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JUNE 2026

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makes art as expression

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Volume 20, Issue 6



Adam Walker

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ON THE COVER

Jacqueline V Jackson celebrates life in her ceramics and paintings.



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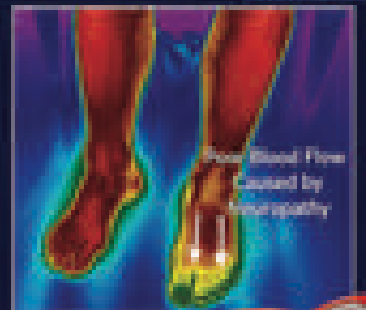
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IT HAS TO COME OUT

— By Adam Walker

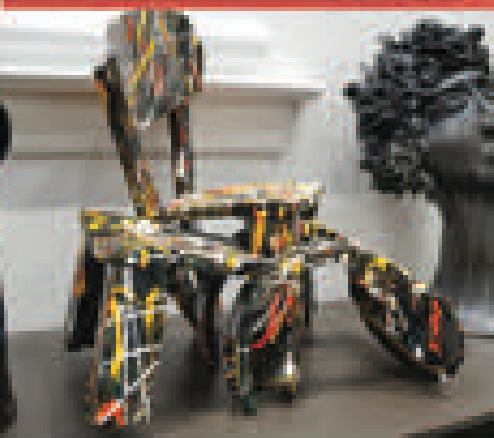


Jacqueline V Jackson can trace the path she walked back as far as she can remember. "I've been an artist all my life," she said. "I've been drawing since I could hold a pencil. I was 17 when I started painting. It's a God-given talent. It's in me, so it has to come out."

She grew up outside a small Louisiana town called Roseland. She came to live with one of her sisters, here in Cedar Hill. Then in 1997, she joined the Air Force. "I wanted to see the world. I got married in 2004. His sister lived in Prosper, but we liked the hilly land south of Dallas. After we retired in 2019, we bought land and built a house in Cedar Hill. I had kept up with my painting all during the time I was in the military. In 2021 or 2022, after I retired, I took classes at the Creative Arts Center in Dallas and fell in love with ceramics."

Jacqueline likes to experiment with different mediums. "I do a lot of acrylic paintings, but I also paint with oils," she said. "I like doing mixed media as well, paintings that add paper or foil to the canvas. I love trying new things. I tried watercolor, and it's not very forgiving. I've been experimenting with gouache. Sometimes, I'll do paintings and a ceramic piece at the same time. I'll have a painting up on the easel while I'm working on a ceramic piece and go back and forth. I'm here one day, and there another. I'm wherever my passion takes me when I get up in the morning! Sometimes, I dream about something, then I start painting it."

She's very experimental with her ceramics. "I'm always looking for new techniques. *Oh! Let me try that!* But I'll do it a little different. Other artists tell me I need to write down what glaze I used, what colors



I mixed. But that's slowing down the process! And I don't think it really matters. With ceramics, every little thing changes the outcome. How a glaze turns out depends on the clay, the temperature, where it was placed in the kiln, what it was sitting next to. I don't get mad if a piece comes out broken. I guess that piece was meant to be a happy accident."

She's not big on naming her works, whether they're her "sassy ladies," astronauts, skydivers or chairs. "It's so hard to label things. I feel like labels can stop you from seeing different things. Whatever you see when you look at one of my works, that's what you were meant to experience. For example, when I was living in Florida with another one of my sisters, she told me I needed to have a show, so I got some of my paintings together and put them in a show. There was this one painting that I pulled out from under the bed. I didn't intend to put it in the show,



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but I did anyway. It was a painting of a guy going down a river in Louisiana. A Vietnamese man saw it and said, 'This reminds me of home!' I painted Louisiana. He saw Vietnam. He bought the painting. You never know how a work will affect people. I make art because I enjoy doing it."

Community is important to Jacqueline, and she wants to provide that for other artists. "Since I moved to Cedar Hill, I've been looking for art studios. There

just isn't much south of Dallas. We shouldn't have to drive 45 [redacted] a half-acre lot in downtown Cedar Hill. I'm going to build spaces other artists can rent. There is a community of artists in southern Dallas County, we just need a place to meet up. The house that's already here will be my new gallery and studio. I have work in other galleries, and I sell my art at markets. I make many Christmas ornaments and holiday pieces

through the summer, so I have plenty ready when venues start holding their events in the fall."

Doing art is just part of being true to herself. "Art gets me closer to who God wants me to be. I feel a closer connection to Him when I'm painting, when I'm in the moment. Listening to gospel music gets me focused, centers me, releases my creativity. When I'm not painting, I'm thinking about it. When I'm not working in clay, I'm thinking about it. But I don't plan what I'm going to do. About 90 percent of the time, I just put my hands in the clay and see what comes out." **NOW**



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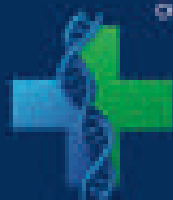
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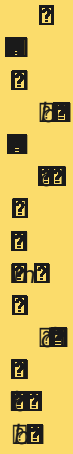
YOUR KIDS'



— By Bill Smith

BACKYARD BEACH

Imagine your children building sandcastles in their own backyard or creating a mini-construction site with their toy dump trucks and bulldozers. Kids like to play in the sand, and a simple weekend do-it-yourself sandbox may keep them entertained for hours.



Adding a ledge attached to two parallel sides of the box will not only help brace the box, but it will also provide a place to sit and keep some of the sand from being "splashed" out of the box during vigorous play, or if one of the toy bull dozers should run amuck. The ledge should be attached to the box along the full length of the sides and overhang into the box. Drill pilot holes, and attach it with 3-inch screws just as you attached the box ends.

Now, staple landscape cloth to the interior of the box an inch or two from the bottom. The landscape cloth will help prevent the sand from leaching out from under the edges of the box, as well as prevent grass from growing up through the sand.

sand. There are many different kinds of sand to choose from, as well as a product called "play sand" that is smooth and clean. It is sold in 50-lb. bags. There are other choices as well, but if you choose bulk sand, inspect it carefully to remove rocks and other potential debris.

The sandbox cover can be as simple as a tarp attached with bungee cords. If you use a tarp, make it large enough to put a 5-gallon plastic bucket in the center of the box so water will run off rather than pool on the tarp. Another option is a screen made of wood or plastic lattice to keep larger animals out of the sand, or a metal screen made of hardware cloth or chicken wire attached to a wooden frame might be your choice. Making a solid wooden cover that remains attached with

Now, bring on the sunny, summer days. It's time to hit the beach! **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/how-to-build-a-sandbox>.
2. <https://www.lowes.com/n/how-to/build-a-sandbox>.

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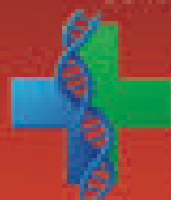
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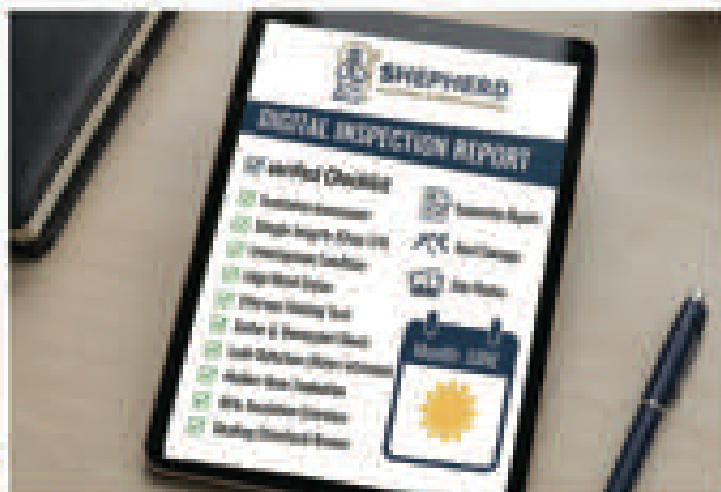
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Zoomed In: Kelicia Moore

By Adam Walker

Kelicia Moore was relaxing on a bench at Crawford Park. "I'm here with my granddaughter, watching her play," she 

used to live in Cedar Hill, but I just moved back a few months ago. My daughter works at a day care near here. That's how we noticed this park." A sunny Sunday afternoon seemed like a perfect time for checking out new parks. "There's a nice breeze out here today."

Kelicia was also excited about the new library. "When I lived here before, I went to the old library. The new library looks fantastic. I can't wait to check it out. We also want to check out the new lagoon. That seems like something my granddaughter will enjoy."



Stacy Sala-Walker of Cedar Hill answers questions from Pastor Dan Cooper before being baptized.



Carole Fennig and Lois Basinger volunteer at the Duncanville Library, shifting books.



SouthwestNOW Editor Adam Walker shops at Grow DeSoto Market Place.



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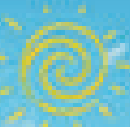


Alexa, Diana, Blanca and Julio Alvarado cool off with treats from Menchie's Frozen Yogurt.



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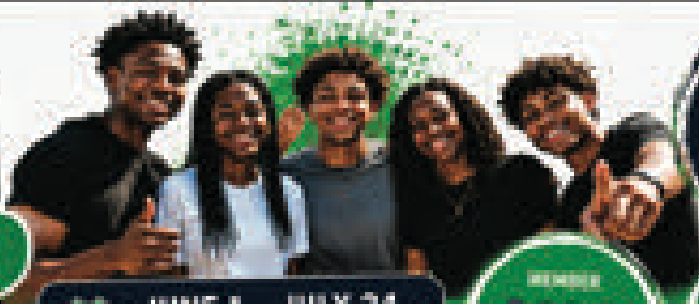
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Zoomed In: Aliyah Anne Dauenhauer

By Adam Walker

Aliyah Anne Dauenhauer celebrated her 18th birthday in style with a Filipina debut. "It's part of Filipina culture," Aliyah Anne explained. "I sang a song called 'Dandelions,' that I wrote when I was 13, because my parents wanted me to sing it. My mom's a songwriter, too. We have 18 candles, who are 18 of our girl friends and 18 roses who are the guys we dance with. I choreographed the hip-hop dance. I got that from my dad. That's a joke, OK?" she laughed.

"It was a huge blessing. It was so much fun, and I really felt the support from my friends and family."

Aliyah Anne is graduating and heading into her next adventure. "I'm going to Bible school at Christ For The Nations in Dallas in the spring, then maybe cosmetology school."



Terri Thoman faces down the steamroller at the printmaking event at The Purple Farmhouse.



Robert Hurst celebrates Free Comic Book Day by adding to his collection and buying comics for his granddaughters.



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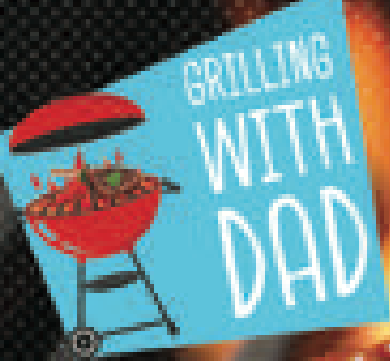


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Father's Day is the perfect occasion to fire up the grill and treat Dad to a special meal that shows how much you appreciate him. These smoky, savory recipes will give you the chance to take over the grill, and make his day truly memorable. **NOW**

Grilled Jalapeño Poppers

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
12 jalapeño peppers, halved and seeded
12 bacon strips, halved

1. Mix together the cream cheese, cheddar and garlic powder.
2. Fill each jalapeño half with the cheese mixture.
3. Wrap each pepper with a half strip of bacon; secure with a toothpick.
4. Grill over medium heat for 15-20 minutes until the bacon is crispy.

Grilled Shrimp Skewers

3 Tbsp. olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent burning.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together

the olive oil, garlic, paprika, salt and pepper.

3. Add the shrimp to the bowl; toss to coat evenly.
4. Thread the shrimp onto the skewers, about 5-6 shrimp per skewer.
5. Preheat the grill to medium-high heat; oil the grates.
6. Grill the shrimp skewers for 2-3 minutes per side until pink and opaque.
7. Remove from the grill; drizzle with lemon juice. Garnish with parsley; serve immediately.

Grilled Steak With Herb Butter

4 1-inch ribeye steaks
2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
1 Tbsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. lemon zest

1. Remove the steaks from the refrigerator; let them come to room temperature for 30 minutes.
2. Brush both sides of each steak with olive oil; season generously with salt and pepper.

3. In a small bowl, mix together the butter, parsley, rosemary, garlic and lemon zest until well combined.
4. Preheat the grill to high heat (450-500 F). Place the steaks on the grill; cook for 4-5 minutes without moving them.
5. Flip the steaks; cook for another 4-5 minutes for medium-rare.
6. Remove the steaks from the grill; let them rest for 5 minutes.
7. Top each steak with a generous dollop of herb butter; serve immediately.

Grilled Pineapple With Cinnamon Sugar

1 fresh pineapple, peeled and cored
2 Tbsp. melted butter
3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Vanilla ice cream, for serving

1. Cut the pineapple into 1/2-inch thick rings. Brush both sides of each ring with melted butter.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the cinnamon sugar mixture over both sides of the pineapple rings.
3. Grill over medium heat for 3-4 minutes per side until caramelized with grill marks.
4. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.



SouthwestNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden
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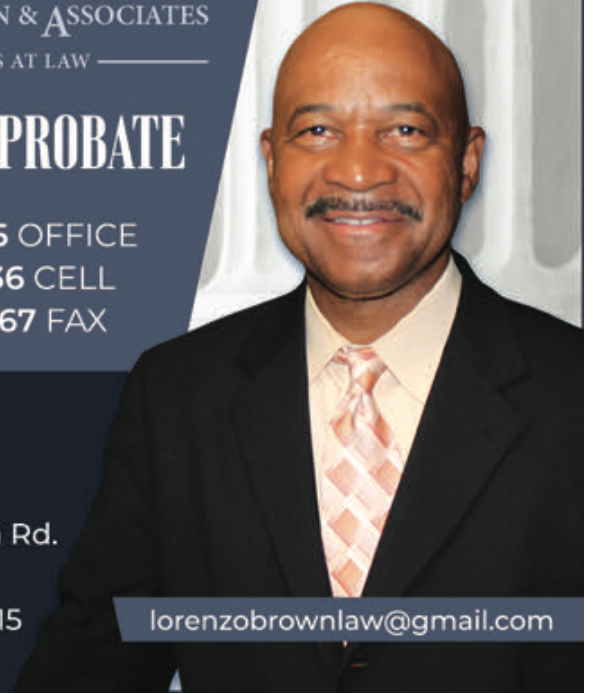
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AN ISLAND GETAWAY

— By Emma McKay

Nestled just off the coast of Michigan in Lake Huron lies Mackinac Island. For centuries prior to European settlement, the indigenous tribes of Odawa, Ojibway and Potawatomi lived on this 3.8-square-mile destination and named it “Great Turtle” in their own languages. These days, the island’s 500 year-round residents welcome tourists from all over to experience their quaint little island.

When traveling to Mackinac Island, visitors step back in time to the Victorian era, thanks to the community’s preservation of its history. Visitors may only traverse the land via bicycle, horse-drawn carriage or by foot, since the island is completely car-free. Exhibits at Fort Mackinac, home to the

oldest building in Michigan, teach visitors about military history. It also functions as the headquarters to Mackinac Island National Park, which covers 80 percent of the island.

Lovers of the arts can visit the Pointe of View Art Gallery and The Richard & Jane Manoogian Art Museum to learn more about the island’s history through its masterpieces. Watercolor Cafe lets visitors exercise their creative sides through art classes or their open studio hour. The McCartney Years, the longest running production of Paul McCartney’s discography in the world, allows music lovers to experience the



on Mackinac Island on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the summer, or watch ticketed new and classic



The outdoorsy travelers appreciate Mackinac Island’s 70 miles worth of hiking trails. Sights to see while hiking include the massive Arch Rock, the historic Skull Cave and the breath-taking coastal views. Nocturnal Excursions caters to the night owls, providing a walking tour lit by the moon’s glow (and



aided with night vision goggles). Fishing, boating and parasailing opportunities let visitors get out on Lake Huron.

No vacation can be complete without eating some fudge, and Mackinac Island's downtown houses plenty of options to choose from. Between the many shops located in downtown, 10,000 pounds of fudge is made each day. Fudge-lovers can even watch the fudge-making process to experience the magic that goes into concocting their favorite treat. Toward the end of the year, vacationers can attend the annual Fall Fudge Festival and indulge in sweet treats while taking in the luscious autumnal scenery.

In June, the island hosts its annual Lilac Festival. This 10-day event began in 1949 to honor the beautiful lilacs blooming all over the island. Festival goers can participate in walking tours, a cornhole tournament, a 10K Fun Run, lilac planting seminars and more! The event culminates in the Grand Parade,        United States.

When booking a place to stay, travelers will notice that every hotel, resort, bed-and-breakfast, inn

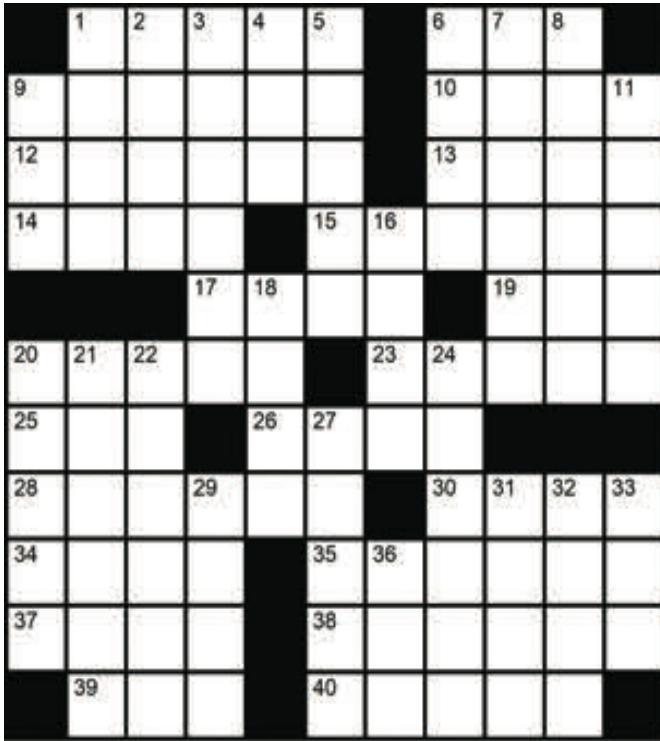
and condo is locally owned and full of character. With over 1,600 available rooms, there's an option for every traveler. The many American-style cafés, pizzerias, upscale steak houses and Irish pubs, among other eateries, will keep even the pickiest of eaters content during their stay.

With so many modern and trendy vacation spots being created or updated every year, it's easy to follow the crowd when planning a vacation. Mackinac Island gives visitors a chance to step out of their lives and experience life in a simpler fashion, allowing them to feel truly relaxed when they step back into their everyday lives. **NOW**

Sources:

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2. mackinacartscouncil.org/movies.
3. mackinacisland.net/movie-theater-mission-point-resort.
4. mackinacisland.org.
5. watercolormackinac.com/art-classes.

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

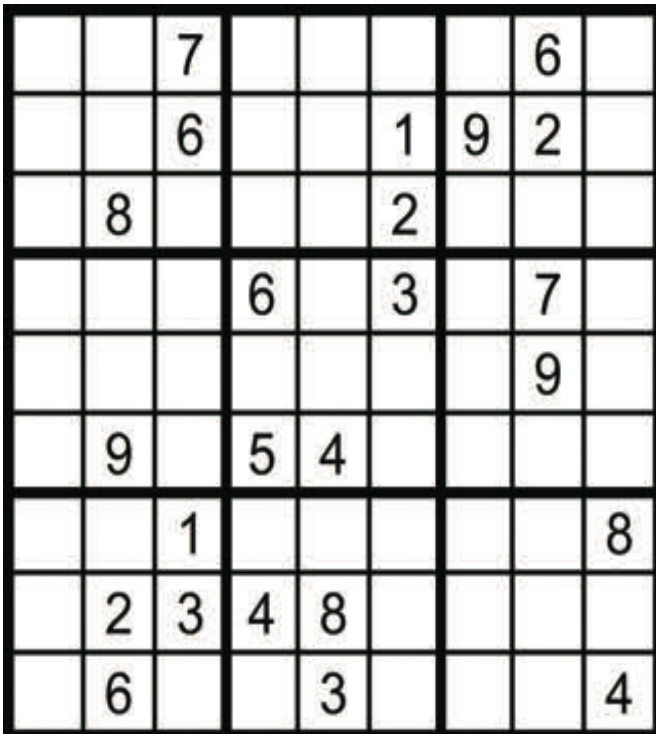
- 1 Mountain inn
- 6 "--- Believer" (Hit penned by Neil Diamond)
- 9 Put the ball in play
- 10 Sand ridge
- 12 Money earned
- 13 "Quantum of Solace" actress --- Kurylenko
- 14 Laugh loudly
- 15 Bird seed ingredient
- 17 Remote necessities, very often
- 19 Malt beverage
- 20 Clinton family cat, formerly
- 23 --- Hawke of "Dead Poets Society"

- 25 Auditor, briefly
- 26 Pair in a dead man's hand
- 28 Rinses off sticky substances
- 30 Drove
- 34 Dark or martial, maybe
- 35 Like Ark animals
- 37 One making a living jumping out of serviceable airplanes
- 38 Floating aimlessly
- 39 Salty sauce
- 40 Short letters

Down

- 1 Comic, TV host and garageman
- 2 Aquatic killer
- 3 New World Symphony composer
- 4 Absolute beauty
- 5 Puffy swelling
- 6 A worshiped effigy
- 7 Head of a mosque
- 8 "Murder, She Wrote" actress --- Lansbury
- 9 Knightly salutation
- 11 Consumed
- 16 "--- dead people"
- 18 Strong --- oak
- 20 Fragment
- 21 Musical dramas
- 22 Actors reassessed former leader
- 24 Concert souvenir, maybe
- 27 It covers Congress
- 29 "By Jove!"
- 31 They lost to the Iroquois
- 32 Sporting "Zebras"
- 33 Banned bug killer
- 36 Commotion

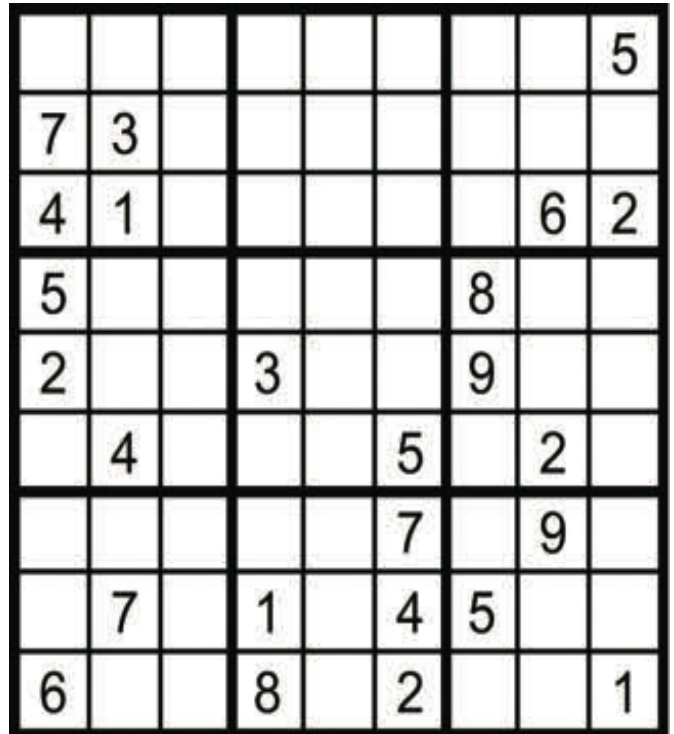
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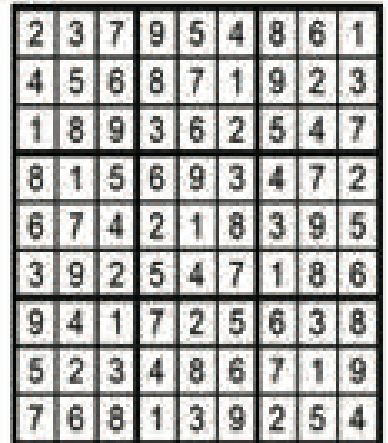
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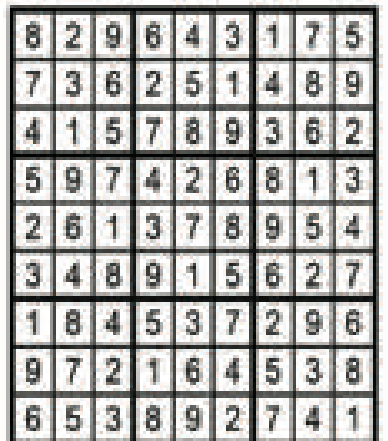
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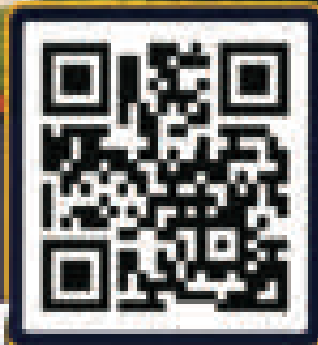
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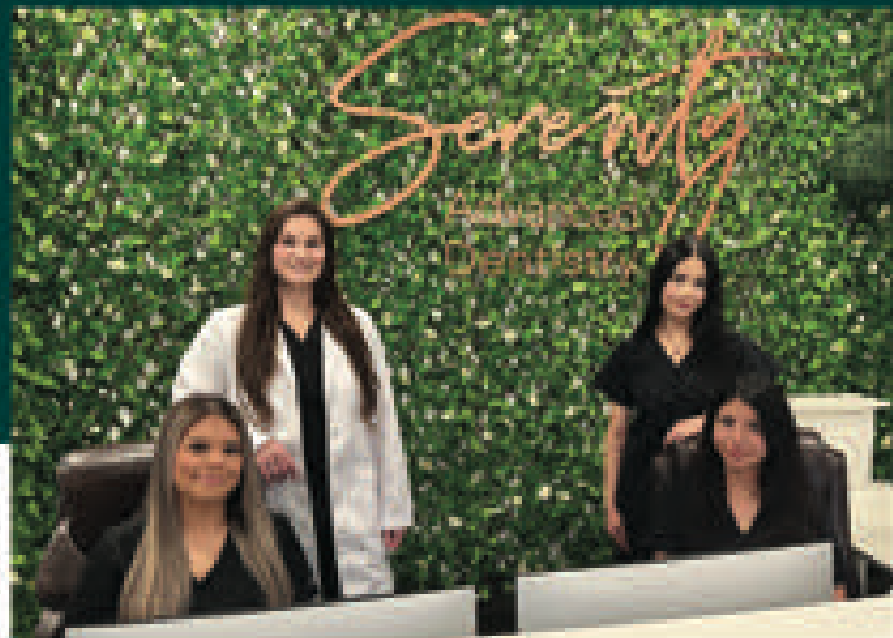
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Serenity Advanced Dentistry

After shadowing different careers in college, Dr. Cristina Allala discovered her calling in dentistry. Ten years later, she brings specialized expertise and a spa-like atmosphere to Cedar Hill through Serenity Advanced Dentistry, a solo, minority, woman-owned private practice.

Dr. Allala graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in 2016 and completed her Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 2012. Since opening her practice, she has built a loyal following of patients who have followed her from her previous office, drawn by her gentle approach and commitment to patient care.

What sets her practice apart is her advanced certification in Level 2 moderate sedation — a qualification most dentists do not have. This certification requires at least 60 hours of specialized instruction and successfully administering sedation to at least 20 patients under supervision. For patients who experience dental anxiety, this option can transform their experience, making procedures like extractions comfortable and stress-free.

"Another thing that sets our practice apart is our skill with dental surgeries," Dr. Allala said. "Here are some of my favorite quotes from patients:

"Regarding implants: 'My implant surgery went smoothly. They explained everything, kept me relaxed, and I had very little discomfort afterward.'"

"Regarding tooth extractions: 'I had oral surgery done and was extremely nervous, but the doctor and team made me feel comfortable the entire time. The procedure was painless, and recovery was easy.'"

"Regarding tooth fixed dentures: 'My experience with fixed dentures was great. Dr. Allala planned everything digitally, the surgery went smoothly, and I had no complications. I can eat comfortably now, and they feel like my own natural teeth.'"

Serenity Advanced Dentistry offers most dental procedures under one roof, including sedation dentistry, dental crowns, dentures, emergency treatment, oral surgery, dental implants, root canals, teeth whitening, extractions, clear aligners, gum grafts and periodontal therapy. The practice emphasizes privacy and comfort. The office features private treatment rooms that allow honest conversations between doctor and patient without worry of being overheard. The modern facility incorporates the latest dental technology while maintaining a calming, spa-like environment.

"We are not a corporation," Dr. Allala said. Unlike larger corporate dental practices, Serenity Advanced Dentistry remains independent, allowing Dr. Allala to focus on building genuine relationships with patients. All assistants are bilingual, ensuring Spanish-speaking patients feel comfortable and fully understand their treatment options.

Dr. Allala lives in DeSoto, just 10 minutes away from her office, keeping her deeply connected to the community she serves. She gives back by supporting the Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter through monthly contributions, a cause close to her heart as a devoted pet lover. For families seeking personalized dental care in a welcoming, professional environment, Serenity Advanced Dentistry offers an alternative to corporate dental chains.

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