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M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2019

Horse Crazy

Facing impossible odds, Lewis and Sherry Paulk kept believing

Working for Me Time

Photographer Shannon Oden is all about aesthetics

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ON THE COVER

The Paulks welcome Jazzy and Sandi home after a long hospital stay.

Photo by
Kenzie Axtell.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
WeatherfordNOW Editor
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Happy August, Everyone!

Crazy thing to say, isn't it? Who loves August? I'm not sure I even like this month. But two years ago, surviving a stroke made August 19 a date I can't forget. Nor do I take for granted the miracle of a brain that reroutes impulses, so even with a dead region, I still think and function. Physically, I have few reminders of that day. Although my brain sometimes throws small indications in my direction, I've learned to overcome the slower processing of information. Infallible? Not by a long shot, but more importantly, I have a newfound understanding and compassion for others. Highly blessed, I don't suffer from all the lingering aftereffects many people see after such a trauma.

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee wrote, "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Often in life, circumstances place us unwillingly in a position to understand things we'd rather not experience. Is that a bad thing? I think not.

Trials allow us to grow, learn and show empathy. Often, if we look, later in life we meet someone experiencing trials similar to those we endured. So, perhaps I *can* say happy August. I am still alive, and two years after such a daunting time, I thrive. I seek passion in life, not mere existence. And every day, I'm thankful, even when tough things come my way and gratitude seems like the biggest struggle of all. What about you? Have your experiences made you better?

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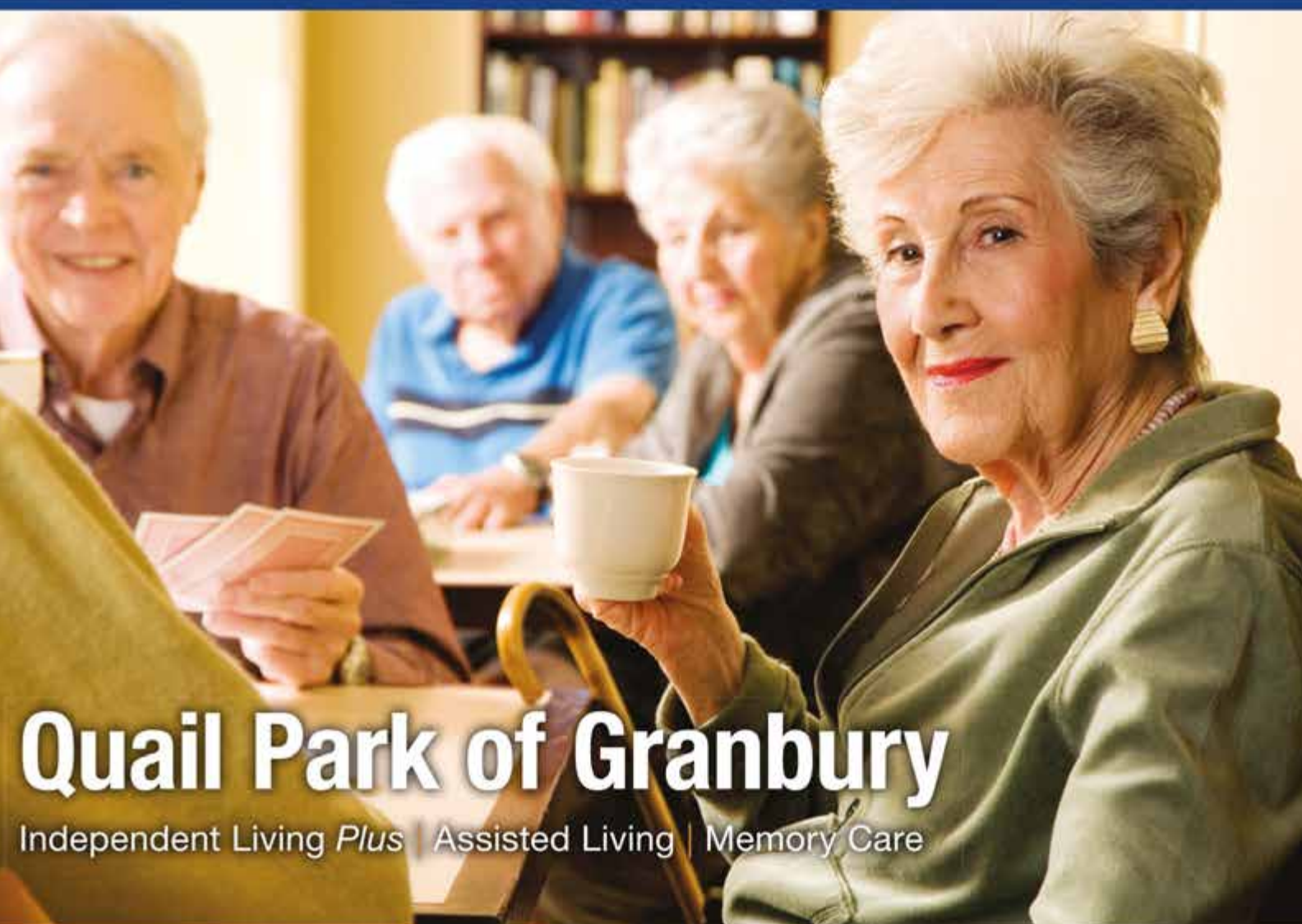


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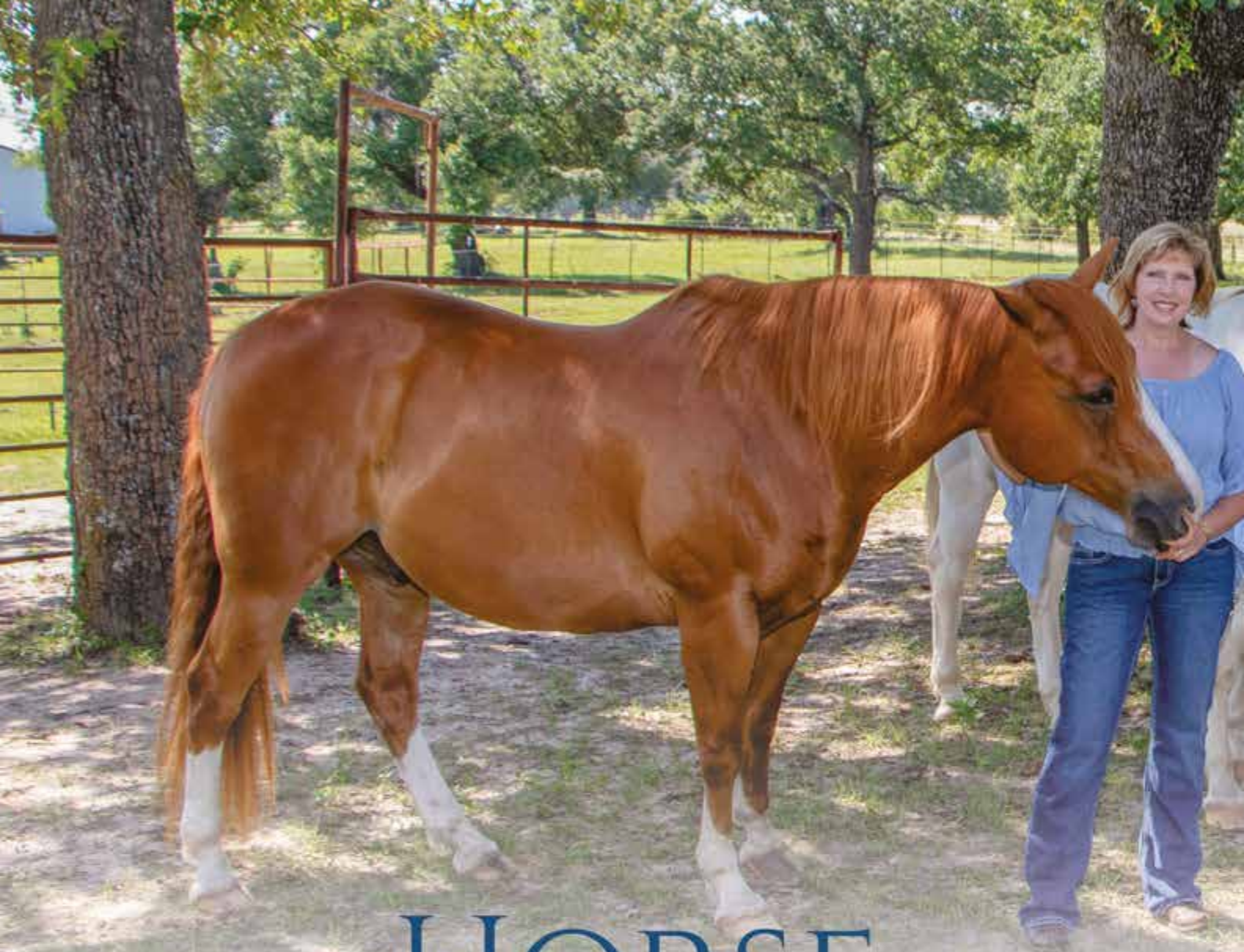
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A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a light blue top and jeans, standing next to a brown horse with white markings on its lower legs. They are in a grassy paddock with trees and a fence in the background. The horse is facing right, and the woman is holding its lead rope.

HORSE CRAZY

— By Lisa Bell

International horse breeder Kelly Stewart said, “There comes a point in every rider’s life when he wonders if it’s all worth it. Then one look at the horse, and he realizes — it is.”

For Lewis and Sherry Paulk, nothing could hold more truth. Since January 30, when their new horse arrived 62 days early, they certainly faced a deluge of difficult decisions. Was it worth the money and the enormous amount of time they spent on Sandi? Sherry, with a passion for horses, and Lewis, with a passion for life, uttered a resounding, “Yes, she is worth it all.”

The Paulks celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary on May 28. That, itself, is a miracle, considering in 2011 doctors told them Lewis had a 24-25 percent chance of living 24 months. Though rare in men, they found stage 4 breast cancer, which also invaded 10 of 23 lymph nodes. After a rough year of treatment, Lewis found a new belief in miracles and a different perspective on life.



Through a series of events, they ended up with horses the owners didn't want to sell initially but then did. "It reignited Sherry's passion," Lewis admitted. Needing more space, they found the perfect place in Weatherford with almost 20 acres and an open-concept house where they could join with family and friends as they often do. They moved from Fort Worth in January 2018, bringing several horses along with them.

Because of Sherry's deep love for horses, Lewis admitted, "I knew if I wanted to spend any time with her, I'd have to get a horse, too." That was when he bought Jazzy, a Quarter Horse with great ancestral lines. She had her first baby, Roosters Kit Cat, without any problems, so they bred her through Buffalo Ranch a second time. Everything proceeded well for months. With a due date of April 2, her milk came in around mid-January. "I don't think she'll make it to her due date," the vet

announced. January 30, Jazzy pinned her ears back at Kit Cat, something she rarely did.

In below freezing temperatures, Sherry had a load of hay delivered the next morning, some of which she promised to a woman from Tyler. The woman had a great deal of experience with birthing horses. As they worked on getting the hay out of the big truck, Sherry saw Jazzy lay down. By the time she got to the horse's side, she was already pushing out her baby. Baby Sandi hit the ground and tried to stand but collapsed. Arriving so early, she had no bones in her knees or ankles. The two women got the horses inside, dry and warm, where they waited for the vet. They milked the mama and got a couple of ounces down the 53-pound baby.

Upon arrival, the vet said, "Horses born 62 days early don't survive." Still, Sandi surprised them all. Alert, head held high,

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she breathed on her own. Unbelievable. Although they didn't expect her to live, Sherry wanted to give Lewis a chance to meet the little one. Working in Alabama, he couldn't get a flight out until the next morning. So they moved Sandi to Weatherford Equine Hospital.

Unable to sleep, Lewis made the two-hour drive to Atlanta. "I literally prayed the whole way," he said. Because of his passion for life and the fighting spirit, Lewis didn't want to put Sandi down. He prayed if God wanted the little one to live that He would change the doctor's mind.

The couple walked into the hospital with heavy hearts and found Dr. Heath Qualls inserting a feeding tube, doing bloodwork, looking at sonograms and talking of partially functioning kidneys and lungs that didn't look too bad. Surprised, Sherry stopped the vet.

"We were going in to decide whether to put her down," Sherry said. "But she was such a little fighter from the moment she hit the ground."

Questioning Dr. Qualls, he responded by asking whether they wanted to put down the horse. "We didn't say that," Lewis replied. "What do you think?"

"Dr. Qualls sat back and looked up as if thinking," Lewis shared. "Then he said, 'I really don't understand why, but I think I changed my mind. I think she can make it.' And that's all the answer I needed."

Facing a tough road, Sherry became the baby horse's caregiver, visiting the hospital every day, while maintaining their home and caring for the other





horses. With Lewis' job taking him out of town, she took on the responsibility willingly. At one point, Sandi almost bled out. Sherry thought, *This is it. God's taking her.* She sat and placed her hand gently on the baby, anticipating death. "All of a sudden, she sat up, breathing normally and started eating again," she said. "And the next day, her blood counts were almost normal."

Lewis grinned. "I wasn't surprised. I believed she'd live."

Keeping the horse off her legs proved difficult. But spending much time researching options, Lewis came across a Hoyer lift. He bought one. Although the harnesses used didn't work well, the concept did. They modified one for a dog and lined it with fleece from New Zealand. By doing that, they got Sandi up, so she could exercise her developing legs without putting weight on them.

Using cutting-edge methods, Dr. Meghan Qualls used electromagnetic fields to help with Sandi's bone density. From no bone in the knees and ankles to filled-in space, she helped bring the little horse a long way. The most beautiful sight for Sherry and Lewis came when they took Sandi out to a field, and she ran for the first time — without so much as a limp.

On May 24, Sandi and Jazzy left the hospital, going home healthy and happy. While the horse may face struggles in the future, and Lewis and Sherry have a large vet bill, they have no regrets.

Sherry said, "I'm really glad we gave her a chance to live." And although the vets at Weatherford Equine Hospital hope they never have another Sandi, Dr. Qualls is quick to say, "Me too." **NOW**

Editor's Note: To follow Sandi, visit her on Facebook @Roosters.Sannman.Miracle.

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WORKING FOR *Me*

— By Melissa Rawlins

Crazy for coffee and cameras, photography teacher Shannon Oden starts her days with both. The family pets hear her grind the beans, and the dog knows she will get a good morning snuggle when she joins Shannon in her extraordinary home office. Shannon's espresso maker sits atop a western cedar countertop made by her husband, Mark Thomas, a woodworker who teaches AP Psychology at Trimble Tech in downtown Fort Worth.

That's where the couple met, and though she transferred to teach in Mansfield ISD, the two teachers never parted. They married in 2017 and moved to a home in Weatherford near Interstate 20.

As the duo overhauled Shannon's studio, she frequently told Mark, "Just trust me." With a degree in interior design, she saw in her mind the exact outcome. She envisioned the coffee maker in place and her cameras just so.

A collector since she was 16, Shannon keeps other cameras at school. Her most recent acquisition, a giant large-format camera from an Abilene portrait studio,



Time

rounded out the list of antique Brownies, medium format, pinholes, 620 and vintage 35mm cameras.

Shannon is a gifted photographer. But as an award-winning high school teacher, she spends much of her time on lesson plans for her students.

A member of the National Education Team for SkillsUSA for photography, president of Association of Texas Photography Instructors and Texas state chair of SkillsUSA high school



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photography contest, Shannon has been recognized as a Texas State Champion Educator for five of the last six years. She's also worked consulting on the creation of educational apps with a group out of Berkeley, California, and is writing a guide for teaching Adobe certification for educators.

Before starting her 10th year of teaching this month, Shannon and Mark are taking a road trip, so she can photograph national parks. She credits her interest in this type of photography to Ansel Adams, a landscape photographer and a pioneer in conservation. She had the opportunity to interview Mr. Adams while she was a sophomore in high school, taking her first photography class.



Photo by Shannon Oden.

Since then, Shannon has read his journals. "The way he feels about the environment is similar to how I feel," said Shannon, who once lived with her children in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and frequently took them with her to photograph snowy landscapes.

At first, the empty nest phenomenon was hard for her. "Now, I see it as a real golden opportunity," Shannon said. "I'm trying to experience more when I have time." She recognizes the value of getting her body of work together. "It's me time."

Not one to capture photos of every moment, Shannon is very purposeful. "I'll plan ahead and take my camera at the right time of day," she said. "Mark and I have to account for that in our travel time because we're going to stop for a sunrise or sunset or for every fence post."

During their road trips, Shannon will spy an old church, or a house that's falling down, and call for a halt. "Every



time I see an abandoned farmstead I get emotionally unsettled about it. I wonder what happened," she said. "I grieve for the house." And she documents everything about it, from the thigh-high weeds outside the frame to the shoes, clothes and books inside.

One time, Shannon was inspired to produce a photo story and went into a Waffle House at 4:00 a.m. "I'd never been in one," she said, "and there were all these rough guys having their breakfast. I asked the waitress to give me their tickets, and then I asked the men if I could take their photos." It's now a series of portraits telling a story through both nuances and larger shots.

Lately, she's been playing, taking a lot of still life photos of such things as mushrooms and garlic and more portraits. She once awakened Mark to take a trip to Central Market where they bought a tiny octopus for her to photograph. The resulting color photo titled, *Octopus in a Glass*, was published by *Photographer's Forum*.

Though she used color film for the octopus, Shannon's preference is for the timeless richness and tonality of black and white — even when photographing shrinking green spaces. When she took photos of Monument Valley, so beautiful, peaceful and vast, she used Photoshop tools to remove all the color.

But as she teaches her students, rather than spend much time touching them up, Shannon purposes to take good photos from the outset. On this month's trip, she'll take hundreds. The 7 percent she keeps will have a pleasing balance of exposure and composition. It's all about her aesthetics. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Visit www.shannonoden.com, or [shannonoden.photo](#) on Instagram, to see her pictures.



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— By Lisa Bell

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In business since January 2011, Myser Orthodontics continues operating with the mission of awesomeness, joy and community. For Dr. Myser, that mission means everything



in all aspects of his business. In July of this year, the addition of Dr. Barnhart allowed the business to grow, but it didn't take away Dr. Myser's desire and ability to give personalized attention to each of his patients. He wouldn't have it any other way.

Dr. Myser graduated *summa cum laude* from Texas A&M University with a degree in biomedical science. Attending Baylor College of Dentistry, he graduated as the salutatorian and received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery degree. He also earned a Master of Science degree and Certificate in Orthodontics from BCD. Later, he completed the voluntary examination process to become a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. BCD invited Dr. Myser as a clinical faculty member at the orthodontic program of BCD where he teaches. By participating in continuing education, he remains current with modern advances in dentistry. He is one of a few board-certified orthodontists in Parker County.

Dr. Barnhart shares the same degrees from BCD as Dr. Myser and is currently working on completing her board certification. Over the last three years, she worked with Dr. Myser in the Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry Orthodontic Department. When she receives her board certification, Dr. Barnhart becomes part of the elite group in Parker County who has the certification.

Myser Orthodontics offers metal and clear ceramic braces for children, teens and adults. They are also a Platinum Provider for Invisalign, a choice many adults and responsible teens prefer. Individual patients determine their plan of action, but Dr. Myser helps by providing the first consultation at no cost. He recommends bringing children in by the age of 7. If children need treatment, they are easier to prepare when younger. Dr. Myser sets high standards — to provide a perfect smile when finished with treatment.

The Myser family moved to Aledo to live closer to family and friends and found the community a great fit. Married to his high school sweetheart, who teaches at Aledo High School, Dr. Myser supports the community in many ways.

At the end of May, they hosted a communitywide snow-cone social. In October, they host a Halloween Candy Buy Back and send a matching donation to Operation Gratitude for the soldiers. They also sponsor Aledo Education Foundation, Parker County Health Foundation, Thanksgiving Trot, Aledo AdvoCats, Trinity Christian School, youth sports teams and dozens of other events and organizations. In February, they host field trips in their office for every kindergarten class in Aledo. During the summer, they assist with camps, as well.

With the onboarding of a second doctor and the opening of their newly remodeled office in Willow Park, the staff looks forward to expanding their reach into the surrounding communities. Although Dr. Myser sets the tone, his entire team works hard to make sure his mission of awesomeness, joy and community flows into everything they touch. **NOW**



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Madison Poole and Rowlee Johnson take Ollie for a walk.

Zoomed In: Don Maclaughlin

By Lisa Bell

Not a stranger to winning, Don Maclaughlin recently took the Best in Show award for the adult category at the Weatherford Art Association's 2019 Peach Festival Art Competition. Don started painting after retirement when his youngest daughter took art in high school. "I got to playing with her acrylics," he said. They took a class together. "It opened both our eyes to how much art is learned. Now she teaches art to kindergarten students in Stephenville."

After 16 years and winning several awards, Don also teaches weekly drawing classes and sometimes holds workshops at Maclaughlin Ranch. He paints various people using oils. The oil and gas workers, which won WAA's competition, came from photos he took when they drilled on his property.



Linda and Brandon Hughes serve through Citizens on Patrol.



Texas Clearwater Revival entertains the crowds at Spark in the Park.



Judges enjoy tasting the wares in a barbecue cook-off benefiting Faith Hope Family Ministry.



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In the Kitchen With

EMMA BROWN

— By Lisa Bell

Although young, Emma Brown is quite a baker. She started as a preschooler, helping Nana bake cookies. “We love baking together, and she has taught me so much,” Emma shared. A favorite personal success came when they made a Barbie cake for her little sister’s 3rd birthday. “It turned out so good. I piped pink icing and made the dress,” she said. “I love to cook for my family members on their birthdays,” she said, in reference to a tradition that started this year.

Emma enjoys watching Food Network and learns from watching other kids. When not in the kitchen, she pursues acting, soccer and watching movies. She performed in one play for Theatre Off the Square and four at Mary Martin Elementary, recently taking the lead in *Willy Wonka Jr.* **NOW**

Vanilla Meringue Cookies

3 large egg whites, room temperature
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/8 tsp. cream of tartar
3/4 cup sugar

1. Preheat oven to 200 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a stand mixer, mix egg whites, vanilla

and cream of tartar. Beat until mixture is frothy and soft peaks form.

3. Gradually add sugar, 1 Tbsp. at a time, waiting 15 seconds between each addition. Once all the sugar has been added, beat for an additional 5 minutes.
4. Spoon mixture into a large pastry bag fitted with a large star tip. Pipe 2-inch cookies onto the lined baking sheets.
5. Bake for 45 minutes. Turn off the oven;

leave the cookies in the oven for an additional 30 minutes. Remove; cool completely before storing in an airtight container.

Quick Black-eyed Pea Dip

1 15-oz. can black-eyed peas with jalapeños
1 tsp. garlic powder
4-5 green onions, finely chopped
8 oz. cubed Velveeta cheese
1/2 cup butter

1. Drain peas and mash until smooth. Place in a 1-qt. microwave-safe dish; add remaining ingredients.
2. Microwave on medium for about 4 minutes, or until cheese is melted. Stir well; pour into a serving bowl.
3. Serve with tortilla chips or raw vegetables.

Cherry Dump Cake

Nonstick cooking spray
1 tsp. almond extract

2 21-oz. cans cherry pie filling
1 box yellow cake mix
1/2 cup salted butter, melted

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Add 1/2 tsp. of almond extract to each can of pie filling; stir. Pour both cans of pie filling into the baking dish.
3. Sprinkle cake mix evenly over the filling; slowly pour melted butter all over the top of the cake mix.
4. Bake for about 50-60 minutes.

Taco Soup

1 lb. ground beef
1 15-oz. can corn
1 10-oz. can diced tomatoes
2 15- to 16-oz. cans red kidney beans
1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel
1 14-oz. can beef broth
1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 pkg. ranch dressing mix
1 tsp. onion powder

1. Cook and drain beef. In a large pot, combine all ingredients. Do not drain cans.
2. Bring to a boil; let simmer for about 10-15 minutes.

Fried Rice

1 16-oz. pkg. jasmine rice
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 12-oz. pkg. frozen stir-fry vegetables
1 cup soy sauce
1 tsp. minced garlic
1 cup bean sprouts (optional)
1 egg

1. Cook rice according to package directions.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet; add frozen vegetables, soy sauce, garlic and bean sprouts, if using. Crack the egg into the same skillet to scramble.
3. Add rice once all vegetables are cooked. Stir and serve.

Key Lime Buttercream Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 tsp. key lime zest
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/8 tsp. salt
1 16-oz. pkg. powdered sugar
3 Tbsp. key lime juice
1-2 Tbsp. milk

1. Beat first 4 ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy.
2. Gradually add powdered sugar, alternating

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Key Lime
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with key lime juice, 1 Tbsp. at a time, and 1 Tbsp. milk, beating at low speed until blended and smooth after each addition.
3. Beat in up to 1 Tbsp. of additional milk for desired consistency. Spread on prepared cool cupcakes.

Chocolate Lava Cake

Nonstick cooking spray

1 stick butter

2 oz. bittersweet chocolate

2 oz. semi-sweet chocolate

1 1/4 cups powdered sugar

2 whole eggs

3 egg yolks

1 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
Vanilla ice cream for serving

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Spray 6 custard cups with nonstick cooking spray; place on a baking sheet.

2. Microwave butter, bittersweet and semi-sweet chocolates in a large bowl for about 1 minute. Whisk until chocolate is completely melted.

3. Stir in sugar until well blended. Whisk in eggs and yolks; add vanilla.

4. Stir in flour; divide mixture evenly into the custard cups.

5. Bake for 13 minutes; let sit for 1 minute before serving with vanilla ice cream while still hot.

7-Layered Dip

- 1 16-oz. can refried beans
- 1 pkg. prepared guacamole
- 1 15-oz. jar salsa
- 1 8-oz. container sour cream
- 1 cup cheese, shredded
- 1 small Roma tomato
- 1 small jar sliced black olives

1. In a 9x13-inch glass dish, spread refried beans on the bottom. Spread guacamole, salsa and sour cream on top of the beans.
2. On top of those layers, sprinkle cheese, diced tomatoes and olives. Chill and serve with tortilla chips.

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ALWAYS SOMETH

— 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.



ING

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.

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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.

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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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If you answered yes to any of the symptoms above, then you could have Venous Reflux Disease. If left untreated, Venous Reflux Disease may worsen over time and develop into a more serious form of Venous Disease called Chronic Venous Insufficiency.



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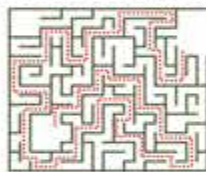
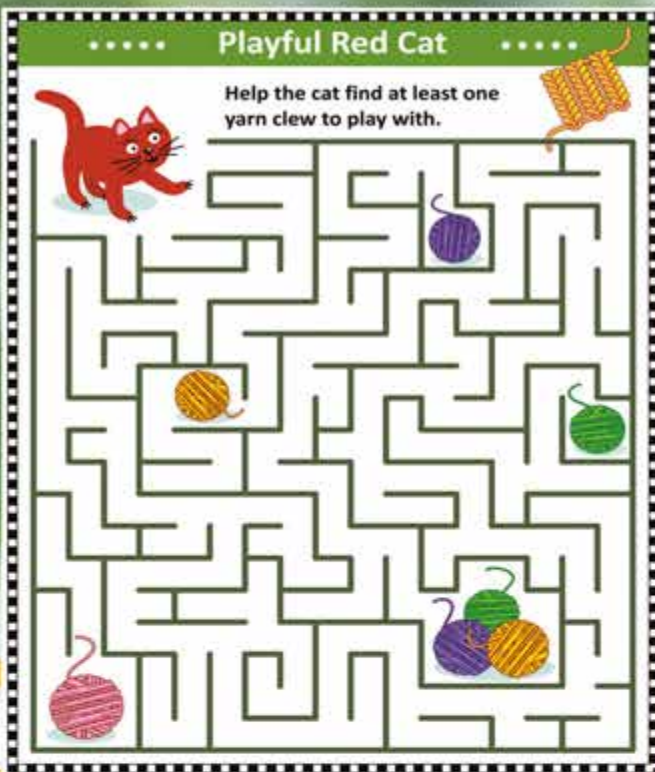
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Kids' Fun Page



ANSWER:



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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FIVE NONPROFITS



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Parker County Center of Hope

This Christ-centered ministry works to break the cycle of poverty by building relationships and accountability. They provide immediate assistance to those in need, but also work to help them become self-sufficient.
www.centerofhopetx.com
 (817) 594-0266

Safe Harbor Counseling Center

Formed in 2004, this nonprofit is dedicated to providing professional counseling from a Christian perspective. They desire to be an extension of God's grace, mercy and healing at affordable prices based on a family's or individual's income.
www.safeharborcounseling.org
 (817) 441-9345

Joseph Thomas Foundation

This organization works to support the needs of families with medically fragile children. They focus on spiritual, financial and emotional pressures by sharing funds and experiences with the families.
www.josephthomasfoundation.org
 (325) 725-1380

Aledo Advocats

Women volunteers of this organization strive to help meet the needs of local children and their families. They use charitable donations to provide for medical and living expenses, clothing, field trips and senior expenses.
www.aledoadvocats.com
president@aledoadvocats.com

Parker County Gold Star Families

This organization exists to honor fallen soldiers and support the families left behind. They also raise funds to complete and maintain the beautiful Veteran's Memorial at Soldier Spring Park.
www.parkercountymemorial.com
 Facebook: ParkerCountyGSF
 (817) 988-2202

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Function

A

Industrialists know when their sturdy wooden pallets can no longer carry the weight. Hobbyists discover quality used pallets that won't break their bank. Experienced crafters already have tools on hand, but if you're new to working with wood, your list for these projects will be simple and your investment under \$50.

AMERICAN OR TEXAS FLAG

Requires 4 days and good ventilation.

- * 1 pallet
- * Sandpaper
- * Paintbrush
- * Chalk paint in navy blue, apple red and pure white
- * High gloss clear lacquer

Define the exact placement of the small rectangle, the order of the stripes and the positioning of the stars before you get started. You'll want the bottom, middle and top slats painted red and the intervening boards white. If you're painting the Texas flag, don't forget the white box is positioned above the red one.

Start painting the white color portions first. Make all the stars a little bigger, even messier, than the end result. While the white paint dries, wash your paintbrush thoroughly and prop it up to dry. When you're ready, paint the darker colors. Where they meet the white, allow a 1/4-inch overlap.

For a folk-art feeling, only use one coat. For a Warhol-ish effect, paint three coats. This wall- or yard-art can be hung or propped against a vertical object, like a tree or a garage wall. A more functional method to enjoy your patriotic pop art is to place it flag-up atop a stack of 5 to 7 other pallets and use it as a table.

HERB GARDEN

Requires 2 hours and no sanding.

- * 1 pallet

- * 25 seedling herbs
- * 1 48x40-inch plot of land
- * 1 shovel
- * 1 hoe
- * 1 trowel
- * 1 hose

Using shovel and hoe, prepare a 48x40-inch plot of ground by digging deep, turning the soil at least five times before hoeing the ground level. Place the pallet on the flat, prepared ground. Dig five holes between each slat with your trowel.

Wearing gloves to protect against splinters, place each seedling into the holes, and tamp loose dirt around its root base with your fingers. Use your hose for five minutes each morning, and another five each evening, to gently spray your garden. Moisture in the wood will prevent the baby herbs from drying out, while the slats will be a weed-barrier.

TEA PARTY PANTRY

Requires 48 hours.

- * 1 pallet
- * Sandpaper (optional)
- * 25 large, attractive screw hooks
- * 1 paintbrush
- * High gloss clear lacquer
- * 1 heavy-duty picture-hanging kit
- * 1 screwdriver
- * 2 tea towels
- * 20 hot beverage mugs with handles
- * 3 attractive drawstring bags
- * 3 boxes of your 3 favorite teas

al RTR

— By Melissa Rawlins



Sand rough edges off the pallet, if a polished look is desired. Using just your hands, patiently screw into your slats all the hooks, making sure all are facing the same direction and none are closer than 7 inches from each other.

Paint slats cross-grain with a thin layer of lacquer, covering each hook where it connects to the wood. After that dries, paint another layer of lacquer with the grain. Once fully dry, use the picture-hanging kit to position your Tea Party Pantry for immediate hospitality. Arrange mugs and tea towels attractively on the hooks. Fill each drawstring bag with a special type of tea and hang one each on the three remaining hooks.

FRONT YARD SWING

Requires 4 hours and access to electricity.

- * 2 pallets
- * 1 piece of plywood
- * 1 handheld drill with a 2-inch drill bit
- * 1 100-foot length of strong rope
- * 2 strong boys or girls

Place the plywood on the ground. Position the two pallets side-by-side atop the plywood. Drill 2-inch holes through the plywood, 4 inches from the perimeter, between every slat in the pallet.

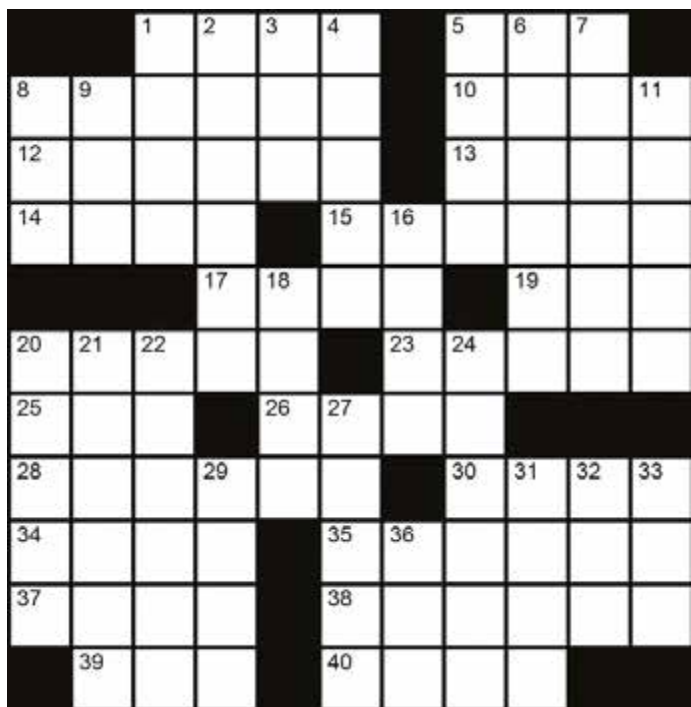
Sew the rope through the holes, looping it over and under each slat. You want to have rope handles extending up from each end of the swing. Knot the rope ends securely. Send each rope handle up the tree with 2 strong, tree-climbing children. Once they position the rope over



the appropriate branches, they can shimmy back down and take a nap on their swing.

Once your unique project is completed, the possibilities for sharing are endless. Posting photos to social media sites is the simplest way to inspire a large number of people. For maximum fun, invite a few friends over to christen your creation. **NOW**

Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

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 Ails again
- 39 Nipper
- 40 Plumps

Down

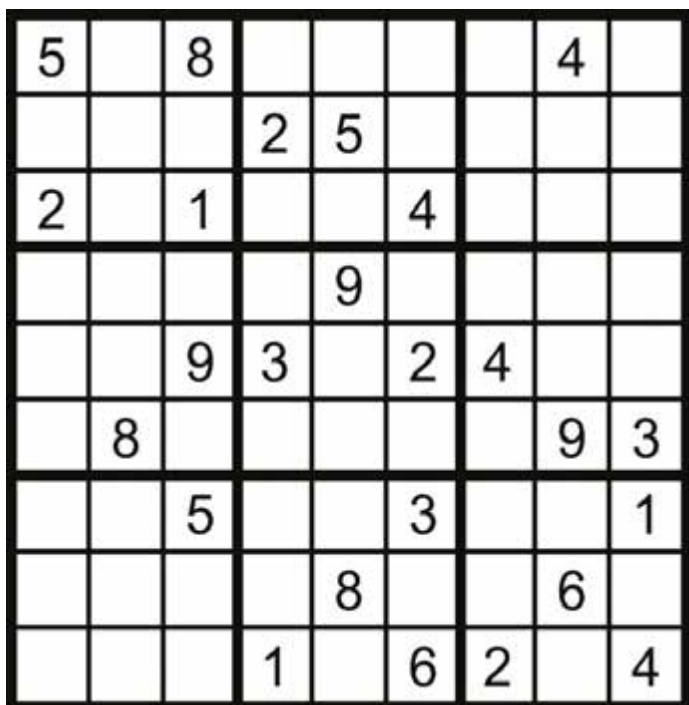
- 1 Agree formally
- 2 Dismount
- 3 Range of vision
- 4 Whitewater figure
- 5 Water-loving salamander
- 6 Horrified
- 7 German writer and dramatist
- 8 Tiny bit
- 9 Unity
- 11 Scoff
- 16 Disagreeable necessity
- 18 Expression of alarm
- 20 Cupcake filling
- 21 East Mediterranean region
- 22 Try too hard
- 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 44

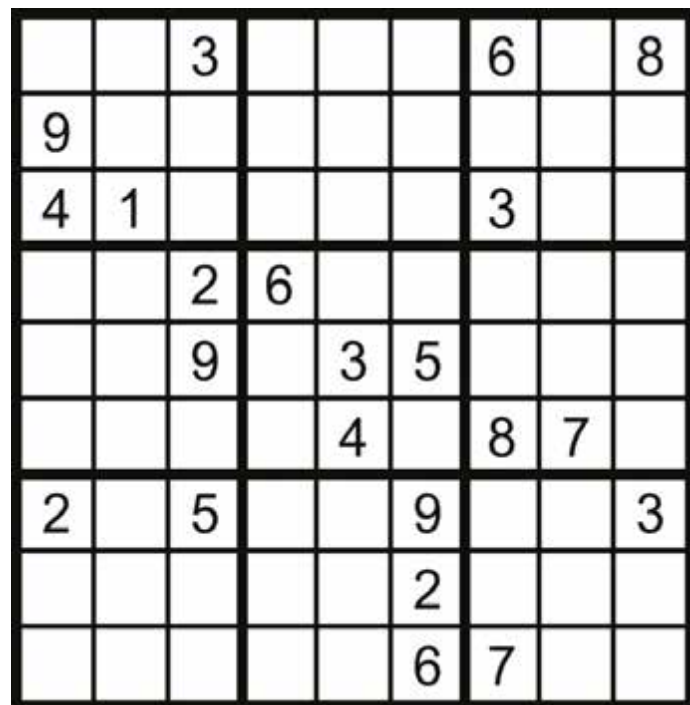
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

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Solutions on page 44

Estate Plans Can Help You Answer Questions About the Future

The word *estate* conjures images of great wealth, which may be one of the reasons so many people don't develop estate plans — after all, they're not rich, so why make the effort? In reality, though, if you have a family, you can probably benefit from estate planning, whatever your asset level. And you may well find that a comprehensive estate plan can help you answer some questions you may find unsettling — or even worrisome.

Here are a few of these questions:

• **What will happen to my children?** With luck, you (and your co-parent, if you have one) will be alive and well at least until your children reach the age of majority (either 18 or 21, depending on where you live). Nonetheless, you don't want to take any chances, so, as part of your estate plans, you may want to name a guardian to take care of your children if you are not around. You also might want to name a conservator — sometimes called a “guardian of the estate” — to manage any assets your minor children might inherit.

• **Will there be a fight over my assets?** Without a solid estate plan in place, your assets could be subject to the time-consuming, expensive — and very public — probate process. During probate, your relatives and creditors can gain access to

your records, and possibly even challenge your will. But with proper planning, you can maintain your privacy. As one possible element of an estate plan, a living trust allows your property to avoid probate and pass quickly to the beneficiaries you've named.

• **Who will oversee my finances and my living situation if I become incapacitated?** You can build various forms of protection into your estate planning, such as a durable power of attorney, which allows you to designate someone to manage your financial affairs if you become physically or mentally incapacitated. You could also create a medical power of attorney, which allows someone to handle health care decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do so yourself.

• **Will I shortchange my family if I leave significant assets to charities?** Unless you have unlimited resources, you'll have to make some choices about charitable gifts and money for your family. But as part of your estate plans, you do have some appealing options. For example, you could establish a charitable lead trust, which provides financial support to your chosen charities for a period of time, with the remaining assets eventually going to your family members. A charitable remainder trust, by contrast, can provide a stream of income for your family members for the term of the trust, before the remaining assets are transferred to one or more charitable organizations.

As you can see, careful estate planning can help you answer many of the questions that may be worrying you. Be aware, though, that certain aspects of estate planning, especially those related to living trusts and charitable trusts, can be complex, so you should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor about your situation. But once you've got your plans in place, you should be able to face the future with greater clarity and confidence. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.

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August

Through 8/31

Gallery Exhibit:

Letters and artifacts from the Pearce Civil War Collection titled *Music and Musicians in the Civil War*. **Monday-Friday:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** noon-4:00 p.m., Navarro College, 3100 W. Collin St., Corsicana. Visit www.pearcemuseum.com/events-2/ for admission details.

8/1

Summer Reading Ice Cream Social:

Kids age birth to 11, who read at least 11 hours over the summer, deserve a treat. Bring your invitation. 6:00-6:45 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us/142/Library.

8/2-8/4

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe:

Annual youth production. **Friday and Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:00 p.m. Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton, (817) 341-8687 or www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

8/3

Night at the Museum:

5:00-9:00 p.m., 1400 Texas Dr., www.dosscenter.org or (817) 599-6168.

8/10

Cliburn in the Classroom:
Summer Series at Chandor

Gardens with two free interactive and educational programs for children entering second-fourth grades. Limited class size; requires registration.

11:00 a.m., 711 W. Lee Ave., (817) 613-1700 or register online, www.chandorgardensfoundation.org.

8/15

STEAM Lab – Slime Lab:

Free event during Summer @ the Doss. 4:30 p.m., 1400 Texas Dr. For details, visit www.dosscenter.org or (817) 599-6168.

8/23

Parker County's Got Talent Show:

Benefits Safe Harbor Counseling Center, Inc, a local Parker County nonprofit. Local amateur talent contest will feature children's and adult divisions. Prizes awarded for top three talent acts in each division. Event includes door prizes, talent show, silent auction and refreshments. Tickets: \$10; family pack available; call for pricing. 6:00-9:00 p.m., North Side Baptist Church, 910 North Main, Weatherford.

8/24

2019 Texas House Luau & Benefit:

Hosted by Granbury VFW Post 7835, all proceeds go to the VFW National Home for Children. All-day activities: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; pig roast benefit dinner: 6:00 p.m. 3670 US-377, Granbury.

(817) 776-2965,
email: totinidoll3@gmail.com,
www.visitgranbury.com.

8/29

Homeschool Resource Fair:

Homeschooling parents looking for activities, tutoring or other services. Representatives from sports organizations, fine arts instructors, tutors and other educational service providers, museums and other cultural institutions and much more. 6:00-7:30 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. www.ci.weatherford.tx.us/142/Library.

9/21

QGPC Quilt Auction:

Everyone loves a quilt. QGPC Paint Chip Challenge quilts on display. Shopping-Sales-Preview: noon-2:00 p.m.; Auction: 2:00 p.m., North Side Baptist Church, 910 N. Main. www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

Mondays

Warriors at Ease Yoga:

Veterans are supported with science-based, trauma-sensitive exercises to regain resiliency. 1:30 p.m., Circle Y Yoga Ranch, 1303 Russell Bend Rd. (817) 609-6454.

Aledo Farmers Market:

3:00-7:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center Parking Lot, 104 Robinson Ct., Aledo. Runs weekly **March to November** (weather permitting). Support your local farmers. Contact City Hall at (817) 441-7016.

First Mondays

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days:

Event held on **Friday-Sunday** prior to the first **Monday**. One of the oldest open-air markets in Texas steeped in tradition and located in the heart of the historical district. Old traditions with a new look, attractions and fun activities. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 200 Santa Fe Dr. rhamilton@weatherfordtx.gov or (817) 598-4359.

Fourth Mondays

Weatherford Art Association Meeting:

Artist of the month contest followed by instruction in different media. Annual dues: \$40/individual, \$60/family and \$20/student. 6:00 p.m., Barlow Hall, All Saints Anglican Church, 125 S. Waco. www.weatherfordart.org.

Third Tuesdays

Parker County Cruisers:

The group for those interested in classic cars and specialty vehicles. 6:30 p.m., Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way. (817) 994-0074.

First and Third Thursdays

Connect Camp for Adults With Dementia:

Offers a respite for caregivers with physical and cognitive exercises and social interaction for "camper."



8/31-9/1

Model Train Show:

Model train heaven with several area clubs displaying trains with loads of track, different loops and auto switching. You may never want to leave. **Saturday:** 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Road. www.clarkgardens.org.

Donation-based. Registration required. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Clubhouse behind St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1812 Bethel Rd. (817) 609-6454.

Second Thursdays

Gardeners' Club of Parker County:

10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Road, Willow Park. (817) 919-6280.

Third Thursdays

Quilter's Guild of Parker County:

Quilters of all levels are welcomed.

6:30 p.m., North Side Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. Mary Williams at (940) 682-4631, www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

Second Fridays

PCWNC Luncheon:

All ladies in Parker County welcomed for new friendships and a wonderful time. **RSVP by first Friday** of the month. \$11. 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., FUMC Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. Contact Shirley at (817) 757-7379 or Lois at (817) 946-1930, www.pcwnc.org.

Living Waters Writers:

Christian writing group for encouragement and feedback. Free

open group. 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hood County Library, Granbury. Lisa, (817) 269-9066 or LisaBell@bylisabell.com.

Spring Creek Musical:

Old-time musical with bluegrass, gospel and country music. Concession stand available with all proceeds going toward expenses. Free and open to the public. 6:00 p.m., 100 Spring Creek Rd. Spring Creek Musical on FB.

Second Saturdays

Steak/Chicken Dinner Night:

Rib eye: \$15; chicken breast: \$10.

6:00 p.m., Granbury VFW Post 7835, 3670 US-377, Granbury. (817) 776-2965.

Fourth Saturdays

Fish Fry:

Everyone is welcome. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Granbury VFW Post 7835, 3670 US-377, Granbury. (817) 776-2965.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com.

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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	E	G	O
12		A	N	G	I	N	A		W	H
14		D	E	N	G		R	O	T	A
				17	18	H	O	R	N	
20	21	22				23	24			
	C	L	O	T	H		U	T	T	E
25		R	E	V		26	27			
28		E	V	E	L	Y	N		30	31
34		M	A	R	E		T	R	I	P
37		E	N	D	S		R	E	R	U
		38								
		T	O	T			O	P	T	S

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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