MidlothianNOW

0

July 2021

Breaking Into Film

Israel Marquez makes a name on screen

Midlothian's newest fire facility marks its first anniversary

Station

In the Kitchen With Hannah Dorn

Also inside: Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Aesthetic & Implant Dentistry

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BREAKING INTO FILM

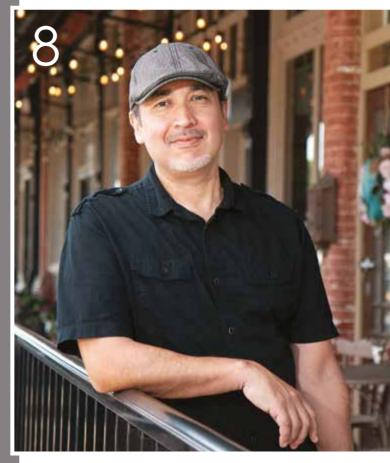
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ON THE COVER

A move to Midlothian helped this filmmaker heal from loss.

Photo by Kobbi R. Blair.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hot as all get-out ...

I've always been more of an indoorsy person, but this becomes particularly true in the month of July. It's that time of year when I start wondering how I've lived in Texas all my life but somehow manage to still be surprised by the heat. The older I get, the more I dream of retiring somewhere I won't break a sweat walking to the mailbox — even though the mailbox hangs just outside my front door.

It got me to thinking, however, about the reputation we have for stubbornly supporting Texas, and some of the reasons we consider our state special. Never mind the undeniable hospitality, live music distinction, world-renowned barbecue and Tex-Mex. I'm not talking about the fact that things really are bigger here, with the state being the second largest in the country in both square miles and population. And I won't even mention a little acronym called NASA.

Texas is proud to be synonymous with cowboys, horses and rodeos, even though a great many of us have nothing to do with any of those things. We're the only state with its own power grid, which most of us learned the hard way during the weirdest cold front of our lives this year. Texas is also responsible for the trifecta of brand deliciousness with Dr Pepper, Whataburger and Bluebell!

I love our spring bluebonnets, our State Fair and, of course, the Longhorns but, are any of these things worth the sweltering temps year, after year, after year? Native Texans stay because our families, and our roots, are here. And, despite the heat, there's no place most of us would rather be.

So, there's no gettin' out for me!



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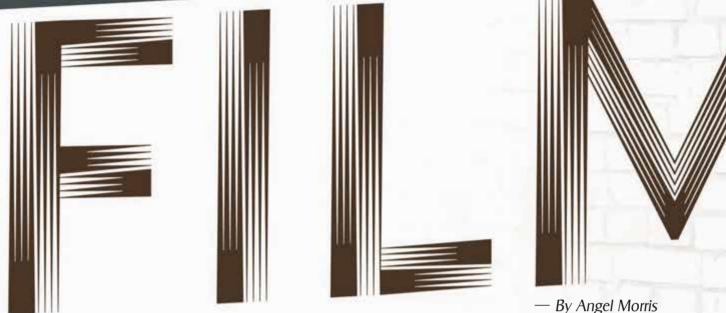


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BREAKING INTO



Israel Marquez is no stranger to the entertainment industry, after becoming one of the pioneers of the break-dancing craze in the 1980s. "I was on many shows and performed all over the U.S. including the Fresh Fest," Israel recalled.

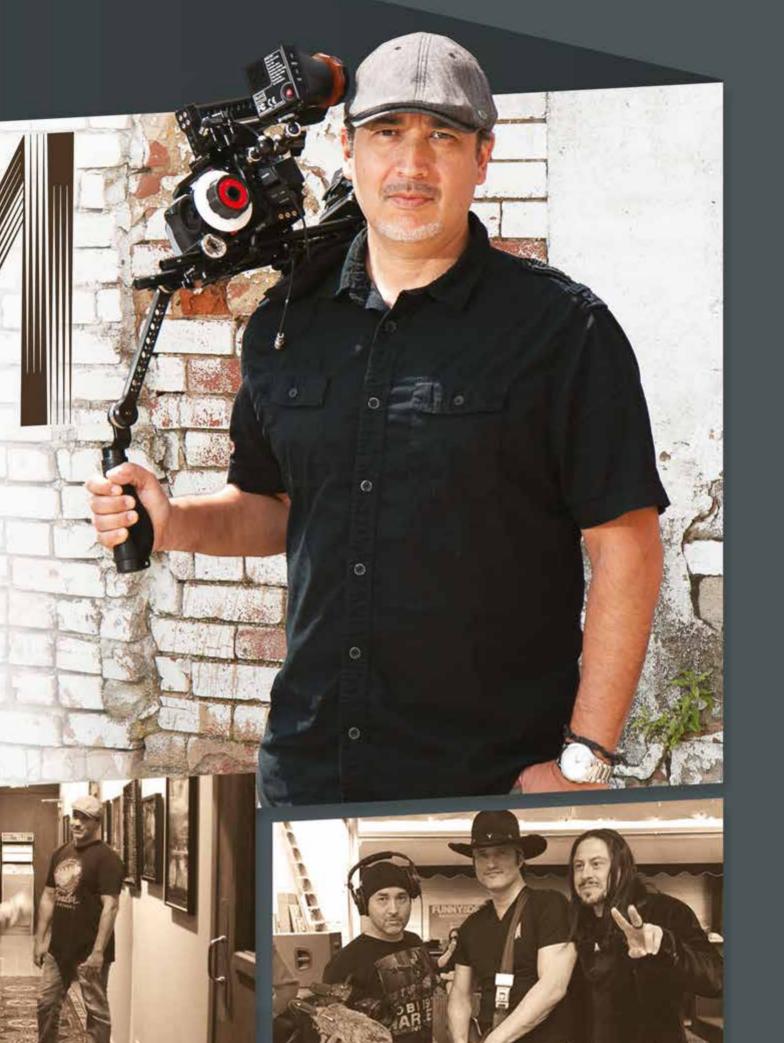
Little did 8-year-old Israel know, however, that those early roots in hip-hop would ultimately lead to his current career. "I was always interested in filmmaking. But at the time, the technology was not available to me. So, I went on to become a BMX Freestyle trick performer and got into boxing as well," he outlined. "As I got older, the love of the arts still burned deep down."

Israel taught himself to play guitar and was in several bands in high school. "The music that I taught myself would come into play a little later," Israel hinted. "After graduating high school, I worked many different jobs, never happy with working a nine-to-five. Later, I got into the aviation industry and made a good career out of that. But, again, the arts were calling me."

By this time in Israel's life, technology had evolved. "It finally allowed people like me to express myself through video and film, and in 2010, I decided to quit my job as an aviation tech and pursue my dream," he explained.

Two months after quitting his job, Israel shot his first short film, *Haley's Angel*. "It was a silent film, and there was no script. We literally drove around town, and when we







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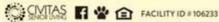
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came upon a location I liked, we got out and shot our scene and moved on. Real 'run and gun' style," Israel reflected.

Entering his film in the Fall Indie Fest in Grand Prairie, Israel won his first award. "It was then that I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he admitted.

Israel has since written more than 300 short film scripts and eight feature scripts. "I have made 10 films including a feature documentary that I shot on two iPhones called *Paz Amor y, Musica* featuring special guests Director Robert Rodriguez (*Alita Battle Angel*), Willie Nelson, Los Lonely Boys and others," Israel listed.

Israel calls this work his most successful to date. "The fact that I shot this on iPhones was a huge challenge in itself. But to schedule the celebrities who were in the documentary was really challenging. The film took three years to complete, but it was worth it. The people I met and the lessons I have learned are priceless," Israel recounted.

Now Israel is shooting a TV pilot called *El Camino Rojo (The Red Road).* "It's a crime thriller about a kidnapped girl and a drug cartel hitman who tries to save her from his boss," Israel described. "I came up with this series about six years ago and did some test shots in Austin. I knew I would eventually get the opportunity to present it to some big people."

Besides Austin, some filming will take place in Waxahachie and Midlothian, the city Israel has called home since early last year. "I was living in Arlington and had been taking care of my mother for the past 20 years, but she passed away on Valentine's Day 2020," Israel remembered. "I was having a hard time dealing with it, so a friend of mine suggested I move to Midlothian where she lived, so I could be closer to her."

The change of scenery helped Israel,

who appreciated some of the city's architectural structures and wide-open fields as well as the quiet atmosphere. Here he joined Midlothian native Christina Roz, who will star in his short film, Molly's Concerto. That will be followed by his full feature film. Feels Like Rain.

Israel describes his work as an expression of his own life. "I put a piece of my life into all of my films. I mostly shoot deep drama narratives but would like to venture out into other genres," he said.

Pushing himself to try new things is a tribute to his mother, Israel noted. "My art has greatly evolved through time. I believe it's important that it does. My mom used to tell me that it's important to adjust with the environment and the times, because if you don't, you will get left behind," he recalled.

With modern-day technology at his fingertips, Israel said it is easier than ever to pursue his filmmaking passion. "Technology has given me a chance to evolve artistically and technically. I write, direct, shoot, edit and score my films, so it's important to be constantly learning," he explained.

The industry is not without obstacles, of course. "In this business it's very important to surround yourself with people who have the same goals as you. People you can love, and they love you back. People you can call family," Israel reiterated. "Without that, it's almost impossible. I have been at it since 2010. and I am just now finding the right people. It's really a life lesson. A long hard journey."

With these lessons in mind, Israel's next dream is bringing a film festival to his new hometown. "I believe this is the right location. I love the small-town feel. It's very personal, and I think that's an artistic trait," he described. "I have traveled to film festivals all over the U.S., and I believe Midlothian would benefit from it artistically and financially. Film festivals bring a huge crowd and lots of revenue for local businesses."

Like the child break-dancer who helped introduce a new trend to the country, Israel continues to innovate through award-winning film. "We have some amazing things happening," he said, "and I am very excited about all of them." NOW









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– By Angel Morris

With its first year almost in the books, the new Midlothian Fire Station No. I has brought improved services to the heart of the city. Sitting at the corner of West Main Street and Hwy. 287, the station opened in August 2020 to replace the previous facility that was built in the 1960s.

"One of the biggest assets heralded in by Fire Station No. I is a state-of-the-art digital alerting system, which we are proud to say has now been installed in all three fire stations," Fire Chief Dale McCaskill reported. "The new station also affords our firefighters adequate accommodations in which to relax and recharge while on shift, so they can be ready and alert when responding to a call."

In 2017, Midlothian voters approved a bond funding the \$8,100,000, 17,947-square-foot facility. Brinkley Sargent

Wiginton Architects designed the station with living and sleeping quarters for nine firefighters, two officers and one battalion chief per shift, plus private shower rooms. Alongside four bays, there is a workroom, decontamination room, training room, fitness room, a compressor room and storage space that doubles as a storm shelter.

To accommodate the city's growth, Fire Station No. I not only protects the central part of Midlothian but also the growing west side of town, while the northeast and southwest areas are protected by Stations No. 2 and 3. "New Fire Station No. I provides improved access to our main highways 287 and 67, so we can more quickly respond to incidents. Its location also has enabled us to redefine the response area for our other two stations, again helping to reduce response time," Chief McCaskill said.

With Midlothian's population growing from under 30,000 when the fire station bond was first approved to an estimated 50,000-plus in the next decade, the chief said Station No. I's protection and prevention services were essential. "The ongoing residential and business development on the west



side of Midlothian was one of the primary drivers for the location of new Fire Station No. I," Chief McCaskill explained. "Additionally, the station was designed to allow room to grow as the population of the 115-square-mile response area continues to increase."

Despite the pandemic, a socially distanced grand opening celebration for Station No. I took place, with an official fire hose uncoupling and a traditional push-in ceremony. Visitors were greeted by the 1918 Model T fire engine used in local parades that now sits in the new station's lobby. "It was also very meaningful to us that we were able to transfer the plaque from the old station and plant a tree at the new station that honors the memory of Captain Lyle L. Gordon, a Midlothian High School graduate, who died in 2004 while serving our country in the U.S. Marine Corps," Chief McCaskill recalled.

Opened prior to the height of the pandemic in this area, the new facility provided space to help firefighters stay socially distanced. "Also, the highly efficient and modern facility is easy to keep clean. An up-to-date HVAC system lends itself to providing ample ventilation and airflow," Chief McCaskill outlined. "Our firefighters were among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and stand ready to serve the community."

The new station remained operational throughout the

pandemic and was also completely functional during Texas' arctic blast and subsequent power outages that gripped the state in February. "As essential first responders, our firefighters took very seriously precautions to keep our citizens and each other safe, with no reduction in service to the community," Chief McCaskill described.

With six employees in fire administration, the Midlothian Fire Department also employs 60 firefighters working three platoons. "We want to emphasize that all of our firefighters are also certified paramedics. We were recognized by the American Heart Association in 2020 as a Mission Lifeline Gold Plus EMS provider and work closely with our local hospitals to ensure that we provide the care needed in the field for heart attack victims and get them to the appropriate hospital as quickly as possible," Chief McCaskill noted.

As for Fire Stations No. 2, built in 2006, and No. 3, built in 2008, new paint and flooring are the only needed maintenance for now. "Of course, we are keeping an eye on growth on the south and east side of Midlothian to plan for future needs in that area," Chief McCaskill promised.

In the meantime, the chief reminds residents never to hesitate calling 911 in emergencies. "We encourage citizens to call us when they need us," he said. "We are here to serve." NOW



Around Town



Phil and Alfie take donations for Stand for the Silent.

Zoomed In:

By Angel Morris

Laura Bradford and Gracy Breslin

Lifelong musicians, Laura Bradford and Gracy Breslin, recently participated in a live album recording at Harvest Hill Church, where they met in 2018 and discovered a mutual love of songwriting. "Senior Pastor Nelson Coffman donated resources, and many HHC people volunteered to make this a success," Gracy explained.

Releasing this summer, the album features songs from two different worship leaders and a band comprised of multiple generations from teens to 60-year-olds. "We wrote the album together during COVID-19 over Zoom calls and believe its message is right from the Lord's heart!" Gracy shared. "We hope to tour this album in the near future and later continue our individual singer/songwriter careers."



Junior kickers practice skills during training camp hosted by One Goal soccer ministry.



Wes Dorough receives the first-ever Carl Smith Outstanding Mentor Award through Mentors Care.



Midlothian Chamber of Commerce says hello to some new faces and goodbye to some familiar ones.



An all-female group from Midlothian Running Club wins first place in the 2021 Hachie 50 Mile Relay.



Higginbotham Brothers-ACE Hardware Store Manager Aaron Cox presents MHHS senior, Gabe Bell, with the 2021 Scholarship of Excellence.



Lifelong friends, Mikah Melton and Noah May, celebrate graduation from Heritage High School.











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BusinessNOW

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By Angel Morris

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Aesthetic & Implant Dentistry specializes in state-of-the-art dental care with a soothing touch. Building on the reputation of Dr. Davis Morgan, Dr. Noe Jaramillo, and his wife, Dulce, assumed ownership of the practice this February. "Having worked with Dr. Morgan, I knew the systems and technology of the practice and was familiar with the quality of the location. That's what inspired us to take over the practice," Dr. Jaramillo explained.

With Dr. Morgan focusing on smile makeovers and complex surgical cases as he transitions into practicing fewer days, the Jaramillos excitedly continue the tradition that began more than 25 years ago. "We're devoted to enhancing and restoring the natural beauty of your smile using conservative procedures that achieve beautiful, long-lasting results," Dr. Jaramillo promised.

Dr. Jaramillo believes patients are most comfortable when they know they can count on gentle, personalized care. "Our team is handpicked for their skill, knowledge, professionalism and caring attitude. Most have been with the practice for many years, and my wife is a dental hygienist as well," he noted.

Staying at the forefront of technology also helps the staff serve patients. Dr. Jaramillo says this allows his office staff to be the best implant specialists around, ensuring the proper diagnoses and most appropriate treatments dentistry has to offer.

Drs. Morgan and Jaramillo participate in more than 50 hours of continuing education most every year, although the Texas

State Board of Dental Examiners only requires 12, and they have completed courses at some of the most respected dental education centers in the nation. "This is just one more part of our continued dedication to patients," Dr. laramillo noted.

While the doctors practice all aspects of dentistry, they share a particular interest in aesthetic restorative dentistry and implantology. "Our work is about improving one's oral health, as well as the general appearance. These work handin-hand to benefit our patients' overall well-being," Dr. Jaramillo explained.

Dr. Jaramillo's aesthetic experience began as a dental assistant to a cosmetic dentist and then as a surgical dental assistant. He has participated in TDA Texas Mission of Mercy events. Dr. Jaramillo shares that his fluency in Spanish is just another way to put more patients of Aesthetic & Implant Dentistry at ease.

Dr. Jaramillo and his wife, Dulce, have been married for 10 years. They have three children, Adrian, Lionel and Carina. The family is moving to Midlothian this summer so that the children can begin school in MISD this fall. "We love the small-town vibe and its proximity to the Metroplex!" Dr. Jaramillo said.

His family ties help Dr. Jaramillo appreciate putting patients of all ages at ease. "We believe in sharing information with the patient and having them help formulate the treatment plan. An informed patient is a happy patient!" he stated.

New and returning patients are encouraged to learn more at the Aesthetic & Implant Dentistry website, where dental conditions, available treatments and appointment options are outlined in greater detail. Dr. Jaramillo will be adding sleep apnea therapy in the near future, too.

"We offer dental services, including preventive dental care, implant placement and restoration, smile transforming cosmetic dentistry and even same-day emergency care for our patients of record," Dr. Jaramillo outlined. "Browse our website and call us with any questions. We want all customers — new and old — to know we are dedicated to providing the most comprehensive, caring dental service to every person who walks through our doors." NOW













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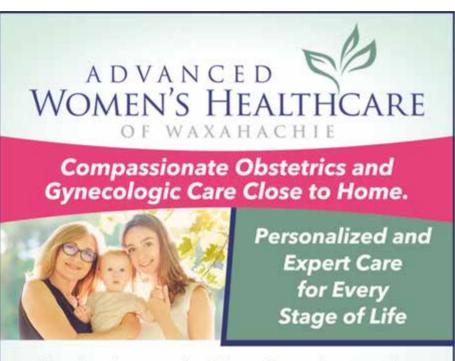
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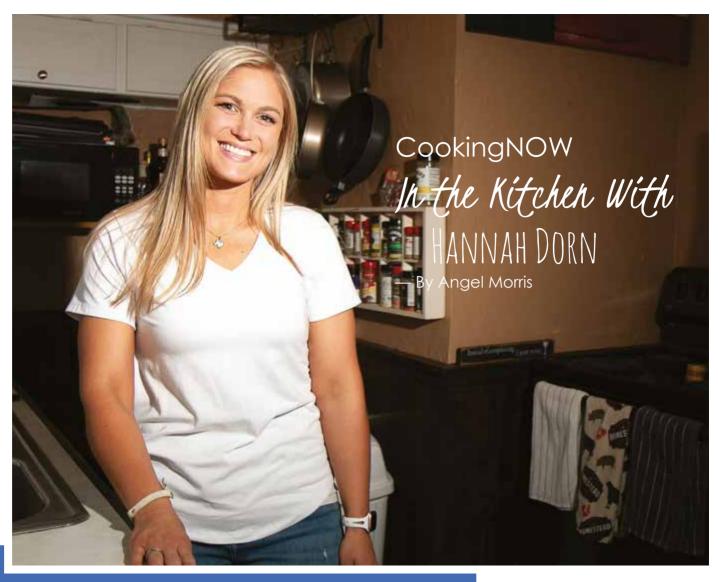
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Thanks to a mom who was creative in the kitchen, Hannah Dorn enjoys hosting meals today. "I love bringing everyone together for fun and laughter while sharing a meal," she said. "And I enjoy spending as much time as possible with my family, since we're not all located in Texas!"

Hannah found a love for beef jerky after starting a career in the meat industry. "I learned I could do it myself and utilize local beef to make it even more unique! I found that friends really enjoyed my jerky, which is how I started Heart of Texas Beef Jerky!" she explained.

Using techniques she's learned while baking and cooking, Hannah makes old favorites healthier. This is important to her, as she also exercises regularly to stay fit. NOW

Flank Steak With Horseradish Sauce

A grilling season favorite. Makes 4 servings.

Steak:

- 1-2 beef flank steaks
- 3 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

2 garlic cloves

1/8 tsp. hot pepper sauce

Sauce:

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup sour cream

1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard

2 green onions, finely chopped

2 tsp. horseradish

- **1.** For steak: Using a sharp knife, score the surface of the steak with shallow diagonal cuts at 1-inch intervals, making diamond shapes. Repeat on the other side.
- **2.** In a large, resealable plastic bag, combine the lemon juice, Dijon mustard, Worcestershire sauce, garlic and pepper sauce; add the steak. Seal the bag; turn to coat. Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.
- **3.** The next day, drain and discard the marinade. Grill the steak, covered, over medium-high heat for 7-9 minutes per side, or until the meat reaches desired doneness.
- **4.** Thinly slice the steak across the grain.
- **5.** For sauce: Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl; cover and refrigerate. Serve with the prepared steaks.

Cucumber Dip

Summer picnic delight!

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 tsp. garlic salt

- 1/2 cup Hellman's mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped
- **I.** Mix together the cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce, garlic salt, mayonnaise and onion.
- **2.** Fold in the cucumber after all the ingredients are blended. Refrigerate before serving.

Texas Caviar

This recipe will keep for several days.

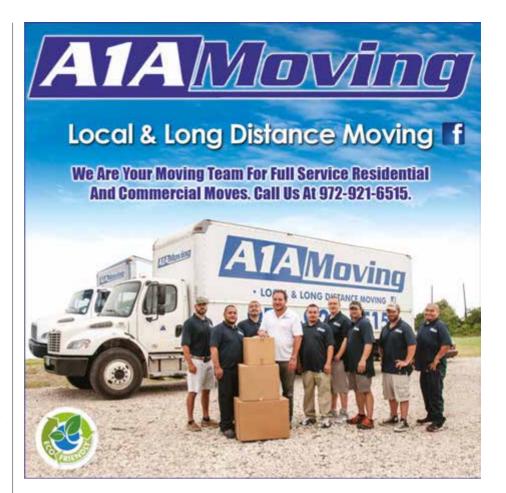
- 1 15-oz. can yellow hominy, drained
- 1 15-oz. can black beans, drained
- 1 15-oz. can black-eyed peas, drained
- 3 green onions, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup onion, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/3 cup parsley, chopped
- I large tomato, chopped
- I medium green pepper, diced
- I small mild jalapeño pepper
- 1/2 cup zesty Italian dressing
- **1.** Mix together the first 10 ingredients. Pour the dressing over the mixture. Chill and serve.

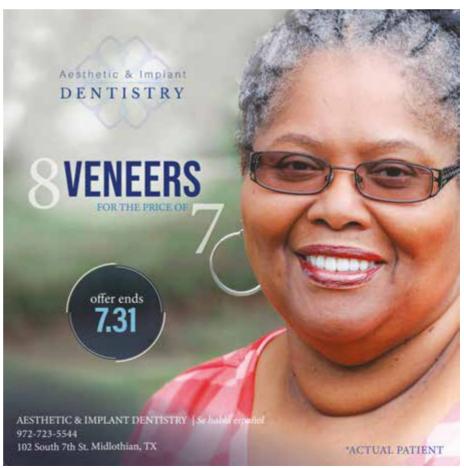
White Barbecue Sauce

- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 6 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 4-6 Tbsp. vinegar
- 4 Tbsp. sugar
- **I.** Blend all the ingredients together to use on a bone-in chicken as you cook it over a high flame.

Chicken Enchiladas

- 2-3 chicken breast halves, cooked and shredded
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 4-6 oz. cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup onion, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 10 large flour tortillas
- Salsa, to taste
- Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, shredded, to taste
- **I.** Mix the chicken, sour cream, cottage cheese, onion, chili powder and cumin.
- **2.** Spoon some of the mixture into each tortilla; roll the tortillas up. Place the rolled tortillas in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover with salsa, and then the cheese.
- **3.** Bake, covered, at 350 F for 20 minutes; bake, uncovered, for 10 more minutes.





7-Layer Salad

Very colorful for July 4th celebrations!

- I large head of lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
- I dozen boiled eggs, chopped and diced
- I lb. bacon, fried and crumbled
- 2 bunches green onions
- I small bag frozen baby peas
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 cups Miracle Whip



1 tsp. sugar 1/4 cup milk

I. Place the lettuce in the bottom of a large bowl. Cover the lettuce with the eggs, bacon, onions, peas and cheese. Cover; refrigerate for 12 hours or overnight.

2. In a separate bowl, mix the Miracle Whip, sugar and milk to create a dressing to serve with the salad.

Beer-garitas

I can frozen limeadeI Corona beer3/4 cup tequilaI/4 cup orange juiceI lime, sliced

I. Blend the limeade, beer, tequila and orange juice in a blender with ice until the ice is fully blended. Serve with a lime.

Amy's Blue Ribbon Apple Crumble Pie

Independence Day dessert.

Pies

4-6 large tart apples, pared and sliced I unbaked pie shell

1/2 cup sugar 1 tsp. cinnamon

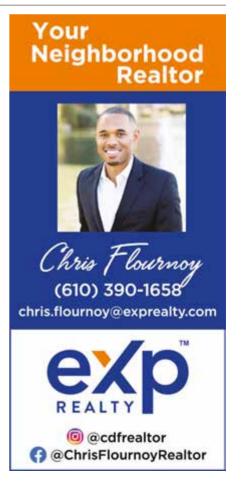
Topping:

1/2 cup sugar 3/4 cup flour 1/3 cup butter

- **1.** For pie: Arrange the apples in pastry-lined pie plate, mounding 1 inch above the rim.
- **2.** Combine the sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the mixture over the top of the apples.
- **3.** For topping: Combine the sugar and flour. Cut the butter into the sugar and flour mixture until crumbly. Spread over the apples.
- **4.** Bake in the oven at 400 F for 40-45 minutes. Serve and enjoy!







THE LOCAL TABLE

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

- Virginia Woolf







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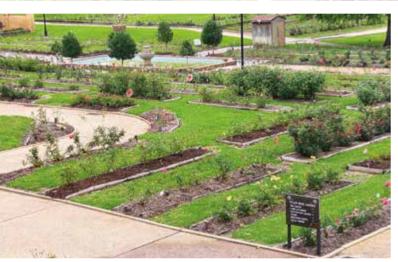














TravelNOW

Nearby Adventure

— By Susan Simmons

It's that time of year when we are all getting a little antsy for a vacation. Tyler, Texas, and its surrounding area is an ideal choice for a weekend trip, or longer, where families or couples can create delightful memories without a long car ride or plane trip. Tyler is only a couple-hour drive from the Metroplex and offers a plethora of fun and interesting things to see and do in an area filled with history, art, music, food, recreational opportunities and botanical wonders.

Camp Ford is located just 3 miles outside Tyler and easily captures the imagination of Civil War buffs and children alike. It was the largest Confederate POW camp west of the Mississippi. There is a short walking path with signs explaining about the camp and a cabin reconstruction that depicts life in the camp, which held captive more than 5,000 American Union soldiers.

The park is open every day from dawn to dusk, and admission is free. If you enjoy picnicking, there is also a lovely, little shady picnic area in the park.

For those interested in learning about endangered wildlife, one of the best big cat sanctuaries in the U.S. is located just outside Tyler's city limits. The 150-acre preserve, Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge, has been caring for and rehabilitating neglected and abandoned tigers for more than 25 years. Recently, the refuge expanded its reach to include other wild cats such as lions, cougars and servals, as well as large birds and other formerly homeless wild animals. Guided tours are given daily for those who want to learn more about saving these magnificent creatures.

No trip to Tyler would be complete without taking time to

see the iconic Tyler Rose Gardens. At 14 acres, it is the largest rose garden in the United States. Walk along the paths, and enjoy row after row of beautiful roses, labeled to help visitors find a favorite variety to grow themselves. Spend time at the reflecting pools and peaceful water fountains, and learn about native plants and perennials in the beautifully landscaped, cottage-style Idea Garden.



For those adventurous souls, about 10 miles outside of Tyler is the opportunity to zipline! The company, New York, Texas ZipLine Adventures, has been in business for 10 years and offers zipline escapades for everyone over the age of 5. They offer a 1 1/2-hour or a 2-hour course, all set in the peaceful, scenic landscape of East Texas. Find out everything about them at goziptexas. com, or check them out on Facebook.

The choices for staying overnight in the Tyler area are endless. They have multitudes of hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, cottages, cabins and RV parks. The Tyler State Park is a true gem. It offers not only 83 campsites, but also five cabins and 28 screened shelters for rent. The park has something to do for every kind of nature lover. Bird blinds, mountainbike trails, fishing piers, hiking trails, watercraft rentals and wildlife viewing are just some treasures found in this awesome state park.

It is easy to see that finding something amazing to do is not difficult in the Tyler area. It's the perfect choice for those who want to get away but don't want to spend a lot of time driving. Have fun!

Photos by Susan Simmons. NOW







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Dr. Richard R. Knight, M.D.

Michaela L., Arlington, TX

In 2019 while I was pregnant with my son Remington, postpartum depression hit me hard while also trying to come to terms that I was going to be a single mom. After having my son, my PPD was just getting worse. While he was in the NICU, I found myself eating so many things that weren't healthy. Trying to juggle a newborn while also taking care of myself was impossible. I developed the worst eating habits. I was beyond over trying to hide the 30 pounds I gained while pregnant. Feeling beyond miserable trying to love my "new body", I tried so many diet plans, but nothing ever seemed to work. I found myself getting frustrated. I didn't want to hate the way I looked anymore, judge, or even point out everything I disliked about my body.

Finding Diet Solutions Center in 2021 was the best thing! Their affordable plans, how encouraging their staff is! They helped me shed the 30 pounds in just a few months! It's an amazing feeling going from who I was two years ago to loving who I am now! I can't thank Diet Solution Centers enough for helping me love who I am again!

Michaela L. lost

26.5 lbs. in

10 weeks."



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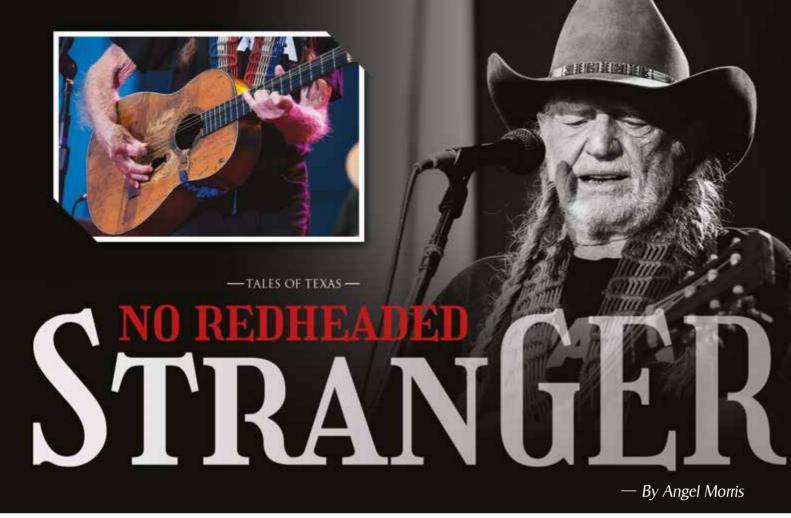
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If you live in Texas but not under a rock, you no doubt have heard the name Willie Nelson, if not also his numerous chart-topping country hits. One of the most recognized crooners in country music, Willie marked his 88th birthday this year.

Born April 29, 1933, in Abbott, Texas, Willie Hugh Nelson grew up not only to be a musician, but also an actor and activist. He received his first guitar at age 6 and sold his first song for \$50.

As a teen, Willie performed with Bud Fletcher and the Texans in area honky-tonks. He played the local circuit until graduation in 1950, when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Chronic back problems led to an honorable discharge within a year, and Willie enrolled in Baylor University's farming program.

Working as a disc jockey, Willie's heart was still in music. He ultimately abandoned his studies, leaving Waco for Nashville. He first gained recognition in his 30s, writing notable songs such as "Crazy" for Patsy Cline and "Night Life" for Ray Price. By the 1970s, a series of original releases saw little commercial success but resulted in a loyal fan base. He partnered with country star Waylon Jennings, and the duo developed a genre best known as "outlaw country," mimicking Willie's own lifestyle.

1970 was also the year Willie's Tennessee home burned down, but that loss was Texas' gain. He moved back to Texas and became a staple of Austin's burgeoning music scene.

Willie's first two albums following his Texas return did not chart well, and his bandana-wearing, braided-hair persona belied his professional skill as a performer. 1975 would change that, when Willie's ironically titled album, *Redheaded Stranger*, made him a stranger to no one.

Songs like "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" crossed over from country to pop charts, and it was said that Willie appealed to vast audiences by blending not just country and pop, but also blues, folk, jazz, swing and more. "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" would be his first No. 1 hit, earning a GRAMMY Award for best country vocal performance.

In 1978, Willie would take home the GRAMMY for best country vocal performance by a duo with Waylon Jennings on "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys," and his cover of "Georgia On My Mind" earned him a second "best country vocal" GRAMMY.

To further show his diversity, Willie took to the big screen in 1979's *The Electric Horseman*, earning an Academy Award nomination for best original song with "On the Road Again." From 1980 to 2018, he held some 48 additional roles in TV and film, including the screen adaptation of *Redheaded Stranger* in which he played the Reverend Julian Shay.

In 1982, another best country vocal performance GRAMMY was his with "Always on My Mind." Then "To All

the Girls I've Loved Before" — Willie's duet with Julio Iglesias — resulted in international acclaim. In 1985, Willie again partnered with Waylon Jennings, along with Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson, to form the country group, the Highwaymen, which went on to some commercial success.

In 1985, Willie partnered with performers Neil Young and John Cougar Mellencamp for the first Farm Aid concert, raising nearly \$10 million to help family farmers keep their land. The program continues to assist farmers and led to Willie's induction into the National Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Willie is known for his animal activism and being a proponent of green fuel. He has also long touted the benefits of cannabis, and his company, Willie's Reserve, has grown and sold marijuana products in states where it is legal since 2015.

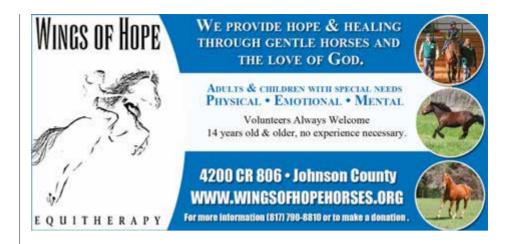
Because of his well-recognized, laid-back persona, Willie has often been called on for cameos such as that in 1999's Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me and larger roles like Uncle Jesse in 2005's The Dukes of Hazzard. He also voiced himself in cameo appearances on popular animated shows such as The Simpsons and King of the Hill.

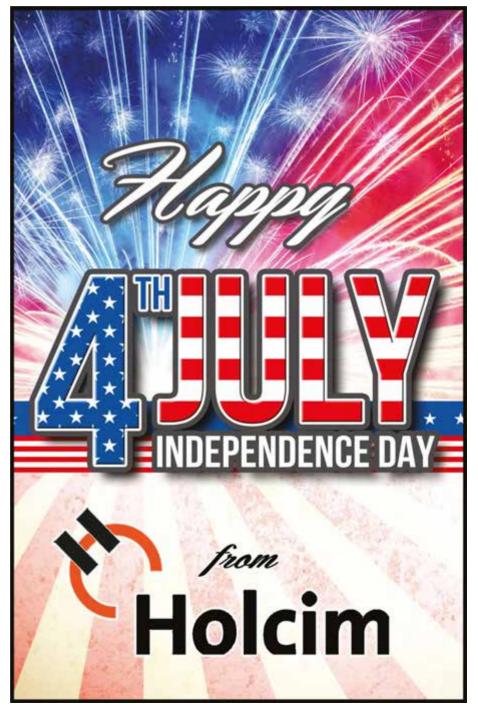
Living the lyrics of his songs, Willie developed a reputation as a bit of an outlaw and landed himself in trouble a few times in his life. But loyal fans of the beloved Texan helped him through those times.

Willie continues to tour and perform to a variety of acclaim, including a 2008 GRAMMY for the single "Lost Highway," performed with Ray Price, the singer for whom Willie had penned one of his earliest successful songs. He has collaborated with the likes of Cyndi Lauper, Sheryl Crow and Snoop Dogg in more recent years, and his career totals 94 studio albums including solos, collaborations, compilations and soundtracks.

Sources:

- 1. Allmusic.com
- 2. Biography.com
- 3. IMDb.com
- 4. Time.com





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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		
9		1	t		10	T		T	11	12
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15	1	1		16	\vdash	+		17	$^{+}$	+
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34	1			T	T		35			T
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Across

- 1 Honked
- 5 H's is 1, He's is 2, briefly
- 9 Linden tree
- 10 Aims pintos every which way
- 13 Amplify
- 15 Racket
- 16 Bon --- (witty remark)
- 17 Bovine bellow
- 18 Bald --- egg
- 20 Sonny, Cher's former partner
- 21 Betelguese is one, and Sirius, and Vega, and ...
- 23 Former Yankees' shortstop Jeter
- 24 Prominent personal comment article
- 25 90 degrees from rank
- 26 Basketball whistleblower
- 27 Graduation month for many
- 28 Needed by everyone, and anything in disrepair
- 31 Mundane
- 34 Shake awake
- 35 Guns won't fire without it
- 36 Military refectory
- 37 Obligation

Down

- 1 Ran off the margin
- 2 Julie Andrews film, "Darling ---"
- 3 Come out of
- 4 "Oh, what a tangled --- we weave" (Walter Scott)
- 5 Barbecue garment
- 6 Perfectly
- 7 Little louse
- 8 From the too
- 11 Odds ending, often
- 12 Derisive gesture
- 14 Five star General --- Bradley
- 19 Winter depression
- 20 Sound intensity unit
- 21 It comes from the heart
- 22 Third Reich architect
- 23 Impression
- 25 Overload blows them
- 27 Zooey's "New Girl" role
- 29 Innocent child
- 30 Congeal
- 32 Feel remorse
- 33 Admirably up to date

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Madium

Solutions on page 44

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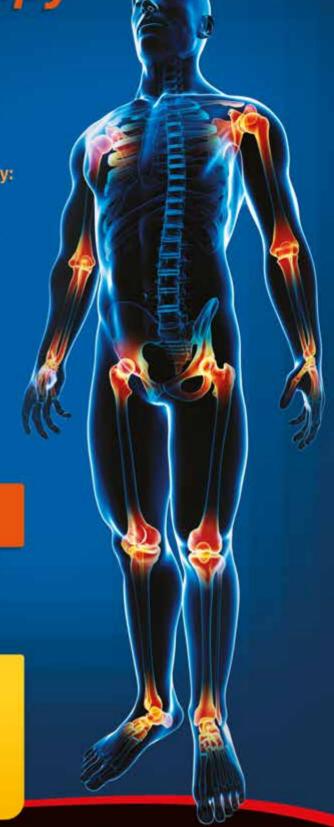
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7/3

Fourth of July Celebration:

Vendor fair, arts and crafts and parade. Activities run from 8:00-10:00 a.m., Heritage Park, 203 N. 8th St. "Celebrating America's Superheroes" parade: 10:00 a.m. at Avenue B and the 8th Street Bridge, following North 8th Street south to Heritage Park, turning west on Avenue F and ending at Overlook Drive.

Independence Day Fireworks:

Free community fireworks display. **Parking lot gates open:** 6:00 p.m.; **show starts:** around 9:15 p.m., MISD Multipurpose

Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. Rainout date is **July 5.** Call (972) 775-7177.

7/10

Midlothian Classic Wheels Car Show:

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 601 S. 14th St.

7/12-7/16

Game On Camp:

Campers ages 5-13 enjoy LEGO learning each day. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Midlothian Bible Church, 4250 FM-663. https://www.bricks4kidz.com/.

7/17

Movies in the Park:

Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the movie, *Sonic* the Hedgehog. In case of rain, movies are rescheduled for the following **Saturday**. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Hawkins Spring Park, 1498 FM 1387. For more information and updates, visit

Midlothian Opry:

www.midlothian.tx.us/movies.

7:00-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St.

7/19-7/23

Day Camp for Kids:

Campers completing grades K-5 through 8 enjoy indoor and outdoor moments, physical activity and creative play. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. daily, FBC Midlothian, 1651 S. Midlothian Pkwy.

7/23

Parktopia:

Celebrate National Parks & Recreation Month with kite flying, scavenger hunting, food and more. Free admission and food while supply lasts. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St.

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





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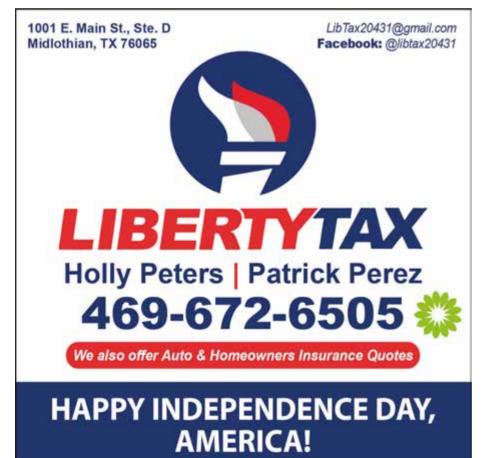
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Crossword Sudoku Solutions

В	2 L	3 E	4W		⁵ A	⁶ Т	7 N	80		
L	1	М	Ε		10 P	0	1	N	"T	12 S
13 E	L	Α	В	140	R	Α	Т	Е	0	N
15 D	1	N		16 M	0	Т		17 M	0	0
		18 A	¹⁹ S	Α	N		²⁰ B	0	N	0
21 A	²² S	Т	Α	R		²³ D	Е	R	Ε	K
240	P	Е	D		²⁵ F	1	L	E		
26 R	Е	F		27 _J	U	N		28 T	29 L	°C
T	Е	R	32 R	Е	s	Т	33 R	1	Α	L
34 A	R	0	U	s	Ε		35 A	М	М	0
		36 M	Е	S	S		37 D	Е	В	Т

Easy

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

Medium

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