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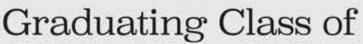
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ON THE COVER



Curtis Ferguson shares his vision of life.

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GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla Artists, Jerri Akers . Kristin Bato Martha Macias . Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Chris McCalla Photographer, Shane Kirkpatrick

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Advertising Representatives, Dustin Dauenhauer . Bryan Frye Cherise Burnett . Kelsea Locke Linda Moffett . Lori O'Connell William Perron . Linda Roberson Melody Schmidt

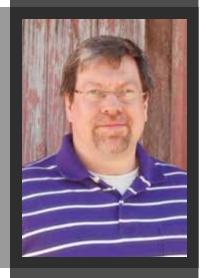
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The dog days are coming!

I'm basically an indoor person. I have tons of indoor hobbies, and I like to watch TV and movies. My work keeps me indoors. Even when I go to the gym, that's indoors.

But my dogs have been forcing me to rediscover the joy of sitting outside in the sun. It was just a few years ago that I was living in the jungle on an island without electricity or running water, taking baths in the ocean, and loving it. How did I forget so quickly? I really don't know. I guess at heart, I really prefer the indoors, but the sun and wind are a different kind of pleasure. I just spent an hour sitting outside the library watching a performance. The performance itself was fun, but being outside made it even better. Fresh air is a thing, and I need more of it. Sunshine on my skin is good for my mental health. And several outdoor home repair and gardening projects have given me some different kinds of exercise. I need to do this more.

And having a dog or two climbing all over you while you "relax" is not as unpleasant as you might think. They're only showing how much they love me. I have the scratches and muddy pawprints to prove it! They like to climb up and sit with me in the swing. Unfortunately, there isn't room enough for all three of us, so one joins me in the swing, and the other one gets jealous and picks at his brother until he can dislodge him. If the neighbors are watching, they probably think I'm nuts, letting the dogs use me for a jungle gym.

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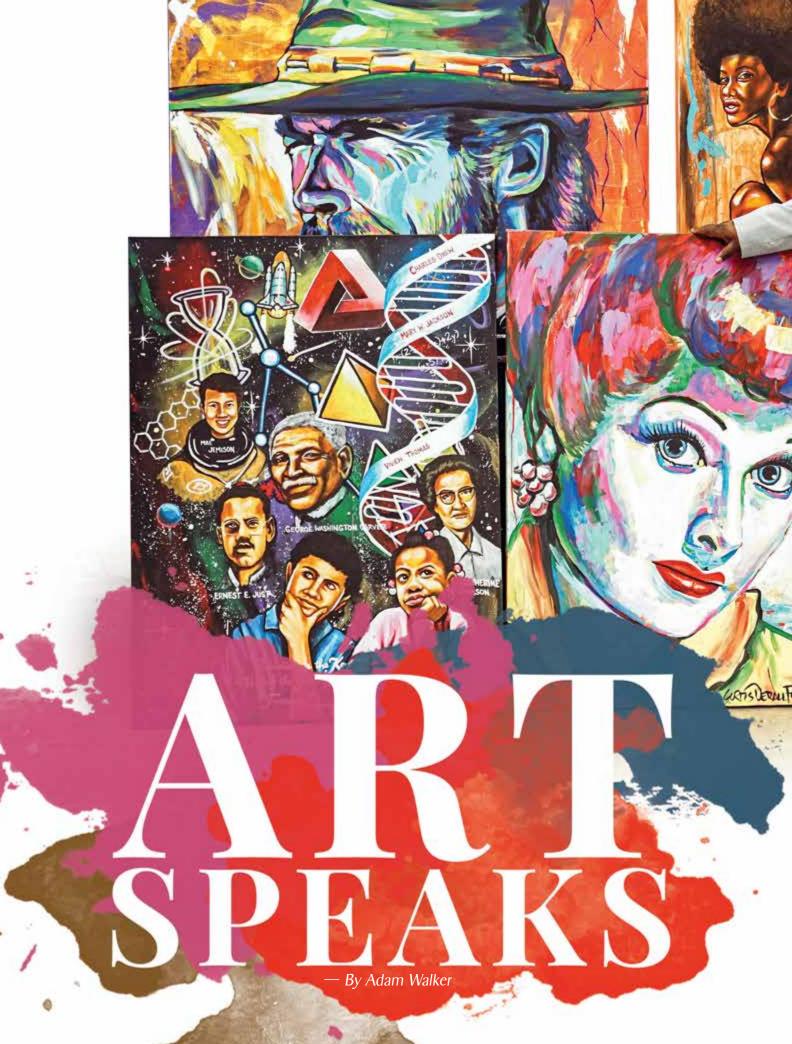
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Curtis Ferguson believes that old saying—a picture is worth a thousand words. He is an artist of uncommon skill who uses his art to talk about the world around him and address the problems he sees. "In my paintings, I'm going to tell the truth," he declared.

As an art teacher at Byrd Middle School, he strives to get his students to see art as more than just a hobby. Over his decades of teaching, the various districts he has worked for have recognized the value of his classroom commitment. "I've been Teacher of the Year about 15 times in nine different districts. When I come to work, I refuse to have a lousy day!" He has so many awards from his teaching and his community activism

that it's hard to keep track of them all. He has framed letters from political leaders like Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Governor Greg Abbott and Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

He teaches both 2-D and 3-D art to his students, who have decorated the hallways with murals and create papier-mâché animals. "I try to point out to them that art can be a career. In today's economy, there is opportunity to sell art worldwide on the internet. And they don't have to wait till they're grown and have degrees in art. The novelty of their age is a selling point right now. Papier-mâché can be used to make piñatas. That's a business right there. With cause marketing, people will buy from kids."

Curtis works in three main styles: Realism, Expressionism (or Spontaneous Realism) and Abstract. "I think light is the key to everything. Light is how you see color and shadows.



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It's all because of light. When I started painting Black people, I chose to use rich colors. It's a way of giving life and humanity back to us. I'm a fan of Norman Rockwell, Tanner and other Realist painters going back to the Renaissance, but I'm not there in their paintings. When people look at my art, I want them to see the humanity of Black people." Sometimes, Curtis' art uncovers thoughts even he wasn't expecting. He has done several paintings of Black angels — strong Black warriors with spread wings. When some of his students saw one of these paintings, they interpreted it as el Diablo, the Devil, because the angel was Black. Talk about teachable moments! A misunderstanding, in the other direction, happened when Curtis had to remove a painting of John Wayne from public view, because a fellow Black man thought it was racist. "I consider John Wayne a hero. He was controversial because he spoke his mind, but he had strong, positive roles for Black men in his movies. In The Cowboys John Wayne's character dies and leaves the Black man in charge of the young cowboys. This painting is part of my icons series that includes portraits of Malcolm X and Lucille Ball. John Wayne is an icon of manhood. I wish I could have spoken to that man."

The subject matter of Curtis' paintings covers everything from natural hair to literacy to gun violence and human trafficking. He paints humorous subjects like one of President Bush painting a self-portrait, and wall murals in people's houses. Another set of 10 paintings called Flowers in the Dirt, which he hasn't completed yet, is mixed media on wood. "All of the figures are transparent. They're all attempting to stand. Because they're transparent, they have no race, sex or age. They show every person's struggle to become. They convey a

message of hope and validation."

Art has been a lifelong journey for Curtis. "I remember in kindergarten, my teacher told me I had beautiful handwriting. I could sketch a little, and she praised that, too. But then she praised Fred January's work even more. And I thought, No, I want the teacher to like mine. In high school, my art teacher, Harding Deon Jr., stuck with me all through high school and college. When I came back, I asked him, 'How can I pay you back?' He said, 'You give to the kids what I gave to you.' I hope I've repaid him a little something."

That dedication to his students came through loud and clear when, a few years ago, Curtis went through a period of homelessness. Despite living out of his car, he kept right on pouring into his students' lives and promoting them as artists. His almost-break came when a real estate agent, who specializes in high-end properties for athletes and entertainers, noticed Curtis' work and got together with some others in her field to show his work to their wealthy clients who wanted original art. "We did one show, and then COVID-19 hit. Art shows haven't really come back yet. They put me up in a million-dollar home for the show, and we sold my works for \$1,500 to \$25,000 apiece. I thought I was on my way!"

Regardless of good times or bad, art is Curtis' life. "Art chose me. I get to convey so many messages. Even if, sometimes, it isn't the message I intended. People bring their own experiences when they look at art. Art is being vocal visibly. It's about creating a conversation and conveying hope. I don't want to always be vague. Sometimes, my art is very direct. I am Black, and I'm an artist. Am I a Black artist or just an artist? Is it bad to be a Black artist? We have the ability to control our own destiny. As a Black artist I can paint anything I want to. I'm not limited. I can paint white people, like Clint Eastwood."

Curtis is currently working on a new exhibit about neighborhood. "I want to show the joy of living in a community where people know and care about each other. I want to paint grandma on her porch with her lemonade and remind people of what that was like." **NOW**





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BusinessNOW

Friends Place Adult Day Services

— By Adam Walker

Friends Place Adult Day Services 1232 Beltline Rd. DeSoto, TX 75115 (972) 274-2484 www.friendsplaceads.com rhenry@friendsplaceads.com

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friends Place Adult Day Services is one of very few places in the Metroplex that provides care and active involvement for adults with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Marylynne Henry started service in DeSoto, 10 years ago

this coming October, because she needed a place for her husband to receive the care and interaction he needed after his diagnosis. "The closest places providing this kind of care were in Dallas and Richardson," she explained.

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Friends Place was closed for a year, at the beginning of the pandemic. "We were closed from March of 2020 to March of 2021," Ryan Henry explained. "We continued with online activities and meal delivery, but the isolation hit our community hard. Many of our members went into rapid decline when they couldn't interact with each other. We reopened with masks required for everyone, staff and members alike, and extreme social distancing. At first, we were only allowing 12 members, maximum. Then the regulations allowed us to have 20, and now 30 members at a time. Our facility is licensed for 60, so we're hoping things continue to move in that direction. We really like to host family events, where not just our members, but their families come, but that hasn't been possible for a

while. Mother's Day was the first event. It was something we had all been looking forward to. These family events are really important because Alzheimer's is a family disease."

Friends Place makes as many accommodations as possible. They moved all drop-off and pick-up outside, so fewer people come and go through the building. They have temperature checks and daily screening questions. If someone has a cough, a rapid test is administered, on the spot. They are focused on being as proactive as possible, and all of their staff are fully vaccinated.

"We have started our support groups back up," Marylynne revealed. "When people are diagnosed with dementia, the doctors prescribe some medication, and that's about it. But you need a support team. We can help you connect to the resources you need. A family needs a lot of support and guidance."

Ryan agreed, "It's when they first get the diagnosis that people need the most help, but since they are only forgetting a few things, they tell themselves, and their loved ones, that it's no big deal. But the earlier you start building the support network, the better established it is when things start to get really bad."

"People wait until it's a full-blown crisis before they reach out for help," Marylynne added. "They're almost ready to crack when they come in. Caring for a person with dementia is a 24/7 job. If there's only one caregiver, it's very easy to get burned out. This is an active program. We take account of our members' interests to keep them engaged."

Friends Place provides frequent entertainment and musical groups. An art teacher leads members in creating projects. They serve the ladies, and any of the gents who want to join in, high tea. Some of their activities, which change every 45 minutes, are even geared toward community service. The members make pillows for a local hospital and bake dog biscuits for Tri-City Animal Shelter. Pampering is part of the weekly schedule, and physical therapists visit members at Friends Place when it's more convenient than home visits. NOW







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Zoomed In: Correne Constantino

Correne Constantino is the library operations coordinator at Zula B. Wylie Public Library in Cedar Hill. "My job is a little bit of everything," she enthused. "Aranda Bell, our director, tells me my job is to oversee anything customer service-related. I really like my job and love connecting with people, whether that's the people I work with or the people who walk through the door. I also love connecting people to each other and to the answers they're looking for at the library."

Speaking of the Asian American and Pacific Islander History Month display she posed in front of, she reminded, "We at the library want to be all-inclusive. We want to celebrate and reach out to all the people in our community."

Around Town



Students from SMU and DBU serve at Bridges Safehouse for The Big Event community service day.



The On Pointe Steppers of High Pointe Elementary School win a world championship in Houston.



Village Tech holds a car show.



First Methodist School students and staff participate in Book Character Dress Up Day to encourage a love for reading.



DeSoto ISD announces the Hall of Honor Class of 2022.

By Adam Walker



Scott Eranger shows his 1969 Oldsmobile Hurst at Kegs, Corks & Cars.



Victoria Lowe, Casey Batiste and Joanelle Ngassa study biomedical science at CHHS.



Texas Trust Credit Union donates furniture to the DeSoto ISD Resource Center.



Duncanville residents Evalynne, Gregory and Priscilla Lee enjoy their weekend at the Scarborough Renaissance Festival.









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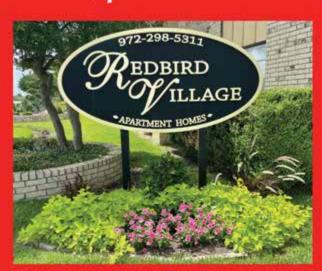
- Virginia Woolf







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Tens of millions Americans have nerve damage — a condition known as "neuropathy."

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According to the Mayo Clinic, the many diseases and conditions that can destroy the nerves in your extremities and limbs include:

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Growing up in Rhode Island where her Italian grandparents immigrated, Pamela Scanlan began to appreciate the joy of food. "My friends were all different nationalities," Pamela said. "To have shared this experience was a cultural education that led me to my wanderlust."

Pamela and her husband, Bob, have been traveling abroad and across the United States for more than 25 years. As empty nesters, Pamela mostly cooks for Bob, but during the pandemic, she started a new tradition of pizza day with their great-grandchildren. "This is a great way of bonding and making cherished memories together."

When not traveling or spending time with family and friends, Pamela loves to dance Zumba, perform with the Cedar Hill Senior Center group, The Brillantes, and capture life's fleeting moments through photography. Now

Pam's Scratch Pizza Dough

- I cup water, heated to 105-115 F
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 .25-oz. pkg. Fleishman's Active Yeast
- 2 1/2 cups King Arthur Unbleached Flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 1/2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

(divided use) Basil, oregano or Italian herb seasoning, to taste (optional)

- **1.** In a mixer bowl, add the water, sugar and yeast. Let the yeast bloom 10 minutes.
- **2.** In a medium-size bowl, add the flour and salt; combine well.

- **3.** Once the yeast has bloomed, add 2 Tbsp. olive oil and flour and salt mixture. Turn the mixer to first speed; let run until a ball forms around the dough hook.
- **4.** Grease a separate, large bowl with 1/2 Tbsp. olive oil. Add the ball of dough to the greased bowl; cover tightly with plastic wrap. Place a dish towel over it. Place the bowl on a counter or warm area to let the dough rise.
- **5.** Once the dough is puffy and risen, preheat the oven to 450 F. Grease a pizza pan with 1/2 Tbsp. olive oil; stretch the dough into a pizza shape. Add 1/2 Tbsp. olive oil to the stretched dough; if desired, sprinkle on the herbs and any desired toppings. Bake at 450 F for 15-20 minutes. Check the bottom of the dough for the desired doneness.

Mom's Vegetarian Chili

- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt

1/2 tsp. black pepper

I tsp. cayenne pepper

1 tsp. chili powder

1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

3 bay leaves

I tsp. basil

I medium sweet onion, chopped

2-3 celery stalks, chopped

I jalapeño pepper, minced

I green bell pepper, diced

I red bell pepper, diced

I yellow bell pepper, diced

I orange bell pepper, diced

1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes

1 15-oz. can tomato sauce

2 15.5-oz. cans cannellini beans, drained and rinsed

2 15.5-oz. cans red kidney beans, drained and rinsed

1 32-oz. Swanson's vegetable stock Tortilla chips, to taste Cheddar cheese, shredded, to taste

I. In a small bowl, mix together the first 6 ingredients.

2. In a stock pot on low heat, add the olive oil; sauté the bay leaves and basil. Turn heat to medium; sauté the onion and celery until slightly translucent. Add the jalapeños and bell peppers; sauté until slightly soft.

3. Add the diced tomatoes and tomato sauce; stir well and warm. Add the spice mixture; stir.

4. Add the beans; stir. Add the vegetable stock; stir until well blended. Cover; simmer until the peppers are a nice texture. Serve with tortilla chips and shredded cheddar cheese.

Mom/Lola's Egg Biscuits

Dough:

6 cups flour

6 eggs

1 1/4 cups sugar

I cup organic canola oil

1/4 cup milk

6 tsp. baking powder

2 Tbsp. lemon extract, or 2 Tbsp. vanilla extract

Icing:

1 1/4 cups powdered sugar

3 Tbsp. milk

1/2 tsp. lemon extract, or 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract to match biscuit flavor Sprinkles (optional)

1. For dough: Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients; knead. Let rest 5 minutes. Shape into 4-inch pencil rolls; then twist. Bake 10-12 minutes.

2. For icing: In a small bowl, mix together all ingredients, except the sprinkles. Dip the



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cooled biscuits into the icing; dry on wire rack. Add sprinkles, if desired.

Nonni's Wine Biscuits

- 4 cups unbleached flour
- 1 cup red wine
- I cup organic canola oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- I tsp. sea salt
- **I.** Preheat an oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients by hand; knead. Let rest 5 minutes. Roll the dough into 4-inch pencil sticks; twist. Place on a greased or

parchment paper-lined baking sheet; bake 25-30 minutes.

Italian Butterball Cookies

- 1/2 lb. salted butter
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar, plus some for topping
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups King Arthur unbleached flour I cup walnuts or pecans, chopped Powdered sugar, for coating
- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar. Add the vanilla and flour; mix well. Fold in the nuts.
- 2. Shape the mixture into 20-24 balls; place them on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes. Place hot cookies on a cooling rack; cool at least 1 hour.
- 3. In large Ziploc bag, add a generous amount of powdered sugar. Carefully place a few of the cooled balls and shake gently to cover completely.

Pamela's Eggplant Stacks

1 28-oz. can Cento Crushed Tomatoes 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil 1-2 cloves garlic, minced Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste

- I tsp. sweet basil flakes
- 1 15-oz. container ricotta cheese
- 1 large egg
- 1 8-oz. pkg. Lucerne shredded 5 cheese blend (divided use)
- 1/2 cup Parmesan Reggiano cheese, grated
- 1 Tbsp. parsley flakes
- I large eggplant, sliced
- 5-6 Campari tomatoes, sliced
- I red bell pepper, julienned
- Red pepper flakes (optional)
- **1.** Preheat an oven to 375 F. In a stock pot on medium heat, add the first 5 ingredients; combine. Add the basil flakes.
- 2. In a small bowl, mix together the ricotta cheese, egg, 1 cup shredded cheese, Parmesan Reggiano and parsley flakes.
- **3.** Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish with olive oil. Add a layer of sliced eggplant, drizzle with olive oil. Add slices of Campari tomatoes then ricotta cheese mixture; spread evenly and top with a dollop of sauce. Spread red peppers around the edges of eggplant slices. Repeat process, ending with eggplant. Top with the remaining sauce. Sprinkle salt and pepper, to taste, additional sweet basil flakes and red pepper flakes, if desired.
- **4.** Bake 1 hour. Remove from the oven; cover with aluminum foil. Bake an additional 30-45 minutes until the eggplant is tender.



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115 Park Place Boulevard, Suite 100 | Waxahachie, TX 75165 | Phone: (972) 923-2436 | Fax: (972) 923-0043 www.bristolhospice-pathways.com Duncanville Chief of Police Mark LiVigni's highest priority for the department is to safeguard the lives and property of the Duncanville community with honor and integrity. These are more than just words for Chief LiVigni who began his career in public service in the military. "I served nearly four years in the United States Air Force, where I worked on F-15 fighter jets, and I am proud of my years of service to my country," he stated.

As Chief LiVigni looked at a career outside of the military, it was a natural fit to continue his life of service in the police force. "It was actually my sister, who was a dispatcher, who put the idea of police work in my head, and so I began applying for positions," Chief LiVigni relayed. After a 10-month stint as a jailer at the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, he was offered a job in Duncanville. Chief LiVigni smiled, "I jumped at the chance to serve on the Duncanville Police Force."

Chief LiVigni has now been with the department for 28 years. He was sworn in as chief of police on February 15 of this year. Although his time as chief has been short, he has no shortage of ideas on how to continue to move the department forward. "One of the most important aspects of police work is making connections with the people of the community, which is why I like to go out to Armstrong Park next to the police station and just walk and talk with people," he said. "You know, people have posed some challenging questions, but I see educating our citizens about what we do as a big part of every police officer's job. Although there are valid reasons why it may not be prudent to always share information, we should work diligently to be as transparent as possible with our citizens.

One challenge the Duncanville Police Department has encountered is fewer people wanting to become police officers. Chief LiVigni offered an example, "When I tested for the Duncanville Police Department more than 28 years ago, I was one of over 300 people testing. The last entry exam we offered back in November saw only 29 people take the test. This is a drastic drop in interest and is not just a problem for Duncanville but other communities as well." The department has information on upcoming entrance exams on the city of Duncanville website as well as listings of signing bonuses. As to who would make a good officer, Chief LiVigni described them as, "Anyone who wants to make a positive difference in the community and work in a place where there is an atmosphere of belonging."

A commitment to offering programs that serve the community is one of Chief LiVigni's top priorities. The Duncanville Police Department is now part of the national ABLE Project, which stands for Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement. "This is a program designed to help officers support one another and look for signs if something seems off, so we can actively monitor the health of one another and serve the community better," Chief LiVigni explained. Another program the department offers is the Citizen Police Academy,



which has seen much success. According to Chief LiVigni, "The Citizen Police Academy allows citizens to understand police work better, and our personnel, who teach the classes, better. Citizens completing the academy are always very appreciative and more knowledgeable by the end of the class." The Take Me Home program addresses needs within the senior citizen community and helps the department issue Silver Alerts more quickly in the case a senior citizen goes missing. "We have so many programs to offer the community," Chief LiVigni said. "I would encourage our citizens to view our city of Duncanville website or just call the police station to find out how to get involved and connect with us to collaborate for a better Duncanville."

Chief LiVigni offered an example of what it means to be a police officer. "Right after the events that happened in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, at a time in which, police were under a lot of stress and scrutiny, I walked into a local fast-food restaurant. There was a group of about 25 women of different ethnicities and ages sitting at tables arranged in such a way that it made it a bit of a challenge to squeeze by to order. One of them, an older African-American woman, said something to me in a voice so low that I could not hear what she said." Chief LiVigni paused a moment in reflection and then continued, "When I apologized for not being able to hear what she had said as I leaned toward her to better hear, and asked if she could repeat herself, she asked if they could pray for me. The entire group of ladies then prayed over me and for the safety of all police officers. I could not have needed that more during that time." This interaction reflects Chief LiVigni's vision of a genuine partnership between the police department and the people they serve. NOW







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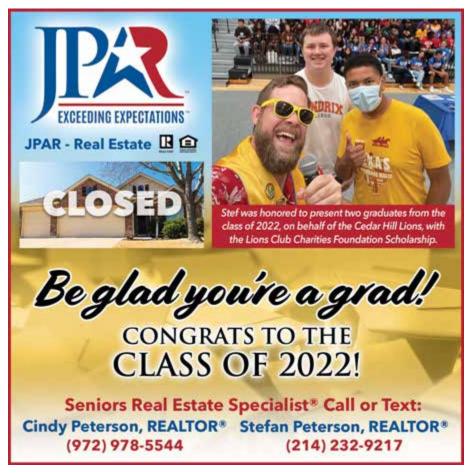


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Across

- 1 Knock, knock, --- there?
- 5 Scotch partner
- 9 Spellbound
- 10 It may be grand or petty
- 12 Inkling
- 13 Undivided duet in confusion
- 15 It huffs and it puffs and it blows your house down
- 17 Mess up
- 18 Passes
- 19 Type of ant
- 20 Ball stand
- 21 Concealed oneself
- 22 Phrase meaning "caveat emptor"
- 24 Pleasure boat harbor
- 27 Mahmoud Abbas's organization
- 28 Crack Tom's nut to reveal part of an instruction to refrain
- 29 Bike for Daisy
- 31 Like some JFK or LAX flights
- 32 Old Clipper operator
- 33 Flat tableland
- 34 --- Luck
- 35 Aphrodite's son

Down

- 1 Compose
- 2 Wore
- 3 In working order
- 4 Political positions
- 5 Wall supports
- 6 Shout of dismay
- 7 Roman gods
- 8 Postprandial
- 11 Limited period
- 14 Without bars
- 16 Eroded
- 19 Broadcast length
- 21 Laughing sounds
- 22 Prone
- 23 Directly
- 24 One wrapped up ages ago
- 25 Untrue
- 26 Sky-carrying Titan
- 28 Lake on the Colorado
- 30 Used to prove identity

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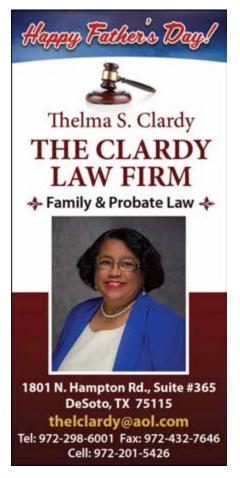


Sudoku Puzzle

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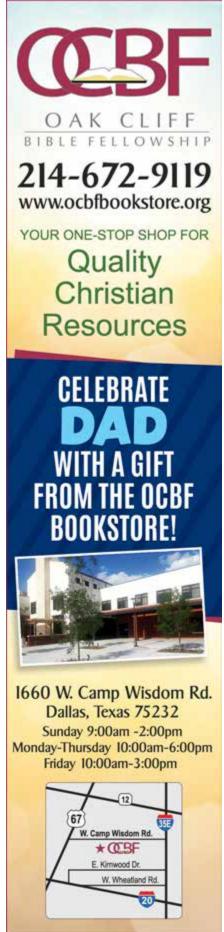
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6/4

Kid Fish Tournament:

Bring your fishing poles, sunscreen and chairs. Free. 8:00 a.m., Valley Ridge Park Pond, 2850 Parkridge Dr., Cedar Hill.

Summer Reading Kickoff:

Carnival games, balloon twisting, take-home crafts. Free. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Duncanville Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

Camp iRead Reading Challenge:

First 200 arrivals receive a free T-shirt. Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

Annual Crawfish Festival:

Live music, drinks and family fun. 6:00-9:00 p.m., DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

6/6

Mayor's Summer Reading Club Registration Opens:

Log points, earn free books, raffle entries, prizes and more.
All day. DeSoto Library,
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

6/7-6/9

Cedar Hill Police Dept. Youth Summit:

Cedar Hill kids 11-18 interact with police officers. Free. 9:00

a.m.-2:00 p.m., Collegiate Prep Elementary, 975 Pickard Dr.

6/9

Big Machine Expo:

Explore industrial machines and emergency vehicles. Free. Valley Ridge Park, 2840 Park Ridge Dr., Cedar Hill.

6/11

Hiking 101 Workshop:

Exploring the world around you for education and exercise. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

6/18

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6/22

Faith Leaders Quarterly Breakfast:

Free but registration required. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Bluebonnet Rooms, DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

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