds, two daughters and three precious grand-babies.

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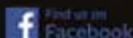
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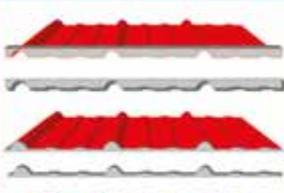
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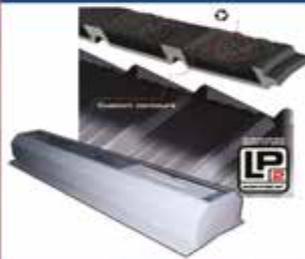
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HealthNOW

When Should You See a Foot and Ankle Surgeon?

In a nutshell, if you're experiencing a problem in your foot or ankle, it's important to see an expert in this field — a foot and ankle surgeon. But you might be wondering ... what is a foot and ankle surgeon?

Foot and ankle surgeons are the surgical specialists of the podiatric profession. They are highly educated and trained in their field. After earning a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree from a four-year podiatric medical school, they undergo an intensive postgraduate residency in podiatric medicine and surgery.

So, what kinds of problems do foot and ankle surgeons treat? Some of the more common problems include bunions, hammertoes, heel pain (such as plantar fasciitis), arthritis in the foot or ankle, sports injuries, broken bones, tendon disorders, diabetes complications, Achilles tendon issues, ingrown toenails, neuromas, tingy feet, dermatological conditions and many more.

Now that you know what a foot and ankle surgeon can do

for you, how do you know when it's time to see one? If you have pain or discomfort in your foot or ankle, that's not normal — and that's one very common reason to seek professional help. Another reason to see the foot and ankle surgeon is if you notice unexplained changes in the appearance of your foot or ankle. If you have diabetes, it's crucial to get periodic foot exams. Diabetes is known to have two complications that can affect the feet — neuropathy (or nerve damage) and poor circulation. Arthritis is another common disease that can have a negative effect on the functioning of your toes, forefoot or ankle.

An unhealed sore, cut or wound on the foot is another reason to visit the foot and ankle surgeon. Getting prompt and appropriate treatment is extremely important. The foot and ankle surgeon is knowledgeable in how to best treat a sore, cut or wound that hasn't healed. Injuries such as sprains, broken bones or ruptured tendons all require the attention of a foot and ankle surgeon.

If you are like most people, you will probably experience a foot or ankle problem at one time or another, so it's good to know when it's best to seek professional care. The sooner you receive the right diagnosis and treatment, the better your outcome will be. **NOW**

Christopher Schmitt, DPM
Associate of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
Southern Star Foot & Ankle



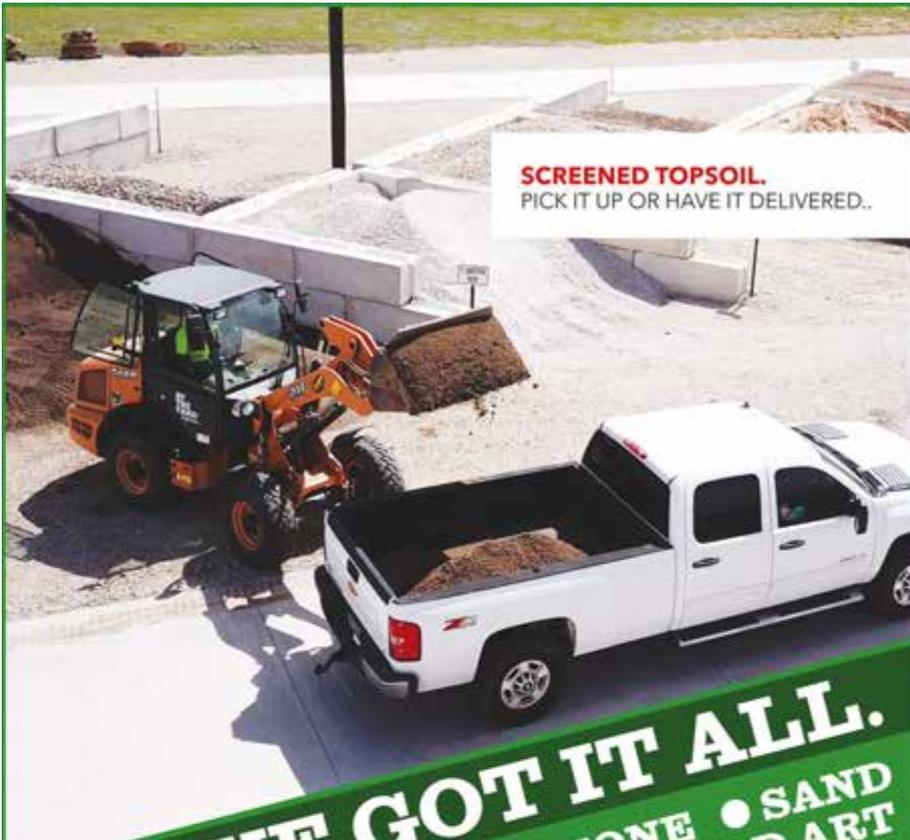
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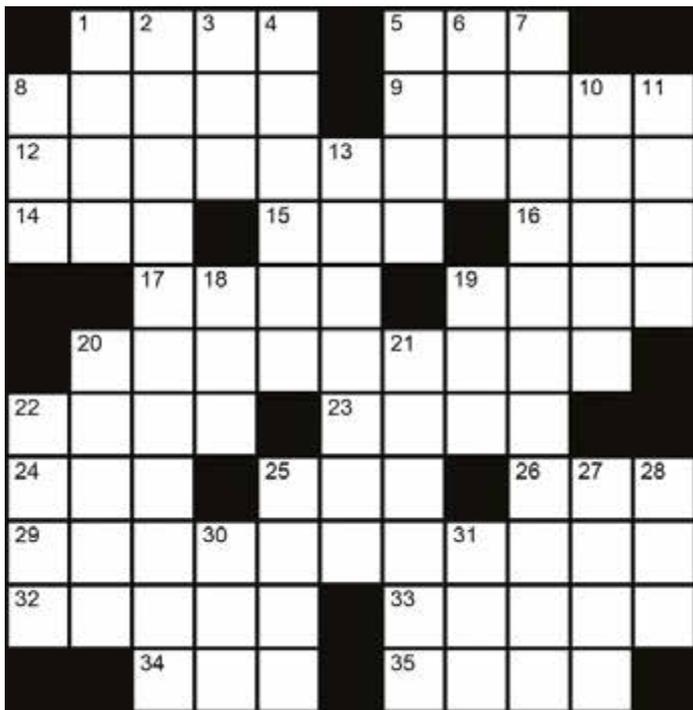
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Crossword Puzzle



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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 52

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Easy

	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 52

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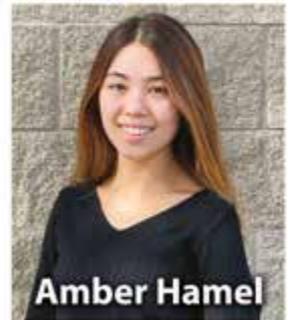
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6/5

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Park, 1498 FM 1387.

6/7-6/11

Vacation Bible School:

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6:30-9:00 p.m.,
Gateway Church, 555 N. Walnut
Grove Rd. Learn more at
<http://www.gcmidlo.org/vbs/>.

6/12

Pride Month Meetup:

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affirming city leaders and food.
3:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Park,
400 N. College St., Waxahachie.
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6/13

Jesus Cares Event for Families With Special Needs:

Noon-10:00 p.m., Living Faith
Lutheran Church, 1590 W. FM
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6/18

Daddy/Daughter Dance:

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6/19

Free Nature Walk:

Led by Texas Master Naturalists
at Mockingbird Park. 9:00 a.m.,
1361 Onward Rd. Canceled in
the event of rain.

Midlothian Classic Wheels Car Show:

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
Midlothian Community Park,
3601 S. 14th Street.

6/26

The Great Inclusion Race & Party:

Participate in this scavenger hunt
and obstacle course designed
to simulate challenges people
with all kinds of disabilities face
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Church of Christ, 1627 N. Hwy.
67 3:30-5:30 p.m. For more
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Third Wednesdays

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meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,
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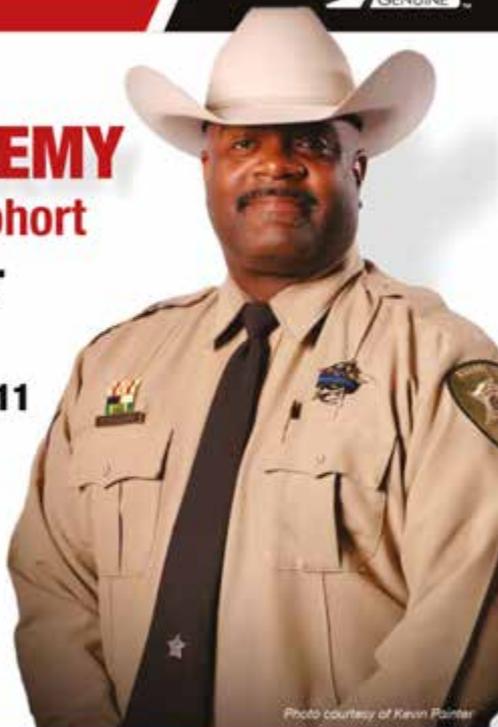


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**Crossword -
Sudoku
Solutions**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7									
	P	E	G	S		C	H	I								
8	P	A	V	E	L		9	L	10	11	H					
12	P	R	E	L	I	M	I	N	A	R	Y					
14	M	E	N		15	C	A	P		16	N	A	P			
		17	A	P	E	R		19	D	U	N	E				
		20	C	L	A	S	S		21	M	A	T	E			
22	F	L	I	P			23	H	A	N	S					
24	D	O	T		25	S	A	X		26	H	O	28	P		
29	I	N	T		30	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	T			
32	C	E	L	L	O			33	M	A	L	T	A			
								34	E	K	G					
												35	S	O	L	O

Easy

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

Medium

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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