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# Southwest**NOW**

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2020

## A Life Lived for Learning

Dr. D'Andre Weaver  
values education

## A Texas Star

There will never be  
another Audie Murphy

In the Kitchen With  
Bryan Frye

Also inside:  
Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

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BN Sushi & Grill

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# DESOTO

INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## EAGLE EXPRESS

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AUGUST 2020

### BSW Schools to Delay School Start

Health and safety continue to be priorities as we prepare for the start of school. We appreciate parents' active engagement in their scholar's educational experiences. We know it's important to keep you informed and we want to provide you with an update on school reopening plans.

With this in mind, Cedar Hill ISD, DeSoto ISD, Duncanville ISD and Lancaster ISD intend to delay the start of school to follow the Labor Day weekend - Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020.

Each school district plans to take to their respective Board of Trustees a calendar that reflects school starting after Labor Day. Additional information for students and staff regarding more detailed school reopening plans will be provided by school leaders.

This decision was agreed upon by all Best Southwest school districts to ensure an environment that works to protect the health, wellness and preparedness of our students and staff for the upcoming school year.

Postponing the school start date will allow school systems in our area time to assess the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and adjust accordingly. Therefore, the Superintendents of Schools in the Best Southwest Dallas County region agree that the start of school should be delayed.



Find FAQ's, information, resources and more regarding back-to-school in DeSoto ISD at

[www.DeSotoISD.org/RECONNECT](http://www.DeSotoISD.org/RECONNECT)

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

### Back To School Fair Set for August 15

As a district of the community, it is our goal to equip our Eagles to soar for the 2020-2021 school year!

This year, DeSoto ISD will host a virtual back to school fair with a drive-thru school supply pick-up. While maintaining social distancing, we will continue to support students to ensure that they are academically prepared.

The 2020-2021 Back to School Fair will take place from 9 am to noon, Saturday, August 15, 2020, at DeSoto High School located at 600 Eagle Dr., DeSoto, TX 75115.

Registration for the event is now open for students and families. For those interested in supporting DeSoto ISD as we prepare for the upcoming school year, there are opportunities to donate materials for students and sponsorships.

For more information, visit  
[www.DeSotoISD.org/BackToSchoolFair](http://www.DeSotoISD.org/BackToSchoolFair)

#### Upcoming Calendar

- Board Meeting: August 10, 2020
- Back To School Fair: August 15, 2020
- Board Meeting: August 24, 2020
- First Day of School: September 9, 2020
- Board Meeting: September 14, 2020
- Board Meeting: September 28, 2020

#EagleStrong

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# S W E S T N O W

## 8 A LIFE LIVED FOR LEARNING

Education is the center  
of Dr. Weaver's vision.

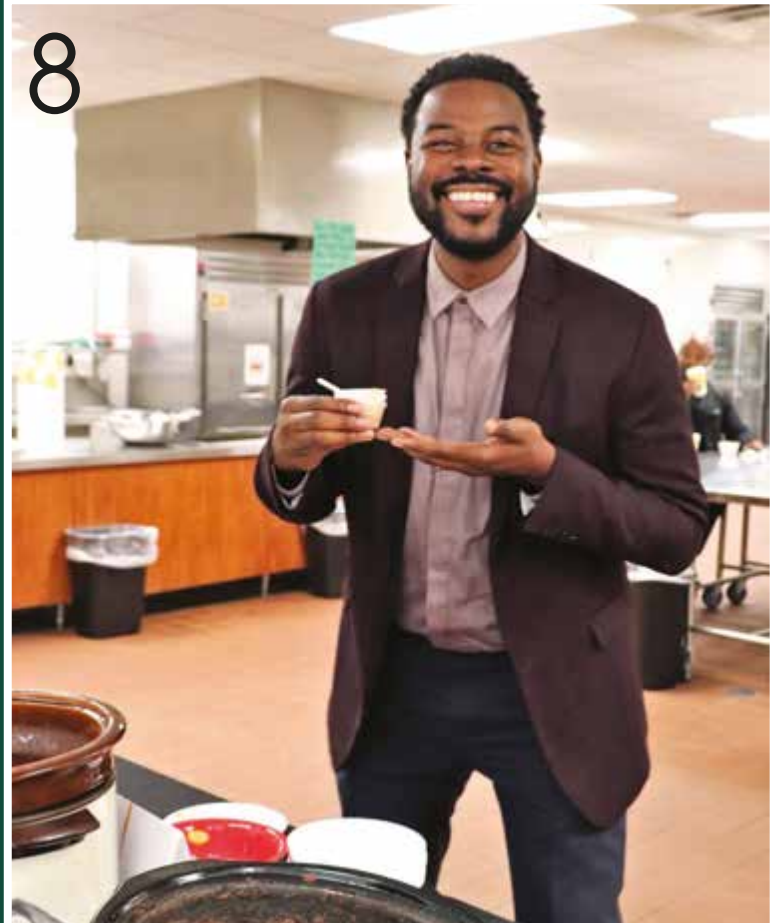
## 14 A TEXAS STAR

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# 8



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## ON THE COVER

*Dr. D'Andre Weaver takes  
our kids' futures to heart.*

**Photo by**  
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the  
Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50  
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DUNCANVILLE  
Independent School District

# School Reopening **September 8** in Two Ways - **ONE** D'ville



For more information, go to  
[DuncanvilleISD.org/Reopening](https://DuncanvilleISD.org/Reopening)

  
**IN-PERSON  
LEARNING**

- Teachers will provide instruction in a more traditional classroom setting in person.
- Students will attend school on their designated campus.
- Social distancing and safety guidelines will be enforced and monitored daily.
- Schools and district facilities will undergo enhanced cleaning procedures each day.
- In-Person Learning is being offered with teachers and staff prepared to transition to virtual learning districtwide if necessary.

  
**VIRTUAL  
LEARNING**

- Teachers will provide virtual instruction daily.
- All students will receive a combination of live, teacher-led instruction and video instruction, in addition to virtual peer collaboration and independent learning activities.
- Virtual classroom instruction will follow the district's written curriculum in alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
- Technology devices will be available for students, as needed.

## **ONE DUNCANVILLE**

Whether a student's classroom is more traditional through In-Person Learning or at home in a Virtual Learning model, the education will still be uniquely Duncanville and focused on student success.

- Students at each grade level have the choice of the In-Person or Virtual learning model.
- Additional social and emotional support will be available for students in the form of counselors and social workers.
- Attendance requirements and grading policies will be applied to all students.
- All classes will be taught by highly qualified, certified Duncanville ISD teachers.
- Students will be able to change between the two learning models at the end of the 9-week grading period.

# EDITOR'S NOTE

---



*Adam*

Adam Walker  
SouthwestNOW Editor  
adam.walker@nowmagazines.com  
(469) 285-2008

*Change comes slowly ...*

Something important happened 100 years ago this August 26th. Women in the United States gained the constitutional right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment. Think about that. Only 100 years ago, your grandmother, great-grandmother or great-great-grandmother (depending on how old *you* are) couldn't vote, no matter what her other accomplishments might have been.

So, this day is now Women's Equality Day. There are a lot of women in my life — my mother, sister, sisters-in-law, aunts, friends, teachers, co-workers, bosses ... And they've all accomplished amazing things, and proven themselves equal to all manner of tasks. The women I know have raised families large and small, run businesses, taught generations of students, cooked, cleaned, provided employment, managed space stations, danced, dreamed, worked their fingers to the bone at dead-end jobs — and everything else you can think of.

When I think of the women in my life, I think of strength and skill and plenty of qualities to celebrate. But there's still a ways to go. The suffragettes of old started us on the long road to full equality. Our generation has to keep walking it out. A hundred years of travel has brought us closer to the goal, as does each step today. Our daughters, nieces and the little girls next door will inherit a better world and continue the fight for their daughters.

Take a little time to celebrate the women in your life. Think about all the things they do that keep society going. You probably owe a lot of where you are today to the women in your life.

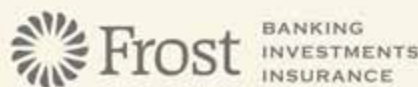
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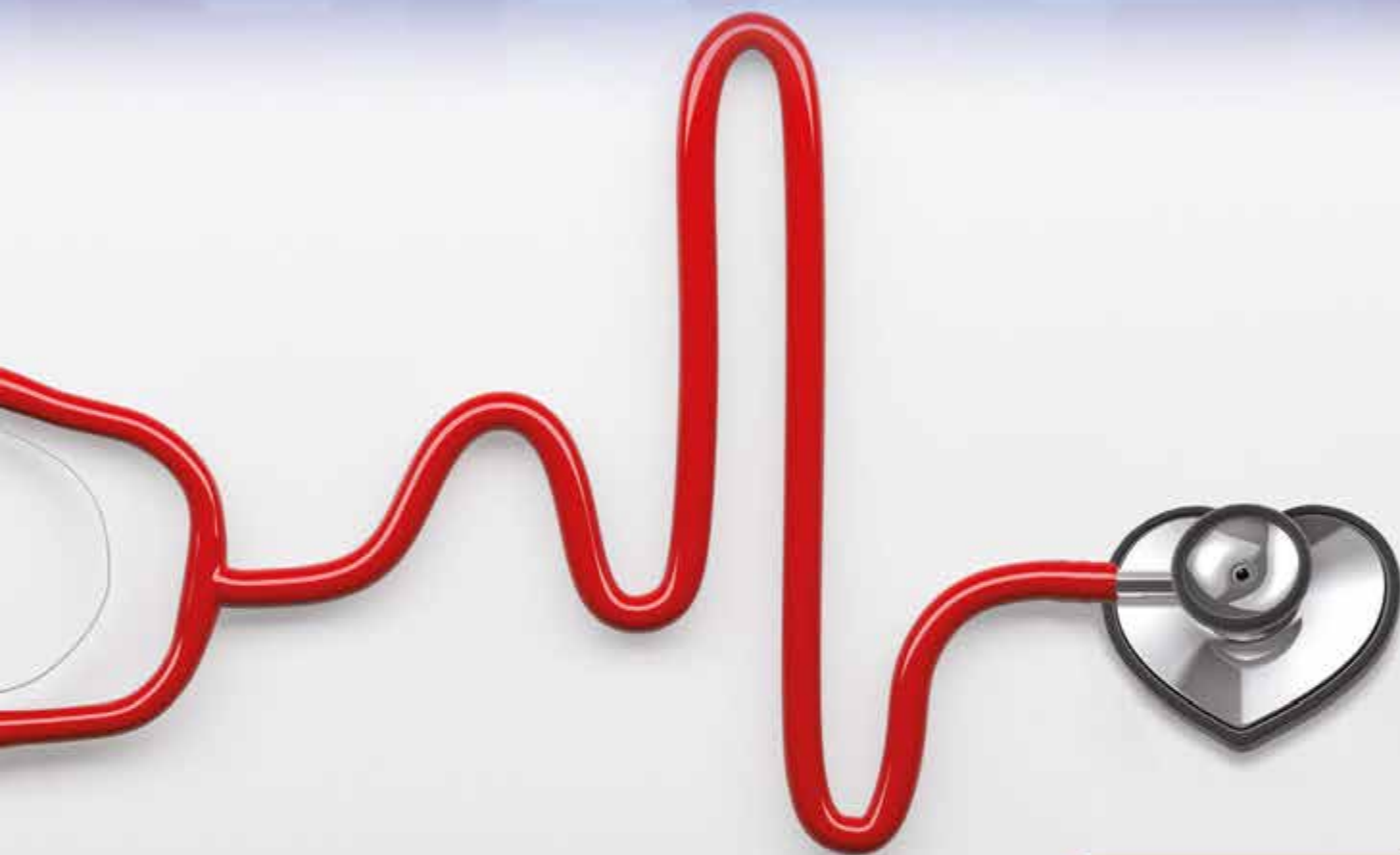
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# A LIFE LIVED LEARN

*Dr. D'Andre Weaver has seen the education system from every side. Growing up in Chicago, he attended good schools and not so good ones. But all along the way he was lucky enough to have some great teachers. "K through 12 was a really good experience for me at school. I had some great teachers who looked out for me. They saw my personal needs and helped me. In eighth grade, I was going to a really large neighborhood school. But I had a teacher who saw my talent with technology and advocated for me. By that time, I already knew I wanted to be a superintendent someday, and their support just solidified that dream."*

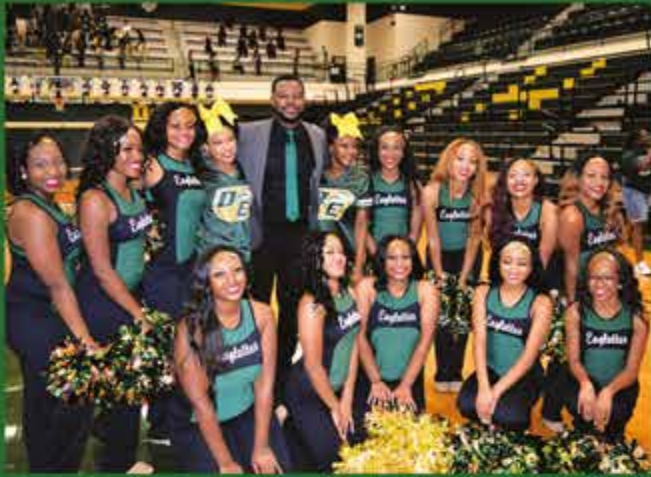
His luck finding good role models continued in high school. "I had a male African-American English teacher, Mr. Curry. He was the son of a teacher, and he treated me like a younger brother. I want to take those experiences and try to make sure that other kids have those same experiences," Dr. Weaver shared. He enjoyed high school. "For me, high school was a better experience than college. I was student council president, co-captain of the basketball team, worked on the school newspaper. I even interned at the high school, shadowing the administrators, learning how everything

worked. A lot of those early experiences helped catapult me into a blessed career."

Dr. Weaver went on to graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana, teach English at a high school in Champagne, Illinois, and then work as an assistant principal or principal at various schools in and around the Chicago area and in Houston. In September 2018, he became the new superintendent of the DeSoto ISD.

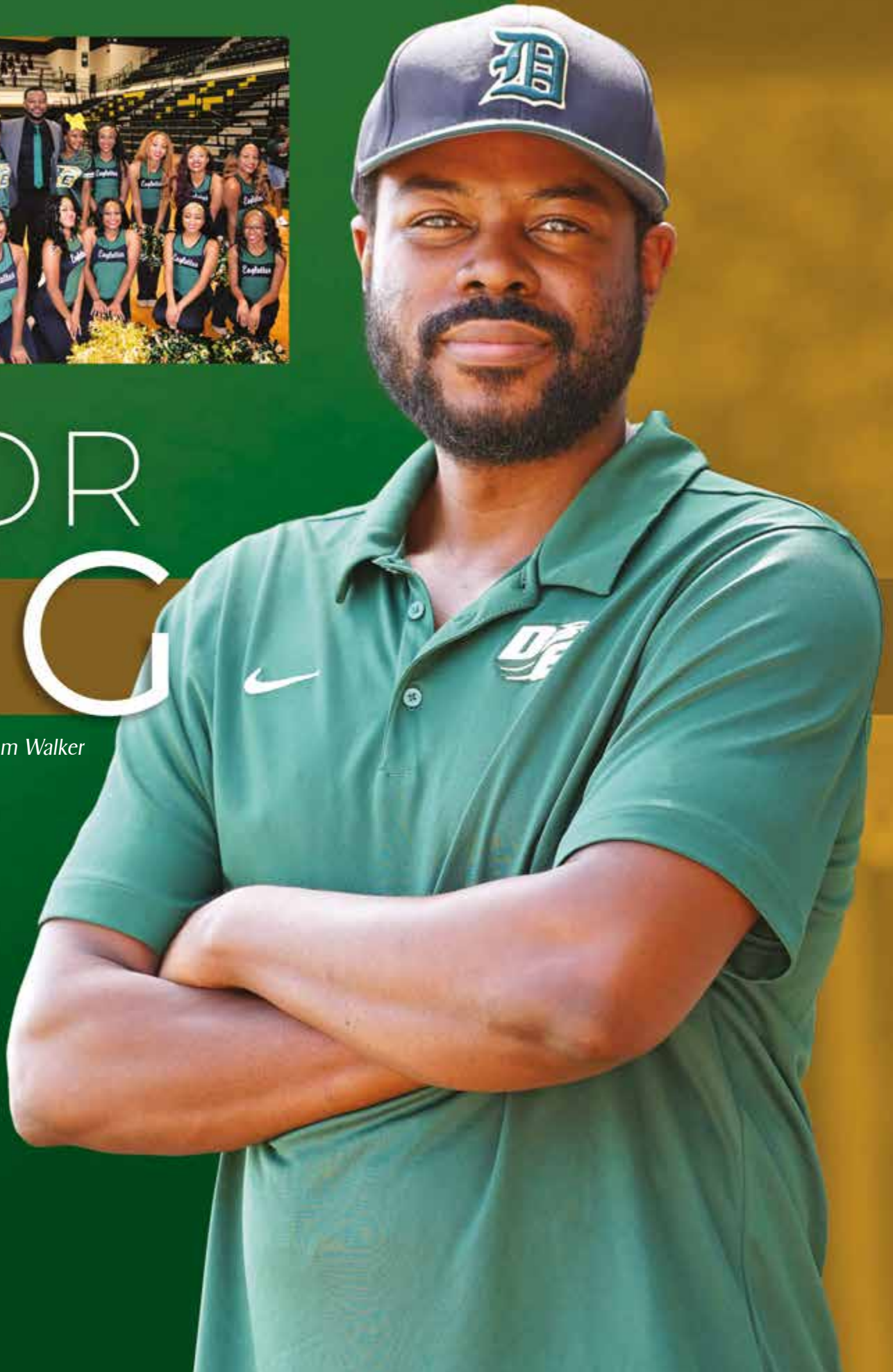
It wasn't an easy job to take on. The district was in crisis. "My first eight months on the job, I spent a lot of time learning and listening to those who live and





# FOR NG

— By Adam Walker





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## Hello Duncanville!

I am Richard Shaw candidate for Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees (Place 4). My life's philosophy is in three momentous notions that my family passed down to me while going up: 1) Learn, 2) Earn, and 3) Return.

### Learn:

Master's degree in Supervision and Educational Administration  
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### Earn:

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### Return:

As a philanthropist, I give back to several local charitable organizations  
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Mentoring youth and adults in Dallas County and abroad

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breathe DeSoto ISD. I went all over the city, to barbershops and restaurants, trying to understand the city and discover the frustrations. The challenge was to make sure that the district remained *our* district. There were a lot of problems to find and fix. We had financial challenges and budget issues we had to address quickly. We worked on debt reduction and a 20 percent reduction in expenses. That first year, the priority was stabilizing spending and avoiding bankruptcy. We also evaluated our academics and managed to improve from a 67, a C; to a 79, a B. That's a big improvement in rating. We're focusing on 22nd century learning, utilizing technology and new ways of delivering learning with more personalization for individual students. Academics are important, but we also want to see our students become great people."

Dr. Weaver has enjoyed relocating to DeSoto. "The people here are amazing. They're so kind. They ask about me and reach out to me. And it's a lot quieter than Chicago or Houston." He was living in Houston when Hurricane Harvey struck, so just about anything is more peaceful than that.

Asked what his normal day is like, he replied, "Oh, my, I don't know what that looks like! I spend time connecting with my team, with the principals, with the kids, with my trustees. I go to meetings at the Rotary Club and city events. I take calls from other superintendents. I have meetings with committees, with teachers, with parents who come in. There's a lot of variety. But my favorite time is being in the classrooms with the students. That's the best part of any day. I want people to know that they have a superintendent who genuinely loves students and feels responsible for them. I not only want them to learn, I want them to help the community be better. It's my goal to provide excellence for the community."





He takes the past and the present into account while working toward that future. "It's been challenging, leading through traumatic times for the ISD. The past financial challenges made it difficult to move forward as quickly as we would all have liked. Expectations don't change, but resources do. It's rewarding to see kids have opportunities, families have hope and teachers have the ability to do great things for students."

Coming together to solve issues related to COVID-19 has been one of those moments in which the district was able to make decisions to better serve students and families. Last spring, DeSoto ISD scrambled to respond to school closures, and out of that work came the Anytime Anywhere Learning system.

"Anytime, Anywhere Learning is about more than kids learning from home during a global pandemic, it's a response to the future of learning," Dr. Weaver said. "Life in general is no longer limited as a result of technology, and education is one of the last areas of our human experience to reflect that."

"While the start of school has been delayed due to safety precautions as a result of COVID-19, we are positive and hopeful about the future of this district and where we are headed. We've overcome some great obstacles, and I'm excited about turning the page."

"I have a voice to advocate for that. I will use every opportunity to do good for the community. I've been able to bring a really good team to work alongside me. You can't achieve anything without everyone else working together. It takes administrators, principals, teachers and teacher advisory councils, parents and parent councils, students — all of them working together. It's an incredible responsibility, but that's why I love working here. It's an incredible thing to get to serve and work with them for a better tomorrow." **NOW**



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*- Kathlyn Freeman*



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*Tales of Texas*

# A TEXAS STAR

— By Angel Morris

*It was not entirely uncommon for young men of a certain era to lie about their age in order to enlist in the U.S. military. It was, however, unusual for any one soldier to accumulate the accolades bestowed upon Texan Audie Murphy, who would go on to be the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II.*

Born June 20, 1925, in Kingston, Hunt County, Texas, Audie Leon Murphy was one of 12 children born to Emmett and Josie Belle Murphy, sharecroppers with little means. This humble beginning perhaps encouraged him to enlist in the Army at age 17 and did not stop him from going on to earn 33 military awards, including the Medal of Honor, as well as five additional honors from Belgium and France. It is believed he wounded, captured or killed some 240 enemies, while he, himself, was wounded three times and fought in nine major campaigns to survive the war.

Rising from army private to staff sergeant, Murphy also earned a "battlefield" commission to 2nd lieutenant during his three years of active combat. Released from the Army in September 1945, Audie made the cover of *Life Magazine*, and was invited to Hollywood by actor James Cagney.

After two challenging years with little work, Audie received bit parts in a couple of films. In 1949, he landed his first starring role in the film, *Bad Boy*. A year later, he signed a contract with what is today called Universal Studios, where he starred in 26 films between 1950 and 1965.



In 1955, he starred in the film adaptation of his own autobiography, *To Hell and Back*, which had been a bestseller in 1949. The film was Universal's highest grossing picture until being surpassed by *Jaws* in 1975.





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Concluding his Universal contract in 1965, Audie went on to work with other producers and studios and would complete 44 feature films, including many westerns, during his career. It is reported that Audie earned about \$3 million in his 23 years of acting.

Outside of acting, Audie was also a rancher and a successful racehorse owner and breeder. He was known as a gambler, winning and losing fortunes over sporting events and poker games.

Contrary to his military and acting persona, Audie was also a poet and songwriter, and had dozens of songs recorded by famed artists including Dean Martin, Charley Pride, Porter Wagoner, Roy Clark and many more.

Like many military veterans, Audie reportedly suffered from depression, insomnia and battle fatigue (now called post-traumatic stress disorder), and even became addicted to sleeping pills. He kicked his habit and began speaking publicly about the problems faced by returning military veterans, becoming a champion for Korean and Vietnam War veterans and encouraging the U.S. government to better address war's emotional impact and the resulting health care needs.

Audie's life was tragically cut short on May 28, 1971, when he was just 45 years old. On a business trip, Audie

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died in a plane crash, with the accident attributed to rain and fog. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on June 7. His gravesite has become one of the most visited at the cemetery, second only to President John F. Kennedy's.

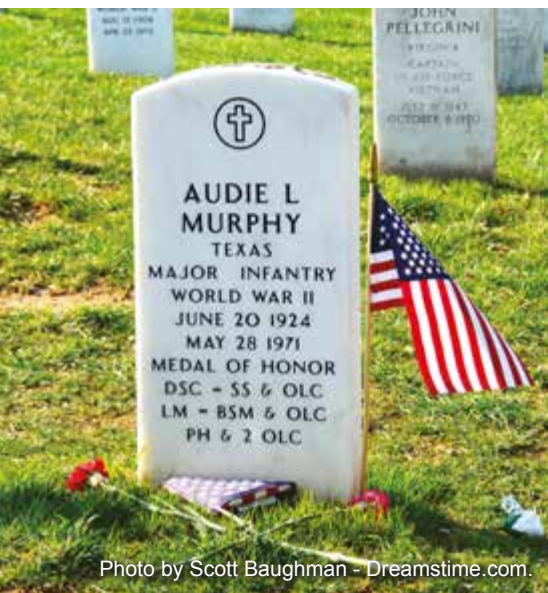


Photo by Scott Baughman - Dreamstime.com.

Audie, who had been married twice in his lifetime, was survived by his second wife of 20 years and their two sons, Terry and James. Terry founded the Audie Murphy Research Foundation to preserve his father's memory. The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website showcases books, collectibles, media clips, photos and more as they relate to Audie's life and career.

Since his death, Audie's birthday, June 20th, has been dubbed Audie Murphy Day in Texas by both the state legislature and then-Governor George W. Bush. In 2013, Audie's only surviving sibling, Nadine Murphy, accepted the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on Audie's behalf, awarded posthumously by Governor Rick Perry.

Audie's namesake website notes that he is truly a one-of-a-kind World War II veteran. "What Audie accomplished during this period is most significant and probably will never be repeated by another soldier, given today's high-tech type of warfare," the site states. "The U.S. Army has always declared that there will never be another Audie Murphy." **NOW**

Source: [audiemurphy.com](http://audiemurphy.com).

Photos, unless otherwise noted, courtesy of Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum.

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BusinessNOW

## BN Sushi & Grill

— By Adam Walker

### BN Sushi & Grill

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(972) 293-1009

bnsushi.com

Facebook: B.N. Sushi and Grill

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. & 5:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Sunday: Noon-9:30 p.m.

BN Sushi & Grill offers a full range of dining options during the pandemic, including delivery, which is available until closing time; curbside pick-up; and dine in. “We offer a full menu from steak to shrimp. We’re a family restaurant and aim to be a fun place for everyone from kids to adults,” explained owner Benny Nguyen.

Benny only serves the best quality food. “I shop daily to pick the best produce, meat and fish. We never freeze our

food, and we don’t precook it either. I want the freshest food. We cook like we would for our own families or for ourselves. If anything isn’t up to standard I ask, ‘Do you want *your* family to eat this?’”

They offer a range of options from raw to cooked. They have traditional Japanese sushi prepared by a traditionally trained Japanese chef. Sashimi is also on the menu, as are California rolls and various other rolls with both vegetarian and meat options. You can stick with the familiar, like fish, beef or chicken or try something a little more exotic, like eel. A whole range of fried rice dishes is offered. Various kinds of teriyaki, ramen and shrimp or vegetable tempura are other choices, as well as a number of favorite Thai dishes and Vietnamese-style fried egg rolls. Soups include miso and other options. Salads include seaweed and squid, as well as many others. There’s even fried chicken for the kids who won’t try anything different, allowing mom and dad to satisfy their cravings for sushi. Desserts like



fried ice cream and mango rice satisfy a sweet tooth. And the drink menu covers everything from juice and American sodas, to Japanese sodas and a range of tea choices, as well as adult beverages.

BN Sushi & Grill has expanded since it changed names. "I've been here since 2010," Benny reported. "We're double the size we used to be, even the bar is bigger. I love the people of Cedar Hill. We're a family restaurant, and everyone loves coming in for a meal. I love Japanese culture and food, and I love cooking it. I want people to eat a healthy diet. Rice and fish are part of that. I've been learning for 20 years. When I make food, and the people who eat it look happy, it makes me happy. I like to make people happy."

"I want the  **freshest food**. We cook like we would for our own families or for ourselves. If anything isn't up to standard I ask, 'Do you want *your* family to eat this?'"

Benny grew up here. "My family had five brothers, two sisters and my mom. I've always thought it was important to give young people an opportunity to work. Some of my employees started as teenagers and have been with me for 10 years. My chef has been here for eight or nine years. It's about how you want to be treated. Everyone starts from somewhere. That's how you build a life. I like to help teens get a start in life. I give them a chance to build a good foundation."

Benny wants everyone to experience BN Sushi & Grill. "Come in and give us a chance to serve your family a traditional lunch or dinner. Enjoy a good meal and laughter." **NOW**




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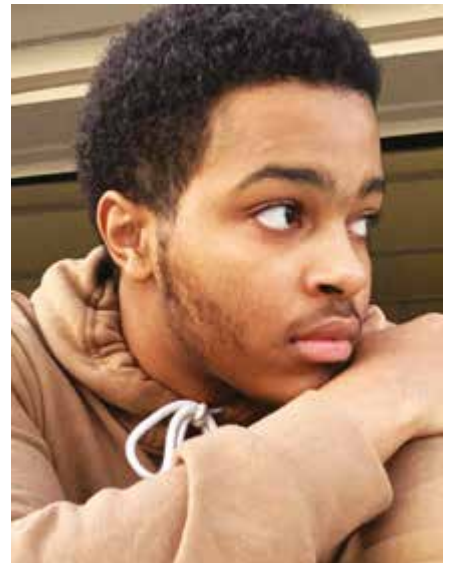




## Zoomed In: Angie Gonzalez-Roland

By Adam Walker

Angie Gonzalez-Roland took time to honor her young scholars as they prepare for the next step in their academic journeys. “I was presenting a certificate of completion for the Kindergarten Bilingual Summer School to Karina Zarco.” The certificates and other goodies provided a bright spot during the pandemic. “Bilingual education is important to me because the scholar is able to enhance and enrich their bilingual skills. The scholar will continue to develop in their native language critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills to be successful in the future. It is essential for the scholar to be bilingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural,” she explained. “Now that it’s over, I miss seeing their beautiful faces. I am looking forward to seeing them in the fall again.”



Cedar Hill High School graduate Jalen Slaughter speaks out on racial injustice.



Local artist Kenna Prior works on a new woodcut.



Event organizer Ray Richardson, DeSoto Police Chief Joseph Costa and co-organizer Will Miller discuss police-community relations.



DeSoto High School students and athletic trainers help North Texas Food Bank feed families in need.





Robin and Jillian Lewis host a summer lemonade stand in Duncanville.



CHHS graduate Richard Kaiser earns a \$1,000 scholarship from the Best Southwest Partnership.




Jeanette Rodriguez, Ryan Young and Yasmine Pascal pass out meals to Duncanville senior citizens.



Vanessa Sterling, Amanda Skinner and Elsa Ozuna of the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce provide masks to local businesses.

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DeSoto's monthly in-person Benefit Forums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. But we will continue providing information to our Veterans **VIRTUALLY** so please watch for our Virtual Veterans Benefit Forums on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 am on the City of DeSoto Facebook Page @desototx, on the city's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) and on Government Channel 16 for Spectrum Cable subscribers and 99 for AT&T Uverse subscribers. We also have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to assist you in connecting with them for assistance. Just give us a call at 972.230.9648 and we will do our best to connect you to someone who can help.





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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### BRYAN FRYE

— By Adam Walker



*SouthwestNOW* Advertising Representative Bryan Frye has been cooking since he was 13 and learned from his parents. It's a labor of love for him. "First of all, I love to eat, and I love to provide that service to others! I love seeing my family scarf my creations."

Today, he likes to look up a few online recipes for a dish, and then go his own way. But it took practice to reach this level of skill. "I had a 'Cajun queen' (a college classmate from Houma, Louisiana) try to teach me how to make roux. My first few attempts were disastrous. Burned twice, dry and clumpy ... it took a few times. She dubbed me 'Mr. Roux' after that. But now, I have the technique down to a science!" **NOW**

### Shrimp Piccata

3 Tbsp. oil  
3 Tbsp. butter  
1/2 cup flour  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1/4 tsp. garlic powder  
1/4 tsp. onion powder  
1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning  
10-12 jumbo or colossal shrimp, peeled  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/4 cup white wine

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice  
2-3 Tbsp. capers  
2 tsp. garlic  
1 medium onion, sliced  
8-10 oz. pasta, uncooked  
1/4 cup pine nuts  
Fresh basil leaves, to taste  
1 lemon, wedged

1. Heat oil and butter in a sauté pan. Put next five ingredients in a paper or plastic bag; shake to combine the spices.

2. Add the shrimp to the bag; shake until lightly coated.

3. Fry the shrimp in the hot oil/butter for 2 minutes on each side. Lay each shrimp on a paper towel for a second or two on each side, and then place them on a baking sheet in a 200 F oven.

4. Add liquids to the sauté pan; bring to a boil. Add capers, garlic and onions. Reduce heat; simmer for 5 minutes.

5. Toss with pasta; serve with shrimp and pine nuts on top. Garnish with basil and lemons.

### Low Carb Brown Gravy (With Turkey Gravy Option)

*Makes about 3 cups.*

Pinch salt  
1/2 tsp. black pepper  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. onion powder  
1 Tbsp. Lipton Beefy Onion Soup mix  
6 Tbsp. butter  
3 Tbsp. white onion, grated  
1 tsp. garlic, minced



**2 1/2 cups beef broth**  
**1 tsp. Kitchen Bouquet Browning & Seasoning Sauce**  
**1 to 1 1/2 tsp. xanthan gum, to desired thickness**

- 1.** Premix the first 5 ingredients in a small bowl to make a spice mixture.
- 2.** Melt the butter in a sauté skillet. Add the onion and garlic; cook in the hot butter until soft. Add spice mixture; cook 30 seconds.
- 3.** Add broth and Kitchen Bouquet; bring to a slow boil. Very slowly, tap in xanthan gum, while vigorously whisking, until the desired thickness is achieved.
- 4. Variation:** To make turkey gravy, substitute 1/2 tsp. ground thyme (or 1 tsp. dried thyme) in place of Beefy Onion Soup mix. Substitute 1 cup of turkey drippings in place of 1 cup of beef broth. Substitute 1 cup of turkey or chicken broth in place of the other cup of beef broth. Reduce Kitchen Bouquet to 1/2 tsp. (for color and seasoning).

## Cheater BBQ Ribs

**1 rack of ribs**  
**Boiling water (enough to cover ribs)**  
**Sweet barbecue sauce of your choice, to taste**

- 1.** Cut a slab of ribs into sections of two ribs each. Put the ribs in boiling water; boil for 1 hour. (Add small amounts of water if necessary.)
- 2.** Let cool; turn oven to broil.
- 3.** Soak the ribs in the barbecue sauce. (It's best to use sweet sauce for the caramelization, color and texture.)
- 4.** Place the top oven rack 2-3 inches from the top broiler burner. Broil the sections of ribs on one side for exactly 7 minutes.
- 5.** With tongs, turn the sections over; broil the other side for exactly 7 minutes. If you need to "re-slather" with sauce, feel free. The more the merrier!
- 6.** Ribs should begin to blacken in spots. That's where you want them to be! Carefully remove them from the oven; enjoy!

## Hand-Crafted Nachos

*So simple but one of my most requested meals. These ingredients will make probably 30-35 nachos, and you'll probably have some ingredients left over for more. ... You will want more!*

**1 lb. ground beef or ground chuck**  
**1 can Gebhardt's refried beans, or other refried beans**  
**1 Tbsp. hot water (or bacon grease)**  
**Mission Tortilla Rounds (in the paper bag) or another large, thick tortilla chip**



**1** 2-lb. block extra-sharp cheddar cheese, cut into 1-inch squares, 1/4-inch thick  
**Pickled jalapeños, chopped or sliced**  
**Guacamole and/or sour cream for garnish**

- 1.** Brown the ground beef; lightly drain.
- 2.** Put the beans in a large bowl; add hot water or bacon grease. Stir until soft and spreadable.
- 3.** Turn the oven on 400 F.
- 4.** Spread the beans on each chip; top with ground beef, cheese and jalapeños. Put nachos on a baking sheet.
- 5.** Bake for 2-3 minutes, only until the cheese is just melted.
- 6.** Garnish with guacamole and/or sour cream.

## Down Home Collard Greens

**2 smoked turkey necks or smoked pork hocks (meaty as you can get)**  
**4 slices bacon**  
**1 medium onion, diced**  
**2-3 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 bunch collards**  
**2 cups chicken broth**  
**1 pkt. Goya Ham Flavored Concentrate**



Shrimp Piccata

**Salt, to taste**  
**Pepper, to taste**  
**Vinegar pepper sauce, to taste (optional, as garnish)**

- 1.** Put necks or hocks in boiling water (just enough to cover) for 1 1/2 hours.
- 2.** While boiling the necks/hocks, fry bacon. Set bacon aside; reserve the bacon grease (optional).
- 3.** After the necks/hocks have finished boiling, remove the necks/hocks from the broth. Add the onions and garlic to the broth. Reduce the broth to about 2 cups.

- 4.** Remove largest part of the collard stalks (if desired, your preference). Cut the greens into ribbons or dice them.
- 5.** Add chicken broth, ham concentrate and greens to the broth. Boil until desired tenderness, 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Add water, if necessary, to keep the greens just covered.
- 6.** After the hock/neck is cooled, pull the meat from the bone; return meat to the greens during boiling. Add in desired amount (if any) of bacon grease for extra flavor. Taste; add salt and pepper as desired.
- 7.** Serve greens in a bowl with some of the broth. Add pepper sauce if desired.

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# TravelNOW Experience History Outside

— By *Virginia Riddle*

A clue on the GPS Scavenger Hunt reads, “Ghosts love this place, but you must get here before sundown.” Visitors will want to experience driving under the treed canopies of the Post Oak Savannah, through which sunlight sparkles, as they enter Fort Parker State Park located between Mexia and Groesbeck, Texas. Check in with the park ranger, and get

ready for a few days that are as peaceful or activity filled as you wish. “Since we are right between I-45 and I-35, Dallas and Houston, Waco and East Texas, we even have visitors who like to meet in the middle,” Office Manager Sherrie Price said. “We’re popular with families and birdwatchers.”

Fort Parker State Park includes 700 acres of woodlands, native grasslands and a 750-acre lake, formed from the meandering Navasota River. It offers marked hiking and mountain biking trails, fishing, picnic tables, swimming, a playground and nature center, paddleboats, canoeing and kayaking. The park also contains two paved boat ramps and accommodations ranging from RV sites and dormitories to primitive sites. A recreation hall with kitchen accommodates groups. Restrooms are available at the picnic sites and boat ramps.



The lake is stocked with crappie, bass, sunfish and catfish. Fishermen must have a license, if required, and bring their own bait, but the park has a tackle loaner program. A fish cleaning station is the first stop before putting the day's catch on picnic site grills.

Two designated trails, the Navasota (River) Bluffs Canoe Trail and Burr Oak Nature Interpretive Trail allow park visitors to explore nature and hiking trails and revisit the area's history. Rangers, volunteers and self-guided literature are available, along with informational, fun activities for kids. Part of the state park grounds were once the site of Springfield, a town that in 1860 boasted a population larger than Dallas. Historical markers and information kiosks mark Springfield's cemetery and many of the park's structures, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

A large arrow on State Highway 14 marks the turn, three miles south of the state park entrance, into Old Fort Parker Historic Site, part of the Quanah Parker Trail. Kids of all ages can step back in time to May 19, 1836, climb the blockhouse and explore the stockade's cabins as 9-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker, the future mother of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, did before being taken captive by a band of Comanches, Kiowas and Kichais that attacked the fort.

Open Wednesdays — Sundays, entrance fees are charged at the visitor's center. Along with camp houses, the Historic House and RV sites can host overnight guests. Trail rides, shoots, re-enactments, Anglo and Indian Parker family reunions, the annual Quanah Parker Day and Christmas at the Fort activities celebrate this area's place in American frontier history. Old Fort Parker Historical Site and Fort Parker State Park are part of the Texas Brazos Trail. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: COVID-19 restrictions require visitors to make advance reservations for day or longer use at [texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com](https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com) or (512) 389-8900. It is recommended to call first for current updates on use of areas, activities and rental prices.*

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.



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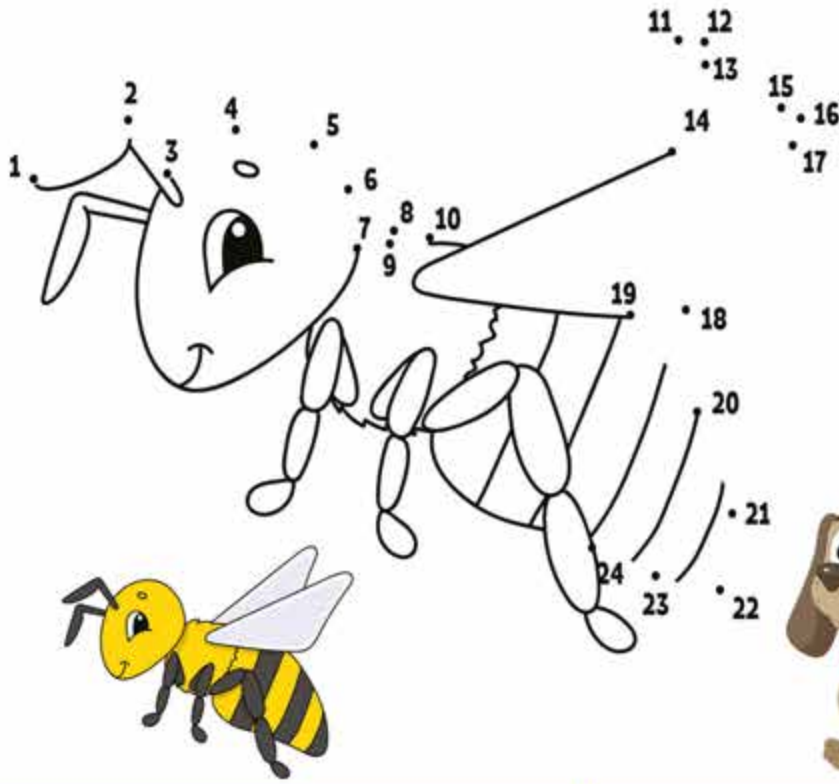
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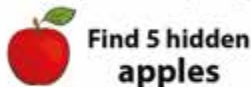
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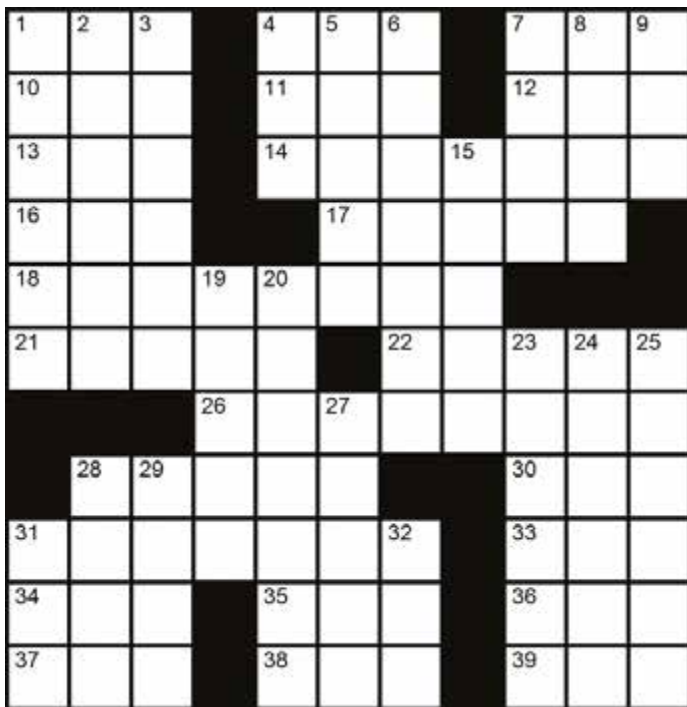
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Label for Elvis
- 4 Trucker's bedroom?
- 7 Youngster
- 10 "Huffington Post" owner
- 11 Undergarment
- 12 Position of a golf ball
- 13 Corn eater's leftover
- 14 Organizations
- 16 Mamie's other half
- 17 Rubbed in during Lent
- 18 767 or MD90
- 21 Admitted
- 22 Some final resting places
- 26 To a certain extent
- 28 Utah's --- Hatch
- 30 Semiformal evening jacket
- 31 One is super every four years
- 33 Pismire
- 34 Bill dispenser
- 35 Ram's dam
- 36 Fifth sign
- 37 Howl
- 38 Steep
- 39 Wrongdoing

## Down

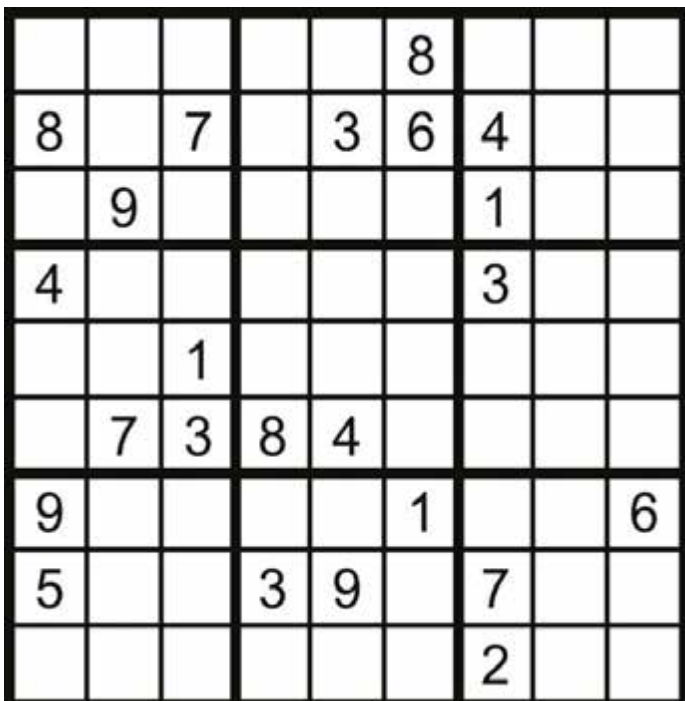
- 1 Kind of discrimination
- 2 A website might send you one
- 3 Queen Victoria's consort
- 4 TV network with eye logo
- 5 From eastern old Iran
- 6 Droopy-eared hound
- 7 Turn tail
- 8 Outer edges
- 9 Triumphant cry
- 15 Deliberately lose
- 19 Kind of poker
- 20 Person with special access
- 23 Mercury and others
- 24 Sultanate in Borneo
- 25 Churchyard gravedigger
- 27 Dumbfounded
- 28 "--- sight!"
- 29 Cognac bottle name
- 31 Check
- 32 Nevertheless

Solutions on page 44

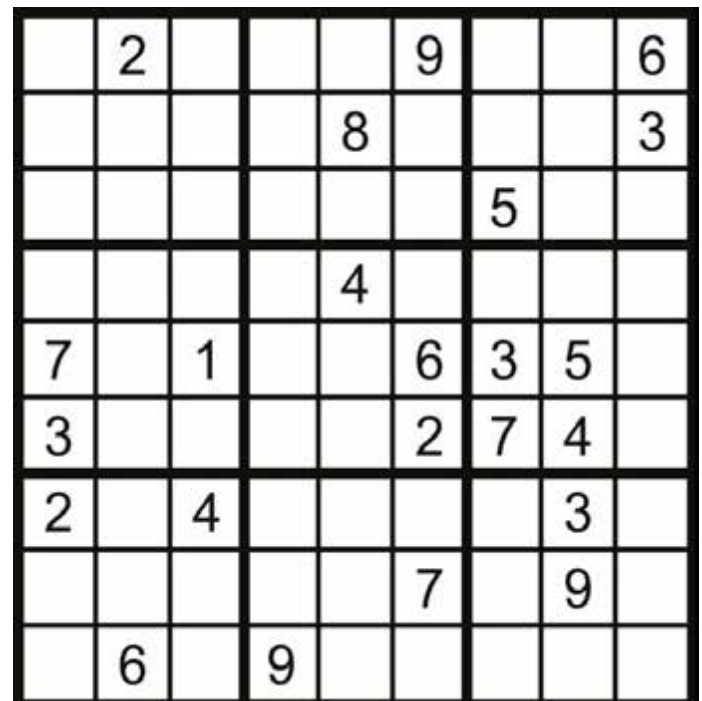
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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium



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Solutions on page 44



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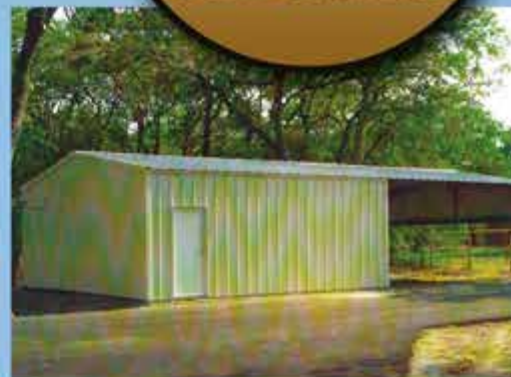
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I've lost 22 lbs. in 4 months with 3 more lbs. to my goal weight and dropped two dress sizes. My energy level has been amazing! No crashes in the middle of the day or wanting to go to bed way before bedtime.

Mika and Bailey in the Mansfield Office have been very friendly, kind and so encouraging. They give us recipes, info on brand names for sauces, toppings and even have ideas for easy sugar-free desserts. They also offer shakes, bars, cookies, chips and other snacks that are made with special ingredients to benefit weight loss.

I highly recommend Diet Solution Weight Loss Centers if you are looking for success, support, accountability and a lifestyle to keep the weight off.



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8/1

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8/4

### CPS Foster/Adopt:

Learn about fostering and adopting children in need. Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville.

8/6

### Medicare Community Meeting:

Learn how Medicare works. Free. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, 211 Pleasant Run Rd., Ste. C, DeSoto.

8/22

### NABA DFW Game Night

#### Scholarship Fundraiser:

Play spades and dominoes with a partner in the tournament, or casino and board games for fun. \$20-\$25. 5:00-10:00 p.m., 1112 Marisa Ln., DeSoto.

8/27

### Keller Williams Best Southwest Career Night:

Learn to be a real estate agent. Free. 6:30-8:00 p.m., 2010 N. Hampton Rd., Ste. 300, DeSoto.

8/28

### Poetry Night:

Come share your bardic talents at an open mic for all ages and talent levels. Free. 7:00 p.m., Black and Bitter Coffee, 100 S. Main St., Duncanville.

8/29

### Glamorous Works 15 Year Anniversary Formal Ball:

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Saturdays

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



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10	A	O	L		11	B	R	A		12	L	I	E	
13	C	O	B		14	S	Y	S		15	T	E	M	S
16	I	K	E		17	A	S	H	E	S				
18	A	I	R	L	I	N	E	R						
21	L	E	T	I	N		22	T	O	M	B	S		
					26	A	S	I	T	W	E	R	E	
					28	O	R	R	I	N				
31	T	U	E	S	D	A	Y		32					
34	A	T	M		35	E	W	E		36	L	E	O	
37	B	A	Y		38	R	E	T		39	S	I	N	

Easy

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

Medium

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



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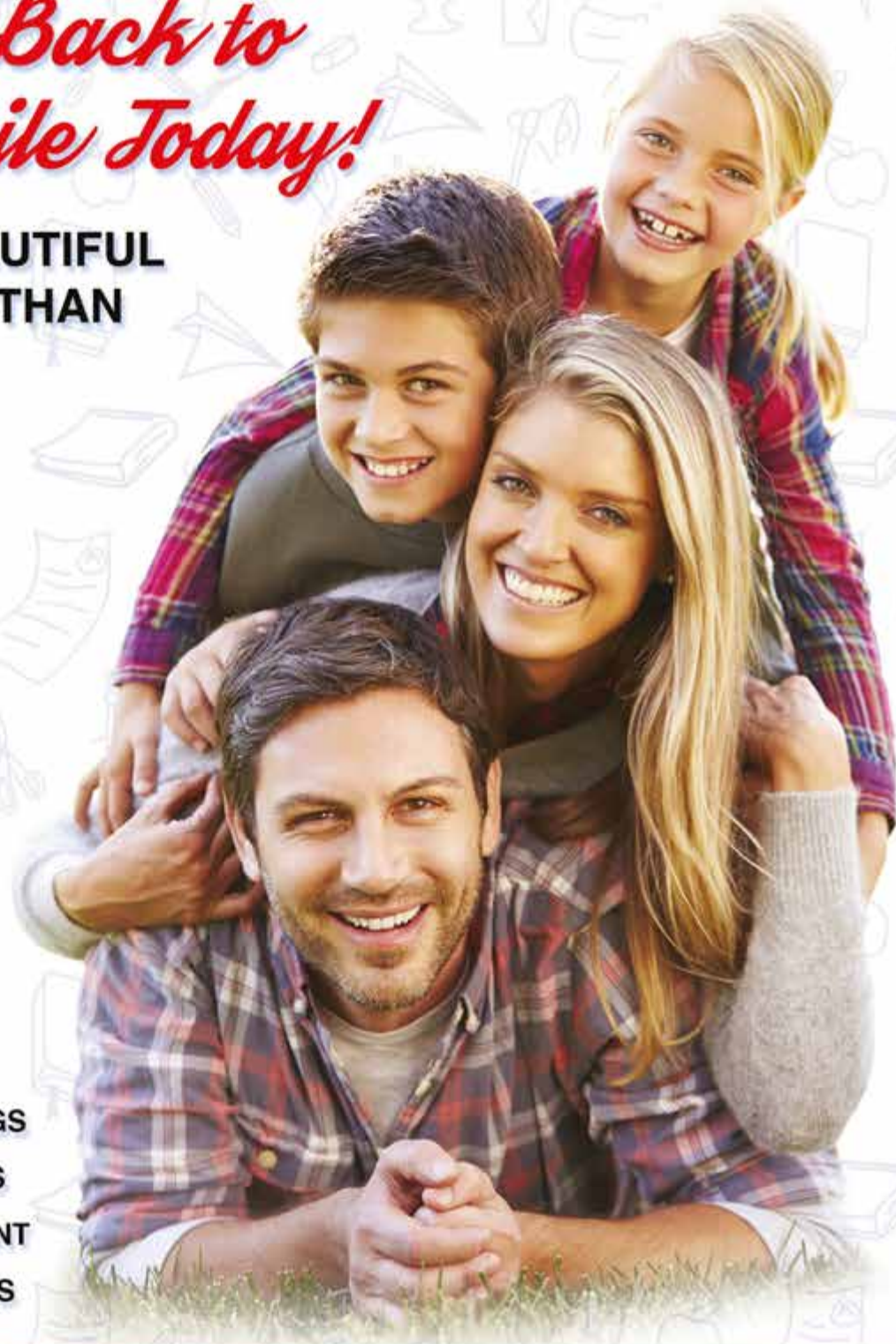
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