

BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2025

Hooked on Sci-Fi

Author William “Bud” Humble explores different worlds through writing

In the Kitchen With Jennifer Winter

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Sudoku

Featured Business: Ol' South Pancake House





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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back, August!

You see it in the box offices, all over streaming services and on your social media feed: Nostalgia is trending. It makes sense. In the fashion world, styles are cyclical. Sometimes, though, this heightened interest in intellectual properties and trends can be tiring. Despite this, I am not immune to nostalgia.

Over the course of the summer, I have revisited interests of my childhood, and it's fun. I've gotten back into jewelry making, and I cannot express how nice it feels to return to crafting after what feels like a years-long break from it. I have been trying to recapture the natural high I got as a kid when participating in the summer reading program. While I didn't quite succeed, I did read some pretty good books. It wasn't all nostalgia, though. I tried new recipes and enjoyed interacting with new people, too!

Summer isn't over yet. There's still time to dig up old hobbies or try out new ones. Maybe you, too, will rediscover your love for a craft you've all but forgotten. Perhaps you'll try out that sport or binge that show you've been putting off.

Whatever it is, make the most of your summer.



Emma

Emma McKay
BurlesonNOW Editor
emma.mckay@nowmagazines.com
(682) 239-0010

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ON THE COVER



William "Bud" Humble publishes the speculative fiction stories he wants to read.

Photo by
Lori Baur.

Publisher, Connie Poirier
General Manager, Rick Hensley

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Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Burleson Editor, Emma McKay
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Editors/Proofreaders, Rachel Rich
Virginia Riddle

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Beth Davis
Martha Macias . Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY
Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographer, Lori Baur

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Advertising Representatives,
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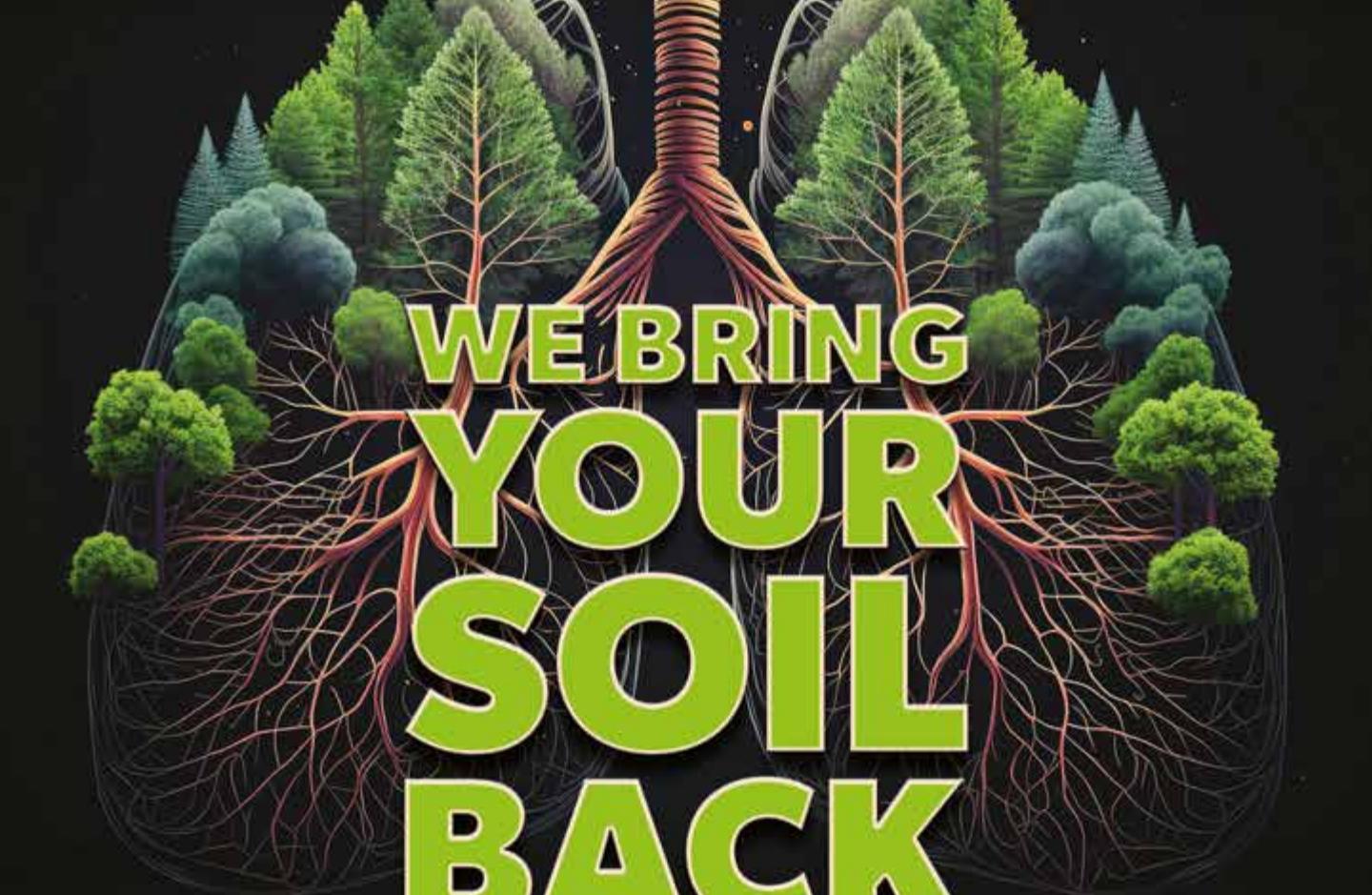


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On Staff





HOOKED ON SCI-FI

— By Emma McKay

“Speculative fiction includes horror, sci-fi and fantasy,” stated local science fiction author and Senior Activity Center supervisor William “Bud” Humble. “It is based on some speculation about what will be. What monster will show up. Or, what cool new inventions we’ll come up with and how those will affect people’s lives. It leads to fun exploration.”

Bud discovered the speculative fiction genre early into his reading career when picking up an Andre Norton book. “It completely captivated me. So, I started reading more. The more I read, the more it opened up my mind to different possibilities and new adventures. I was hooked. It took me to new places. A mystery is fun. You want to find out ‘whodunit,’ but with science fiction and fantasy, you’ve got a whole new world to explore. I don’t think it’ll ever grow old for me.”

In college, Bud decided to leave the familiarity of reading and embark on the adventure of writing. “I was like, ‘I’ve read a lot. How hard can writing be?’ Then I got three chapters in. I said, ‘Oh, well, that answered that!’” So, he set his novel in progress aside to try his hand at short stories. “I got the first half of at least a dozen done, and halfway through, there was something even shinier that called me. I finally said, ‘OK, I’m going to finish one of these stories if it kills me.’ And I did finish it, and it didn’t kill me, much to my relief!” After that, he realized if he could finish a short story, then he could also finish his novel.

He didn’t just finish writing one novel, though, he finished five. Although none of those first five have been published, they inspired other stories Bud has published, and those, in turn, have inspired even more stories he’s currently writing. In his short story collection, *Tales from the Veil*, Bud has included a Norse mythology-inspired horror-fantasy story: “The Northlight Trials: The Cannibal.” That story reignited his love of Norse myths, and inspired him to write *Shield of the Vanir* and its two upcoming sequels. “The nice thing about having a bunch of writing projects: You switch around to what catches your fancy. You can let one sit and percolate a little bit,” he said.

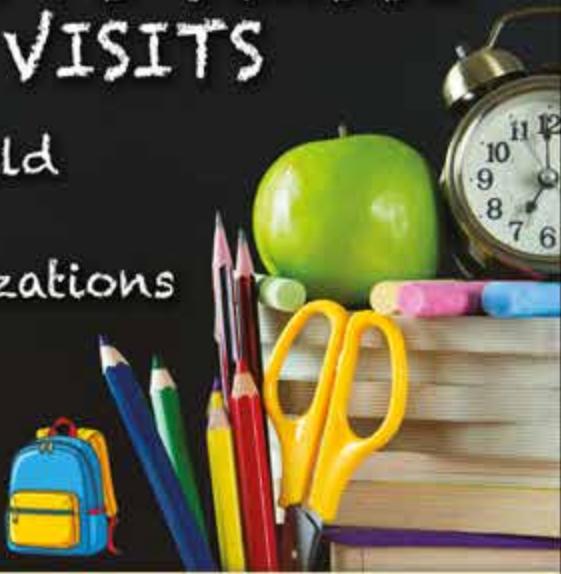
Letting works rest or be read by a different set of eyes allows them to be interpreted through a different perspective, and can inspire changes that breathe life into the work. Bud’s novel *The Barrington Job* had originally been written as a short story about a mercenary escorting a debutante through the dangerous Barrington Free Zone. “One of my people pointed out his character arc is a flat line. He’s a hardened mercenary at the beginning of the story. He’s a hardened mercenary at the end,” Bud



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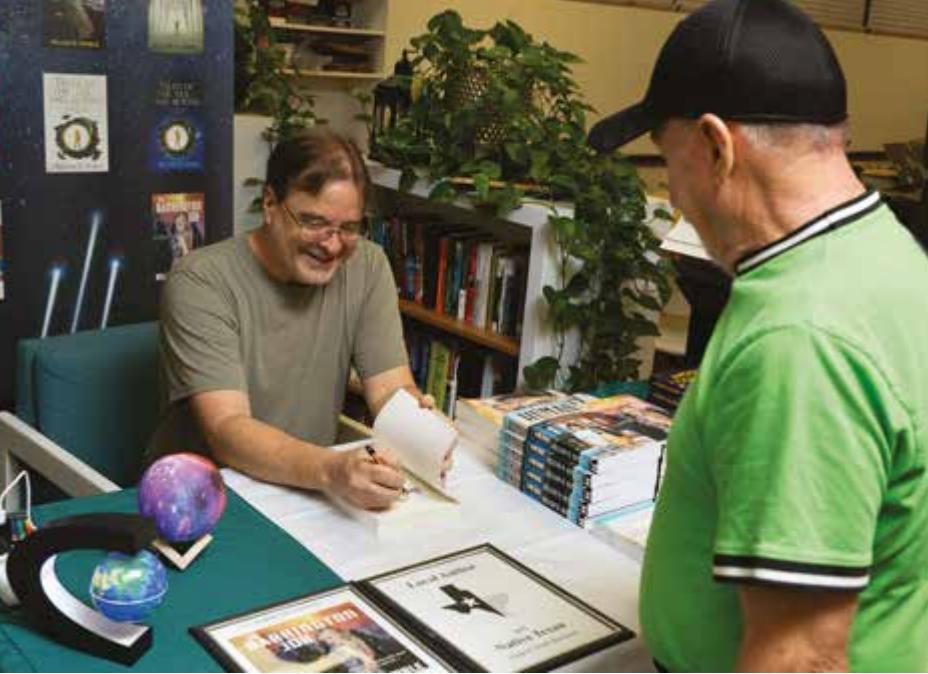


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explained. "Then they're like, 'Now look at Charity's character arc.'" Inspired by this new perspective, Bud rewrote the story to focus on Charity, the debutante. "That's one of the few stories I've completely rewritten."

Bud writes short stories to flesh out worlds and characters in his books. He wrote a prequel story for *The Barrington Job*, which allowed him to flesh out the character of Mags. "I didn't want Mags to be two dimensional, so I wrote her short story ahead of time to get an idea of who she was," he explained. For his upcoming novel, *Rose Smyth: Vampire Sorceress*, Bud wrote a short story that takes place 30 years prior to the events of the main story. "It set the stage for the world that Rose is going to inherit. And some of the characters in this story carry over into the Rose story."

Other short stories he uses as literary play. "In 'Ghola,' none of the main characters have a pronoun or gender



assigned to them. You can mentally picture different people and different roles. I think that's a fun side thing to it. Like, 'OK, is this person male or female?' Then you can go back and reread it completely differently and see if that changes the story for you or not."

One of Bud's favorite aspects of writing speculative fiction is world building. Some

of his stories start off on Earth, while others are fictional places of his own creation. "It's a lot of fun setting up a new world. You get to put the mountains where you want them. You get to set society, and how people react to one another — all the convoluted things that make them interesting and make you want to learn more about them."

Bud also enjoys incorporating real world events from his or other peoples' lives into his stories to humanize his characters. A craft event at the Senior Activity Center inspired a scene in his second Anders Cohagen book. "We did a rock painting session with students and seniors. We got two rocks, and on one, you paint something you want to keep or idealize, like love, forgiveness, charity, devotion. The other you put down something you want to get rid of — hate, jealousy." In the story, Anders' art class does a similar activity, allowing the character a moment of self-reflection, and revealing to the reader what his greatest desire and greatest struggle is. "I never would have thought of that if they hadn't done it here," he said.

When writing, Bud dives head first into his work, only to come up for air hours later, unaware of how much time has passed. "It's something that used to happen to me as a reader when I had more time to read. Falling into my own story is even more fun because I'm not just living the story, I'm guiding it. Sometimes it drags me, and sometimes the characters are going, 'No, let's go that way!'" Bud laughed. "I feel like if I'm having fun, that's going to come through." **NOW**

SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER!



Anthony and George Michelic, winners of the \$50 cash prize from NOW Magazines, said, "Reading about the cover stories and playing the scavenger hunt game along with watching the current events are what we love about the BurlesonNOW Magazine. Anthony and George Michelic found the scavenger hunt items with Mom, Joselyn Michelic."

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| 9/11 | AT ARLINGTON SEGUIN |
| 9/19 | MANSFIELD SUMMIT (ELEM NIGHT) |
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- 10/17** TYLER
- 10/24** AT RED OAK
- 10/31** HIGHLAND PARK
- 11/7** AT JOSHUA





Jacory Smith explores Centennial Park, while spending the day with his aunt.

Zoomed In: David Dossett and Zeus

"This dog goes everywhere with me," David Dossett, proud father of seven (five kids, two dogs), said. "We go to the hardware store, the dog park, behind the trails on Chisenhall. He likes swimming in the creek back there."

Despite their intimidating appearance, David claimed that American Bullies like Zeus are teddy bears. "Everybody and their mom will pet him. He just goes around and makes people happy."

David and his fiancée, Ember, adopted Zeus for their son, Warren. Due to his health conditions, Warren requires a stout breed with a loving temperament for when he gets overstimulated. "They swim together in the pool. Warren will get flustered, and Zeus just smiles, as happy as can be," David shared. "He's turned out to be the best dog."



Lynette Ivey and Holly Burris enjoy a day of play with their pups, Smokey, Bailey and Bandit.



Jada Smith takes the wheel for an afternoon of adventure!



The Jasso family plays at the BRiCK's Splash Pad.

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The Barbers travel to the library to collect their summer reading rewards.



The Hernandez-Castillo family goes for a swim at the community pool.



Sembree and Charlee Knapp make the most of car troubles by spending some time bonding in Clark Park.

An advertisement for Tomorrow Roofing. It features a large image of a two-story house with a circular window. Below the house is a chalkboard with "Back to School" written on it. A teal logo with a stylized 'T' and 'R' is on the right. The text "TOMORROW ROOFING" is in large, bold, teal letters. Below that is the phone number "(682) 255-7040" and the website "www.tomorrowrar.com". It also says "LOCALLY & VETERAN OWNED". A QR code is in the bottom right corner. A small banner on the left says "10% OFF Full Roof Replacement" with "Please call for details. Expires 8/31/25" below it.

An advertisement for Lucas Gymnastics. It features a large image of a team of young gymnasts in black leotards. To the left is the "Lucas Gymnastics and Training Center" logo, which includes a stylized 'L' and 'G' inside an oval. Below the logo is a green banner with the text "Gymnastics • Tumbling", "Preschool/Mommy and Me", "NinjaKour • MMA • Boxing", and "Adult Gymnastics". Below the banner are three smaller images: a woman holding a baby, a man and a woman in a boxing ring, and a group of women in a gym. At the bottom, the phone number "817-295-1029", address "3437 CR 807", and location "2.4 miles off I-35 Exit 917" are listed, along with the website "LucasGymnastics.com" and email "lucasgymnastics@gmail.com". A small image of a person performing a handstand is in the bottom right corner.

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— By Emma McKay

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The team at Ol' South Pancake House Burleson strives to be mindful of the community they're serving and to give back when they can. Unlike the flagship location, the Burleson location is only open from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "We realized Burleson considered us a breakfast/lunch place. We just said, 'OK, this is who our customers want us to be, that's who we'll be.'"

During the annual Burleson vs. Centennial football game, the Ol' South team runs the concessions, allowing parent volunteers to watch their kids play. They enjoy helping plan events like the Honey Tour Bike Ride and the Fourth of July Parade, and making sure the restaurant is ready for the breakfast crowds afterwards. They offer private rooms for large groups such as community organizations to meet and eat. "We don't want to just be here. We need to be part of [the community]."

From the restaurant's namesake and the enticing aroma of syrup that hangs in the air, one would assume traditional pancakes are what Ol' South is best known for. However,

Over the past 60 years, Ol' South Pancake House has been a favorite restaurant for many people in Fort Worth. In January 2021, the family-owned restaurant decided to open a second location, and they chose Burleson. "It wasn't just a spot to drop a restaurant," Dustin Riddle, the general manager of the Burleson location, said. "We were putting a restaurant in a place we knew was family oriented."

it's their German pancakes that captured the hearts and stomachs of their customers. "We sell millions of them every year between the two restaurants," Dustin stated. "They're nothing similar to a pancake. It's more of an egg souffle. Then you put that lemon, butter and sugar in there — you're not getting anything like it!"

Dustin's favorite menu item is the Dutch Baby Sampler. For that dish, patrons receive eight Dutch Babies, which are smaller versions of the German pancakes. Two come topped with blueberries, two with strawberries, two with cinnamon apples and two are the traditional lemon ones. "Any time I eat in an Ol' South, even the day after working for it, the last thing that's going to be on that meal is the Dutch Baby Sampler. That's my dessert. Best thing on the menu."

"WE DON'T WANT TO JUST BE HERE. WE NEED TO BE PART OF [THE COMMUNITY]."

Despite the cozy, time capsule feel of the dining room, Ol' South utilizes technology of the future. "We have a robot," Dustin grinned. "Bella" aids servers by carrying extra plates to tables. "One table can end up with eight or 10 plates pretty easily. Bella became a popular thing, especially with kids."

Ol' South also boasts its own rewards program, which can be used to earn discounts or free menu items. "Sign up for our rewards program, and the first thing we do is give you a Dutch Baby." After signing up, all rewards members need to do is give their server their phone number, and the staff can let them know what rewards they have and apply them. "You don't have to do anything on your own phone."

Dustin feels proud of his team's abilities and how they socialize with customers. He also loves getting to know the customers and seeing everyone interacting with each other. "That just personifies community engagement." **NOW**

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Find 5 hidden Backpacks

in 5 different ads in this issue (not counting the one above).

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To ensure your Scavenger Hunt answers go in the drawing, you must use the

Scavenger Hunt Email

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One entry per person.

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\$50 Cash Prize

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Winner must pick up their prize within 30 days of drawing.

Liberty Bells were found on pages 3, 6, 12, 16 & 23.



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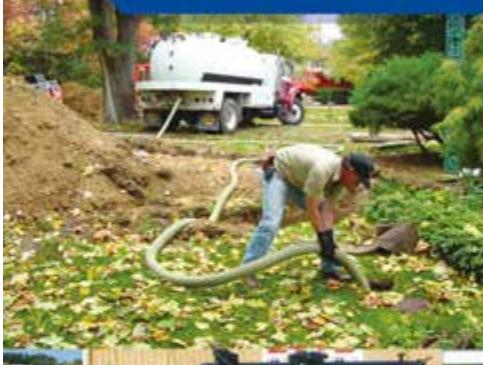
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Crock-Pot Potato Soup

CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH JENNIFER WINTER

— By Emma McKay



“Cooking comes from the soul and allows you to be creative,” Jennifer Winter said. “It’s like a love language.” As a young girl, Jennifer enjoyed cooking with her nana. “I did end up going to culinary school in my late 30s and graduated with honors.”

From there, Jennifer went on to serve as the head chef for several different establishments. The experience gave her the skills to work catering events and even create some of her own dishes. “I’m always looking at recipes. Either I make them that way or change them based on my likes,” she said. “I’m not sure where this passion comes from, but I love it! And my family and friends have loved it as well!” **NOW**

Air Fryer Baked Potato

1 Potato
Olive oil, to taste
Salt or seasoning, to taste

1. Cut the potato in half lengthwise.
2. Rub the potato with olive oil and salt or with your preferred seasoning.
3. Preheat the air fryer to 400 F.
4. Place the potato sliced side down; cook for about 35 minutes.
5. Flip and cook for another 10 minutes. The outside should be crispy, and the inside should be fluffy soft.

6. Top with your favorite toppings. (I use butter, green onions and bacon bits.)

Homemade Pico de Gallo

2 Roma tomatoes
1 jalapeño
1/2 small white onion, minced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 Tbsp. lime juice
2 Tbsp. cilantro
1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1. Wearing food-safe gloves, seed the tomatoes and the jalapeño.

2. Add all the ingredients to a mixing bowl; stir well.

3. Let sit for at least 1 hour to let the flavors mesh. The longer it rests, the better. Enjoy!

Unstuffed Peppers

1 lb. ground beef
1 jar spaghetti sauce
1 can corn
2 green bell peppers, diced
1/2 cup onion, diced
1 Tbsp. garlic, minced
1 cup water
1 cup instant rice
Cheese, shredded, to taste

1. Cook the beef; drain the grease.
2. Add the remaining ingredients to the same pan; stir.
3. Turn the heat to low; simmer for 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the water has been fully absorbed.
4. Serve in bowls; top with shredded cheese.

Crock-Pot Potato Soup

1 30-oz. bag shredded hash browns
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 14.5-oz. cans chicken broth
1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup
1 pkg. cream cheese, softened
Cheese, shredded, to taste (optional)
Bacon bits, to taste (optional)

1. Combine the first 5 ingredients in a Crock-Pot; cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.
2. Cut up the cream cheese; add it to the Crock-Pot. Cook for 30 minutes.
3. Stir well until smooth. You can use an immersion blender, if desired.
4. Serve in bowls; top with shredded cheese and bacon bits, if desired.



Email us at
emma.mckay@nowmagazines.com

THE LOCAL TABLE

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

$$\begin{array}{l} 2+2=4 \\ 1+3= \\ 5-1= \end{array}$$



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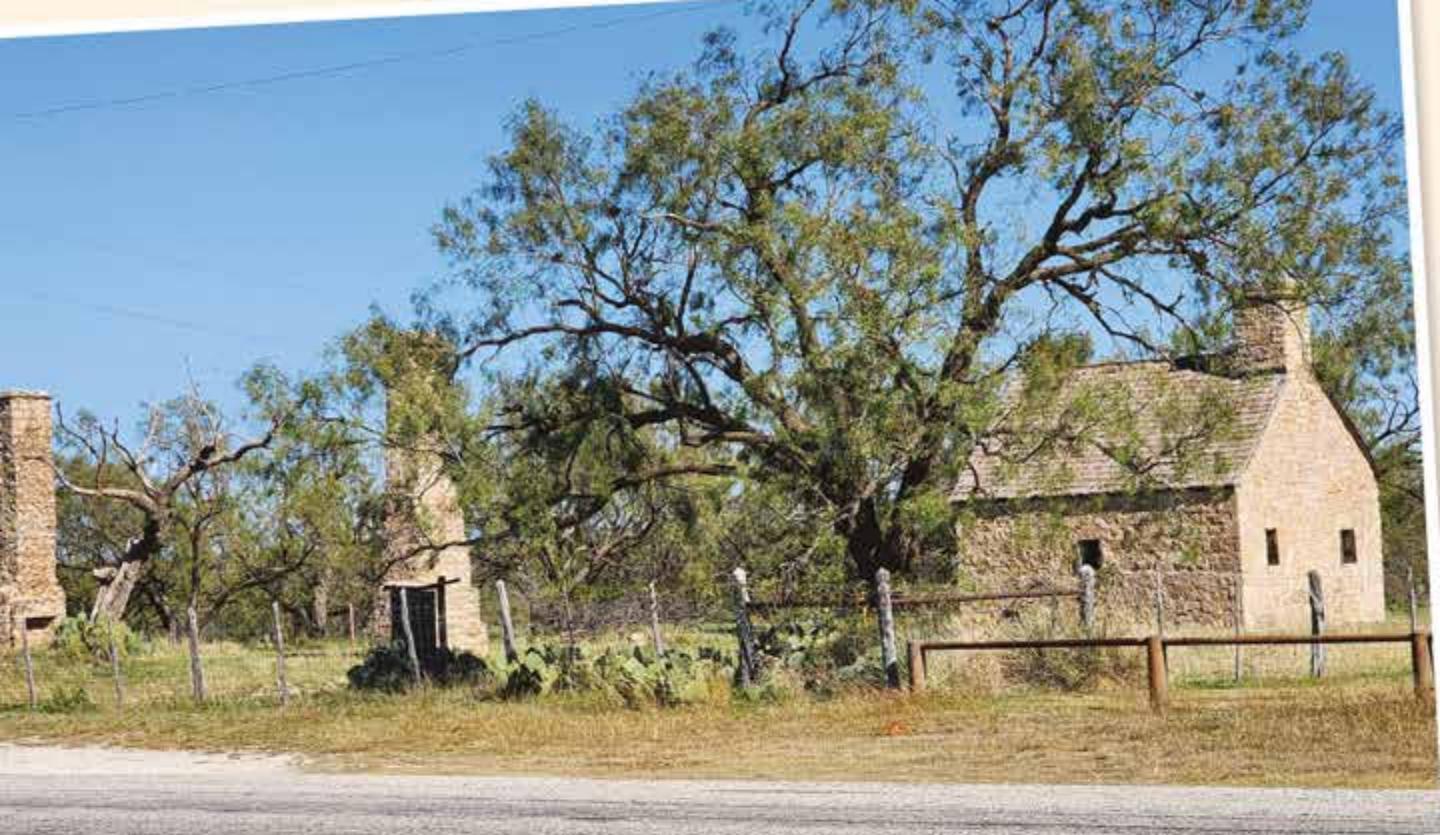
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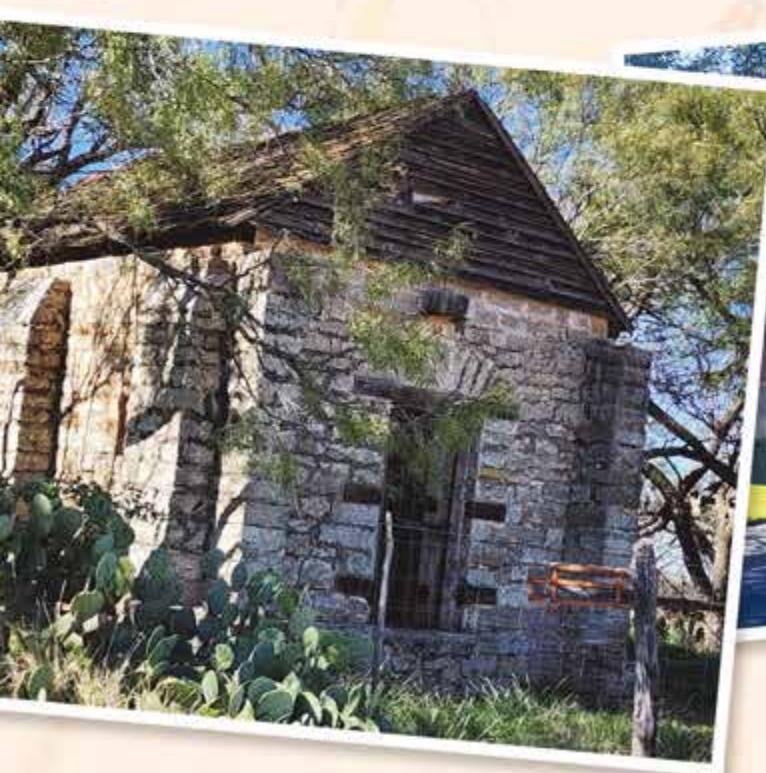
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PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

— By Virginia Riddle



Every whisper of the West Texas winds tells tales of long ago, from the days of the Native Americans to the coming of soldiers at nearby Fort Phantom Hill in 1851 or the coming of the Anglo settlers after the railroad was built in 1881, the year Abilene was founded. And old legends, a state park and the eerie remains of Fort Phantom Hill lead to new memories made by today's visitors.

A walking tour through Abilene's Historic Downtown Cultural District begins at Frontier Texas!, a museum featuring the area's Wild West past. The tour continues to the T&P Depot and through streets lined with buildings representing early architecture up until about the 1950s. In all, 24 buildings are described and pictured as they were originally seen. Many of them have been restored to their original purposes or house museums, arts and crafts stores, restaurants and shops. Architect David S. Castle designed many of the 1920s buildings including the Wooten and Windsor hotels and the Paramount Theatre. He also remodeled The Hotel Grace and designed buildings for all three of Abilene's universities.

A hub of university life brings interesting speakers and the arts to Abilene through programs of study at Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University and McMurry University. Dyess Air Force Base brings a military presence to the area. Parks, shopping, restaurants, motels, RV parks, short-term rentals and the nearby Abilene State Park provide amenity choices for all ages, tastes and budgets.

A 20-minute drive south of Abilene leads to the town of Buffalo Gap, gateway to Abilene State Park and a stop on the 2025 Smithsonian Institution's Crossroads: Change in Rural America traveling exhibit. The Buffalo Gap Historic Village takes visitors back into the 1800s-early 1900s. Quaint shops, restaurants, hiking trails and bed-and-breakfasts provide quiet respite. The famed Perini Ranch Steakhouse is a must-stop on the way to Abilene State Park.

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Abilene State Park is heavily wooded with elm, pecan, red oak and cottonwood trees and boasts miles of hiking, horse and biking trails; boating, kayaking and canoeing on Lake Abilene; and a historic water tower, playground and observation deck overlooking the swimming pool. Fish for catfish, largemouth bass and crappie in Buffalo Wallow Pond. On the lake, picnic under the trees. Discover the birds and other wildlife from the bird viewing blind. Pick up a game of volleyball, soccer or baseball on the courts and fields. The Cowboy Circle is perfect for nights around the campfire. Accommodations include RV sites, screened shelters, tent sites and yurts.

North of Abilene on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, a U.S. military post was established in 1851 at Fort Phantom Hill. Life was hard due to weather and a lack of supplies on the frontier for the 285 soldiers assigned the duty of keeping travelers and settlers safe from Native American attacks. Usually all was peaceful, and Comanche, Kiowa, Lipan Apache, Wichita and Kickapoo tribal members were frequent

visitors to Fort Phantom Hill. However, the kidnapping of Jane Wilson, scalping of two wagon drivers and the killing of an Indian agent changed the friendly mood. By 1854, the fort was abandoned by the Army. The buildings suffered through two fires but were still used by the Butterfield Stage, the Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail cowboys, buffalo hunters and traders for decades. Today, visitors can walk among the stone remains and almost hear "Taps" being played in the distance accompanied by the whispering winds. **NOW**

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.

Sources:

1. abilenevisitors.com.
2. buffalogaptx.com.
3. texasstateparks.org.

4. Fort Phantom Hill: Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos brochure.



A giant armadillo greets visitors outside the Perini Ranch Steakhouse.



WELCOME Back to School

AUGUST

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

8/2

18th Annual Harvest Fiesta:

Celebrate harvest season with a fun-filled day of wine, music, food and stomping grapes — just like Lucy! Enjoy a concert by Aurora Bleu, benefiting the Center for ASD, and take part in an *I Love Lucy* look-alike contest. Free to attend, but reservation for grape stomping time is required. Noon-10:00 p.m., Lost Oak Winery, 8101 County Road 802.

To reserve your time, visit lostoakwinery.com/event/18th-annual-harvest-fiesta.

8/8

Country Western Dance:

Dust off those boots for a fun-filled evening of Country Western dancing with a performance by Larry Light & Pure Country! Adults 50 and over. \$5. 6:30-9:00 p.m., Senior Activity Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave.

8/9

BTX Back to School Bash:

Let's celebrate the last week of summer together! Bring the kiddos out to enjoy water slides, frozen treats and a DJ! Free. 4:00-7:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

8/12

Back to School Shoe Charms:

Teens can upgrade their kicks and go back to school in style with DIY custom made shoe charms. Ages 12-18. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

8/13

Southern Tea Party:
Delight in a refreshing afternoon of iced tea, fun trivia and games! Come sip, laugh and play the Southern way! Free, but registration is required. 11:30 a.m., Senior Activity Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave. For more information or to register, call (817) 295-6611.

8/15

Friendly Fest Disco Dance:
This event is a fantastic opportunity for individuals with special needs and disabilities of all ages, along with their chaperones, to enjoy an evening of fun games, delicious food and groovy tunes. Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Center for ASD, 640 NW Tarrant Ave. To register, visit burlesontx.com/2425/Friendly-Fest-Disco-Dance.

8/18

Insect Hotels With Texas Master Naturalists:

Create your own insect hotel using household supplies. Supplies may be limited, so feel free to bring your own juice carton, if possible. All ages. 3:30-5:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

8/23

Splish Splash Doggie Bash:

Let your furry, four-legged friend take a swim in the BRiCk Outdoor Pool, visit with dog-friendly vendors, win some prizes and have fun. \$5 per dog, limit 2 dogs per person. Humans are free. Small dogs: 10:00-11:45 a.m.; large dogs (over 35 pounds): 12:15-2:00 p.m., BRiCk, 550 NW Summercrest Blvd. To register, visit burlesontx.com/2587/Splish-Splash-Doggie-Bash.

8/26

Business Over Breakfast:
Meet and connect with like-minded business professionals in a casual and friendly environment. During the event, introduce yourself and your business, exchange ideas and insights and build valuable new relationships all while enjoying a delicious breakfast. 7:30-9:00 a.m., BRiCk, 550 NW Summercrest Blvd.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Burleson Writers Group:
Join writers from the Burleson area every month. Mini workshops on various topics relating to aspects of writing and publishing offered, as well as an in-depth review of members' works. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

p.m., Burleson Public Library. For more information, visit www.burlesonwritersgroup.com.

Fridays

Story Time at the Farm:

Story-time readings in the garden or inside depending on the weather. Bring a lunch and stay afterward. 11:00-11:30 a.m., Russell Farm. www.burlesontx.com or www.facebook.com/RussellFarmArtCenter.

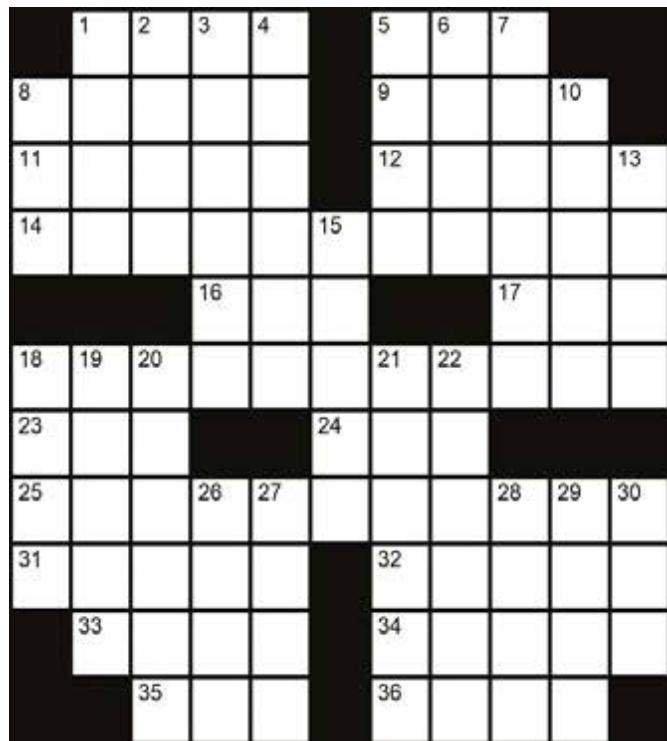
Saturdays

Burleson Farmers Market:

Open from the end of March until mid-November. Experience the freshest, high-quality fruits, vegetables, meat, bread and crafts. 8:00 a.m.-noon, Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St. www.burlesonfarmersmarket.com.

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

Crossword Puzzle



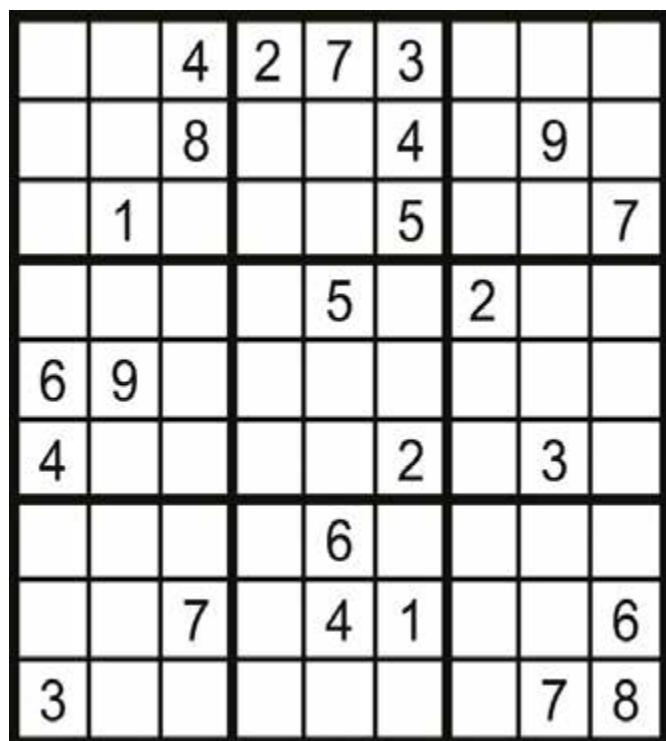
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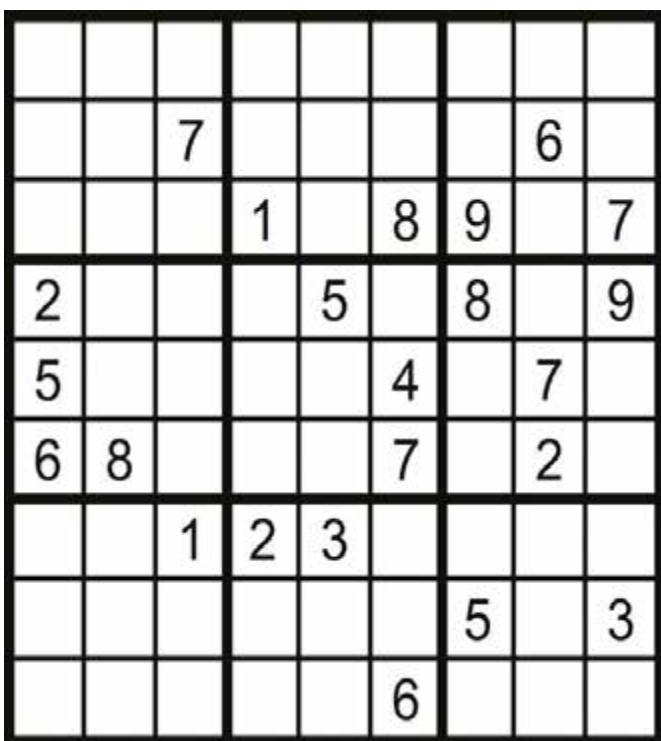
Across

| | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Hit sharply | 32 Italian design house | 7 Command | 22 Diner's pick |
| 5 Globe | 33 With a rift, it won't sound so good | 8 Government health agency | 26 "The Love Goddess" --- Hayworth |
| 8 Hot sauce | 10 Where the first pedestrian was killed by an autonomous car | 12 Pulled a gun | 27 Robust |
| 9 Yeats or Keats | 11 Sweet, to Pavarotti | 13 Raise | 29 Yemeni port |
| 14 | 12 Early anesthetic | 15 Author Harriet Beecher --- | 30 Convert into leather |
| 16 | 14 Decorator's suggestion | 18 Bridge partner's target, maybe? | |
| 18 19 20 | 16 | 22 | |
| 23 | 21 | 24 | |
| 25 | 26 27 | 28 29 30 | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | |
| 35 | 36 | | |

Easy



Medium



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