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AUGUST 2026



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When it comes to collecting, Paul Perdue just can't let it be

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Inside

The Early Entrance to Texas

Travel the Historic El Camino Real de los Tejas

Sudoku

Refreshing Summer Recipes

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ON THE COVER



In Paul Perdue's Beatles mancave, it's always 1967!

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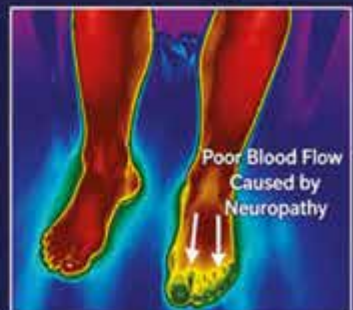
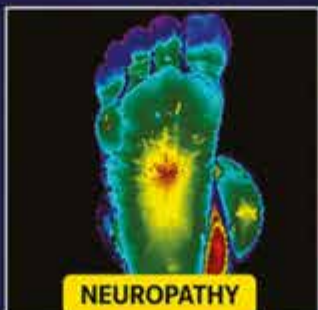
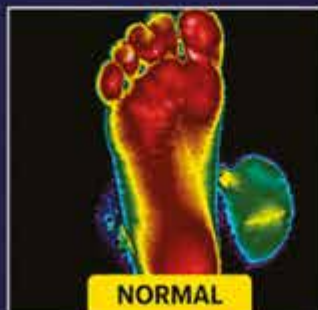
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EVERYTHING GROOVY

— By Adam Walker

Paul Perdue is a collector. As a lover of history, he maintains an archive devoted to his hometown, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. His living room hosts some of this collection. "I'm proud of where I'm from. I buy vintage items and donate them to the history museum there," he said. "I have old bottles, saloon jugs, matchbooks, trade tokens, postcards, advertising items, souvenirs of all kinds, yearbooks, signage, political and sports memorabilia, newspapers, old scrapbooks and photo albums and lots more. Everything you see here will end up in the museum one day." He also has his great-grandfather's wind-up Victrola, which has been completely restored.

In the den is where most of the 7UP collection lives. "I really enjoyed their 'Un-Cola' ad campaign in the late '60s and early '70s. The campaign was rooted in the flower power era, and I consider myself an old hippie ... so I guess you could say I thought it was 'groovy.' I still do! 7UP barely advertises at all these days, and I don't know why. They were good at it."

The kitchen houses a couple more collections. The tops of the cabinets are lined with Coca-Cola bottles and cans from all over the world — China, Switzerland and Taiwan to name just a few. "People bring them to me, or I find them on eBay and at garage sales. There are a lot of them. I'm also the archivist for the



Lone Star Chapter of the Coca-Cola Collectors Club," he informed. He also has a dancing Coke bottle and can, which spring to life when Alexa belts loud tunes for the parties Paul loves to host.

The second collection in the kitchen consists of cans of Dr Pepper knockoffs. "I think every grocery store chain has their own brand. Most of them are just watered-down versions of Dr Pepper, but I love the names."

As much as he enjoys those, the collection Paul loves showing off the most is his Beatles collection. As he opens the door to his Beatles mancave, the smell of incense immediately envelops you. "In this room," Paul quipped, "it's always

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1967! I started collecting Beatles memorabilia in the late 1970s. I thought the Beatles would fade away, so I grabbed everything I could find, because I wanted to be able to show this stuff to my kids one day and tell them about this great band. But the Beatles just got bigger and bigger and bigger. I kept collecting anyway. And I started this collection the hard way: flea markets and garage sales! Nowadays, websites like eBay make it much too easy to find anything you're looking for. The Internet has devalued a lot of collections, including mine. It's not worth much anymore, but I still enjoy it."

The Beatles collection includes a little bit of everything. There's a paperback book rack full of books about the Beatles, blacklight posters, yellow submarines of all sizes, a Beatles board game by Milton Bradley and a Beatles wig "because everyone thought they were wearing wigs in 1964!"

Paul and his wife even traveled to England in the early 2000s and

had their photos taken crossing Abbey Road in London and standing at the gates of Strawberry Field in Liverpool. "I've seen Paul McCartney in concert five times and Ringo Starr about the same," Paul said. The sign he made before he and his daughter went to see Ringo Starr in concert also hangs on the wall of the Beatles mancave. It reads *Marie loves Ringo*. "We were seated in the third row, so he talked to her throughout the show. She bought a ring to give to him. During the concert, she ran up and laid it on the stage as Ringo was singing 'Don't Pass Me By.' He saw her, laughed, picked it up and put the ring on! At the end of the song, he asked, 'Marie, you gonna want yer ring back?' When she said, 'No,' he replied, 'Good, because I can't get it off!' The next morning, Marie's photo was on Ringo's Facebook page! I guess he had a roving photographer in the crowd that night. Thrilling!"

Regarding all his collections, Paul explained it this way: "It's

not hoarding, as long as you keep it organized! Sometimes, I look around and say, 'What have I done? I've become a slave to materialism!' I'm really not collecting much anymore, because someday I'll have to liquidate it all. But for now, I'm just the happy, temporary caretaker of all this stuff, and I'm enjoying it."

When Paul met his wife, she wasn't yet a Beatles fan. "When we got engaged, in 1995, she couldn't name all four Beatles! I told her we'd have to postpone the wedding. It's been a joke with us ever since. Over the years, we've hosted Beatles parties. One time Mike Castellucci, from Channel 8, broadcast multiple segments from the Beatles room! We had a Beatles cover band for that one."

If Paul is right, there's no hoarding involved. Just the enthusiastic collecting of a born archivist. Neat displays keep everything organized and accessible. But then again, he did mention something about that one closet ... and the attic. **NOW**

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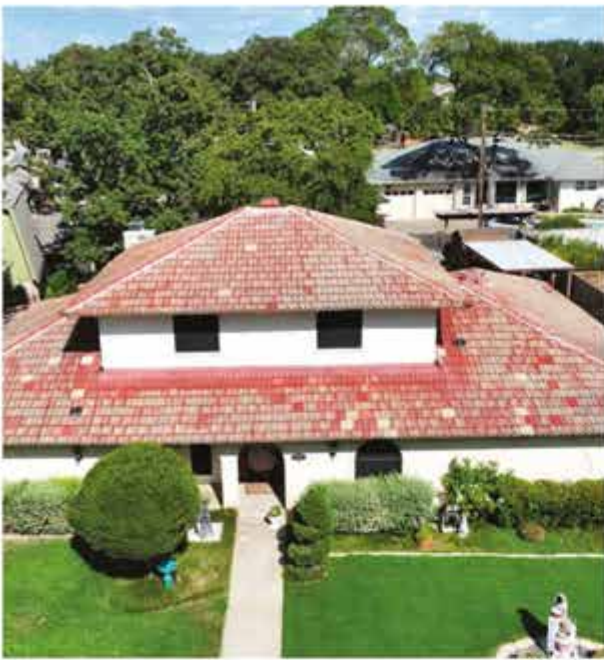
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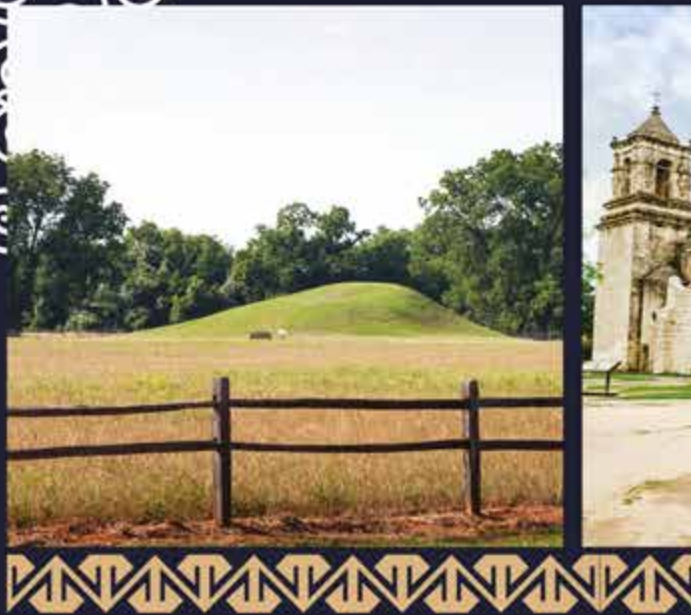
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TALES OF TEXAS

The Early Entrance to Texas

— By Bill Smith



For 20 years, a visitor to the Six Flags over Texas amusement park could enjoy a 10-minute river boat excursion known as La Salle's River Adventure. The ride commemorated one of the six flags, that of the French. The flag of France briefly flew over Texas in the late 1600s, when the French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, got lost looking for the mouth of the Mississippi River. La Salle had sailed from French-occupied Florida and overshot his goal, landing somewhere near today's Garcitas Creek.

The Spanish were not at all pleased with the possibility of a French settlement in the territory and sent numerous expeditions in search of the French fort. Their early ventures were unsuccessful, until ruins of the fort were found. In 1722, historians believe, Garcitas Creek was likely the stream along which La Salle established Fort St. Louis, and upon the remains of the fort, the mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, also known as La Bahía, was constructed.

However, this was not the first Spanish mission to be built in Texas, as soon after the French colony was discovered, word was delivered to the Spanish that the Tejas Indians were seeking Christianity. The legend of "The Lady in Blue," who seems to have been a miraculous incarnation that visited the Tejas, led the Spanish in 1690 to send a military and evangelical expedition to establish missions among the Tejas. Soon after, the foundation for San Francisco de los Tejas mission was laid, and the first mass was celebrated. This would be the beginning of the

establishment of El Camino Real de los Tejas.

"El Camino" translates to "the way" or "the road" in English. One of the earliest recorded uses of the road by a citizen of the United States was Moses Austin, as he traveled along the way westward to San Antonio, with plans to establish a colony. Of course, we know that Austin died before his plan could come to fruition, although he did meet with Baron de Bastrop, and soon after his meeting, Governor Antonio María Martínez endorsed the idea. His son, Stephen F. Austin, picked up his father's mantle and traversed the path to San Antonio to complete the contract with the Mexican government.

Settlers coming to Texas from the east typically crossed the Sabine River at Gaines Ferry and then continued on through Nacogdoches and along El Camino Real de los Tejas to the interior of the southern part of the state. As the colonies expanded and relations between the settlers and the Mexicans deteriorated, the road was a valuable route for the volunteers who came from the United States to the various battles around San Antonio de Béxar, including San Antonio de Valero, better known as the Alamo.

Texas heroes Sam Houston and David Crockett would certainly have followed the road when they came to Texas. *The Handbook of Texas Online 2001* indicates Crockett's route "was ... across the Red River, through Clarksville, to Nacogdoches and San Augustine; and on to San Antonio." Had Crockett not met his fate at the Alamo, history records that his plans included traveling farther down the road to the Rio Grande.

Today, one can travel El Camino Real de los Tejas and see a number of historic sites along the National Historic Trail as designated by the National Park Service. Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum in Laredo showcases the region's history, culture, industry and populations through a series of changing exhibits and educational seminars. The NPS.gov website states, "This restored two-story brick building was once home to two early Laredo merchant families. With its size and pivotal location on the banks of the



Rio Grande, this Italianate-style residence is representative of the grand houses that populated the San Agustín District in the early 20th century."

The Stone Fort Museum in Nacogdoches previously served as a trading post, private home, church, jail and saloon. While the original structure was torn down in 1902, the Texas Centennial Commission built a replica in 1936 on the Stephen F. Austin University Campus.

Other sites along the way include Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto, Mission Delores State Historic Site at San Augustine, Mission Tejas State Park at Grapeland and McKinney Falls State Park near Austin. You would be hard pressed to visit all these historic sites in one trip, but there is a lot of Texas history scattered along El Camino Real de los Tejas. Every piece is a state treasure Texas has proudly preserved. **NOW**

Sources:

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Zoomed In: Miles Dawkins

By Becky Walker

Cedar Hill Recreation Center’s Miles Dawkins was rooting for the U.S. Men’s National Soccer Team during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. “This is our year!” he enthused, while showing off the center’s World Cup display. Miles has always loved the sport. He played varsity soccer for three years during high school. “I played center midfielder,” he said.

Miles grew up in Virginia. “I moved to Texas a year ago to attend Nelson University in Waxahachie,” he shared. “I play basketball there.” His new job working for the rec center seemed a natural fit because of his love for sports. “I’ve been working here for two weeks. I guess I was the right guy for you to talk to about the World Cup!”



Dina Jammer relaxes outside Barnes & Noble with a Strawberry Acai Refresher from Starbucks.



Monte Anderson poses with his daughter, Amariss Feemster; granddaughter, Abby Nash; and his daughter, Heather Blackwell – all of whom are involved in the real estate industry – while hosting a Collab event.



Clark, Michael and Leif McKinney enjoy the World Cup watch party at the Traphene Hickman Library in Cedar Hill.



Ceramic artist Morgan Dunlap with the DeSoto Lab Residency Program, helps Alana Marie and Ceci Lia complete the work they hand built using the pinch pot method.



Delilah Ontiveros helps out at Koinonia First Baptist Church’s yard sale.



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Zoomed In:
Thrifty Station

By Becky Walker

Thrifty Station Manager Priscilla Witcher and volunteers, Israel Jasso-Garcia and Tony Robinson, welcome the community to look for bargains in the store, which offers several sales throughout the week and provides clothing and small appliance vouchers for families in need. “We’re 100 percent nonprofit,” Priscilla explained. “That means 100 percent of the sales go back into the community through the Duncanville Outreach Food Pantry, Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, helping women’s shelters, Toys for Tots and more.”

Priscilla previously worked for a medical device corporation as the employee engagement manager. “With chapter changes, I started volunteering here, and a new story began,” she smiled. “Now I’m the manager.”



Bobbi Richey and Cindie Velasquez make miniature Liberty Bells at DeSoto Public Library.



Dedric Jackson and Jacqueline V Jackson pose in front of Jacqueline’s mother’s quilt at Trinity Arts’ Sneak Peek.



Sophia Russell, owner of The Prosperity House, and Monique Jeter celebrate the ribbon cutting and grand opening of The Prosperity House in Duncanville.



Rolanda Brigham welcomes guests to the interactive Art That Inspires exhibit by local artist, Don O’Bannon, which is on display through Aug. 14 at DeSoto City Hall.



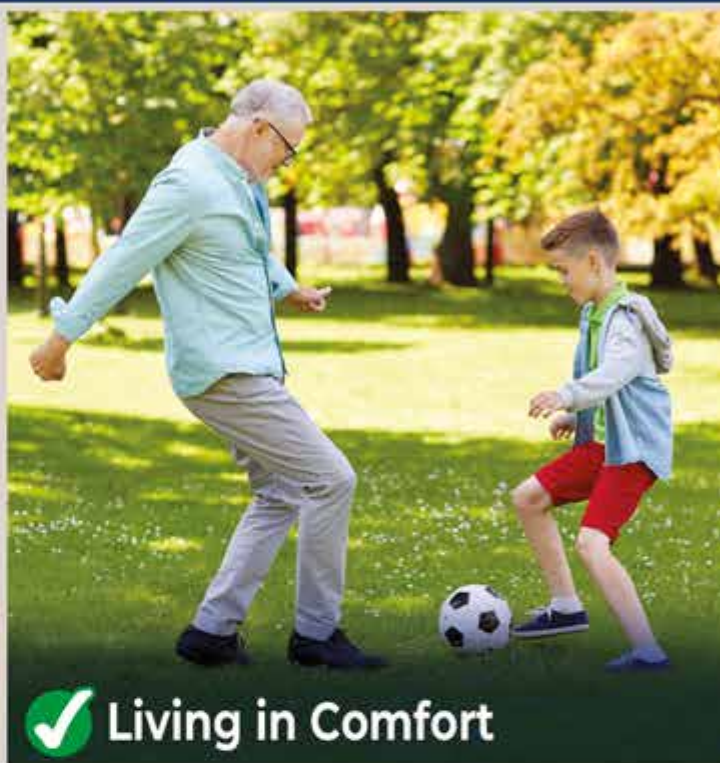
Audriana and Amelia Faggins enjoy the Miss Sparkles Bubble Show at the Duncanville Public Library.

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Refreshing Summer Recipes

Summer calls for light, refreshing dishes that celebrate the season's bounty of fresh produce and bright flavors. These recipes are designed to keep you cool and satisfied, featuring crisp vegetables, juicy fruits and vibrant herbs that capture the essence of warm-weather dining at its finest. **NOW**

Watermelon Feta Salad

- 6 cups seedless watermelon, cubed
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

1. Place the watermelon cubes in a large serving bowl.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the lime juice, honey and salt until well combined.
3. Drizzle the lime dressing over the watermelon cubes.
4. Sprinkle the feta cheese evenly over the watermelon. Add the mint leaves and onions.
5. Gently toss all the ingredients together until evenly distributed. Season with black pepper.
6. Chill in the refrigerator for 15-20 minutes before serving for best flavor.

Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken Skewers

- 2 lbs. boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup olive oil

- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 red onion, cut into chunks

1. Place the chicken cubes in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice and garlic.
3. Add the oregano, thyme, salt and black pepper to the marinade.
4. Pour the marinade over the chicken cubes; toss to coat evenly.
5. Cover; refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 4 hours.
6. Soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent burning.
7. Thread the marinated chicken onto the skewers, alternating with chunks of red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper and red onion.
8. Preheat a grill to medium-high heat; oil the grates.
9. Grill the skewers for 10-12 minutes, turning occasionally, until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are slightly charred.
10. Remove from the grill; let rest for 3 minutes before serving.

Strawberry Sorbet

- 2 lbs. fresh strawberries, hulled and halved
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- Pinch of salt

1. Place the strawberries in a blender or food processor.
2. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar and water over medium heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves completely.
3. Remove the sugar syrup from the heat; let it cool for 10 minutes.
4. Pour the cooled syrup over the strawberries in the blender.
5. Add the lemon juice, lemon zest and salt.
6. Blend on high speed until completely smooth and no chunks remain.
7. Pour the mixture through a fine-mesh strainer to remove any seeds, if desired.
8. Transfer to a shallow container; freeze for 1 hour, then stir with a fork.
9. Continue freezing, stirring every 30 minutes, for 3-4 hours until the sorbet reaches a scoopable consistency.
10. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container in the freezer for up to 2 weeks.

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THE FINISHING TOUCH

— By Bill Smith



If you have just remodeled your kitchen or bathroom, whether you built the cabinets yourself, had them custom made or purchased them pre-assembled and did the installation, your finishing touch is installing the cabinet handles and drawer pulls. Most do-it-yourselfers can do this, but there are a few inexpensive tools and guidelines that are worthwhile to achieve the most professional appearance when the job is complete.

This is not a job where “close enough is good enough.” By checking the placement of each hole that is drilled for the hardware, your cabinets will have uniformity and a pleasing appearance that you will be proud of.

Cabinet and drawer pulls often come with two screws — a shorter one for standard thickness doors, and a longer one for thicker cabinet doors or false-front drawers. Since some pulls may come with only one screw, check the length you need before you go to the hardware store.

For this job, you’ll need a measuring tape, Phillips and flat screwdrivers (you will probably only need one or the other), an awl, a carpenter’s square, a pencil, drill motor and bit. Usually, the drill bit will be 3/16 inch, but the cabinet pull manufacturer may specify a different size. It’s wise to drill a test hole in a scrap piece of lumber to

ensure the screw fits correctly before drilling your new cabinets. The screw should fit snugly without play.

If your cabinet doors have stiles (framed doors), install the pulls in the center of the stile. If they do not have stiles (flat doors), just measure 2-3 inches from the edge of the door opening. On upper cabinet doors, place the pulls 2-3 inches from the bottom of the door. For lower cabinet doors, place them 2-3 inches down from the top of the door. If you are using bar pulls that require two holes on your drawers, first measure to find the center of the drawer face. Measure the distance between the screw holes in the pull, and divide it by 2. Then measure from your center mark to mark where the two holes need to be drilled.

You can make a template out of a piece of cardboard for marking the holes to be drilled, or, if you are handy with your saw and drill, you can fashion a more permanent one from scrap wood that can fit squarely at the side and top of the door or drawer. Such a template is easier to hold in place than the cardboard variation. However, your hardware store will probably have an inexpensive plastic template with multiple holes in it for various applications, should you need to place some of your pulls in different locations, or if, for instance, you use pulls with two holes on your drawers and only one hole on your doors. If you choose to purchase a template with multiple holes, a “pro-tip” is to cover the holes you are not using with masking tape, so you will not accidentally choose the wrong one.

Now use your square or template to mark all of the holes you plan to drill with a pencil. Then stand back and



view to confirm they are all uniform in placement. It is a lot easier to erase and redo a pencil mark than it is to fill a hole drilled in the wrong place and have to drill again!

After you confirm where you want to drill, push an awl into the pencil mark. This will help align the drill bit and keep it from drifting and scratching your new cabinet surface. Hold your drill so that the bit remains square to the surface and drill the holes.

Insert the screws from the back of the drawer or door and screw your new hardware into place. Put a little thread sealant on the screws to keep them tight. If you are using pulls that have a square or rectangular base, you can use a drop of glue on the back so they will stay squarely aligned. Your job is finished, and it looks great! **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-install-cabinet-handles/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90923ca0b8>.
2. <https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/how-to-install-cabinet-hardware/>.

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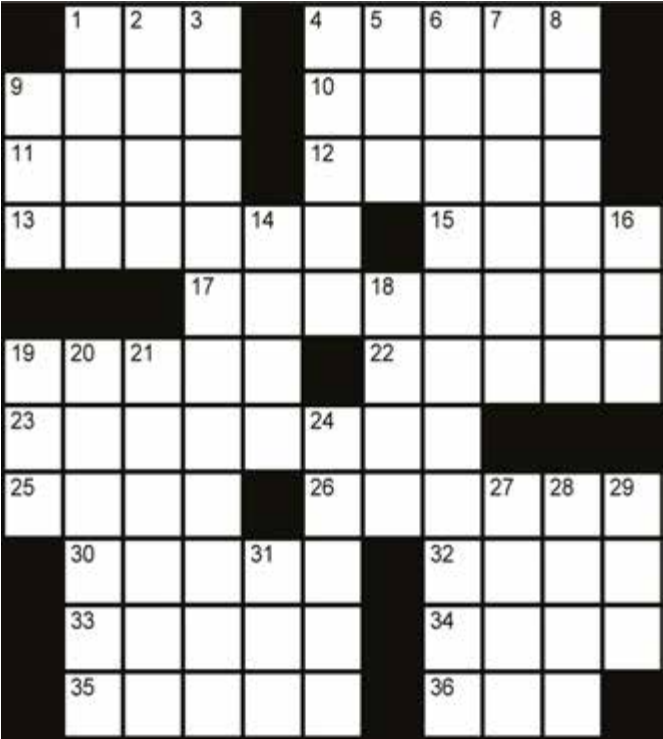
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 "Brave --- World"
4 Outfits
9 Bean in Peru?
10 Crosswise, nautically
11 Prince Charles or Tony Blair, for example
12 Auntie's other half
13 Grave
15 Cash box
17 Legible
19 Momma's partner
22 Occupied
23 Getting going
25 47 for silver or 79 for gold
26 Cipher
30 Sun-dried brick
32 Bandit's refuge
33 Thin cookie
34 Supporter
35 Slashed seats for something valuable
36 Informer

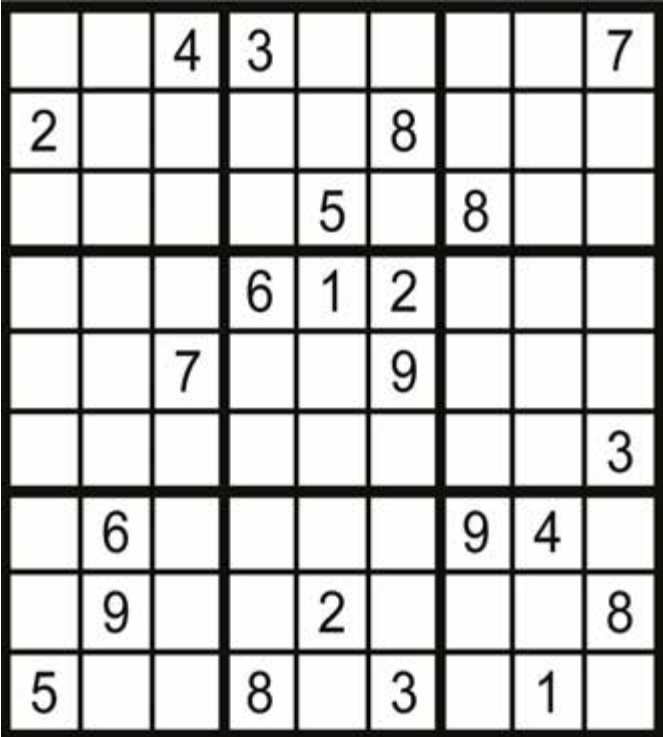
Down

- 1 Iron out actor's last name
2 "--- and the Detectives" (1964 Disney movie)
3 Makes impervious to the rain
4 The animal kingdom
5 "Son of" in Arabic
6 Urgent! Clara must organize shape
7 Coconut liqueur
8 Bouquets
9 A kg. is about 2.2 of these
14 Flesh
16 Downwind
18 "Saw" actress - -- Meyer
19 Snappers' org.
20 Capital where Senators skate on thin ice
21 Bamboo-eaters
24 Lifeless
27 Festive occasion
28 Fencer's grip
29 Have a go
31 Gathering for a specific purpose

Find puzzle answers within this magazine. Online versions and solutions are also available at www.nowmagazines.com.

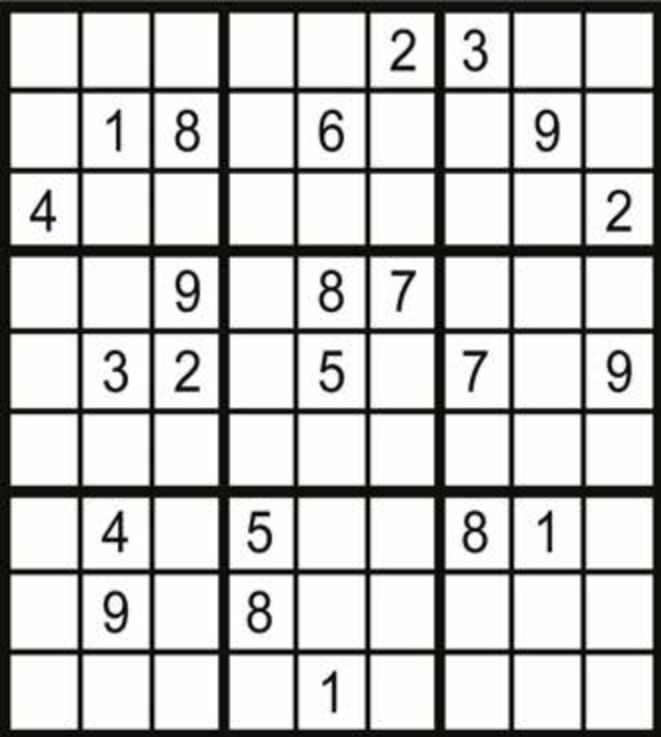
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	
			N	E	W		F	I	R	M	S	
9	L	I	M	A			10	A	B	E	A	M
11	B	R	I	T			12	U	N	C	L	E
13	S	O	L	E	M	N	14			15	T	I
							17	R	E	A	D	A
							18	B	L	E		
19	P	O	P	P	A		22	I	N	U	S	E
23	S	T	A	R	T	I	24					
25	A	T	N	O			26	N	A	U	G	H
							27					
30	A	D	O	B	E		31			32	L	A
33	W	A	F	E	R					34	A	L
35	A	S	S	E	T					36	R	A

Easy

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

Medium

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

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After shadowing different careers in college, Dr. Cristina Allala discovered her calling in dentistry. Ten years later, she brings specialized expertise and a spa-like atmosphere to Cedar Hill through Serenity Advanced Dentistry, a solo, minority, woman-owned private practice.

Dr. Allala graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in 2016 and completed her Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 2012. Since opening her practice, she has built a loyal following of patients who have followed her from her previous office, drawn by her gentle approach and commitment to patient care.

What sets her practice apart is her advanced certification in Level 2 moderate sedation — a qualification most dentists do not have. This certification requires at least 60 hours of specialized instruction and successfully administering sedation to at least 20 patients under supervision. For patients who experience dental anxiety, this option can transform their experience, making procedures like extractions comfortable and stress-free.

"Another thing that sets our practice apart is our skill with dental surgeries," Dr. Allala said. "Here are some of my favorite quotes from patients:

"Regarding implants: 'My implant surgery went smoothly. They explained everything, kept me relaxed, and I had very little discomfort afterward.'

"Regarding tooth extractions: 'I had oral surgery done and was extremely nervous, but the doctor and team made me feel comfortable the entire time. The procedure was painless, and recovery was easy.'

"Regarding tooth fixed dentures: 'My experience with fixed dentures was great. Dr. Allala planned everything digitally, the surgery went smoothly, and I had no complications. I can eat comfortably now, and they feel like my own natural teeth.'

Serenity Advanced Dentistry offers most dental procedures under one roof, including sedation dentistry, dental crowns, dentures, emergency treatment, oral surgery, dental implants, root canals, teeth whitening, extractions, clear aligners, gum grafts and periodontal therapy. The practice emphasizes privacy and comfort. The office features private treatment rooms that allow honest conversations between doctor and patient without worry of being overheard. The modern facility incorporates the latest dental technology while maintaining a calming, spa-like environment.

"We are not a corporation," Dr. Allala said. Unlike larger corporate dental practices, Serenity Advanced Dentistry remains independent, allowing Dr. Allala to focus on building genuine relationships with patients. All assistants are bilingual, ensuring Spanish-speaking patients feel comfortable and fully understand their treatment options.

Dr. Allala lives in DeSoto, just 10 minutes away from her office, keeping her deeply connected to the community she serves. She gives back by supporting the Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter through monthly contributions, a cause close to her heart as a devoted pet lover. For families seeking personalized dental care in a welcoming, professional environment, Serenity Advanced Dentistry offers an alternative to corporate dental chains.

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