

# MansfieldNOW

M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Mansfield's Music Maestro

Brian Merrill leads  
our wind symphony

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
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Kate Graves

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## ON THE COVER

*Brian Merrill leads the  
Mansfield Wind Symphony to  
an international band and  
orchestra conference.*

**Photo by**  
Lori Baur.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



## Sandra

Sandra Walters  
MansfieldNOW Editor  
sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com  
(682) 554-1743

*Hello, Mansfield!*

I'm amazed as I think about my journey of coming to this area. We were looking for a home because our family was growing, so our Realtor brought us to this desolate location surrounded by open land and dirt. We saw the opportunity to build a house from scratch. I recall our house being the second one built on our street. This neighborhood grew tremendously.

My children attended private school, but the Mansfield Independent School District intrigued me, especially Danny Jones Middle because I was a secondary teacher. I visited the school and met the principal, Mr. Lamar Goree. He encouraged me to reach out to the new principal at Coble Middle, since he did not have any openings. I attended the first PTA meeting at Coble, and I introduced myself to Mr. Douglas. I said, "Hello, Mr. Douglas. My name is Sandra Walters, and I am going to be one of your new teachers next year." Guess what? He hired me, but I still had the desire to teach at Danny Jones, since that was my kid's feeder pattern. Eventually, my children enrolled at Daulton, and I transferred to Danny Jones. I had the privilege of teaching in the Mansfield School District for 11 years, and my children, who are now adults, received a superior education from MISD. I absolutely love this area. Frequently, I see my previous students and parents at the neighborhood Kroger or simply on the walking trail.

Today, I am thrilled to announce myself as the new community editor for *MansfieldNOW*. After being an educator for 24 years, I made a shift to writing inspiring stories about people in our neighborhood. As I take the baton gratefully from Melissa Rawlins, I pray that she has an excellent career teaching while I embark on this somewhat new endeavor.

*I look forward to meeting you!*



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*For Mansfield Wind Symphony conductor Brian Merrill, the love for music has always been there. He cannot venture back far enough in his memory to recall a time when music was not a part of his life. "My mother was a great pianist, looking forward to a career as a concert pianist," Brian said. "But World War II broke out, and she married a navy pilot. That changed her course, but she still played the piano at home, and, of course, it was my first instrument as she started teaching me piano at age 4." Brian progressed through the clarinet to the trombone, but today, his focus is conducting and teaching. He's earned the full confidence of Bill Myers, who established The Mansfield Wind Symphony to be an all-volunteer organization of adult musicians who have the passion and ability to perform advanced wind band literature for people of all ages and backgrounds in the DFW area.*

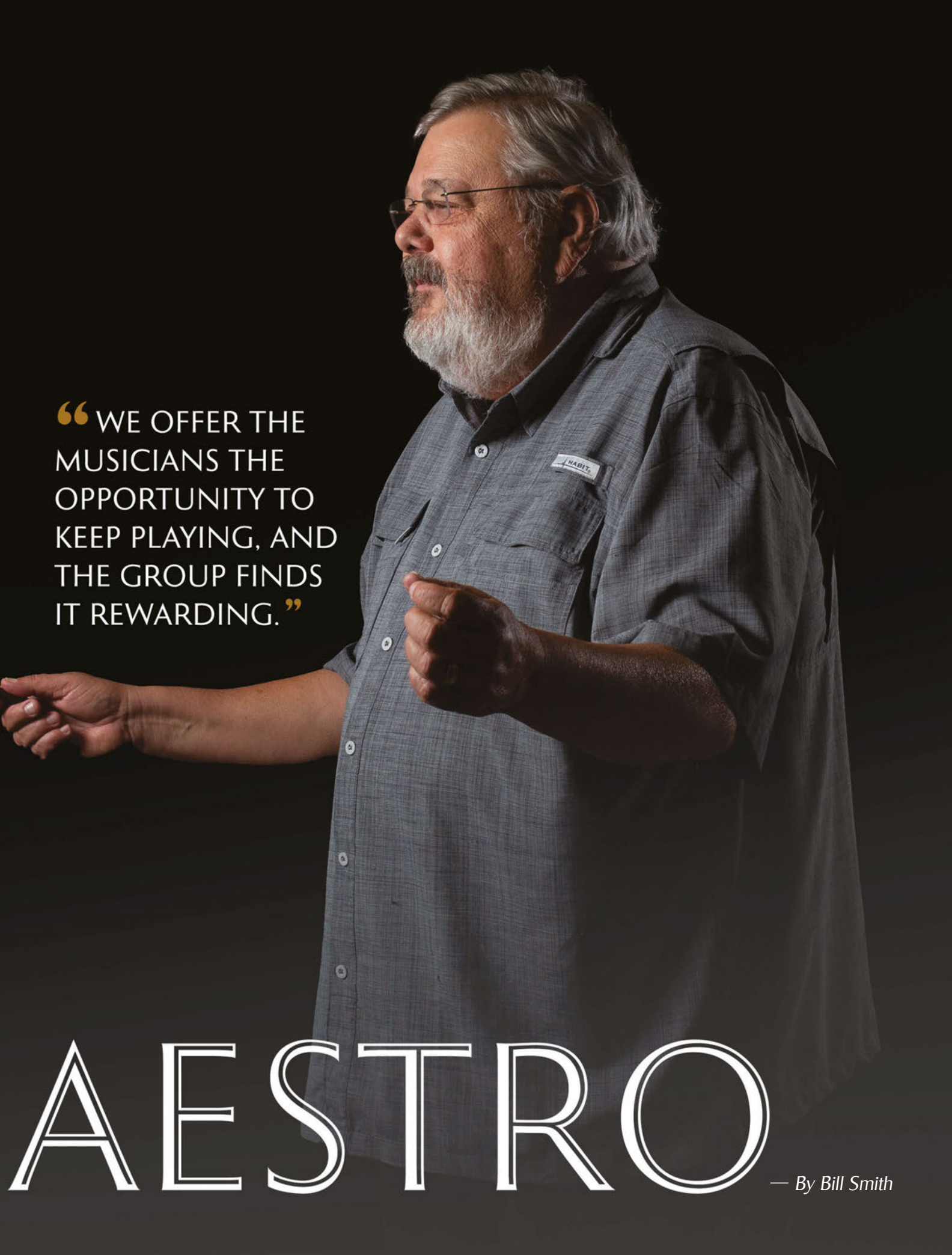
President, executive director and trombonist Lee Harbaugh was grateful for Brian's wholehearted leadership as the ensemble played, for the first time since the pandemic-produced delay, at the end-of-July Texas Bandmasters Association Convention in San Antonio. Next up, Mansfield Wind Symphony will be presenting a concert at Lake Ridge High School on Sunday, October 3 at 3:00 p.m. Like all of their concerts, it is free and open to the public. And in December, the ensemble will perform in Chicago at the international band and orchestra conference for music educators called The Midwest Clinic.

Performing its first concert in the fall of 2003, the Mansfield Wind Symphony is a true community and education partner. Though the band is comprised of amateur musicians from several surrounding cities, the practices and concerts are primarily performed in the city, and the symphony also supports the music education programs from the middle schools through the high schools.

"We have a number of band directors in the symphony, but we also have lawyers, accountants and IT specialists. Just about any vocation is represented. We offer the musicians the opportunity to keep playing, and the group finds it rewarding," Brian continued.

He never planned to pursue musical performance as a career, only wanting to teach. Growing up in Fort Worth with classical influences, Brian's parents took him to the Fort Worth Symphony and the Fort Worth Opera. "In the '60s and '70s, Pascal High School had a fantastic jazz program. That was also what attracted me to further my education at North Texas State University [now The University of North Texas]," he said. "They have a great music program and are known for

# Mansfield's MUSIC M



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MUSICIANS THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
KEEP PLAYING, AND  
THE GROUP FINDS  
IT REWARDING.”

# AESTRO

— By Bill Smith



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jazz.” After a career directing bands in public schools in North Texas, Brian enjoyed 11 years as an adjunct professor at SMU, primarily teaching band directors who had, according to Brian, “spent enough time as band directors in public schools to know there was more to learn.”

The Mansfield Wind Symphony has four primary local concerts each year, and smaller groups of the band may be called upon from time to time to perform at smaller events. For instance, Brian may be asked to provide a brass quintet for a Chamber of Commerce event. When the group traveled this July to San Antonio for the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention, the 77 participants were excited enough about making the trip to pay all of the expenses themselves. They received the music for the concert in June, and there were three practice sessions before the trip.

As soon as they returned from San Antonio, they began working on the music for their December performance at The Midwest Clinic. The ensemble was invited to the prestigious event in 2020, but then it was canceled because of the virus. According to Brian, the last time the wind symphony played together before the lockdown was February 11, 2020. That performance was videotaped and sent as part of the application for the invitation to The Midwest Clinic. Part of the emphasis at the clinic is to introduce and present music literature that has been written within the past two years. Brian said, “Of the nine selections we will play, six are from 2021. Also, selections will be played from various “grades” of music literature. Grades 1-3 are easier to



play and have more of an educational purpose. It is along the lines of what the middle school and junior high directors who attend the conference will be looking for. Literature graded 4-6 has a more artistic intent."

When Brian was named conductor of the Mansfield Wind Symphony almost five years ago, he pursued more challenging music. "Most of the members liked it, and it attracted some stronger musicians. Others in the group believe they improved their skills because of it," Brian recalled.

The wind symphony practices together three times before each event, and the rehearsals each last about two hours. "Most of our members have other vocations or family obligations. They have a good time at the rehearsals, and they come prepared because they have had the music to review and practice before our rehearsals are scheduled. No one comes to rehearsals to sight-read," Brian related with a smile.



The Mansfield Wind Symphony enjoys being part of the community, and provides music not only for the enjoyment of the community, but also music education opportunities. Each year the wind symphony has contests for students to write melodies from which a winning selection will be played by the wind symphony, and the student may get to conduct. Methodist Mansfield Medical Center also provides an annual scholarship for which students have the opportunity to compete.

Brian is looking forward to the future of the Mansfield Wind Symphony. It is obviously a labor of love for him and all of its musicians. **NOW**

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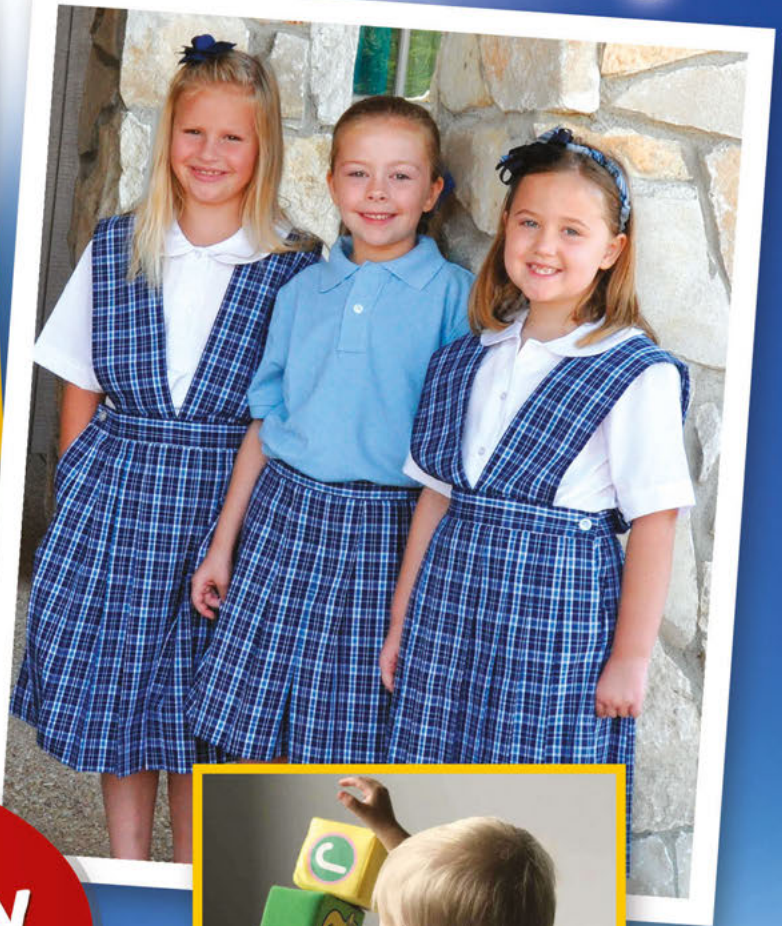
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## BusinessNOW FieldhouseUSA

— By Melissa Rawlins

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If you're curious what's inside the huge, cube-shaped, concrete building near James McKnight Park, Brandon Hebert is expecting your call. As General Manager of FieldhouseUSA, it's Brandon's job to plug the community into his company's myriad athletic resources.

His one-stop shop for parents beautifully maintains eight futsal courts, 12 volleyball courts and eight basketball courts for youth and adults devoted to indoor team sports. FieldhouseUSA also leases space along the perimeter of its pristine, state-of-the-art,



air-conditioned facility to other fitness-oriented businesses offering alternative services and athletic opportunities. On weekends, they offer table space to entrepreneurs seeking exposure to the local and out-of-state families attending the jam-packed, indoor tournaments.

Brandon stays busy operating and managing FieldhouseUSA's year-round youth sports leagues for basketball, volleyball and futsal. "A super-popular sport in South America, and growing here, futsal is a skill-based, fast-paced, five-on-five soccer game played on our hardwood, 94-foot court," Brandon said.

After almost five years of service, Brandon's promotion to manage Mansfield's FieldhouseUSA facility came when the location was serving 1.9 million visitors, just before COVID-19 hit. This year, FieldhouseUSA is on target to serve 2 million people. Its growth is partly possible because Brandon delegates tasks to FieldhouseUSA's outsourced event planner, Bailey Hebert.



As little sister to Brandon, she tagged along with the family to all his sports tournaments. Their incredible friendship translates into a superbly effective indoor sports facility in service to the community. "Bailey does a great job of finding outside events that need a big space," her brother said. "We've hosted dog shows, boxing matches, gymnastics, pickleball and cornhole tournaments and vendor fairs."

This winter, the duo is throwing their inaugural SneakerBallTX, a charitable New Year's Eve celebration for adults. Formal attire is required. Guests are invited to walk the red carpet onto the hardwood floors, provided they pair their suits and ties, dresses and jewelry with sneakers.

"Heels and dress shoes definitely mess up hardwood floors," Bailey said. Otherwise, the evening will involve everything you'd expect in a casino night, plus heavy hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast when the balloons drop at midnight. In addition, SneakerBallTX's silent auction benefits the Mansfield ISD Education Foundation in support of the essentials that taxpayer dollars won't fund.

"We want to give back and do something for the parents who spend so much time in here giving of themselves for their kids," Brandon said. "This event provides the parents with a great night out while their dollars spent for relaxation are funneled straight back into the youth."

At the same time, FieldhouseUSA will host an event called Dallas Kickspo to raise funds for Kicks 4 the City, a nonprofit focusing on providing lightly used athletic apparel, new socks, sneakers and shoes for youth. Children and adults are invited to this big vendor fair on the day before and morning of SneakerBallTX. "We designed this for families to learn about local vendors who don't yet have a big platform," Bailey said.

Private clients are also welcome to contact Brandon to arrange prescheduled camps, clinics and trainings in hours not open to the public. If you're curious to see another side of FieldhouseUSA, dive in deeper with SneakerBallTX. But always, you are welcome to enjoy great activities at FieldhouseUSA year-round. **NOW**

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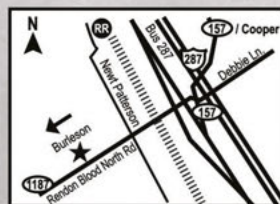
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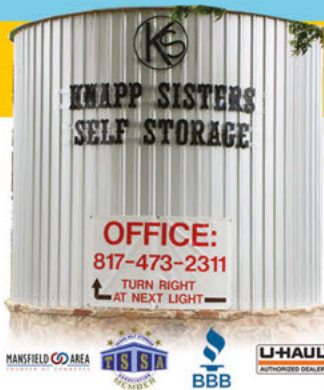
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Keller Williams Realtor Jackie Jennings listens intently as Mansfield City Manager Joe Smolinski explains that only 25 percent of land in Mansfield is still undeveloped.

## Zoomed In:

By Melissa Rawlins

### Zhenya Douglas Waybourn and Chuck Frankenfield

Before Zhenya Douglas Waybourn left Mansfield for Russia, the country where he was born, he helped celebrate the 10th anniversary of Allies in Youth Development. Joining more than 100 supporters, he gladly took some barbecue from volunteer Chuck Frankenfield. Chuck has served in many capacities since January. "I work with gracious people," he said, adding that he's known the nonprofit's founder, Chris Burgin, for 20 years. Allies hosts its Color Their World: A Decade of Impact virtual event this month.

Zhenya's been with Allies three years. It's not the barbecue he'll miss when he's mentoring five kids who are graduates of Allies' foster care system in Russia. "Among many things, I'll miss my family and my Allies family. Everyone knows their role, and so willingly does their part," he said.



Porter Lowry befriends a male Burrowing Owl named Cinder during the Summer Zoo Camp at Fort Worth Zoo.

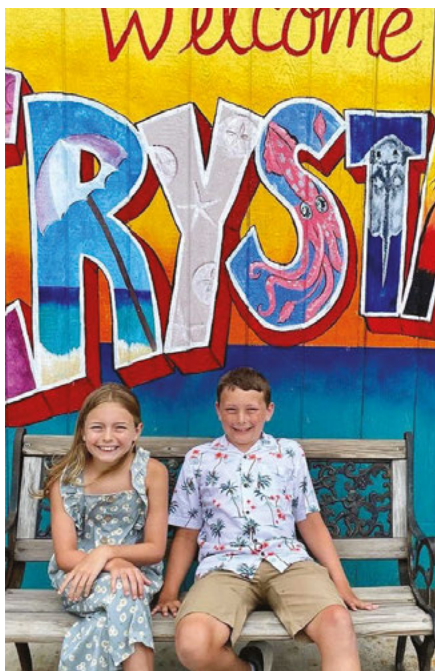


Cindy Love rings the bell for the 50-50 raffle at Mansfield Community Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music*.



Kameryn Sings blisses out as she opens the stage at the *Women Rock The LOT!* show at The LOT Downtown.





A favorite vacation spot for Addyson and Alex is Crystal Beach, Texas.



John Windbigler, left, and John Henry study the Bible at Flying Squirrel Coffee before taking I AM REDEEMED MINISTRIES into the prisons.



Chamber President Lori Williams strategizes with Thomas Caldwell, community engagement director for Trusted Medical Centers.

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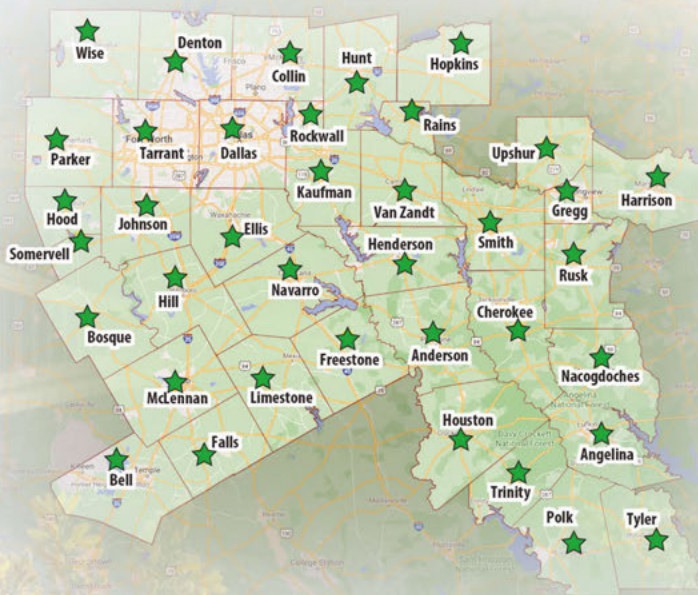




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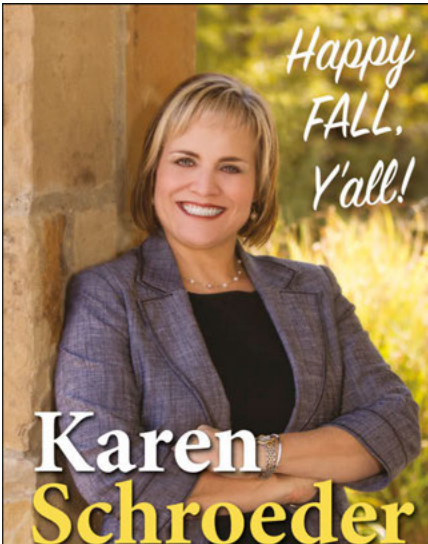


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When he isn't in the office, Keith likes to spend his time in the great outdoors! He enjoys running, hiking and his time spent on the golf course. Fun Fact- Keith also has his private pilot license, so he enjoys time spent up in the air!

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## *In the Kitchen With* KATE GRAVES

— By Melissa Rawlins

“I give back through my food, because the key ingredient is love,” Kate Graves said. She moved here in 2020 with her husband and three children, at the suggestion of her best friend, and made use of the pandemic to earn her degree in culinary arts from Tarrant County College. “I add my Southern roots to any dish that I create, because that is where it all started.”

By 5 years of age, Kate was cooking from a high stool in Fort Worth alongside her great-grandmother, Mavis Jones. She really mastered the kitchen later in life. When not on duty as a prison guard, Kate learned the art of pastry-making. Her family taste-tested new and different recipes until Kate’s dedication to baking evolved to being a full-time chef, serving cuisines from around the world. **NOW**

lemon pepper, lemon juice with zest and minced garlic. Let stand at room temperature for 20 minutes before roasting.

**4.** Preheat the oven to 425 F. Wash, dry and strip the rosemary and thyme sprigs; chop the leaves. In a small bowl, mash the butter with the chopped herbs.

**5.** Using a spoon, scoop some of the herbed butter onto the chicken breasts.

**6.** Set a rack in a large roasting pan. Put the chicken on the rack; roast for 25-40 minutes, or until the chicken is golden brown and a thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat reaches 165 F.

### **Roasted Lemon-Pepper Chicken With Herbs**

**2-4 chicken breast cutlets**

**2 tsp. olive oil**

**Salt, to taste**

**Pepper, to taste**

**2 tsp. lemon pepper**

**1 lemon, halved and zested**

**2 cloves garlic, minced**

**2 fresh rosemary sprigs**

**2 fresh thyme sprigs**

**2 tsp. unsalted butter, softened**

**1.** Wash and pat the chicken dry.

**2.** Add the oil to the chicken breasts while coating them evenly.

**3.** Season the chicken with salt, pepper,

### **“Clouds of Heaven” Mashed Potatoes**

**5 lbs. russet potatoes, peeled and  
medium diced**

**32 oz. cold water**

**2-3 tsp. salt (divided use)**

**8 Tbsp. unsalted butter, cubed**



**1 cup heavy cream**  
**1/4 cup sour cream**  
**1 tsp. fresh chives, chopped (optional)**  
**Pepper, to taste**

1. Place the potatoes in a large soup pot. Cover with cold water; add 1 tsp. salt to the water. Bring to a boil over high heat; cook until the potatoes are fork-tender (18-22 minutes).
2. Drain the potatoes; place into a large bowl. Set aside.
3. Heat the butter and cream in a small pot over low heat; bring to a simmer. Pour the cream mixture over the potatoes; stir until combined.
4. Add the sour cream and chopped chives; combine with a hand mixer or whisk until potatoes are light and fluffy. Fold in more salt and cracked black pepper, to taste.

### Brussels Sprouts With Smoked Maple Dry Rub Seasoning

**16 oz. Brussels sprouts, quartered and blanched**  
**16 oz. cold water**  
**1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil (to coat sprouts)**  
**2 cloves garlic, minced**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**Pepper, to taste**  
**2 Tbsp. McCormick's Smoked Maple Dry Rub Seasoning**

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Trim the ends of the Brussels sprouts; slice into halves. Discard any tough or discolored outer leaves. Rinse in a large bowl of water.
2. Blanch the Brussels sprouts; pat each dry. Transfer them to a nonstick baking sheet. *Note: you can use Parchment paper for ease of cleanup.*
3. Drizzle the Brussels sprouts with oil; toss them with the seasonings until evenly coated.
4. Roast for 20-35 minutes until dark brown, but not burned. Shake or rotate the pan every 10 minutes until evenly cooked.

### No-Bake Cheesecake With Amaretto Whipped Cream

*Cheesecake:*

**2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened**  
**1 1/2 cups granulated sugar (divided use)**  
**2 cups heavy whipping cream (divided use)**  
**2 pkgs. gelatin or agar powder**  
**3 oz. water**  
**2 tsp. vanilla extract**  
**1 graham cracker crust**

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#### Whipped Topping:

- 1 Tbsp. amaretto liqueur
- 1 9-inch graham cracker crust

#### Garnish:

- 1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced

1. For cheesecake: In a stand mixer, whip the cream cheese until it is smooth. Add 1 cup sugar and 1 cup heavy whipping cream; whip on medium speed for 3-5 minutes.
2. Prepare the gelatin as directed on the



No-Bake Cheesecake With Amaretto Whipped Cream

package by dissolving the gelatin in 3 oz. of water that has been heated in the microwave for 3 minutes. Pour the gelatin in a slow, steady stream into the cream cheese mixture while the mixer is stirring on low speed. Once combined, add the vanilla extract.

3. Pour the mixture into a pre-made graham cracker crust; refrigerate, covered, for 4 hours or overnight.
4. For whipped topping: Combine the remaining cream and sugar with the liqueur. Whip into soft peaks. Use as a topping for the cheesecake with fresh berries as a garnish.

## Pan-Seared Salmon With Honey Garlic Glaze

- 4 6-oz. salmon fillets
- 1 Tbsp. salt mixed with 1 Tbsp. cracked black pepper (divided use)

#### Glaze:

- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil (divided use)

#### Garnish:

- 1/2 cup microgreens (optional)
- 1 lemon, sliced thinly (optional)

1. Wash and pat dry the salmon fillets. Sprinkle each with half of the salt and pepper mixture; set aside.
2. For glaze: In a medium bowl, whisk together the honey, melted butter, garlic and red pepper flakes, along with the remaining salt and pepper mixture; set aside.
3. Heat 2 Tbsp. oil in a large iron skillet over medium-high temperature. When the oil is hot but not smoking, add the salmon to the pan. Cook salmon until deeply golden, about 6 minutes. Flip the salmon over; add the remaining oil.
4. Brush or pour the honey-garlic glaze on top of each salmon fillet.
5. Just before serving, garnish with microgreens or lemon slices, or both.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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## TravelNOW

# Where Dinosaurs Trod

— By Lisa Bell

Heading south, a short drive leads to Glen Rose. Near the intersection of Texas highways 67 and 144, prepare for more than expected when visiting this community. Known as the Dinosaur Capital of Texas, you can't visit without reminders of the beloved beasts.

Dinosaur Valley State Park offers a well-known place to see tracks. While splashing in the river within the park, you might stand in the middle of one. Several areas feature giant footprints, cast forever in the Paluxy River bed. DVSP only begins the adventure.

The Creation Evidence Museum of Texas also displays

dinosaur and human prints besides other interesting archeological finds. Annually, the museum offers a public excavation of tracks, a memorable hands-on paleontological experience. The McFall Mountain Dinosaur Tracks, also managed by the museum, boasts the longest continuous set of tracks.

Dinosaur World's dominant feature consists of a 1-mile trail with more than 150 life-size dinosaur replicas. Admission includes a fossil dig site for kids, a museum and more.

To continue, visit the Somervell County Museum. One room contains a wall mural of a 1954 *National Geographic* article about track excavations and mammoth bones found in the area.



For those who love history more than the beasts, the museum has amazing displays, from war heroes to local history.

The museum dedicated one wall display to John St. Helen who claimed his identity as John Wilkes Booth. Yes, the infamous Booth who assassinated Lincoln. The display includes an authorized biography by Finis L. Bates and a derringer found behind St. Helen's log cabin. The cabin now resides in the downtown area.

While visiting, be sure to venture to Bernard's Mill. Now an art museum, the building itself tells a story. Immense rooms contain limestone walls and massive beams. Filled with art, it makes a great place to spend several hours. Built in 1890, it once served as the hospital. Nurses lived on the upper floor, which still depicts their daily life.

Looking to get outside? On warm days, enjoy the coolness of the Paluxy River in and around DVSP or at Big Rocks Park. When the water becomes too chilly, families still enjoy climbing over the enormous rocks or strolling along the Glen Rose Riverwalk, a lighted, paved walkway that runs beside the river. Plus, the state park includes miles of hiking, biking and even equestrian trails.

While there, don't forget Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. The safe way to experience the thrill of a safari has many options. Many of their resident animals appear on the endangered species list, the center striving to save them.

You can always visit the amphitheater to see *The Promise* in fall months. Check out the Somervell Expo Center for a wide variety of events and time your visit for one of those.

With a vast assortment of restaurants, finding cuisine to fit your tastes doesn't take long. At Storiebook Café, you can browse and read books while enjoying food. At Sexton's Feed Company, enjoy a view of the river while dining. Then, partake in a fun activity such as axe throwing, cornhole, live music, pool and an arcade room.

With a choice of hotels, bed-and-breakfast locations, cabins and multiple RV parks, you can spend days enjoying the history and adventure of Glen Rose. When you leave, you can say, "I walked where dinosaurs trod." **NOW**

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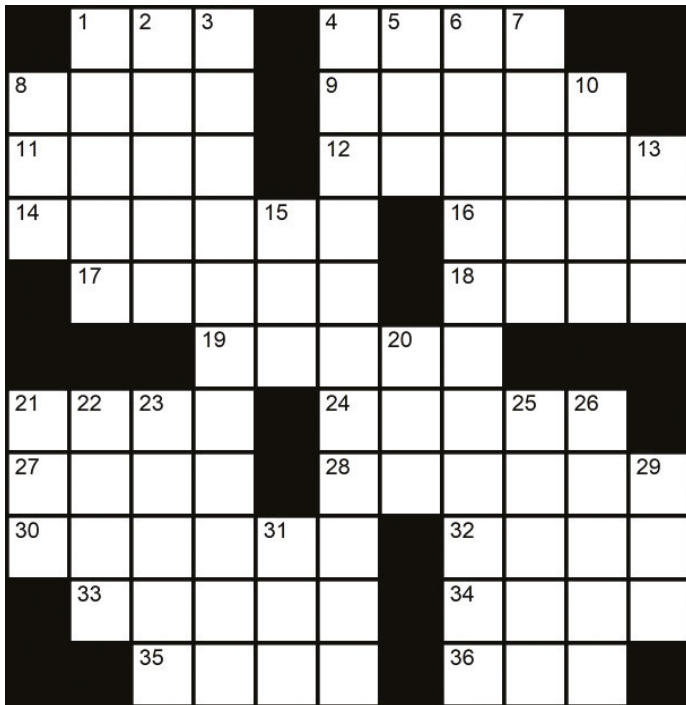
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Claptrap
- 4 Funds for the future
- 8 Quartet
- 9 Morticia, to Fester
- 11 Capable of
- 12 Overseas
- 14 Profit on sales
- 16 About
- 17 Jewish teacher
- 18 Consider
- 19 Hop named after a pilot
- 21 Temper
- 24 Squeals
- 27 Black cuckoos
- 28 Rip to pieces
- 30 Andean capital
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 An island, according to John Donne
- 34 Jump --- the deep end
- 35 Biblical passage
- 36 National health watchdog

## Down

- 1 Polling pioneer Elmo ---
- 2 "(If You're Not in It for Love) I'm --- Here!" (Shania Twain)
- 3 Annoying cocktail of obsolete rum
- 4 Right away
- 5 Tease
- 6 Relating to the study of moving air
- 7 Ballpark figure
- 8 Controversial wear
- 10 Abate
- 13 Monk's title
- 15 Diamond statistic
- 20 Casino cube
- 21 Beater for mixing mortar with hair
- 22 Unknown
- 23 Leg of lamb
- 25 K
- 26 Tanning material
- 29 Small flat mass of a soft substance
- 31 Burden

Solutions on page 44

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

Medium

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

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

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Solutions on page 44



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9/7-11/30

### Mainstage Classic Theatre Classes:

Classes meet on **Tuesdays**. Intro to basic theater terms, stage directions through activities, games and crafts. Students participate in the Angel Choir in the upcoming production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. \$300 for semester, \$100 per month or \$25 per class. **Little Thespians, for K-2nd grade:** 4:30-5:30 p.m.; **Theatre Kids, for 3rd-5th grade:** 5:45-6:45 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. <http://mainstageclassictheatre.org/classes>.

9/9-11/30

### Mainstage Classic

### Theatre Classes:

Acting on Stage classes meet on **Thursdays**. Learn and review performance principles, more in-depth character development, audition skills, costuming and makeup through participation in the production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. \$300 for semester, \$100 per month or \$25 per class. **6th-8th grade:** 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **9th-12th grade:** 7:00-8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. <http://mainstageclassictheatre.org/classes>.

9/10

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9/11

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Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com).



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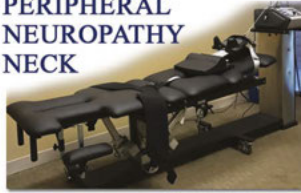
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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions



Easy

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

Medium

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

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