

MidlothianNOW

AUGUST 2019

G A Z I N E

Portrait of an Artist

Hanna Kratsman
makes top 100
in competition

Decoding Dyslexia

Genesis Baze
and Lily Miller
find their cause

In the Kitchen
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ON THE COVER

Local student, Hanna Kratsman sets her sights on a career in art.

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Midlothian ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50
per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O.
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dog days ahead!

When I sit down to write this letter to the community each month, I reflect on what a certain month might mean to readers. As a lifelong Texan, the first thing that comes to mind about August is hot weather. (Well, that's true about five months of every year here, but *August* heat is different!)

By August, you, like me, may be wondering why you continue to live in Texas. Summer after summer you consider a long vacation out of state to beat the heat. Daily conversations begin with the question, "Hot enough for ya?" because it's simply too hot to come up with anything more interesting to say.

Even though Texans can endure 100-degree temps well into September, for some reason, August heat is daunting. Perhaps it relates to the origin of the phrase "dog days of summer," which has nothing to do with dogs but with Greek beliefs about the dog star, Sirius. From early July into August, Sirius rose before the sun, indicating the hottest days were ahead.

Fever, catastrophe, even war were associated with "dog days," when the heat seemed to drive people mad. In Texas, temperatures can have similar effects. Drivers become more impatient on the road. Waiting at lines for anything outdoors is unbearable. We break a sweat going from our home to our cars and feel like french fries that have sat too long in the fryer by day's end.

But sharing in hellacious weather gives us a special bond and makes August, perhaps, our best month of all. Even dog days can't keep a Texan down, so go ahead, Sirius ...

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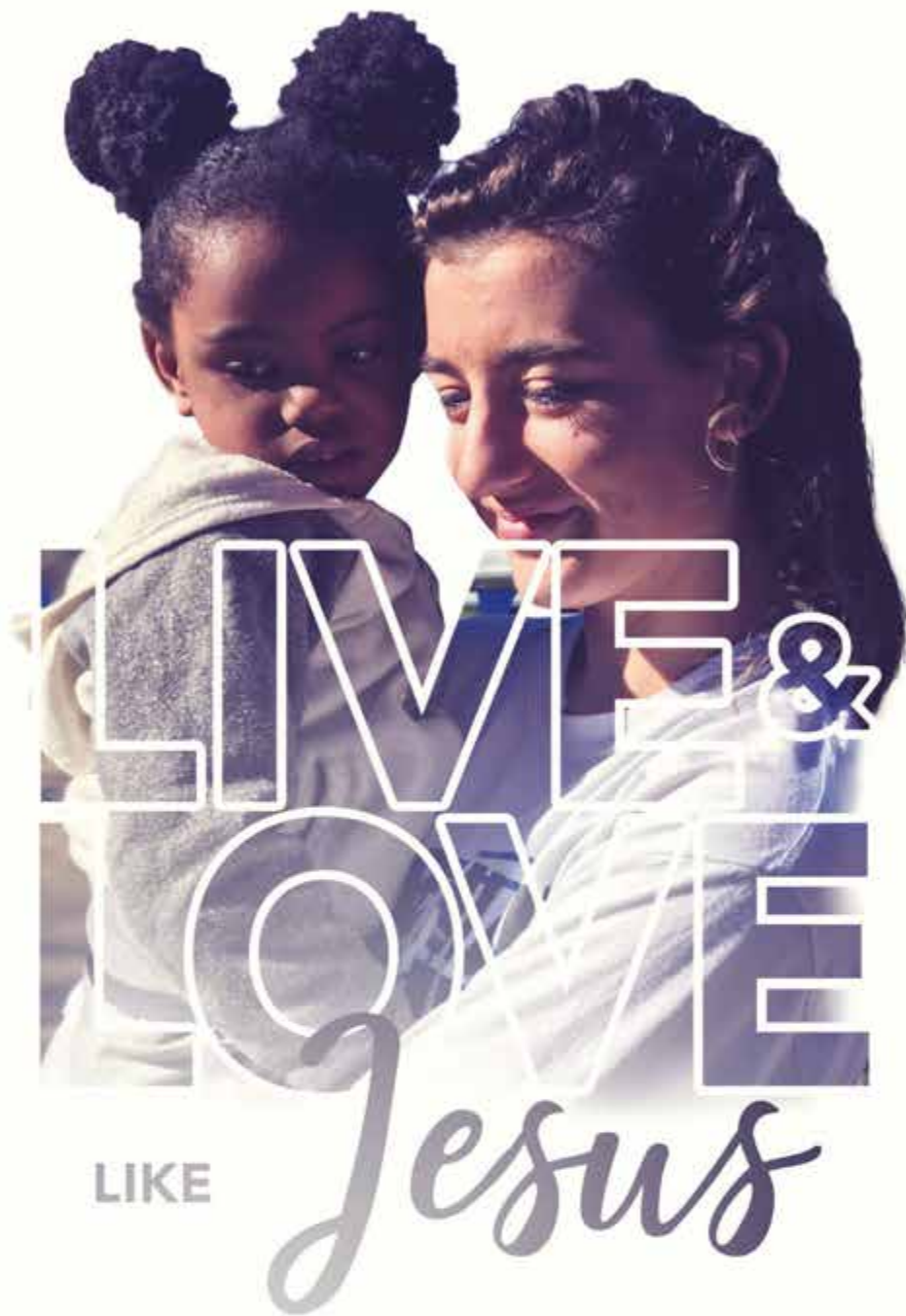
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PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

— By Joy Horn



Not everyone has an artistic eye, and an artistic hand is even rarer, but Heritage High School student, Hanna Kratsman, was born with both. At a young age, she is already proving herself a serious artist who embodies talent, passion and discipline. She recognizes the beauty in everyday life and translates her own perceptions of the world onto the canvas with style.

After placing in the top 100 among 1,000 students during The University of Texas at Dallas art competition this year, her potential in the art world is obvious. "First, I won the Ellis County Art Show, a districtwide competition. I submitted five surreal portraits, one of which was of Mr. Eggleston," Hanna said, referencing her high school art teacher's portrait. That portrait was the piece that ended up making top 100 at UTD. She originally drew the painting just for fun, never realizing how far it would take her.



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Hanna has been drawing since she was a child when she remembers painting with her mother, who is also an artist. Growing up in Puerto Rico, her style has been heavily influenced by the culture of her home, the place she first became serious about art. "My grandmother put me in a Bob Ross tribute class in Puerto Rico when I was 10. We would draw a lot of seascapes and birds," Hanna remembered. "I love seascapes. If I start missing home, then I draw one."

The color and styles of home, in addition to her family, continue to inspire Hanna's work, which takes on a surrealist style. "Last year, I won second place in Midlothian's Got Talent with a surreal portrait of my aunt's friend and fiancé at the time. They ended up using it as their wedding portrait in the venue where they got married," Hanna remembered. "I like to use pictures as a reference point and then stylize them, exaggerate certain features and add a unique background. I always make sure the background has something to do with the people themselves or the feeling I want the piece to convey."

From self-portraits to pictures of Puerto Rico and her favorite teachers, Hanna finds inspiration in the people and places around her. She is most inspired by artists such as Salvador Dalí and Frida Kahlo. "Frida is the art boss lady. She is such an inspiration to me. Even though most of her pieces are about pain, that is not all you see," Hanna expressed. Hanna has a keen sense for the emotional value of art, and she finds pleasure analyzing deeper meanings.



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Hanna has utilized the inspiration from Kahlo's emotionally charged pieces to create her own authentic expressions. "I was always really scared of putting negatives in my paintings, but then I realized I was repressing," Hanna explained. "Moving here created a culture shock for me. I felt alone, so I drew a lot. I was in a children's home, so I would always paint pictures of the kids there. I was the only teenager. That experience really affected my art."

In the spirit of Kahlo, Hanna is currently working on a self-portrait, and she is taking some risks by getting creative with the materials she's including. "Mr. Eggleston said his professor painted on a mirror, and I was inspired by that. Then, I realized how expensive mirrors are, so I decided to incorporate a mirror in a different way," Hanna said. "I want this painting to be a representation of the whole human — the good and the bad."

Mr. Eggleston, aka Mr. Egg, has been an inspiration to Hanna in many ways as a teacher and as a subject in her prize-winning painting. He inspires her to reach her full potential as an artist in his classroom and has encouraged her to pursue her dreams. "Hanna has been a wonderful student. Her work is very personal and reflects different parts of her life experiences," he noted. "Hanna is a true artist who has the determination, craftsmanship and vision to make truly great works of art."

Hanna's plans include attending The University of North Texas to double major in art and art history and to pursue art professionally. "I want to be an art conservator and work in art museums to restore art to the vision the piece was originally meant to display," Hanna said. She also has plans to do commission work and perhaps even open her own gallery. **NOW**

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From left: Mark Fanning, Keith Honea, Bruce Pflueger, Doug Yarbrough, Kale Crader, Nathan Wise, Brent Archibald, Allison Sullivan, Rob Honea, Ashton Poarch, Hayden Gutierrez, Grant Walker, Devin Pflueger, Arrik Gibson, Michael Walker, Colton Moore

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As members of their high school's Family Career and Community Leaders of America organization, Genesis Baze and Lily Miller stepped outside their comfort zones to advocate for other students. FCCLA is a national leadership organization helping students become leaders, encouraging them to address significant personal and societal issues. This organization introduced the two Heritage High School students to their current passion.

DECODING DYSLEXIA

— By Adam Walker

"It started with community service stuff. We've packaged food boxes for Manna House and other things, but now our focus is on this Star Event project," Genesis explained. "We were both in the Ready, Set, Teach class, spending an hour and 10 minutes every day as teachers' assistants. This gave us a good look at some of the things students struggle with."

While assisting in the elementary classroom, Lily noticed some students struggling in ways that looked familiar. Lily has dyslexia and knew what these younger students were going through. "I was diagnosed in first grade and got help at Scottish Rite Hospital. Being able to talk about dyslexia is important. Some students are embarrassed and don't want to ask for help," she noted.

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"When I was a kid, they poured some concrete at our old home, and of course, I had to write my name in it. I kept thinking the y looked strange. When I asked my mom why it looked wrong, she realized I'd written my whole name backward, but all I noticed was the y." Lily's father and sister, both role models for her, also have dyslexia.

That was the origin of the girls' current project, Decoding Dyslexia. "Our main concern is seeing that kids get pulled out for remediation in elementary school," Genesis informed.

"When they get to high school and still haven't been diagnosed, sometimes they drop out because they haven't received any help yet," Lily explained.

For their Star Project, they set three specific goals in a 35-page plan. First, bringing awareness to the community, which has turned them into public speakers.

"We did a JAG Talk. It's like a TED Talk, only here at school. We did this during our lunches. The neat thing is we get to share information, and other students get extra credit for coming to listen," Lily explained.

"We also spoke at all four lunches at Walnut Grove Middle School," Genesis added.

Another way they shared information was through a community dyslexia night at the MISD administration building. The girls arranged to have Nancy Disterlic, Region 10's dyslexia expert, as keynote speaker.

In return, Nancy invited Genesis and Lily to share their project at the Annual State Dyslexia Summer Institute this July, sharing with educators the mentoring program they have been working on with Mrs. Disterlic.





That invitation speaks to the success of their second goal, providing resources for students to succeed. Lily and Genesis spent a great deal of time researching how Texas funds special programs for education and found a need for innovative ways to reach students.

Their mentoring program works more like a club than a class. "Here we would teach younger students how to use technology, highlighting all sorts of tips and tricks to deal with dyslexia," Lily said.

For their third goal, they brainstormed ways to raise a sizable donation for the International Dyslexia Association and its scholarships given to dyslexic students. "We wanted something different, and everybody has those rubber bracelets. If you wear a T-shirt twice in one week, everyone asks if you don't have any other clothes," Lily said, explaining why those items were marked off their fundraising idea list.

"Genesis and I were putting in a lot of hours on this project. I wanted to get us something to keep us motivated," Lily continued. "I found these bar necklaces that you could have engraved. I got one for each of us that says 1 in 5 because that's how many people have some form of dyslexia."

Genesis smiled. "I wore mine to school the next day, and right away someone asked, 'What's 1 in 5?' I thought, *That's it! This is how we can raise money!* Every necklace raises \$15 toward the scholarship fund. We've already raised more than \$900 through sales and donations, but we're trying for \$3,000."

When Genesis was asked why she is so passionate about this cause, Lily answered, "Because she loves me!"

While they may not be related, they are like sisters. "We spend so much time together," Genesis beamed, "they call us the dyslexia chicks!" **NOW**

Editor's Note: To support the girls' efforts, email decodingdyslexia2019@gmail.com.



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— By Rachel Smith

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"I'm a certified ethical hacker. I went to hacker school," Tony admitted. "It's a thing!" Being fluent in the current cyberthreats, he knows what dangers lurk behind the dark corners of the internet.

Knowing how a hacker thinks allows Tony and Donna to put protections in place to protect against cyberattacks and data loss. "One of our primary goals is to educate our clients and business owners about technology and computer safety," Donna explained.

The internet is burdened with cybercrime, and new threats emerge daily. The rules for keeping your data safe have become a hot-button issue, and new regulations are causing businesses of all sizes to seek professional help. "Most businesses don't realize the legal and social risks they face when even a minor data breach happens [such as accidentally emailing employee salaries to everyone]," Donna informed.

Tony and Donna have seen their share of technology dilemmas. One such incident inspired the creation of Gill Tech Services. "I've seen businesses close for days, losing money because of problems their 'tech guy' can't or won't fix. It's like they're on a bad date, hoping things get better," Tony shared.

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How Can We Help "U"?



Zoomed In: Claire Pustejovsky

By Angel Morris

When Manna House's resale shop, Heaven's Attic, hosted a logo contest, the community answered. Searching for a new logo to represent its mission, Heaven's Attic sorted through dozens of entries and chose Claire Pustejovsky's design as its winner. "I was going for a modern look that would catch anyone's eye," Claire explained. "I kept key components like the heart and roof because I wanted everyone to know what Manna House is about!"

Manna House Executive Director Sissy Franklin said it was great to honor the Frank Seale Middle Schooler, considering the outreach center was started by a group of middle schoolers 25 years ago. Claire's logo will be used in all marketing efforts representing Heaven's Attic, including its website, social media, brochures and signage.



The community welcomes Dr. Nguyen and says farewell to Dr. Engram.



At The Midlothian Project monthly meeting, Pastor Demetrius McClendon and Police Chief Carl Smith discuss the quarterly gathering of Conversations and Culture.



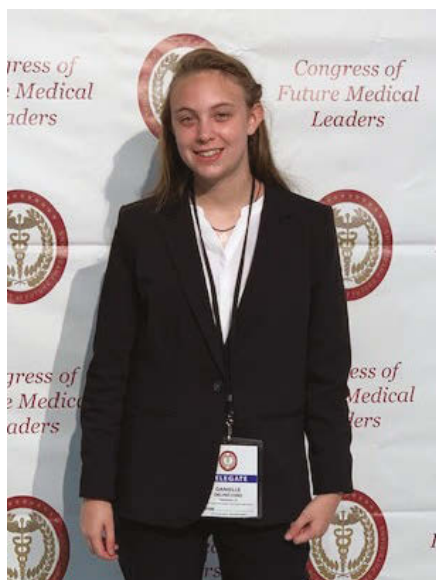
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Dani DelVecchio attends the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston and is inducted into the Society of Torch & Laurel.



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A photograph of Melinda Nix, a woman with long grey hair, smiling and leaning on a white kitchen counter. She is wearing a black and white striped long-sleeved shirt. In the background, there is a three-tiered metal fruit stand with various fruits, a floral pitcher, and a small plate with fruit on the counter. The kitchen has white cabinets and a tiled backsplash.

CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* MELINDA NIX

— By Angel Morris

Melinda Nix grew up with a mom and grandmother who loved to cook, eating from-scratch dishes most every meal. “Our Sunday and holiday tables were always full of delicious foods, and we loved having company to share the meals with us,” Melinda recalled.

Melinda loves cooking old favorites and trying new recipes. She and her husband, Robert, are part of a small church group that shares dinner twice a month. “We enjoy sharing new recipes among the ladies. We’re the best guinea pigs!” Melinda admitted.

Cookbooks, Pinterest and blogs bring Melinda cooking inspiration. “A lot of the time, I will tweak the recipe to fit my family’s palate. It’s fun to make them my own.”

Outside the kitchen, Melinda has another creative hobby. She loves photography, especially of nature and animals. **NOW**

Fresh Apple Cake

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
3 cups grated apples
2 cups sugar
2 large eggs
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
1 cup pecans, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Mix dry ingredients together in a stand mixer.
2. Add all other ingredients; mix until blended. Bake in a greased and floured tube pan for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Mexican Chocolate Fudge-pecan Cake

Cake:
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter

1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder
3/4 cup water
2 cups sugar
2 large eggs
1 cup buttermilk
2 Tbsp. vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt

Chocolate-pecan Glaze:

1 cup pecans
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
1/4 cup whole milk
1/2 cup cocoa powder
2 cups sifted powdered sugar
(sift then measure)
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt

1. *For cake:* Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour a 9-inch tube pan or a 10-12 cup Bundt pan.

2. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add cocoa; whisk until smooth. Add water; whisk until smooth.

3. Remove the pan from heat. Add sugar,

eggs, buttermilk and vanilla to the warm cocoa mixture all at once; whisk until smooth. Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt all at once; whisk until the dry ingredients are completely incorporated.

4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 40-45 minutes, until it has pulled away slightly from the sides of the pan. Let the cake cool in the pan about 20 minutes.
5. *For glaze:* Arrange the pecans on a baking sheet; toast them in a 350 F oven for 7-9 minutes, until golden brown. Chop the pecans.
6. Melt the butter over low heat in a medium saucepan. Add milk, cocoa and powdered sugar; whisk until glossy. Remove the pan from heat; whisk in the vanilla, salt and pecans.

7. Turn the cooled cake onto a serving plate. Spoon the glaze over the cooled cake, covering it thoroughly. This is a very dark chocolate cake but delicious!

Roasted Red Pepper Dip

1 4-oz. jar roasted red peppers
4 oz. sundried tomatoes (in oil)
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tsp. ground cumin
1-2 pickled jalapeños, chopped
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
1 bunch green onions, chopped (white part only)
6 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 tsp. salt

I. Process all ingredients in a food processor until smooth; serve with crackers. Refrigerate leftovers.

Slow Cooker Italian Beef

1 3-lb. beef chuck roast
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 10.5-oz. can beef broth
1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian salad dressing (dry form)
1 envelope dry au jus mix
1 8-oz. jar pepperoncini Italian peppers (with juices)
1 onion, quartered

I. Place roast in a slow cooker; add remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours.

Chicken Paillard

1 cup flour
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste

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4 eggs, whipped slightly
2 cups panko crumbs
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
Olive oil

1. In a shallow pan, mix flour, salt and pepper. In another pan, mix eggs with salt and pepper. In a third pan, put panko crumbs with salt and pepper.
2. Pound each chicken breast, one at a time, in a freezer bag until approximately 1/2- to 1/3-inch thick.
3. Dredge each breast through the flour, egg and then panko mixtures. Lay them on a

shallow pan; refrigerate for about 1 minute to set the coating.

4. Heat several Tbsp. of olive oil in a large frying pan; cook each chicken breast in the oil until lightly browned and crispy (maybe 3-4 minutes on each side).
 Serve immediately.

Mexican Quinoa Salad

Salad:

3 cups quinoa, cooked
1 orange bell pepper, chopped
1/2 cup red onion, chopped

1 15-oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 small container grape tomatoes, halved
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1 cup frozen corn, thawed

Dressing:

1/4 cup red wine vinegar
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 small clove garlic, minced
3/4 tsp. cumin
3/4 tsp. chili powder
1 1/2 tsp. salt
Black pepper, to taste

1. *For salad:* Mix all salad ingredients together.
2. *For dressing:* Combine all dressing ingredients; add to salad. Chill before serving.



Mexican Chocolate
Fudge-pecan Cake

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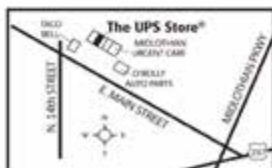


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Hallux Rigidus and Arthritis of the Big Toe

In hallux rigidus, the big toe joint “jams” when walking. This jamming results in a breakdown of the joint that causes pain and eventually arthritis. This condition can be very troubling and even disabling, because we use the big toe in almost every foot movement, including walking, stooping, climbing stairs and even standing.

Hallux rigidus is often a slow and progressive process. It may first appear as joint swelling and redness that occurs only during certain activities, or when wearing shoes that place a lot of pressure and strain on the joint. As the condition progresses, motion of the big toe, which is only somewhat limited, becomes even stiffer. This stiffness produces further pain and destruction of the joint, resulting in arthritis.

What causes hallux rigidus? In most cases, hallux rigidus is caused by structural problems of the foot. These problems are related to the general shape of your foot, and bring about slight changes to the function of your foot. Hallux rigidus can also develop from overuse of the big toe, especially among people who place increased stress on that toe, such as workers who frequently stoop or squat or those involved in ballet or sprinting. Other contributors to hallux rigidus include a previous injury (such as stubbing your

toe), wearing certain types of shoes (such as high heels), and other disorders.

In the early stages of this condition, the symptoms include pain and stiffness in the big toe during use, such as walking, bending and even standing. You may notice difficulty in performing certain activities, such as squatting or running. Cold, damp weather often aggravates the pain and stiffness. Swelling and inflammation around the joint might also occur.

In the later stages, as the condition worsens, additional symptoms develop. The range of motion of the big toe progressively decreases, and in the very last stage, the toe is rigid and cannot bend. Hallux rigidus may also progress to the point where there may be pain even when the foot isn't being used. The later stages are also often associated with permanent changes to the joint from arthritis that include bone spurs and enlargement of the joint. As a result of these changes, you may find it difficult to wear certain shoes or participate in certain recreational or occupational activities.

Although having this condition is not an emergency situation, the earlier it's diagnosed and treated, the better your chances are for slowing the progression. The sooner this condition is diagnosed, the easier it is to treat. If you wait until the end stage, surgery will be your only option of treatment.

Remember, your big toe plays a big role in just about every movement your foot makes. It's even important when you're standing. So, if your big toe isn't feeling right, see a foot and ankle surgeon soon for a complete evaluation and effective treatment. **NOW**

Christopher Schmitt, DPM

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— By Rick Mauch

Snow falls. Lightly at first, then a little more, and even more. Soon, it's coming down in droves. Middle of winter? Hardly. Even in mid-April, snow isn't uncommon in Estes Park, Colorado.

In fact, nothing stops. Everything goes on as usual, despite a high temperature of 32 F. This includes the annual Bigfoot Days celebration in the town's main park. Every vendor booth, every food and beverage stand — they're all open as if the sun was shining and the temperature was 80 F.

But whether it's snowing or the middle of summer, Estes Park, named after Missouri native Joel Estes who founded it in 1859, has a lot to offer folks who live there or are only staying for a short while. The small town of about 6,500 people (though that number is usually much higher when visitors are added) is nestled smack dab in the Rocky Mountains. From Denver, it's about an hour-and-a-half drive.

No trip to Estes Park is complete without stopping by the historic Stanley Hotel. Standing tall on a peak overlooking the city, this beautiful and majestic resort was the setting for the famous Stephen King novel *The Shining* and two versions of the film by the same name.

King was, in fact, a guest at the hotel before writing the book. It inspired him to change the original setting of his classic novel from an amusement park to the fictional Overlook Hotel.

The Stanley offers a variety of tours. The ghost tour is perhaps the most popular as the guide takes guests to numerous haunted sites throughout the property, including underneath the hotel through secret tunnels.

The large lobby is a great place to take a break. The restaurant offers some incredibly tasty — and large — dishes, so come hungry.

Downtown Estes Park is lined with a plethora of specialty shops. From novelty T-shirts to leather goods, and everything in between, it's a challenge to pass through and not leave with your arms full.

While in downtown, go along the Riverwalk. This is especially great during the spring thaw or after a heavy rain. Stop in at the shop with Bigfoot T-shirts and various paraphernalia in the window, and the proprietor will gladly tell you about the latest sightings of the big fella. It's a popular topic among locals, and sightings have been plentiful in the area over the years.

Many of those sightings have been in the nearby Rocky Mountain National Park. Numerous tours of the park are offered, either hiking on foot or in a vehicle, which provide a panoramic view for miles.

Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous highway in the United States, runs from Estes Park westward through Rocky Mountain National Park. It eventually reaches Grand Lake over the legendary Continental Divide.


While visiting the park, also stop by the YMCA of the Rockies. This is not your ordinary YMCA, as it is surrounded on three sides by the Rocky Mountain National Park and features almost 900 acres that offer lodging, chances to commune with nature, hiking, biking and a lot more. It even has its own post office.

Back in town, the Rock Cut Brewing Company is a craft brewery that produces a variety of unique beers in a family-friendly environment. There is no in-house kitchen, but a food truck from Two Chicks Wings and Henhouse is available Tuesday through Saturday for lunch and dinner — and you can always bring your own food.

The Snowy Peaks Winery features handcrafted wines from right at home in Estes Park in a family-friendly tasting room. Artisanal cheeses, gourmet foods and unique gifts from around the state are also available. Tours are also available. For those not old enough for the real thing, juice tastings and a playroom are included on-site.


So even if you're not looking for a Bigfoot, keep your eyes open while in Estes Park. There's always something going on. **NOW**

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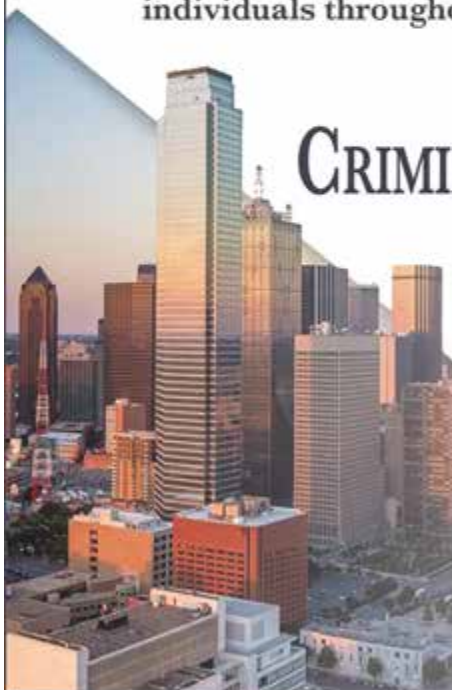
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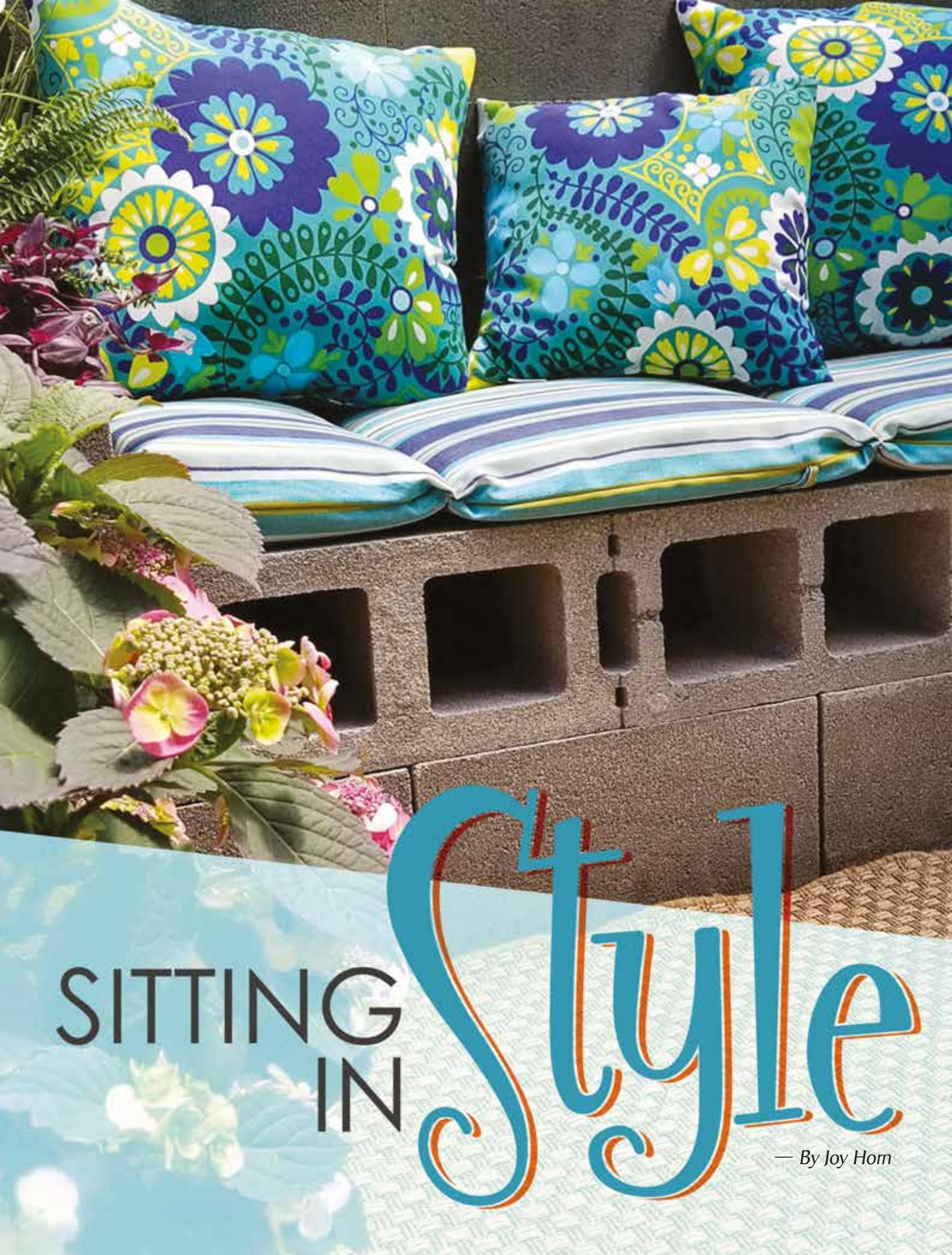
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SITTING
IN

Style

— By Joy Horn



With summer in full swing, it's time for backyard barbecues and sitting back and relaxing outside with friends and family. Some hosts find it challenging to create a comfortable outdoor space for guests, but with the trend of DIY projects, there are so many options to choose from when arranging your space. Putting together an inviting sitting area can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be when you can do it yourself.

Create the relaxing vibe you've been wanting with a stylish, cinder-block bench that's easy to assemble and inexpensive. When complete, the dimensions of this bench will be 64 inches wide by 32 inches deep by 32 inches tall. Keep in mind that cinder blocks can be on the heavy side, so you might need a partner to help you complete the project. If you're ready to get started, gather the following materials:

- 42 cinder blocks
- 2 half blocks
- Outdoor paint (optional)
- Construction grade glue (Loctite PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive works nicely)
- Some pretty flowering or trailing plants
- Decorative cushions.





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Step 1:

Once you have gathered all of your materials, the first step is painting the cinder blocks. This is optional, but it helps to seal the brick and keep the bench looking great for a longer period of time. White or light gray paint creates a calm, peaceful feeling, but a bright color like turquoise or blue can cheer up a drab space. You can also use stencils for an interesting look. Be creative and have fun with this step!

Step 2

After the paint is dry, you're ready to start gluing the cinder blocks together to create the base. Keep in mind that after they have been glued together, the cinder blocks will be heavy and difficult to move. Be sure to assemble them in the space the bench will permanently sit.

The base of the bench will be 4 blocks wide by 4 blocks deep by 2 blocks high. For the first level of the base, glue four blocks end to end with holes facing up. Continue this process until you have four rows of blocks (4 wide by 4 deep) glued end to end. For the second level of the base, repeat the same process with holes facing out. Use adhesive between each row for added safety.

Step 3

Complete the bench by building the arms and back. For the back of the bench, use the adhesive to secure blocks 2 rows high by 1 row deep with the holes facing up. Since this is where

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people will lean, it is very important to make sure the blocks are glued sufficiently. Next, secure the arms of the bench by gluing blocks 1 row deep. Finally, add one half block to each arm. If you choose to glue the arms with the holes facing up, you can turn the hole into a planter by adding flowering plants, succulents or trailing plants that will flow over the edges of your bench to create a fun look. You can also place gardening tools, shoes or succulents inside the holes in the base for a little added touch.

Step 4

Finally, add your cushions. You can make your own if you wish. Local craft stores often sell outdoor fabric that would be perfect for an outdoor sitting area, or you can go to a home store to pick up ones that have been premade. Some comfy outdoor throw pillows can also add to the cozy feeling of your bench. A candle on the top or sides of the bench might enhance the homey feel. The options are endless. Just use your imagination!

Now, guests can enjoy your new, comfortable sitting area, and you might even have fun telling them how you made it yourself. It is always nice to have a conversation piece around. Don't forget to stand back to admire what you've made with your own two hands. And it'll feel good to have made something yourself rather than just going out to buy it. **NOW**



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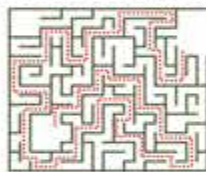
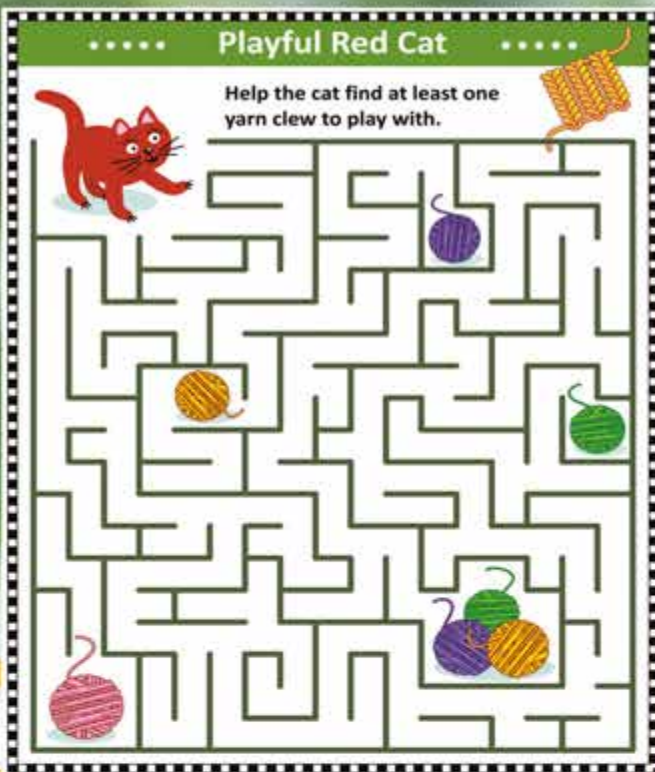
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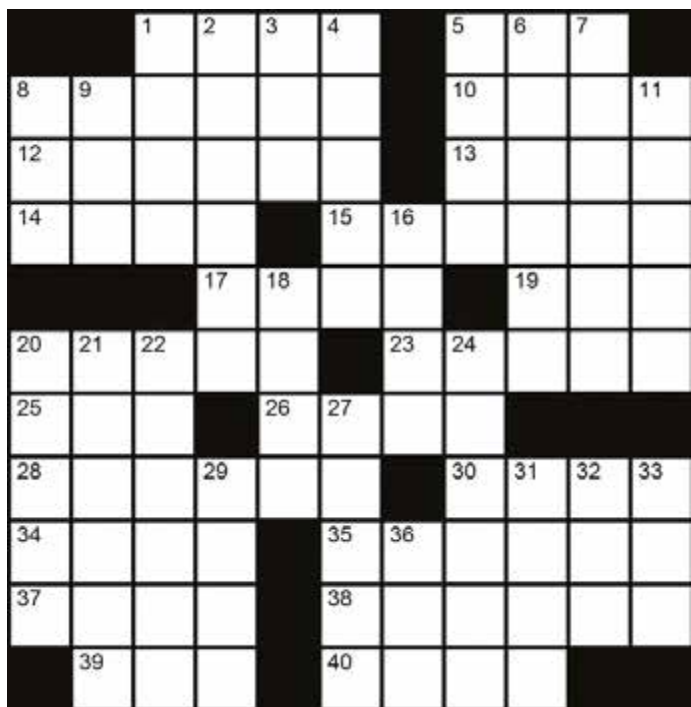
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Across

- 1 Competitor of Bloomingdale's
- 5 Annoy by persistent faultfinding
- 8 Bathroom
- 10 Conscious minds
- 12 Heart problem
- 13 "At what time?"
- 14 Communist leader after Mao
- 15 Revolve
- 17 Wind instrument
- 19 Rider Haggard classic
- 20 It is sold in bolts
- 23 Speak
- 25 Pastor, for short
- 26 Avoid
- 28 The most famous Waugh
- 30 React to something hilarious
- 34 Region of the Moon
- 35 Three-legged support
- 37 Finishes
- 38 Airs again
- 39 Nipper
- 40 Plumps

Down

- 1 Agree formally
- 2 Dismount
- 3 Range of vision
- 4 Whitewater figure
- 5 Water-loving salamander
- 6 Horrified
- 7 German writer and dramatist
- 8 Tiny bit
- 9 Unity
- 11 Scoff
- 16 Disagreeable necessity
- 18 Expression of alarm
- 20 Cupcake filling
- 21 East Mediterranean region
- 22 Try too hard
- 24 Vacation souvenir, maybe
- 27 Short beginning
- 29 In case
- 31 Literary work
- 32 Succeeded
- 33 Denom. of many Utahans
- 36 Agent, commonly

Solutions on page 52

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 52



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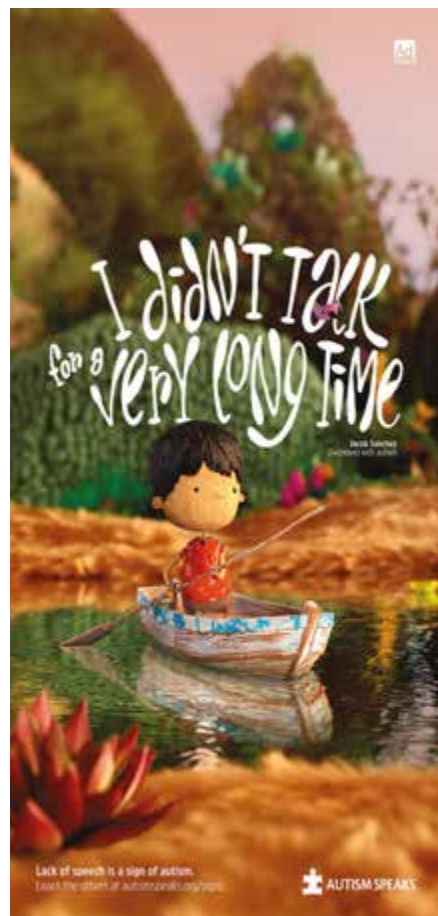
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August

8/1

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8/2-8/3

Texas Bluebird Society Symposium:

Learn how to attract/provide habitats for bluebirds.

Friday: 6:00 p.m., dinner and program about monarch waystations. **Saturday:** 8:30 a.m., registration and silent auction bidding, followed by speakers, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Drive. Details at 2019event.txblues.org.

8/3

Ice Cream Supper:

Annual fundraiser with food, auction and children's activity to support Mt. Peak Cemetery's upkeep. Donations of baked goods or new arts and crafts for auction are welcome. Event begins at 6:00 p.m. with auction at 7:00 p.m., 1760 W. FM 875, Midlothian. For more details, email pdmclendon@yahoo.com.

Movies in the Park:

Bring blankets and chairs to watch *Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse*. Free. Begins at

dusk at Hawkins Spring Park, 1498 FM 1387. **Rainout date:**

8/10. Learn more at www.midlothian.tx.us/movies.

8/7, 8/14, 8/28

Legislative Luncheon Series:

Local senator, judge and congressman offer legislative highlights. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. For more details, contact Laura Terhune at (972) 723-8600 or laura@midlothianchamber.org.

8/10

Mayor's Back to School Bash:

Free for the community but supplies are limited to those who pre-register at Manna House (3241A Robinson Rd.). Food, face painting, haircuts, candy cannon, water slides, games, dunking booth and more. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Frank Seale Middle School, 700 George Hopper Rd.

8/30

Small Business Training:

Addressing anyone who manages employees, employment law attorneys discuss state and federal legislation. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. For more information, call (512) 463-6389.

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If you love reading and book discussion, join us. 6:30 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, contact Terry at (469) 856-5211.

Second and Fourth Mondays

Community Book Club:

Lively discussions of books chosen by club members. 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more details, call (469) 856-5211.

First Tuesdays

Midlothian Area Historical Society Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Community Room of CNB, 310 N. 9th St. For more details, contact Edwin Bateman at (972) 743-2379.

Wednesdays

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Second Wednesdays

Infertility Support Group of Ellis County:

7:00-8:30 p.m., Gateway Church Midlothian, 555 N. Walnut Grove Rd. Contact amy@sarahs-laughter.com.

Thursdays

Midway Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol/US Air Force Auxiliary:

Cadets ages 12-18 and Senior Members 18 plus. 6:45-9:00 p.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Saturdays

Midlothian Market:

Outdoor market held Saturday mornings from **May-October** in Heritage Park. Local vendors sell a wide variety of merchandise throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Sundays

Holy Yoga:

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

			1	2	3	4			5	6	7	
			S	A	K	S			N	A	G	
8	9		T	O	I	L	E	T	10	E	G	11
12			A	N	G	I	N	A	13	W	H	E
14			D	E	N	G			15	R	O	T
									17	H	O	R
									18	N		S
20	21	22	C	L	O	T	H		23	U	T	T
25			R	E	V				26	M	I	S
28			E	V	E	L	Y	N	30	H	O	W
34			M	A	R	E			35	T	R	I
37			E	N	D	S			38	R	E	R
			39	T	O	T			40	O	P	T

Easy

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

Medium

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

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April Waters
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Jammy Peters
Debbie Massey



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He retired in May 2019. We miss you!